

SESSION WEEKLY

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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.

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Reflections

The House Public Information Office welcomes readers from throughout the state to the opening of the second year of the Minnesota Legislature's 80th Session.

Staff writers, editors, photographers, and information personnel are looking forward to bringing you the latest report on proceedings in committee hearings and legislative action in floor sessions in the *Session Weekly*, our nonpartisan newsmagazine.

We have made some editorial and graphic changes in the publication as we strive for improvement on content and quality. Some section headings have been changed to better fit the subject matter. The most obvious change, of course, is the addition of color — at no extra cost to taxpayers!

Here are the sections and topics you will find in the newsmagazine.

"Reflections," on page 2, introduces weekly commentary on observations and legislative connections around the Capitol complex. On page 3, you will find "First Reading," a feature which overviews the main issue or development of the week.

A new feature, "Once in the House," appears on page 4. Here, we will interview former legislators to keep you abreast of their activities since leaving the House. Highlights now begin on page 5, where you will find coverage of bills and their status in the legislative process.

Our biographies and stories about members, special reports on lectures by experts on important topics for legislators, and the historical "It's a Fact!" pieces will continue to be an integral part of the contents. Also, we will continue to list weekly bill introductions, provide advanced committee schedules, and include the Minnesota Index, which is always found on the last page of each issue. The index provides statistical information on specific issues or bills presented and discussed by the Legislature.

House Public Information Office staff members are very pleased to add these improvements to this 14-year-old publication. We welcome your comments.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: House Speaker Phil Carruthers is flanked by his sons Alex, *left*, and Rory, *right*, as he recites the "Pledge of Allegiance" during the opening of the 1998 Legislative Session.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Coming to order . . .

House Speaker Carruthers opens '98 Legislative Session

By Matt Wetzel

As the 1998 Legislative Session opened Jan. 20, members of the Minnesota House of Representatives celebrated those who have come, those who have gone, and those who have stuck around.

When House speaker Phil Carruthers banged the gavel to open the second year of the 80th Legislature, a few familiar faces were missing from the House chamber.

Reps. Ken Otremba (DFL-LongPrairie) and Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls), both of whom died last year after battling cancer, were gone.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayner (R-Princeton), who was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission, and Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake), who left to become a judge, were also missing.

But Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), who was sworn in just in time for the November conclusion of a special session on stadium financing, was there to begin her first regular session in the House. And she was promising to take up where her late husband left off.

Also, the swearing in of newcomer Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) was one of the first orders of business.

Then there's the matter of Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), who is hardly a new face to Capitol watchers. Munger was celebrating his 87th birthday on the day he began his 42nd year in the House.

And this year promises to be an exciting one. The state is flush with a forecast \$1.3 billion budget surplus. Gov. Arne Carlson is calling for a record investment in capital projects ranging from a new hockey arena in St. Paul to massive efforts to improve state parks and other environmental resources. And Carruthers and other House DFL leaders are calling for a "families first" agenda to address needs in education and child care and provides new tax rebates.

As the beginning of the session drew near, people around the Capitol were walking briskly, purposefully, with a clear goal in mind. They were talking on their cellular phones, pulling their briefcases together, and catching up with colleagues. After weeks of inactivity, the halls in the Capitol had come to life.



The Kids From Fridley, a group of 30 fifth- and sixth-graders from Fridley Middle School, performed patriotic numbers during the opening day ceremonies of the 1998 Legislative Session. The group, which includes Rep. Willard Munger's great-granddaughter, Katie Morrissey, also sang "Happy Birthday" to Munger on his 87th birthday.

Set to help open the session by presenting the U.S. flag in the House chamber were two Girl Scout troops from Chaska Middle School.

"I think it was a tremendous opportunity for them to go," said Troop Leader Janet Paulsen, who is the mother of Rep. Eric Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie). His sister, Emily, is also in one of the troops.

The scouts were enthusiastic about their opportunity.

"This is interesting. It's cool," said Lauren Anderson, 13.

Allison Syverson, 13, echoed Lauren's sentiments. Studying the murals and arched ceilings of the Capitol, she could only marvel. "Wow," she said.

There were many other young faces to be seen around the building. Carruthers was flanked by his two sons Alex, 8, and Rory, 6, during the floor session. And when the speaker dropped the gavel at 12:08 p.m., the Bell Canto Voices, a group of young women singers from the Twin Cities area, performed "Irish Blessing" and "America the Beautiful."

Then came the Girl Scouts, who presented the colors.

Bills were introduced, given their first readings, and referred to committees, but House

members had little other real business to tackle. Erickson, who won a special election to replace Koppendrayner, drew enthusiastic cheers from her new colleagues when she completed the oath.

A journalism and English teacher at Princeton High School, Erickson said she was looking forward to doing some learning of her own.

"I've been challenging high school children, and now, you're going to be challenging me," she said.

Vickerman, who died Dec. 22, 1997, was commemorated by her House colleagues, who passed a resolution to honor her and to extend condolences to her family.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) praised Vickerman as an outstanding person and lawmaker.

"The citizens of that district lost a public servant," Sviggum said. "She was a politician who did not have an egotistical or arrogant bone in her body. Barb has won her race, and she's now with the Lord."

On a lighter note, Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) presented The Kids From Fridley, a group of 30 fifth- and sixth-graders from Fridley Middle School who sang a patri-

otic tune before belting out a round of "Happy Birthday" for Munger. Among the singers was Munger's great-granddaughter, Katie Morrissey.

The Kids From Fridley got a standing ovation from the House, and later, some of the vocalists commented on the experience of performing in the House chamber.

"I thought it was really cool," said Kaitlyn Gaynon, 11.

Not everyone at the Capitol was there to warmly welcome legislators back, however. At least 200 people from around the state rallied in the rotunda to protest changes in welfare programs.

"No justice, No peace," the crowd chanted. Buses came from Winona, Bemidji, Northfield, St. Paul, Minneapolis, St. Cloud, and Mankato to bring people to the rally, which was organized by Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition. "We don't think they're representing us," said Brenda Boettcher, 35, of Winona. "We want them to know that poor people are people, too."

The state passed sweeping welfare reform legislation in response to a 1996 federal law that scrapped portions of the long-standing welfare system.

All the action at the Capitol had even the most experienced hands a bit excited as they looked ahead to the action this year.

"It's like the first day of school," said Eric Eskola, a veteran radio reporter who has covered the capitol since 1985.

His press corps colleague, Mike Mulcahy, now covering his ninth session for KTCA Channel 2, concurred.

"You do realize the days are going to be longer," he said.

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.

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



By Nicole Wood

Once a year in January, former Rep. Peter Rodosovich comes back to the Capitol with more than 1,200 teenagers in tow.

As state executive director of the YMCA Youth in Government program, it's his job to share with our state's future politicians his firsthand knowledge of the legislative process and the Capitol's history. (See related story, page 18)

Rodosovich was elected to the House at age 22, and he credits the youth program he now runs for inspiring him to seek office at such an early age. He was a Youth in Government participant in the 1970s. He first won election to the House in 1982, and the DFLer served his Faribault-area district until 1994.

In a recent interview, he said his decision to leave the House was based on a need to "regroup" and a desire to spend more time with his family.

"I kind of assumed that I would do 10 years of public service, and I ended up doing 12," he said. "I stayed a little longer than I anticipated."

Rodosovich, 38, still lives in Faribault and commutes to his Minneapolis office. Most of his time is spent overseeing the Youth in Government program. He also coordinates international programs for several Minneapolis YMCA branches and does public policy work with YMCAs across the state. He said he draws on his legislative experience to educate YMCA board members about lobbying and the political process.

Looking back at his time as a lawmaker, he returns to the Capitol as part of his job running a program that aims to teach young people about government and the legislative process. Rodosovich said he is satisfied with his accomplishments.

"I had a lot of wonderful opportunities," he said. "I chaired some of the best committees that anybody could chair."

One of those was the House Health and Human Services Committee, a panel that traditionally carries a heavy workload. Last year, the committee led the overhaul of the state's welfare system, and Rodosovich grades well the performance of his former committee.

"Minnesota is doing better than a lot of

Rooted in program, Rodosovich continues to cultivate youth

other states with the wave of welfare reform sweeping the country because we planned ahead," he said.

Rodosovich pointed to the 1986 creation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program as an example of a welfare-to-work program that was ahead of its time. That program, which operated in eight counties, was the forerunner of the welfare-to-work measures that make up the cornerstone of Minnesota's 1997 welfare reforms.

Rodosovich said one of his fondest memories from his days in the Legislature is his time overseeing the 1989-90 restoration of the House chamber.

An unofficial Capitol historian, Rodosovich researched the Cass Gilbert papers to get a feel for why the architect selected one item versus another or why he chose a particular color combination.


"There's so much history in the building," Rodosovich said. "When you sit in the chamber, you're so busy and you're so caught up in the activities of the day that you really don't absorb the 90-plus years of history and spirits and discussions that



Former Rep. Peter Rodosovich has been out of office for three years, but he returns to the Capitol as part of his job running a program that aims to teach young people about government and the legislative process.

have taken place. Care was taken to make sure that we put it back better than the way we found it."

Although he would not completely rule out the possibility of returning to the House someday, Rodosovich said it would take a specific goal or a strong issue to draw him back.

"I feel like I've done my job," he said. "I did a good job, and now it's truly someone else's responsibility." 

Highlights



5 ANKIN

Checking accounts, banking fees

Banking industry critics—particularly those on the board of the public policy and advocacy group Minnesota ACORN—argue that checking accounts aren't as accessible to the poor as they should be, that many banks charge fees that are too high, and that account and service fees at state-chartered financial institutions should be limited.

A bill that would address many of the complaints of ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) and other groups was considered Jan. 21 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee's Working Group on Consumer Banking.

The bill (HF1278) sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would limit account fees at state-chartered financial institutions. The state can't directly regulate federally chartered institutions, but the bill would use state deposits and loan programs as incentives to get them to comply with fee limits. In other words, the federally chartered banks could not be depositories for state money if they did not follow the limits on fees.

The bill also would require that banks make available money orders for 50 cents. Some banks now charge upward of \$3, and the money orders are available only to depositors.

Clark's proposal also would try to stop banks from making huge overdraft charges. Specifically, the measure would limit overdraft charges to \$15 per check (some banks charge as much as \$21 per check), and forbid the practice of clearing the largest checks first.

That practice increases overdraft charges by declaring several small checks overdrafts rather than fewer large checks, said Jordan Ash, banking organizer for Minnesota ACORN.

The bill also would require that banks make available low-fee checking accounts, called "lifeline checking accounts." State law already requires low-fee savings accounts to be available. The measure would mandate that checking account charges be approved by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and that they be automatically rejected if the bank doesn't offer the lifeline accounts.

Marcia Erickson, chair of the Minnesota

ACORN board, presented statistics on checking and savings accounts. She said that 14 percent of households in Minnesota do not have checking or savings accounts and that 25 percent do not have checking accounts. A total of 41 percent of households with an annual income of less than \$10,000 do not have either kind of account. She said 80 percent of white households have checking accounts, but 44 percent of households of color do not have either type of account.

"We consider these glaring numbers," Erickson said, adding that low-income people should not be prevented from using financial services.

Erickson provided a personal story to illustrate the damage she believes high service fees can cause. She said she asked her bank if an automatic payroll check deposit was available for use, and she was told it was. A week later, she received an overdraft notice, and in the meantime, three checks had bounced.

Her company had not processed her paperwork in a timely fashion, she said, and the bank failed to check the date of the automatic deposit, so she was socked with \$80 worth of overdraft fees.

"Two other entities had made mistakes, and I was charged. It had nothing to do with my management," Erickson said. Such fees can be

devastating to low-income people and those on a fixed income, she added.

Since time ran out before hearing from opponents of the bill, the working group agreed to send the bill to the full Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee without a recommendation.

Checks in the mail

A bill that would prohibit lenders from sending consumers unrequested checks that, if cashed, become high-interest loans was approved by a House panel Jan. 21.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), who is sponsoring the bill (HF2016), said consumers who find such checks in their mailbox are actually receiving a loan solicitation carrying interest rates sometimes close to 30 percent.

Haas said he and his wife, Joenie, have received three such checks from Twin Cities-area finance companies: one for \$75,000, one for \$52,550, and one for \$1,531.

The interest rate attached to the check for \$1,531 — should Haas have cashed it — was 29.9 percent.

Haas said there are several dangers that go along with the sending of such checks, including the possibility of the recipient's mailbox being robbed.

New member



C.J. Erickson, newly elected Rep. Sondra Erickson's father-in-law, embraced Erickson after she was sworn in during the opening day of the 1998 Legislative Session. The new legislator was joined by her mother-in-law, Judy Erickson, left, while Michael Landell, editor of the Princeton High School newspaper, right, looked on. Rep. Erickson teaches at the high school.

"What would happen if somebody stole the check and cashed it?" Haas asked. "What's going to happen?"

Creditors who send out such checks also prey on desperate or naive consumers, such as young college students, Haas said. A college student might assume the check is for a loan for which they have applied, he added.

"They'll be shocked in a month when they get a payment book, and instead of a five to six percent interest rate, they're paying 29.9 percent," Haas said. "Let's be pro-active in the Legislature, rather than reactive."

Haas said he knows several people who have received such loan solicitations, and it appears to be an increasingly common practice.

The bill was discussed by members of the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee's Working Group on Consumer Banking.

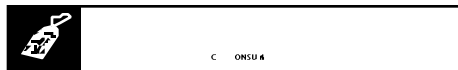
The measure would allow an exception for prospective borrowers who already have an open-end credit arrangement, such as a credit card account, with the lender.

Pat Martin, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Consumer Finance Conference, said some Minnesota companies might have a problem with the bill. Some of the finance companies he represents send out the kind of checks that Haas's bill would outlaw.

Hundreds of thousands of those checks are sent out annually, Martin said. He conceded that there have been some problems in the form of theft or fraud, but, he added, in such cases, the intended recipient was not liable.

"The creditor is liable for a miscashed check," Martin said. "The number of abuses is small, and the number of mailings is large."

The bill now moves to the full Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee without recommendation.



Rent-to-own contracts

Let the buyer beware: The rent-to-own industry soon may be back in business in Minnesota.

A bill that would regulate rent-to-own contracts was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee Jan. 22.

Currently, a court order prohibits rental-purchase transactions in Minnesota. Prior to the injunction, many consumers complained that rent-to-own retailers financed purchases at exorbitant interest rates after tacking on a variety of costs to a product's base price.

Retailers who previously engaged in the

practice, now simply rent goods without the option to buy.

Rent-to-own stores offer goods and services without credit checks, down payments, or deposits. Instead, a payment plan is established based on the store's listed purchase price of the item, any additional fees, and interest.

Proponents of HF997 say that rental-purchase agreements give the working poor the chance to obtain big-ticket items such as televisions and stereos.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said he got involved because "it seemed to make more sense that you could own [an item] at the end of the rental period."

Under the bill, retailers would have to limit their purchase agreements' ancillary charges — such as set up, delivery, and finance fees — to an amount equal to the original cash price of the item.

The bill also would require rent-to-own agreements to clearly state that the merchandise may be available from other sources at a cheaper price.

David Ramp, of the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis, said that the bill would do nothing to protect consumers from excessive interest on rent-to-own agreements. In fact, he argued, the legislation is just a way of getting around the court order.

"It's an industry bill touted as consumer protection," Ramp said.

Last year, the Senate passed a similar measure, but the House bill stalled on the floor.



Legal blood-alcohol limit

Minnesota could join 14 other states in lowering the legal blood-alcohol limit for drivers from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) is sponsoring a bill (HF2389) that would do just that, and the bill cleared its first legislative hurdle Jan. 21.

"This is probably the most important public health and safety bill we could adopt in 1998," Entenza said.

The bill was given its first hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, where it was approved and referred to the Judiciary Finance Division.

A similar measure was passed by the House last year. However, the provision did not survive a conference committee and was not included in the final 1997 omnibus DWI law.

James Fell, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration official, told the committee

that the risk of being in a crash greatly increases at each blood-alcohol concentration level, and that it rises very rapidly after a drinker reaches the 0.08 percent level.

He said that the relative risk of being killed in a single vehicle crash when drivers have blood-alcohol concentrations between 0.05 percent and 0.09 percent is 11 times higher than that of drivers who have had no alcohol.

"Virtually all drivers are substantially impaired at 0.08," Fell said.

He also said 0.08 percent is a reasonable limit to set. The average male would have to drink four drinks in an hour and the average female would have to drink three drinks in an hour to reach that level, Fell said.

The hearing's most emotional testimony came from Pat Budig, whose husband was killed by an impaired driver who tested below the current 0.10 percent legal limit. Her son was also severely injured in the crash.

"You don't have to be falling down drunk to kill someone," she said. "A crash caused by a driver who is at 0.08 is just as vicious, just as devastating as a crash caused by a driver who is at 0.10."

Lynne Goughler, of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving, also testified during the hearing. Her parents were killed by a driver who tested at 0.09 percent.

"It is the most preventable crime we have. You can be just as dead at 0.08 as 0.10," Goughler said. "[The change to] 0.08 serves notice on the impaired driver that society will not tolerate driving at this level."

John Berglund, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, testified against the bill. He argued that once people understand the details of the debate, they will see



With a photograph of her late husband as a backdrop, Pat Budig of Lino Lakes, Minn., described how he died in a head-on automobile collision caused by a driver with an blood-alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent. Budig urged members of the Judiciary Committee Jan. 21 to support a bill that would reduce Minnesota's threshold for legal drunkenness.

that efforts to lower the legal limit are unnecessary.

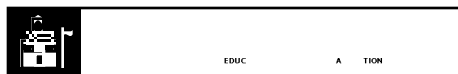
“By shifting the focus away from the alcohol abuser to the moderate, social drinker, we are shifting resources from the real problem,” he said. “Changing the legal limit to 0.08 does not get at the problem of the chronic offender, because they ignore the 0.10 limit.”

Berglund said that the average blood-alcohol concentration of drivers arrested for impaired driving is 0.16 percent and half of all DWI arrests are repeat offenders.

Dennis Randelin, a former detective sergeant from Cloquet, also testified against the bill, arguing that Minnesota’s tough DWI laws should concentrate on repeat offenders.

“I want my guys out there nailing the habitual DWIs,” Randelin said. “I don’t want to go to an accident and know the guy by his first name because I have already arrested him two times.”

Entenza’s bill was approved on a 16-3 vote and now awaits a hearing in the Judiciary Finance Division.



Boarding schools for teens

A bill reflecting Gov. Arne Carlson’s proposal for \$12 million to establish boarding schools for some of the state’s at-risk teens had its first House committee hearing Jan. 21.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), sponsor of HF2321, said the three proposed year-round, 24-hour academies would reach some of Minnesota teens before they slip from moderate to chronic delinquency.

“There are two types of students we envision going to this school,” she said. “One type of child is from a family that is so dysfunctional that the child needs to be placed in a different kind of environment.

“The other type of child may be from a stable family who has perhaps had brushes with drugs or other problems but has not yet entered the criminal justice system. The problem now is that there is no place for these kids until they’ve committed a serious enough crime to become part of the criminal justice system.”

Likely candidates for a state boarding school would also include teens who may have been shuttled between several foster homes, she said.

Under the bill, the academies would be specifically for children in grades seven to 12 who are behind by at least one academic year and who volunteer to be in the program.

The proposed \$12 million would be used

for startup costs for three boarding schools, with both public and private organizations eligible to apply for grants to establish schools.

Seagren said the hope is that existing unused buildings would be remodeled with the initial funding. And she said that academic costs hopefully would be transferred from the students’ home districts and that parents would be asked to contribute as much as possible to the estimated yearly per pupil boarding fees of \$4,000.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said that because the schools would resemble reform institutions, it seemed likely the funding needs would be closer to the \$40,000 per year required to support a prison inmate.

“The issue is, could we provide something that would meet the need at a lower cost?” Johnson asked.

Seagren said that the program would not be cheap “based on the nature of the children we’re dealing with,” but that the state likely would save money in the long run.

“If a child could be in the program for two to three years and it would keep them from the criminal path and get them stable and graduated, then it would be successful,” she said. “Twelve million dollars and three facilities will not completely address the need, but it is a start.”

Though members of the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee discussed Seagren’s bill, they took no action. Testimony and debate on the issue is expected to continue.

Counseling in private schools

The idea of allowing public school employees to provide counseling at private schools has been considered and rejected by legislators in the past, but since the U.S. Supreme Court reversed a relevant precedent last summer, House members are taking a new look at the issue.

An education subcommittee approved HF820, sponsored by Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph), Jan. 22. The bill would alter a state law that says guidance and counseling services can be provided to private school students only at a public school or a neutral site.

Dehler told members of the House Education Committee’s Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives that allowing public school guidance counselors into private schools would not only save money that school districts are currently spending to provide alternative locations, but would increase the likelihood that private school students would take advantage of available counseling.

“It’s in the public interest to have students coming out of high school who have received training in life-planning,” he said. “We’re all better off if kids come out of school ready to go.”

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), a co-sponsor of the bill and a private school teacher for more than 20 years, said the change would address a long-standing problem in private schools.

“For [students] to leave the building in front of their peers when everyone knows where they’re headed—they [often] just didn’t go [to counseling],” he said. “This gives them a little more confidentiality.”

Although a 1965 federal act provides for publicly funded counseling to be available to eligible private school students, most states had prohibited the counseling from taking place at the private schools since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1985 that some such activities violated the federal law mandating separation of church and state.

But a July 1997 court ruling cleared the way for public school employees to provide certain services inside religious schools. The ruling makes the content of service—as opposed to the location—what the court considers important.

Minnesota School Board Association attorney Tom Deans said that while his group is not opposed to the bill, lawmakers should be careful to limit the scope of any new law to services that fall under the federal Title I category, which includes remedial education, guidance, and job counseling.

“You cannot read this case to say, for example, that now we’re going to send our physics teachers (to private schools),” he said.

Dehler assured committee members he was not “designing the beginning of a mushroom.”

The subcommittee approved the bill, which now moves to the full Education Committee.



Child custody decisions

A plan to restructure the way child custody and visitation are decided in the state’s family courts was debated Jan. 21 by the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee.

Under current law, the courts establish custody in situations where the placement of the child is an issue after marriage dissolution. Courts designate a custodial parent, and all decisions concerning the child are made by that parent.

A bill (HF1323) sponsored by Rep. Andy

Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) would restructure state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

Parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would be encouraged to work with a mediator to compose a plan to ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. Courts would then approve the parenting plan.

The bill also would replace all mention of "custody" in the statutes with terms such as "parenting plans," "parenting obligations," and "parenting schedule."

Dawkins said the bill is about the "nomenclature" of child custody following marriage dissolution.

"I really don't want children pulled and tugged about in deciding who is their custodial parent," he said. "That's what this bill is all about."

Marilyn McKnight, of the Erickson Mediation Institute, testified in support of the bill.

"Changing the laws will change the expectations of divorcing parents," McKnight said. "They will come in trying to figure out how they will parent in the future."

Robert Oliphant, a law professor at William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, said the changes would provide a new concept for parents involved in a divorce.

"It will provide a mindset for parents to move away from the litigation model," he said.

Bruce Kennedy, of the Minnesota Bar Association, said that his organization opposes the

bill. He argued that recent court changes offering education programs and alternative dispute resolution to people involved in marriage dissolution proceedings should be given time to work. And he said the courts exist for people who cannot solve such problems on their own.

"When people have conflict over their children, they have serious disputes that are real," Kennedy said. "When you dig into these people's complaints, you find that they are more broad than the terminology of parenting."

Judge William Howard, who presided over family court in Hennepin County for three years, also testified against the bill. He said family law is one of the most contentious areas of law.

While family law makes up 14 percent of the cases statewide, it accounts for 50 percent of the complaints filed against attorneys and judges at the state Board of Judicial Standards, according to Howard.

"I don't know of any judge who does family court in this state who supports this bill," he said.

Howard said that the bill would cause an unnecessary backlog in the daily practice of child custody and child support decisions and could potentially throw even more of these cases back into the courts. And, he said, small changes in terminology of law can have huge consequences.

"The essence of litigation is predictability," he said.

Howard suggested that a task force made up

of attorneys, judges, and legislators should tackle the problem, and then a pilot project could be set up to see how a new plan might work.

As other issues arose, Dawkins withdrew his motion to send the bill to the full committee. Dawkins said he hopes to refine the bill to ensure broad support.



HEAL TH

'Any willing provider' bill

In the Twin Cities area, proximity to preferred health care providers is rarely an issue. But for many rural Minnesotans, travel can be an economic and logistic hardship.

If a patient must drive 100 miles round-trip for medical attention from a network provider, the time and money can be a burden for families with strained budgets.

The Health Care Access Subcommittee of the House Health and Human Services Committee heard more than an hour of testimony to that effect Jan. 22.

Rep. Tom Huntley (DFL-Duluth), who chairs the panel, said he wanted the subcommittee to hear testimony relevant to the so-called "any willing provider" bill (HF875), sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy).

The bill would require insurers and health maintenance organizations to cover health care from any provider willing to accept the insurer's payment schedule and rules.

The bill would not affect self-insured health plans, which provide coverage for about 30 percent of Minnesotans.

The subcommittee took no action on the bill, but it is expected to come up again this session.

Those who testified about the hardship in rural areas had an ally in Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie). Otremba said she represents one of the poorer economic regions of the state.

She said large national companies have purchased local businesses, and health care benefits offered under the new ownership often don't contain a local medical option.

She said some of her constituents have found that the doctor they have had "for 30 years is no longer their family doctor" because the doctor is excluded from the provider network.

Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said in many cases, patients "had a choice when they took the plan," but they often opt for the least expensive coverage. That often precludes using their previous health care provider, and, according to him, patients often know that when they choose their plan. To include more

Families first



House Majority Leader Ted Winter explained the House DFLers' top 1998 legislative initiatives — dubbed the "families first" agenda — during a Jan. 15 news conference. Also in attendance were (from left) Reps. Kathleen Sekhon, Doug Peterson, Betty McCollum, Luanne Koskinen, Nora Slawik, Len Biernat, and House Speaker Phil Carruthers.

providers raises the cost of the coverage, Greenfield said.

"To say it does not cost more money is a joke. Every study says so," he said.

But Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) said "there are a million studies about managed care, and not all of them say managed care saves money."

Greenfield said if the bill passes, "the problem will be a lot of smaller employers won't provide health care because they won't be able to afford it."

Peggy Schumacher, of the Dawson Medical Clinic, talked of long trips to doctors that cost families money and take them away from their jobs. Dawson, Minn., is 140 miles west of the Twin Cities near the South Dakota border.

"Rural Minnesota doesn't have a choice. It's a budget impact as well as a consumer nightmare," she said.

Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a family physician, said companies that provide health plans "don't care how far a patient has to drive." He said the bill is a "good concept that should be passed."



Job-seekers emerge

Implementation of Minnesota's main welfare reform initiative — Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide (MFIP-S) — has gone remarkably well, according to Jan. 21 testimony heard by the finance division of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Deborah Huskins, assistant commissioner for economic and family support strategies for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, said participants are already being called "job-seekers," rather than "welfare recipients."

That change, she said, signals a shift in the perception of the people in the program.

States scurried to pass new welfare laws a year ago after the federal government scrapped significant parts of the long-standing welfare system in August 1996. Gov. Arne Carlson signed Minnesota's new welfare law on April 30, 1997, two months ahead of the federal government's deadline.

MFIP-S is designed to transform the state's welfare system from one that discouraged work to a process that expects families to work and raises their income. MFIP-S sets a lifetime limit for receiving welfare checks of 60 months and rewards those who find work.

A single parent of two, for example, is eligible to receive a \$763 monthly grant. If that parent finds a full-time job that pays \$6 hourly,

25th anniversary rally



Marg Miller, a member of Epiphany Catholic Church in Coon Rapids, Minn., brought her sign to the steps of the Capitol Jan. 22 for the annual rally sponsored by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. This year, the event marked the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion.

the parent would earn \$1,032 a month from the work and still get a MFIP-S grant of \$179 a month. As a result, the parent's total income is \$448 a month more than if unemployed.

Huskins said 19,835 families out of an expected 40,000 have already gone through a computerized conversion process for MFIP-S.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) said there are jobs currently available in Minnesota that pay as much as \$15 to \$20 an hour, if people have the proper training. He asked if an emphasis would be placed on providing that training.

Huskins said such efforts are to be implemented at the county level.

There also was concern over monitoring the number of people who might move to Minnesota to take advantage of the state's relatively generous system. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) wondered if cases of people relocating to Minnesota could be tracked.

Huskins said it is being done, but no figures are available yet. Huskins also said the aim is

to track which states recipients come from, the size of the household, and other characteristics.

Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said he wanted to make it clear the state's welfare reform bill was not intended "to discourage people coming in here for the work opportunity," noting the state's low level of unemployment and the Minnesota businesses that currently go wanting for new hires.



Residency requirements

Police officers hired since 1993 by the city of Minneapolis are required to live within city limits, and some say it's downright dangerous for them, especially if they run into someone they've arrested. Some also say the residency requirement can be hard on the children of police officers.

That's according to one officer who testified before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Jan. 22 on a bill (HF2055) that would repeal the authority of the city of Minneapolis to require its employees to live in the city.

The city of Minneapolis' residency requirement affects many city employees. Those who worked for the city before 1993 can continue to live where they wish, but new hires must establish residency within the city by the time they have been on the job for 18 months.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would also repeal residency requirements for the Minneapolis School District, the city's library board, and the city's park and recreation board. A similar residency requirement in the city of St. Paul also would be wiped out.

No action was taken on the bill, and it is expected to be taken up by the committee later.

Al Berryman, president of the Police Officer Federation of Minneapolis, supports the bill. The decision to live in a place is a personal one and should be based on personal choice, he said.

Stanek also works as a Minneapolis police officer. Other members of the Minneapolis Police Department testified in support of the bill, including Jolene Lindner, a nine-year veteran of the department.

Lindner said she grew up in Minneapolis, and enjoyed living there. "But I wasn't arresting people, and I wasn't working under cover. We're in a different line of work," she said.

She said her 12-year-old daughter has been assaulted because Lindner is a police officer, and Lindner said a man fired a gun at the roof

of her family's house while the Lindners were gone.

People she has arrested in the past have confronted her at stores in Minneapolis, Lindner said, so she now does all her shopping outside the city.

People in the neighborhood also have come to her house to report trouble instead of calling 911, she said.

"Our job is dangerous as it is, but we have tools on the job," she said. "To have people coming and knocking on my door at all hours of the night is not fair. I'm not paid to do this."

Because Lindner has been on the job for nine years, she is not subject to the residency requirement. But her husband, Rick, is also a Minneapolis police officer, and he is subject to the residency requirement. For a while, the family lived in the city.

But Lindner said she got tired of dealing with the situation, so she has taken the children and moved to a house in Shakopee, while her husband lives in an apartment in Minneapolis.

"I can't be there 24 hours a day to protect my children from a drive-by shooting," she said.

Among those testifying against the bill was Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles-Belton. She said it's important for the city to keep residents with good jobs, and the average pay for a police officer is \$44,173.

"By living in Minneapolis, employees contribute to the tax base," she said.

If those high-paid employees move to the suburbs, "there is evidence that it diminishes the quality of our workforce," said Sayles-Belton.

The bill was laid over; it will be taken up by the committee at a later date.



Expanding NATO membership

Though he's not in the military, Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) donned a U.S. Army uniform to help convince members of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee of the benefits of expanding NATO membership.

Jaros came to the committee's Jan. 21 meeting in the camouflage uniform he wore in northeastern Bosnia last summer, where he spent about two months translating for NATO troops.

"My idea is that every country should join NATO, and then once everybody is joined in support of peace, we won't need any more armies," he said.

Jaros is the sponsor of HF2417, which calls for a resolution to be sent to President Clinton and Congress asking them to support the ad-



Two-year-old Jaylen and 6-year-old Michael Linear watch a protest on the steps of the Capitol about recently implemented changes in welfare programs. The boys and their mother, Ginnell, traveled from Winona, Minn., to the Capitol for the Jan. 20 rally.

mission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary to the alliance.

Committee members unanimously approved the bill and sent it to the House floor.

Initially, only Poland was mentioned in the resolution, but Jaros said that members of Minnesota's Czech and Hungarian communities asked that their countries be added.

Leaders from those communities testified at the committee meeting, and one said that NATO expansion "is good for security, good for America, and good for Minnesota."

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said that she had received a phone call from a constituent asking that some Balkan countries be added to the resolution. Jaros said he had not had any similar requests but that such an amendment could be added on the House floor.

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



Property tax rebate revisited

The Minnesota Legislature, flush with a projected \$2.3 billion budget surplus in 1997, passed a one-time tax rebate to give some of that surplus back to homeowners and renters. The rebate was linked to property taxes paid in 1997.

However, that created a problem for those who paid their 1997 property taxes before Jan. 1, 1997. Homeowners sometimes pre-pay their taxes to claim an itemized deduction for the previous year's income tax.

But, under the rebate law, people who pre-paid are out of luck, because the law passed last year limited payment of the rebate to those who paid their property taxes in 1997.

The House Tax Committee set about fixing things Jan. 22. The committee approved a bill (HF 2294) that would allow the property tax rebate to be paid to people who paid their 1997 property taxes before Jan. 1, 1997.

"It's a simple change in the law," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring the bill. "I think all of your constituents will thank you for taking care of them."

The rebate is available to both homeowners and renters. For homeowners, it comes to 20 percent of their property taxes, and for renters, 3.6 percent of their rent paid. It will come in the form of a refundable income tax credit for their 1997 taxes.

Even though the rebate is a property tax rebate, it should be claimed on the state income tax returns filed this year. It's separate from the regular property tax refund that many renters and homeowners get in August of each year.



Parking problems, solutions

Officials from Minneapolis, St. Paul, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, and the University of Minnesota were among those who testified before a House panel Jan. 21 about the parking woes they face and the costly potential solutions.

Only one of the officials told members of the House Transportation and Transit Committee that no significant efforts to increase available parking spaces are on the way.

Bob Baker, director of parking and transit services for the University of Minnesota, said no major additions to parking facilities are imminent on the campus.

The university has adhered to a self-imposed cap of 22,000 parking spots since 1992. *Continued on page 17*

Governor calls for top investment in state facilities

A closer look ...

A closer look at the Minnesota Statutes, 1997, Chapter 1041, subdivision 1. The image shows a magnifying glass focusing on the text '1041, subdivision' from a document titled 'A closer look ...'. The document is a page from the Minnesota Statutes, 1997, Chapter 1041, subdivision 1. The text is partially obscured by the magnifying glass, but the words '1041, subdivision' are clearly visible. The document is a page from the Minnesota Statutes, 1997, Chapter 1041, subdivision 1.

A projected \$1.3 billion surplus in state coffers creates many possibilities for legislators. While everything is open for debate, Gov. Arne Carlson's budget proposal calls for \$373 million in new state spending, and his bonding request seeks more than \$800 million in state borrowing for capital projects across the state.

Specifically, Carlson seeks to use \$841 million of surplus funds for property tax rebates and rate reductions and tax breaks for education expenses, \$207 million for a so-called “Asian market fund” to brace for potential fallout from instability in Asian stock markets, and \$373 million in new spending.

“We looked at this budget surplus this year the same way we have looked at budget surpluses in the past,” said Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson. “You ought to put some in reserve, spend some very prudently, and give the rest back to the taxpayers.”

The centerpiece of the governor's initiatives for this session — his last in office — is his plan to invest more than \$1 billion in state construction projects. More than \$800 million would come from state borrowing in the form of this year's bonding bill, and additional funds would come directly from the state's general fund.

The sheer size of the governor's spending plans raised some eyebrows at the Capitol, and House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) found key ingredients missing from Carlson's proposals.

and bonding proposals that are praiseworthy, it is troubling to see that the governor's plan contains virtually no K-12 education reforms or improvements," Carruthers said. "Helping our schools do a better job of educating our children will be a major goal of the House DFL in 1998 and will be a high priority in our session agenda."

Building campuses

Under the governor's plan, the Twin Cities campus of the U of M would see construction of a \$70 million molecular and cellular biology building. Another \$53.6 million would be spent to restore the Walter Library and to equip a digital technology center at the facility. The governor also is calling for funds for the renovation of several of the U of M build-

The governor's plan also would provide \$16 million for construction of a new facility for technical programs at Hibbing Community and Technical College, \$11 million for the first phase of renovation of Mankato State University's student athletic facilities, and \$10 million to revamp the library at St. Paul Technical College.

The governor is calling for a total of \$202.5 million in environmental projects.

Carlson's "access to the outdoors" proposal calls for spending on habitat protection, park and trail improvements, and improved tourism promotion. Specifically, the governor is calling for \$63 million for outdoor recreation projects and \$50 million to go toward habitat protection.

Spending on parks would include \$14 million for development of a veterans memorial state park in Duluth, which would be home to

the USS Des Moines, a mothballed Navy cruiser now sitting unused in Philadelphia. The governor also is calling for \$17 million to be dedicated to general improvements throughout the state's park and trails system.

Another \$1.2 million would be earmarked for an electronic licensing service to make it easier to get recreational licenses and permits and for other improvements in tourism services.

Environmental protection projects would get \$64.5 million, including \$26 million for flood mitigation efforts to help prevent devastation similar to that caused by 1997 floods in the Red River Valley and in other areas of Minnesota.

Also, \$27 million would be allocated for improvements to wastewater and drinking water infrastructure statewide.

Hockey and conventions

The governor's proposed \$213.7 million for improvements in regional economic development projects includes \$65 million for construction of a new hockey arena in St. Paul.

The project, which carries a total price tag of \$130 million, would provide a new St. Paul RiverCentre arena to serve as home for a new National Hockey League franchise.

The governor also is calling for \$87.1 million to reimburse the city of Minneapolis for the remaining principal on the Minneapolis Convention Center, which would allow the city to finance an expansion of the facility.

Other projects included in Carlson's proposal include \$25 million for construction of a convention center in St. Cloud, \$13.9 million for expansion of the Duluth convention center, \$6.7 million to expand and renovate the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, and \$1.5 million for a regional convention center in Fergus Falls.

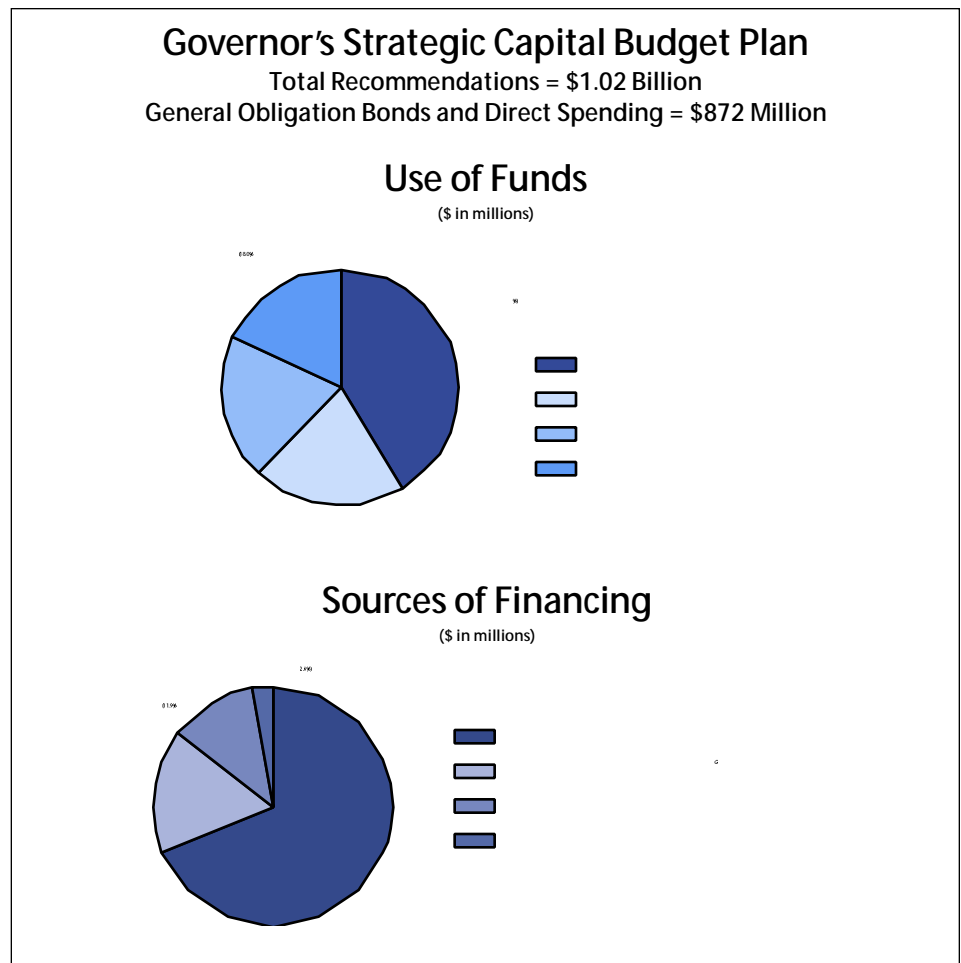
New spending plans

Aside from his massive plans for capital projects, Carlson included about \$112 million in his proposed supplemental budget for a variety of projects.

That sum includes \$10 million for medical education and research activities and \$5 million for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention. The governor's wife, Susan Carlson, has been a leader in efforts to combat Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and she serves as co-chair of a state task force created to devise a comprehensive strategy to prevent alcohol-related birth defects.

The governor's budget recommendations also include \$10 million for county child welfare efforts and \$5 million for child care access activities.

Other spending initiatives the governor sup-



Source: *Minnesota Strategic Capital Budget Plan: Executive Summary*

ports include \$5 million for the Year 2000 project, which seeks to avert computer system failures associated with the onset of the next century, and \$500,000 for research of deformed frogs found in Minnesota.

The DFL plans

After the governor's budget and bonding proposals were revealed, DFL leaders in the House announced legislative goals for the 1998 session that include some key differences from Carlson's plan.

Carruthers and Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) said they will seek funds to reduce class sizes in public schools, to expand availability of all-day kindergarten, and to improve computer technology in Minnesota's classrooms.

"We asked ourselves, 'What are people talking about around the kitchen table?'" Winter said. "They are talking about the quality of their children's education. They are talking about how to pay their property taxes and how to afford a college education, child care, or a decent home."

Winter and Carruthers also said they will seek funding to help school districts implement the state's new graduation standards.

Other projects high on the leadership's list

of priorities include college financial aid efforts to make postsecondary education more affordable and an expansion of eligibility for the tax credit for child care costs.

The DFL leaders also are seeking a second round of property tax rebates like those approved in 1997, which will return money to homeowners and renters. And they want reductions in property tax rates. 🐼

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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Mittelstadt: 'Robotics can solve workforce shortages'



By Jim Thielman

The Jetsons, the ultra-modern family of TV cartoons, enjoyed the luxury of a robot as a maid and butler. That remains futuristic in today's world, but if baby boomers are to continue a comfortable lifestyle into their senior years and businesses hope to cater to them, robotics is the answer.

That's what Eric Mittelstadt told legislators and others in a Jan. 21 lecture at the Minnesota History Center. Mittelstadt said workers still view robots as a threat to their jobs. But he said that any jobs lost will be largely hazardous or menial and that robots will make U.S. companies more competitive.

Mittelstadt said U.S. businesses face workforce shortages. Robotics can solve not only that problem, he said, but confront issues of safety as well.

The Detroit native is the chair and chief executive officer of FANUC Robotics North America, the country's leading robotics company since 1984. He has headed the venture since it formed a joint agreement between General Motors and FANUC LTD of Japan in 1982.

"The current workforce shortage is probably not going to let up in the foreseeable future," Mittelstadt said. "For example, in the next 10 years, 40 percent of the workforce in the automobile industry is going to retire. These are skilled jobs, and these people got those skills by being in that plant 30 or 40 years. Who's going to replace them?"

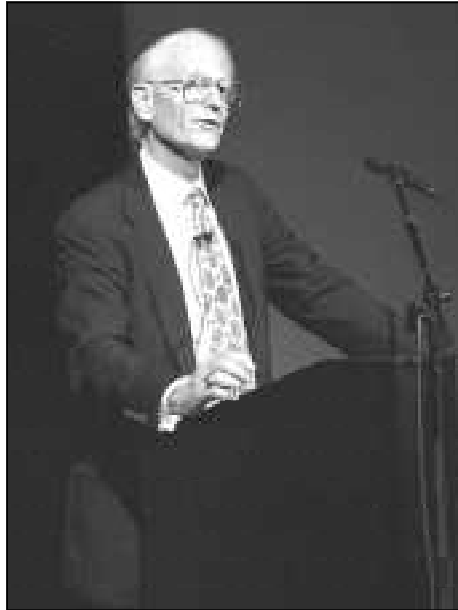
He said robotics can ease the crunch of repetitious work done by human labor. With proper education, human workers can then ascend the ladder to replace retiring, skilled workers.

"Eighty-percent of all jobs in the future are going to require more than high school," he said.

That comment raised a question about the direction of education in America. Mittelstadt said he doesn't see college in everyone's future. But he said honing science and math skills is vital.

"In order to be comfortable with computers, you have to have some knowledge of science and math," he said.

As a mechanical engineer in the 1950s, Mittelstadt said he had that science and math background. Yet many of his peers back then told him they couldn't care less about science



Eric Mittelstadt, a top executive for the country's leading robotics company, addressed lawmakers Jan. 21 as part of the 1998 Capitol Forum lecture series. Mittelstadt described the future of robotics and explained how technology can help address labor shortages and other workforce issues.

and math.

"You can't care less anymore," Mittelstadt said. "You have to have some kind of understanding, but that doesn't mean you can throw out English and communication skills, because someone has to get the message across."

Mittelstadt said robotics can ease worker shortages on one end of the manufacturing process, but there must be people capable of programming and maintaining the machines in a financially feasible way.

"Employees of tomorrow must be technically skilled, yet generalists," he said.

It wasn't long ago, Mittelstadt said, that many workers feared technology would replace them. And during the early 1990s, when the economy wasn't as strong, the fear was palpable, he said.

But he said the shortage of "lower-end" workers is likely to continue because "some workers are being shifted to the middle or higher end."

Then there are the demographics.

"The baby-boomers, man, have they gotten used to having a lot of goods and services," Mittelstadt said. "They're going to retire, and who's going to provide those goods and services?"

"There will be fewer people trying to produce or serve more. The quality of life for those baby-boomers is going to go down un-

less we solve our production problems. We can't import everything."

But can robotics help small businesses? As with other states, Minnesota has many small businesses that are looking for workers.

"It's a lot easier to engineer these devices into small businesses than large ones," Mittelstadt said.

He described a three-man company in his native Michigan that wanted to expand its arc-welding business. The owner had no education beyond high school.

Mittelstadt said with a \$50,000 investment, the business owner purchased the required robotic equipment. The result was his business expanded, he hired more workers, and he purchased another piece of robotics.

Mittelstadt also said robotics will allow U.S. companies to be more competitive internationally.

He illustrated his company's mindset when it comes to competition. FANUC is a Japanese company that encourages him to sell a largely Japanese product to U.S. companies so those U.S. companies can compete with Japanese companies.

That approach has allowed FANUC to gain a position in about one-third of the North American robotics market, and achieve \$2.3 billion in sales since 1985.

Among the Minnesota companies using FANUC technology, Mittelstadt said, are Arctic Cat of Thief River Falls, Malt-O-Meal in Northfield, and Twin Cities-based 3M and General Mills.

Mittelstadt directed his comments toward legislators in attendance when he said, "The government is responsible for creating a climate where corporations can succeed."

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who serves on the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee, was asked after the lecture to what extent helping private corporations succeed is a responsibility of government.

"That's a tough question," he said. "I suspect we need to provide some incentive that would allow technology to advance at a greater pace. It's a critical issue. We depend more on technology applications, and that may mean we need to be more sensitive to that area."

"I've long thought we need to have customized training to help workers perform at an advanced level of productivity. It's a continuum. The training can not be stagnant. It's a dynamic thing."



Rep. Doug Swenson . . .

New judge leaves behind family ties in Legislature

By Nick Healy



Rep. Doug Swenson's departure from the House ends the second longest run in a storied family history in the Minnesota Legislature.

Swenson was one of six members of the same family tree to serve in the Legislature over the course of more than 100 years. Earlier this month, the Forest Lake Republican left the House to begin a new job on the bench in the 10th Judicial District Court in Pine City, Minn.

The Legislature will not be Swenson-less, however, as Swenson leaves behind his brother, Howard, a second-term Republican House member from Nicollet, Minn.

When Doug Swenson was first elected to the House in 1986, he continued a family tradition that began when his great-grandfather, Swen Swenson, was elected to the House in 1886.

Swen served in the House with his brother, Lars. Swen's sons, Carl and Oscar, took up where their father left off when both were elected to the Legislature during the early 1900s. Oscar was perhaps the most well-known of the group, serving in the House from 1913 to 1932, including a stint as speaker, and serving in the Senate from 1937 to 1950. He was the grandfather of Doug and Howard.

"I've enjoyed the chance to serve because of that heritage, and it's been especially nice to serve with my brother," Doug Swenson said. "Howard's 15 years older than I am, and this was the first time I've ever had seniority over him."

Outside of the House, Swenson has worked as a senior assistant Washington County attorney since 1975. Combine that with his noted legislative work on public safety issues and it is apparent why Gov. Arne Carlson selected Swenson for the judicial position.

"Swenson possesses a unique combination of experience prosecuting criminal cases and crafting legislation that seeks to find solutions to the problems facing the court system today," Carlson said when the appointment was announced.

Swenson listed fiscal responsibility, education, and public safety among his chief concerns as a lawmaker, and he left his mark as the author of laws that toughened penalties for driving while intoxicated and clamped down on underage drinkers.



Rep. Doug Swenson, a leader in efforts to stiffen Minnesota's DWI laws, left the House to accept an appointment to the District Court bench.

He led successful efforts to require repeat DWI offenders to forfeit their vehicles and to create a "not-a-drop" standard for underage drivers. Swenson also backed a 1997 effort to lower the threshold for legal drunkenness to 0.08 percent blood-alcohol content. While that proposal did not pass, Swenson said he believes the stage is set for the lower standard to become law in the future.

"Doug has made a tremendous impact on the lives of all Minnesotans through his work on strengthening Minnesota's DWI laws," said House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "He has been a leader in securing safe streets, schools, and communities for all Minnesota families."

Swenson served on the House Judiciary Committee, and he was the lead Republican on the Judiciary Finance Division. His work on those panels drew respect from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

"He was a very valuable member of the committee, and I think he's an excellent appointment," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the Judiciary Committee. "He'll do a good job as a judge, and the people of the state of Minnesota are well served by his appointment."

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), whose desk was next to Swenson's in the House

chamber and whose district borders Swenson's, said he will miss their conversations about the issues of the day.

"I consider him a person of integrity," Mares said. "He did what was right, not always what was popular. He was a hard-working, fair-minded legislator."

Swenson lists the fact that he never had the opportunity to serve in the majority caucus as his only regret from his days as a lawmaker. Republicans last held a controlling majority in the House the year before Swenson arrived. Still, Swenson said he will draw satisfaction from his work on crime and public safety issues.

"I've appreciated the opportunity that my constituents have given me to serve in the Legislature, and I feel that I have been able to contribute on a variety of public policy issues in a positive way," Swenson said. "I will miss the opportunity to advocate for change that I believe will improve the lives of Minnesotans, but I am excited about the chance to serve in another way that is also very important."



Rep. LeRoy Koppendraye departs . . .

Lawmaker called thinker, risk taker, team player

By Nick Healy



Rep. LeRoy Koppendraye (R-Princeton), a fourth-term lawmaker noted for his leadership on education issues, was appointed to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) last month by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Koppendraye was an assistant minority leader in the House, and he was the lead Republican on the K-12 Finance Division of the House Education Committee. His resignation was effective Dec. 8, 1997, and he officially assumed his new post Jan. 5.

The move to the PUC is just the latest venture on Koppendraye's long and widely varied resume.

"If you're looking for new opportunities in life, exciting things can happen," Koppendraye said.

And Koppendraye certainly has seen some exciting things in his life. Before coming to the House, he worked as a truck driver in an Iron Range mine, as a manager for Fingerhut Corp., and as an international agricultural consultant who assisted dairy farmers in South America, Africa, and other places around the globe.

As a legislator, Koppendraye was a straight-talker who made a name for himself as a leader in efforts to change the public education system in Minnesota. He carried controversial school voucher legislation in recent years and backed the successful effort to increase the tax deduction for educational expenses and to provide low- to moderate-income families with a tax credit for education expenses.



Rep. LeRoy Koppendraye, a seven-year legislator noted for his work on K12 education policy, was selected by Gov. Arne Carlson to fill a vacancy on the Public Utilities Commission.

Now Koppendraye lists his work on education issues as his most significant contribution as a legislator.

"Accountability and choice will enhance education," Koppendraye said. "We succeeded in getting those issues raised in public awareness. Now I think the public is demanding accountability, and that issue is not going to go away."

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) expressed mixed emotions over

Koppendraye's departure.

"I'm happy for LeRoy, and I think this will be a good fit for him," Sviggum said. "Obviously, it's a loss for our caucus and the entire Legislature. He was a real thinker and one who was not afraid to take on some tough issues."

Sviggum is losing more than one of his leaders in the caucus. He is also losing a confidant and roommate. For the past two years, Koppendraye and Sviggum have shared quarters when in St. Paul for legislative business.

"He will be missed," Sviggum said. "He was a real team player, and he was willing to take a risk and to step out of that comfort zone. Leaders have to be able to do that."

Koppendraye began serving as a member of the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee in 1997, and he said it was that experience that whetted his appetite for the kind of work he will be doing on the PUC.

Koppendraye, who will serve a six-year term on the commission, said he looks forward to dealing with "hot issues" such as the deregulation of electrical utilities and the rapid growth of telecommunications.

"I won't be bored. That's for sure," he said.

And Koppendraye said he is confident other legislators will step up to fill the role he played with his House caucus.

"As soon as you think you're indispensable, look in the mirror and you're looking at your only friend," Koppendraye said. 🐼

Committee deadlines

Each year, the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process.

By the first committee deadline, **Friday, Feb. 13**, all bills must be passed out of all policy committees in their house of origin to receive further consideration this session. If a House bill has not been approved by a House policy committee by the deadline, but its Senate companion has been approved by a Senate policy

committee, the bill has met the committee deadline.

By the second committee deadline, **Friday, Feb. 20**, all bills other than those containing appropriations, must be passed out of all policy committees in both the House and the Senate. The deadline does not apply to the finance divisions of the committees or the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the House Taxes Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

By the third committee deadline, **Friday, Feb. 27**, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to either the Taxes Committee or the Ways and Means Committee.

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

New members . . .

Otremba wins House seat in November special election

By Sandra Donovan

It was exactly two months from the day her husband, Ken, died that Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) won the special election to fill his vacant House seat, but that's not the only reason the election was particularly noteworthy.



Rep.
Mary Ellen Otremba

Otremba's success at the polls in District 11B marked the first DFL victory in 20 special elections, and the first such victory outside of Minneapolis/St. Paul in 25 years.

Still, Otremba's win was not what everybody was talking about when she was sworn in to the House last November. Onlookers were too busy buzzing about the fact that she would immediately be called upon to vote on what many considered the toughest, most divisive question in years — stadium financing.

For Otremba, her first vote on a bill was an easy call.

"I think most of my constituents are glad I voted no," she said. "I come from one of the poorer counties, so using public dollars to subsidize a sports team is just not popular. Of course, there are some who think I voted the wrong way, but every day I have someone thanking me for that vote."

And Otremba said she doesn't believe it was the toughest vote she'll make.

"I'm a very social-justice oriented person, and I make decisions based on that," she said. "I think there are a lot of tough votes."

Although the only other elected office Otremba has held was on her local Catholic school board, she is no newcomer to politics. She attended her first DFL precinct caucus

with her husband in 1976, and has since served as the DFL Party chair in Todd County and as a member of the party's state executive board.

"When Ken ran the first time [in a 1994 House race], the real question was who was going to run, he or I?" she said. "We were both very involved in county politics at the time — he as an elected official [on the county board] and I in the party. We made a great team because we bridged the gap between elected and party politics."

Ken Otremba won the House seat in 1994 and was in the middle of serving his second term when he died of liver cancer in September 1997.

"We talked about it before he died, and he wanted me to run," Otremba said.

She said she will continue to work on the issues that have long interested both her and her late husband — rural health care, agriculture, and education.

She began work last year with House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) on a bill that would raise the minimum milk price paid to dairy farmers. She also plans to push for the creation of a Midwest compact for dairy farmers.

"In the northeast, several states have initiated a compact to set dairy prices higher," she explained. "We're hoping to organize along those lines with Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota."

Otremba's committee assignments mirror her interests. She will serve on the Agriculture, Education, and Health and Human Services committees, as well as acting as vice chair of the Health and Human Services Finance Division.

"I can be all fired up about dairy farmers one hour and all fired up about health care the

next hour," Otremba said. "That's how I live my life — you have to focus on what you're doing at the time."

"I've learned very clearly that you have to take things one step at a time, after all I've gone through with Ken and the kids."

The youngest of Otremba's four children, Elizabeth, 11, will be home-schooled at the Capitol during this year's legislative session.

"She'll still be enrolled at her school, and she'll send work via fax and e-mail, but she'll be with me every day," Otremba said. "She needs that and I need that."

Otremba took a leave of absence from her job as a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Swanville High School for the session.

"One reason I keep teaching is to keep in that part of the real world," she said. "Ken always said that my job helped him to maintain a balance — not everyone talks and breathes politics all the time."

One decision Otremba has not yet made is whether to run for re-election this year.

"I'm leaning toward it and I probably will, but we keep talking it over as a family," she said. "We've always had those talks, every time Ken ran for office we had them. That's just how we are as a family."

District 11B

1995 population: 32,599

Largest city: Long Prairie

Counties: Douglas, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, Wadena

Location: north-central Minnesota

Top Concern: "My main concern is to faithfully represent the people [who] live in my district and in the state of Minnesota. I believe in trying to make decisions looking through the eyes of the 'poorest' person you know."

— Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba

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House loses member . . .

Vickerman's legislative post topped a varied career

Rep. Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls) died Dec. 22, 1997, at her home after a battle with liver cancer. She was 64.

Vickerman was serving her third term in the House as the representative of District 23A. The longtime Republican Party activist was first elected in 1992 after years of involvement in community affairs.

"Barb was a very kind and dedicated public servant who enjoyed the opportunity to serve the citizens of Brown and Redwood counties," said House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "Her fellow members of the House are saddened by her death."

In the House, Vickerman was selected to be the lead Republican on the General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee, and she was noted for her work on the Health and Human Services Committee and its finance division.

"In the Legislature, her efforts in the areas of health and human services, welfare reform, and veterans concerns were well known and well respected," Sviggum said.

Vickerman was Republican Party chair for the 2nd Congressional District and she worked on numerous campaigns before she sought a seat in the Legislature.

Though trained as a medical laboratory technician, Vickerman listed retail sales as her occupation, and she worked in various other jobs before coming to the House. She and her husband, Gerald, ran a bowling alley for several years, and she opened a card and gift shop in Redwood Falls, Minn. Vickerman operated the shop for 18 years and sold the business two



Rep. Barb Vickerman speaks on the House floor during the 1997 session.

years before she was first elected to office. She also was an avid reader and book collector.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) got to know Vickerman well during their time together in the Legislature. Serving bordering southern Minnesota districts, Harder and Vickerman often ran into each other at county fairs and other local events, and they were roommates while in St. Paul for legislative sessions.


"She was really my mentor and role model, and she set an excellent example for me," Harder said. "She was not flashy. She was a soft-spoken person, and she was very succinct in her communication. When she spoke, her words commanded attention."

Harder said she learned of Vickerman's ill-

ness when the two were at the Capitol for a June special session. Vickerman received cancer treatment during the summer, and she was able to attend an August special session on flood relief. However, Vickerman's illness prevented her from attending a fall special session on stadium financing.

Gov. Arne Carlson praised Vickerman's legislative work and expressed condolences following her death.

"Her unique blend of a strong commitment to family and community and good old-fashioned common sense made her an effective legislator," Carlson said.

Vickerman is survived by her husband, four children, and five grandchildren. 

Continued from page 10

University figures put the total of day students and full-time staff and faculty at roughly 51,000.

Considering the cost of parking ramp construction, the committee lauded the university's controlled approach.

Mike Monahan, director of transportation for the city of Minneapolis, told the committee that underground ramp construction costs about \$22,000 to \$26,000 per stall. Above grade, the cost falls to about \$13,000 to \$14,000 per stall, he said.

Annual maintenance runs about another \$750 to \$900 per stall.

Monahan said Minneapolis develops parking "only as we see the need." Typically, the

city plans three to five years ahead. Currently, the 62,000 downtown Minneapolis parking spots are at 98 percent occupancy at 1 p.m. each weekday, he said.

Chuck Armstrong, assistant to the mayor of St. Paul, said his city has 4,000 new spots in the development stage. However, he said, we "can't build our way out of this problem." He said a good transit system that people use is vital.

To that end, Baker's "U-Pass Program" generated interest among committee members. The program would provide U of M students, staff and faculty with a bus pass that offers unlimited rides anywhere, anytime on any route on the Twin Cities metropolitan bus system.

Baker said the program's goal would be to

ease traffic congestion and university parking congestion, enhance the air quality, and create lifetime public transit riders.

The university also has begun to encourage bicycle riders by offering bike racks on many of its Campus Connector buses.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the committee, asked Mike Christensen of the Department of Transportation how the Twin Cities compares to other metropolitan areas in availability and usage of park-and-ride services.

Christensen said the metro area has 210 park-and-ride areas with 10,000 spaces, and there is 75 percent usage. He did not have comparable figures from other metro areas.

Growe: They'll be 'running the state in a few years'

By Nicole Wood

Minnesota's future politicians, lobbyists, and journalists held a trial run at the Capitol Jan. 8-11.

More than 1,250 students in grades eight through 12 gathered in St. Paul for the 44th annual session of the YMCA Youth in Government program.

"We are the next generation, and we have come to make a difference," said Victoria Cameron, 18, of Lakeville, who played the role of governor in the mock lawmaking session.

Youth in Government gives students from across the state an opportunity to experience the legislative process in the very place where the real Legislature meets.

model legislature, but it has expanded to include the judicial branch, constitutional officers, the media, and lobbyists. Participants now fill the many roles involved in the process — from that of a page to the governor.

"I try to emphasize the government as a process and how the pieces fit together," Lindquist said. "The Legislature doesn't just pass bills in a vacuum."

Participants in the model legislature began learning about the process months in advance by researching and writing bills and memorizing parliamentary procedure.

Once in St. Paul, they followed their bills through the committee process all the way to the House and Senate floors. The lawmaking

grown by five times since 1980, said Peter Rodosovich, who served six terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives (*See related story, page 4*) and is now the state executive director of the Youth In Government program.

"I really think it's been sold from person to person," said Rodosovich, also a former participant in the program. "I think kids really have a good experience with the academic components that they're participating in. They take it very seriously."

Rodosovich also said the program provides a valuable learning experience by introducing young people to peers who come from widely varied backgrounds.

"I like meeting people from across the state," said Melanie Wilken, 17, of Fridley, who served as floor leader during the mock session. "It's really a good experience. When I get older, these are the people who are going to be running the state."

Secretary of State Joan Growe echoed Wilken's remarks when Growe stopped by to call the session of Youth in Government to order.

"We need you," Growe said. "We need your ideas. We need your talent. We need your enthusiasm, and we need your hard work. You are the ones who are going to be running the state in a few years."

Many past Youth in Government participants have gone on to hold elected office. Second District Congressman David Minge is probably the most well-known former participant. Minge was youth governor in 1960. Rodosovich also recalled that former Reps. Craig Shaver and Dean Hartle, who had served with him in the House in the 1980s, were veterans of the program.

Skorczewski said she would definitely like to run for office someday. While honored to sit in the speaker's chair this year, she said she was surprised to find crib sheets on parliamentary procedure and House rules at his desk.

"I had to memorize everything," she said. "I'm not saying I'm better than him; I'm just saying I want his job." 🙏



Victoria Cameron, Lakeville, who was elected governor for the YMCA Youth in Government mock legislative session, is sworn in by Minnesota Chief Justice A. M. (Sandy) Keith in the House chamber.

"Being at the Capitol is just absolutely amazing because we are the only youth program to use the House chamber in Minnesota," said 18-year-old St. Paul resident Carly Skorczewski, who was speaker of the House in the program. "It's such an honor that we've been able to hold this level of respect among the representatives that they'll let us come in and do this."

The program has existed nationally since 1936. Over the years, it has evolved into what Orville Lindquist, Youth in Government state program director and former participant, described as a "process program."

Youth in Government began simply as a

process came complete with pressure from participants serving as members of the executive and judicial branches, lobbyists, and reporters.

Topics of debate on the House floor included motor vehicle safety, handicapped accessibility requirements, and high school attendance regulations.

Skorczewski said the most controversial bill to pass during this year's mock session authorized same-sex marriages.

"By nature, teenagers seem to be a little more liberal," she said.

The program's popularity has grown along with its scope. The number of participants has

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We thank you for your input.

The editors

Prof. Alan Rosenthal says . . .

Public perception of state legislatures needs fixing

By Grant Martin

State legislatures have a real image problem and it is up to legislators to fix it, according to Alan Rosenthal, professor of public policy at the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University.

"If the legislature doesn't try to support and explain representative democracy, it isn't going to happen," Rosenthal said to legislators and the public at the state Capitol on Dec. 18, 1997.

Rosenthal, author of the new book *The Decline of Representative Democracy*, said that while state legislatures have become increasingly democratic and responsive, the public perceives the opposite to be true.

"Any public opinion poll in whatever state shows that the job performance of legislatures has been down for years," Rosenthal said. "Generally, confidence that people have in their political institutions at the state, federal, and local level is down.

"The pictures that people get in their heads are not necessarily the pictures we think we're projecting. In today's world, appearance has become reality and reality is less important. It's how things look."

Rosenthal suggested that the reason state legislatures are perceived negatively has to do with the lawmaking process.

"The pictures that people get in their heads are not necessarily the pictures we think we're projecting. In today's world, appearance has become reality and reality is less important. It's how things look."

—Prof. Alan Rosenthal

"It's a bad looking process," he said. "It is confusing and messy. It is unfathomable. It is not meant to be understood. It borders on [the] chaotic, and it can easily be lampooned."

Rosenthal also cited other factors that make the image of legislatures unappealing. For example, legislatures are competitive and fragmented. As demands are made on the institution, lines are drawn and redrawn. The public, Rosenthal said, is often turned off by



Prof. Alan Rosenthal speaks to lawmakers about the health of representative democracy.

Photo by David J. Oakes
Senate Media Services

the competition, and the media also contributes to the problem by focusing on scandal as entertainment.

Nonetheless, Rosenthal said, the legislative process works.

"It's a process that's improved, in my opinion, since I have been watching legislatures," he said. "It's a remarkable process. It is now more open. It is more accessible — anybody can penetrate this place. It is deliberative. It's deliberation on the run. A lot of thought goes into legislation. It is, in my mind, as democratic as any process can be."

He pointed to the services that legislators provide their constituents as examples of responsiveness. Rosenthal also said that legislatures are also responsive to special interests. Although this is often a criticism of the institution, it should not be, according to Rosenthal.

He argued that special interest groups are made up of the voting citizenry. He said that four out of seven people in this country belong to an organization that could be labeled special interest and two out of seven belong to four or more such organizations.

"We have met the special interests and they are us," Rosenthal said.

Rosenthal said there are several methods

that can be used to change the public's perception of the legislature. Campaign finance and ethics laws should continue to be used to clean up the appearance of impropriety, he said. And legislators should work on building a relationship with both media and the public.

"Members have got to take responsibility for their institution," he said. "They have got to be concerned about the Senate or the House."

Legislators questioned Rosenthal on a variety of points. Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) expressed her opinion that television coverage, while educational, often gives the public a bad impression of the legislature.

Rosenthal responded with an example that demonstrated his view of a responsive and image-conscious legislature. When J. Clyde Ballard, speaker of the Washington State House

"It's a process that's improved, in my opinion, since I have been watching legislatures. It's a remarkable process. It is now more open. It is more accessible — anybody can penetrate this place."

—Prof. Alan Rosenthal

of Representatives, heard complaints that the committee process focused on the testimony of legislators and did not give the public enough time to present their views, he restructured the process. Now, when a bill is presented, the public testifies first and legislators present after all public testimony is completed.

Rosenthal said that while he would not go as far as prescribing this approach for all states, the example shows how legislatures can respond to enlighten and serve the public.



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

Bill Introductions

HF2256-HF2646

Tuesday, Jan. 20

HF2256—Olson, E. (DFL)

Education

Camp Rabideau in Chippewa National Forest restoration funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2257—Chaudhary (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Columbia Heights appropriated money for capital improvements, and bonds issued.

HF2258—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Juvenile probation services payment by the state required for counties not participating in the Community Corrections Act, HACA aid offset provided, and state takeover feasibility and cost studied.

HF2259—Olson, E. (DFL)

Taxes

Agricultural loan mortgage registry tax exemption provided.

HF2260—Sviggum (R)

Health & Human Services

Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF2261—Jennings (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Environmental Quality Board provided jurisdiction over transmission lines less than 200 kilovolts, and large energy facility definition expanded to include high voltage lines crossing the state boundary.

HF2262—McGuire (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District abolished.

HF2263—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Environmental protection; Congress memorialized to ensure environmental protection, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2264—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline and special fuel tax rate increased, major highway projects account created, revenue dedication provided, and bond issuance authorized.

HF2265—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle registration law compliance pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF2266—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Passenger automobile registration base tax eliminated, and motor fuel tax rate increased.

HF2267—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Key bridges on the state trunk highway system replaced and reconstructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2268—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Gasoline and special fuel excise tax rate increased, motor vehicle sales tax revenue percentage allocated to the transit assistance fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2269—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Passenger automobile registration base tax eliminated.

HF2270—Winter (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Air ambulance registration exemption provided.

HF2271—Mullery (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Motor vehicle registration information access provided to community-based organization requesters designated by law enforcement agencies.

HF2272—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary

Six-month redemption period provided from the date a sale is confirmed by the court in a lien foreclosure judgment.

HF2273—Mullery (DFL)

Local Government

& Metropolitan Affairs

Municipal contract validity challenge actions provided relief awards.

HF2274—Mullery (DFL)

Taxes

Seeds used in growing food sales tax exemption provided.

HF2275—Mares (R)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Ramsey and Washington counties regional trail land acquisition and development around White Bear Lake provided, and money appropriated.

HF2276—Biernat (DFL)

Education

School districts authorized to require summer school attendance.

HF2277—Tunheim (DFL)

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Candidates required to obtain written permission from an organization prior to campaign material statements of support for a candidate or ballot question.

HF2278—Wenzel (DFL)

Agriculture

Milk handling assessment collection and proceed distribution provided, milk handler assessment account established, and money appropriated.

HF2279—Wenzel (DFL)

Agriculture

Midwest interstate dairy compact established, and money appropriated.

HF2280—Wenzel (DFL)

Agriculture

Milk over-order price mechanism established and activated.

HF2281—Winter (DFL)

Agriculture

Midwest interstate dairy compact established, and money appropriated.

HF2282—Clark (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Individual development account demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

HF2283—Delmont (DFL)

Education

Nonstandard hour child care development grants established, incentives provided, and money appropriated.

HF2284—Kubly (DFL)

Taxes

Noncontiguous land classification provisions modified for the purposes of agricultural homestead determination.

HF2285—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Firearms offenses provided increased minimum sentences.

HF2286—Skoglund (DFL)

Judiciary

Violent crime offense penalty provisions modified, and mandatory sentence provisions recodified.

HF2287—Mullery (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Youth intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2288—Mullery (DFL)

Judiciary

Consecutive sentences allowed when offender commits additional crimes prior to sentencing, and guidelines modified.

HF2289—Tunheim (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 390, Lake of the Woods, additional construction expenditure reimbursement grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF2290—Sykora (R)

Taxes

Property tax rebate to include rebate for prepaid taxes.

HF2291—McGuire (DFL)

Judiciary

Seat belt and child restraint system use civil action evidence admissibility prohibition repealed.

HF2292—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

ATM; Automated teller machine use fees charged to other banks' customers prohibited.

HF2293—Jefferson (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Senate District 58 pilot project created authorizing absentee voting without qualification.

HF2294—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax rebate to include rebate for prepaid taxes.

HF2295—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Building and construction contract lien and claim waivers regulated.

HF2296—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Building and construction subcontractor payments regulated.

HF2297—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Correctional institution autopsies conducted in all unattended inmate deaths, Red Wing juvenile correctional facility bed limitation exemption provided, and at-risk youth and girls included in the Camp Ripley weekend camp.

HF2298—Weaver (R)
Education
Legislative approval required prior to state board of education diversity rule adoption final proceedings.

HF2299—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Probation officer caseload reduction program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2300—Tompkins (R)
Education
School districts prohibited from including teacher convention days on the school calendar.

HF2301—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Physicians, acupuncturists, and physical therapists licensing and registration requirements modified.

HF2302—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Property tax rebate to include rebate for prepaid taxes.

HF2303—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Public libraries and multicounty, multitype library systems sales tax exemption provided.

HF2304—Haas (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health maintenance organizations financial reserves requirement increased.

HF2305—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Gang related felony crime penalties increased, mandatory minimum sentences provided for witness tampering, and witness and victim protection fund appropriated money.

HF2306—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Direct and indirect costs of crime studied by the legislative auditor.

HF2307—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
County probation services provided grants to increase the number of probation officers, and money appropriated.

HF2308—Slawik (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Accountant licensing provisions modified, firm licensure required, and board of accountancy provided rulemaking authority.

HF2309—Leppik (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Equal consumer credit provided for spouses.

HF2310—Tompkins (R)
Governmental Operations
Private money given to the state for the purpose of influencing policy prohibited.

HF2311—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Nonpublic schools subject to state graduation requirements if families of students have claimed education-related expense tax reimbursements.

HF2312—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Methamphetamine manufacturing provided criminal penalties, and sale, possession, and attempt to sell penalties modified.

HF2313—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Arson investigative data system created, state fire marshall authorized to license private fire investigators, making it a crime to engage in fire investigation activities without a license, and money appropriated.

HF2314—Evans (DFL)
Health & Human Services
General assistance medical care rehabilitation services provided expanded coverage.

HF2315—Leppik (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Trademarks and service marks regulated, terms defined, and remedies provided.

HF2316—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program Statewide Payment method modified.

HF2317—Davids (R)
Health & Human Services
Constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2318—Leppik (R)
Education
Accelerated instruction required for elementary and secondary students scoring three standard deviations above the norm on standardized tests.

HF2319—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Gifted and talented program grant local-match requirement removed.

HF2320—Greiling (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission required to give notice prior to insecticide application.

HF2321—Seagren (R)
Education
Residential academies for at-risk students provided program grants, and money appropriated.

HF2322—Sviggum (R)
Taxes
Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

HF2323—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF2324—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF2325—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

HF2326—Bishop (R)
Judiciary
Sex-offender treatment facilities required to provide treatment information, end-of-confinement review process clarified, and community and victim notification provisions modified.

HF2327—Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Patient protection act provisions expanded.

HF2328—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Drug or firearm case assistance to authorities considered a mitigating factor for defendant sentence reduction, and court criteria established by the sentencing guidelines commission.

HF2329—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Individuals on conditional release required to carry a verification card, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF2330—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Peace officers authorized to perform protective pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.

HF2331—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Pharmaceutical contracting activities funded, and money appropriated.

HF2332—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Covenant not to allow contraband on premises required as part of a residential lease.

HF2333—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary
Landlords not required to store tenant's personal property after abandonment or eviction.

HF2334—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Blood-lead analysis reports and data requirements established, lead abatement, hazard reduction, and risk assessments provided, lead workers licensed, and nonprofits provided grants for cleanup equipment and staff.

HF2335—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2336—Leppik (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs

Golden Valley authorized to collect an additional tax from the Valley Square tax increment financing district.

HF2337—Folliard (DFL)
Education

Nonpublic schools subject to the pupil fair dismissal law if families of students have claimed education-related expense tax credits.

HF2338—Folliard (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans
Affairs & Elections

Gulf War veterans bonus program modified to facilitate eligibility verification.

HF2339—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.

HF2340—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Circulator vehicle pilot project in Minneapolis provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2341—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Community rehabilitation program and affordable rental investment fund provided funding, and money appropriated.

HF2342—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Family homeless prevention and assistance program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2343—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Transitional housing loans funded through bond proceeds fund transfer, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2344—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Employer contribution for employee

housing tax credit provided, and money appropriated.

HF2345—Entenza (DFL)
Education

School lunch and food storage aid increased, and money appropriated.

HF2346—Wenzel (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Trunk Highway No. 371 between Brainerd and Trunk Highway No. 10 provided improvements for expressway upgrade, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2347—Ness (R)
Education

Hutchinson Technical College addition and remodeling provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2348—Ness (R)
Education

School interactive television program provided additional state aid, and money appropriated.

HF2349—Ness (R)
Education

Basic skills summer school funding reinstated, and money appropriated.

HF2350—Ness (R)
Education

Secondary vocational education program provided additional state aid, and money appropriated.

HF2351—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary

Innovative court projects focusing on nuisance law actions and prosecutions funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2352—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary

Restorative justice programs authorized, existing program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2353—Anderson, B. (R)
Judiciary

Private property rights act adopted.

HF2354—McElroy (R)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales and income tax or education levy increases.

HF2355—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations

State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2356—Mullery (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations

Occupational Safety and Health Law violators prohibited from receiving a state construction contract award, written safety and health plans required for each site, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF2357—Wejcman (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs

Age ceiling for new firefighters in Minneapolis eliminated.

HF2358—Koskinen (DFL)
Judiciary

Sex offender registration data release authorized to promote public safety, and property owners convicted of background check crimes required to notify tenants.

HF2359—Sekhon (DFL)
Education

School district compensatory revenue calculation alternative established, and money appropriated.

HF2360—Sekhon (DFL)
Taxes

City base aid increase provided for newly incorporated cities.

HF2361—Sekhon (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Anoka County; Linwood Township surface water drainage system provided, and money appropriated.

HF2362—Jefferson (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade

Hennepin County; People Incorporated North Side Community Support Program building provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2363—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary

Abandoned property five-week mortgage redemption period clarified relating to trespassers.

HF2364—Rest (DFL)
Education

Education income tax credit income limitations modified and maximum credit specified.

HF2365—Bettermann (R)
Labor-Management Relations

Public works prevailing wage rate provisions eliminated.

HF2366—Knight (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

HF2367—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Mountain Iron and Virginia flood projects provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2368—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
St. Louis County; Fayal sewer system provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2369—Kubly (DFL)
Taxes
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF2370—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearms repeat violation minimum sentence increased.

HF2371—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Attorney general maintained consumer complaint data access modified.

HF2372—Lieder (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Norman County Bridges Medical Center reconstruction provided competitive bid requirement exemption.

HF2373—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2374—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary
Prostitution cases studied, investigation and offender penalty assessment use information collected, and report required.

HF2375—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary
Prostitution offenses committed in a school, park, or public housing zone provided increased penalties.

HF2376—Evans (DFL)
Judiciary
State correctional facilities performance report required to include programming and inmate job placement information.

HF2377—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Attorney general directed to investigate legal action against the Twins and Major League Baseball, and commence action if in the public interest.

HF2378—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Crime of violence definition expanded to include felony fifth degree assault relating to the gun control act and mandatory minimum sentence law for crimes committed with a firearm or dangerous weapon.

HF2379—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for illegal pistol possession provided enhanced criminal penalties.

HF2380—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Possession of a firearm with an altered, removed, or missing serial number provided mandatory minimum sentence.

HF2381—Chaudhary (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; driver's license reinstatement fee increased to fund the remote electronic alcohol monitoring pilot program, and money appropriated.

HF2382—Rukavina (DFL)**Agriculture**

Indoor housing facilities temperature rule exemption provided to a certain kennel.

HF2383—Trimble (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Indian burial site human remains provisions modified.

HF2384—Lieder (DFL)**Judiciary**

Crookston flood control project funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2385—Lieder (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Crookston; Valley Technology Park capital development funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2386—Skoglund (DFL)**Judiciary**

Special registration plate and regular reissue plate fees increased for repeat DWI violators following an impoundment order, and remote electronic alcohol monitoring program funded.

HF2387—Folliard (DFL)**General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Voter address records updated.

HF2388—Sviggum (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 2758, Redwood Valley, multipurpose education and community center funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2389—Entenza (DFL)**Judiciary**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles and while hunting.

HF2390—Pugh (DFL)**Judiciary**

Real and personal property conveyances and transactions regulated, and technical changes provided to the uniform partnership act.

HF2391—Jefferson (DFL)**Judiciary**

Persons using children to import controlled substances into the state provided increased criminal penalties.

HF2392—Leppik (R)**Judiciary**

Life insurance proceeds considered income for the purpose of determining child support obligation.

HF2393—Mares (R)**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**

Willernie natural waterway erosion forestall funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2394—Mares (R)**Education**

School districts authorized to levy for type III school bus purchases.

HF2395—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Felony-level offenders failing to appear in court provided increased criminal penalties.

HF2396—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Possession of an antique or replica antique firearm by persons convicted of a crime of violence provided criminal penalties.

HF2397—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Probation revocation hearings provided preponderance of the evidence standard.

HF2398—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services**

Personal care services termination standards set, transition plans required, recipients provided appeal rights, and temporary stays of termination allowed.

HF2399—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Smoking prohibited at all times on day care premises.

HF2400—Huntley (DFL)**Judiciary**

Sale of tobacco and tobacco-related devices to persons under age 21 prohibited, and criminal penalties provided.

HF2401—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Federal drug enforcement administration registration number requirement exemption provided for certain controlled substance prescriptions.

HF2402—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Crimes committed with a firearm or dangerous weapon mandatory minimum sentence law expanded to include first degree riot crimes.

HF2403—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provisions modified to include maintenance of Voyageurs National Park trails.

HF2404—Bakk (DFL)**Education**

Snowmobile safety training provided to K-12 students.

HF2405—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Education**

School immunization program created, student health services aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF2406—Entenza (DFL)**Education**

Nonprofit organization grants for statewide literacy support services provided funding through adult basic education.

HF2407—Rukavina (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Arrowhead Regional Arts Council state funds distribution formula provided.

HF2408—Sekhon (DFL)**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**

Anoka County; Linwood Township surface water drainage system provided, and money appropriated.

HF2409—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Procedures for compelling material witness attendance at hearings provided.

HF2410—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Firearms dealers required to provide pistol trigger locks at the time of purchase.

HF2411—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary**

Judges authorized to set release conditions in cases of crimes against the person.

HF2412—Lieder (DFL)**Education**

School district flood losses appropriation extended.

HF2413—Lieder (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

FEMA; Federal Emergency Management Agency mental health care grants extended, and money appropriated.

HF2414—Lieder (DFL)**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**

Polk County; Maple Lake Regional Park and Trail development provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2415—Kubly (DFL)**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**

Chippewa County; Skunk Hollow Regional Park and Minnesota River Trail extension provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2416—Kubly (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Renville tax-increment district parcel original local tax rate and certificate date set, and collection deadline extended.

HF2417—Jaros (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

NATO; Congress memorialized to support the admission of Poland to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

HF2418—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; permanent school fund funded through boundary waters canoe area campsite fees.

HF2419—Juhnke (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Ambulance service standards modified, certification provided for emergency medical technicians, medical response units, and emergency medical technician instructors, training program approval required, fees set, and penalties provided.

HF2420—Rukavina (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Louis County required to sell its county-owned nursing homes.

HF2421—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Extended jurisdiction adjudicated juveniles having a revoked stay of execution not to receive credit for time served in a juvenile facility.

HF2422—Swenson, H. (R)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 212 construction, reconstruction, and improvement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2423—Swenson, H. (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
New Ulm; Herman Monument restoration, enhancement, and protection provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2424—Rukavina (DFL)
Judiciary
Limited personal use of fireworks authorized, safety guidelines required, and penalties provided.

HF2425—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Watercraft trailers and all-terrain vehicle trailers exempt from motor vehicle sales on Sunday prohibition.

HF2426—Munger (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Bioaccumulative residues research program at the University of Minnesota - Duluth provided funding to research selenium in fish, and money appropriated.

HF2427—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Amphibian deformity research continuation provided, and money appropriated.

HF2428—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Seasonal recreational residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF2429—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
New juvenile facilities licensure conditions specified, placement bed moratorium imposed, and exceptions provided.

HF2430—Evans (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Building contractor continuing education requirements and recovery fund fees increased, statutory housing warranties modified, statute of limitations extension provided for real property improvement actions.

HF2431—Paymar (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Fair housing initiative established, grants provided for enforcement, education, and outreach, and money appropriated.

HF2432—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Property crime court pilot project implemented in the Fourth Judicial District, and money appropriated.

HF2433—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Conditional release data system established by the bureau of criminal apprehension.

HF2434—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Peace officers authorized to apprehend and detain a probationer for probation violation reasonable cause.

HF2435—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Owners compensated for livestock destroyed by timber wolves, livestock compensation maximum amount increased, insurers required to provide coverage, and wolf hybrid study required.

HF2436—Tunheim (DFL)
Taxes
County assessor notification limited concerning agricultural homesteads abandoned due to flooding.

HF2437—Mullery (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Financial institutions required to provide lifeline savings and checking accounts, and ATM fees and service charges regulated.

HF2438—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minneapolis and St. Paul police officer loan program grants for home purchases in targeted neighborhoods provided through the community rehabilitation program, and money appropriated.

HF2439—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Nuisance cases and tenant remedies provided.

HF2440—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Redevelopment account created in the general fund for local development application review and grant making costs, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2441—Larsen (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal annexation prohibited during a cooperation study.

HF2442—Larsen (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Unsolicited commercial facsimile transmissions regulated, and penalties and remedies provided.

HF2443—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Minnesota uniform transfers to minors act modified, transfers to persons under age 18 regulated.

HF2444—Larsen (R)
Governmental Operations
State hiring practices studied relating to disabled individuals, and money appropriated.

HF2445—Leppik (R)
Education
School districts authorized to establish parking fees contingent upon school bus ridership.

HF2446—Sviggum (R)
Education
Buses; additional school bus purchase levy authorized.

HF2447—Chaudhary (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Columbia Heights Nursing Facility special property payment rate setting procedure established.

HF2448—Chaudhary
Education
Independent School District No. 14, Fridley, Central Middle School boiler and exterior windows provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2449—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Judges authorized to impose conditions of pretrial release based on public safety.

HF2450—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Permitting limited rebuttal and sur-rebuttal closing arguments in criminal cases.

HF2451—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Requiring higher bail if a person is arrested for a crime of violence while on probation or certain other specified forms of release or is an escapee.

HF2452—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Authorizing a peace officer to detain a person on conditional release for a brief time period to obtain an apprehend and detain order.

HF2453—Trimble (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Requiring the State Board of Investment to sell certain stock in tobacco companies and to invest in specified other assets.

HF2454—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Appropriating money for the 50th Conference of the Interstate Indian Council.

HF2455—Evans (DFL)
Taxes
Modifying restrictions on certain redevelopment tax-increment financing districts; appropriating money for grants to certain districts.

HF2456—Clark (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Appropriating money for the Youthbuild program.

**HF2457—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary**

Clarifying the authority of community corrections agencies and the commissioner of corrections to issue orders for the detention and release of persons on probation or supervised release who escape from or violate the conditions of release; clarifying the authority of peace officers and probation officers to detain and release persons under these orders.

**HF2458—Rest (DFL)
Education**

Changing the calculation of student financial aid by excluding a portion of any Pell Grant.

**HF2459—Slawik (DFL)
Education**

Providing for licensing assistance, outreach and training; changing licensing requirements for employers.

**HF2460—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy**
Transferring the Residential and Small Business Utilities Division from the attorney general's office to the Department of Public Service; authorizing certain staff, requiring a study; appropriating money.

**HF2461—Clark (DFL)
Health & Human Services**
Establishing a grant program for research on hepatitis C; establishing a public education campaign on hepatitis C; appropriating money.

**HF2462—Marko (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs**
Providing compensation to political subdivisions for certain lost revenue.

**HF2463—Marko (DFL)
Taxes**
Authorizing the inclusion of certain property in tax-increment districts; extending payment of deferred taxes if certain property is removed for green acres treatment.

**HF2464—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education**
Establishing an alternative calculation for compensatory revenue; appropriating money.

**HF2465—Clark (DFL)
Education**
Authorizing spending to acquire and to better public land and buildings and other public improvements of a capital nature; providing for early

childhood learning facilities; authorizing issuance of bonds; appropriating money.

**HF2466—Winter (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade**
Authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for capital improvements to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant facilities in Walnut Grove.

**HF2467—Winter (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade**
Authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for construction of Prairieland Expo.

**HF2468—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary**
Appropriating money to the Department of Corrections for grants to local organizations and government units to provide support services to individuals leaving systems of prostitution.

**HF2469—Clark (DFL)
Judiciary**
Clarifying liability for the crime of burglary.

**HF2470—Tingelstad (DFL)
Governmental Operations.**
Teachers retirement association; authorizing assignment of survivorship interest in a 100 percent joint and survivor optional annuity to an estate.

**HF2471—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary**
Prohibiting individuals whom the sentencing guidelines presume will be committed to the commissioner of corrections from being released on bail between conviction and sentencing or between tender of a guilty plea and sentencing; requiring defendants to waive the right to bail as a condition of tendering the factual basis for a guilty plea.

**HF2472—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary**
Authorizing probation officers to impose community work service for a violation of a condition of probation; providing for district court review of the imposition of community work service.

**HF2473—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary**
A bill for an act relating to crime; allowing a peace officer to make a warrantless arrest based upon rea-

sonable cause that a person on conditional release has violated a condition of release.

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**HF2474—Opatz (DFL)
Education**
Independent School District No. 742, St. Cloud, authorized to purchase a community education site with remaining bond proceeds.

**HF2475—Opatz (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance**
St. Cloud; Lake George restoration and Beaver Island Trail System expansion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2476—Opatz (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade**
St. Cloud; paramount arts district regional arts center grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2477—Tompkins (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs**
Sales of goods and services to adults under 21 regulated, contract voidability specified, and enforcement provided.

**HF2478—Tompkins (R)
Taxes**
Dependent care income tax credit extended to include children up to age two.

**HF2479—Tompkins (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs**
Advertised airfares required to be available in reasonable numbers.

**HF2480—Olson, E. (DFL)
Education**
White Earth reservation Pine Point school facility provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2481—Chaudhary (DFL)
Taxes**
Urban homesteading program application period modified.

**HF2482—Rest (DFL)
Taxes**
Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit and inputs to taxable services and certain analgesics sales tax exemptions effective dates modified, federal conformity

and property tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2483—Jefferson (DFL)
Education**
Driver safety education pilot program for students established, and money appropriated.

**HF2484—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources**
All-terrain vehicle operation provisions modified.

**HF2485—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources**
New snowmobiles required to be equipped with auxiliary light power and switches.

**HF2486—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans
Affairs & Elections**
Voter eligibility and campaign material provisions ruled unconstitutional eliminated.

**HF2487—Olson, E. (DFL)
Education**
Red Lake reservation educational and training facility construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2488—Skare (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade**
Battle Point cultural and education center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2489—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources**
Ramsey and Washington counties state trail extended to Chisago County.

**HF2490—Folliard (DFL)
Judiciary**
Earnings definition expanded to include maintenance relating to garnishment of wages.

**HF2491—Folliard (DFL)
Judiciary**
Medical malpractice action limitations modified.

**HF2492—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources**
Fish house restrictions and license periods modified.

**HF2493—Folliard (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance**
St. Louis Park Southwest Regional Trail construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2494—Daggett (R)
Taxes

Long-term care insurance premium income tax credit effective date modified.

HF2495—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary

Firearms dealers required to maintain a list of pistol serial numbers and provide that information to the purchaser upon request free of charge.

HF2496—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary

Motor vehicle forfeiture provided for certain illegal weapons offenses.

HF2497—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary

Firearms owners required to report thefts to local police department or county sheriff.

HF2498—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary

Pistol and semi-automatic military-style assault weapon acquisition within a 30-day period limited, and exception provided for collectors.

HF2499—Stanek (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Hennepin County Board authorized purchases limit increased.

HF2500—Rest (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Customer loss or theft of a debit card limited liability provided.

HF2501—Kraus (R)
Education

Independent School District No. 241, Albert Lea, year-round school/extended week or day pilot program examined, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF2502—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Iron Range resources and rehabilitation board Giants Ridge cross-country ski event facility enhancement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2503—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services

Region 10 Quality Assurance Commission appropriation carryover authorized.

HF2504—Sykora (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Deephaven tax-increment financing district revenue expenditures authorized.

HF2505—Delmont (DFL)
Judiciary

Drive-by shooting at an occupied motor vehicle maximum sentence and severity level increased.

HF2506—Daggett (R)
Taxes

June sales tax liability acceleration abolished.

HF2507—Macklin (R)
Judiciary

Limited partnership withdrawals regulated, favorable federal estate tax valuation treatment changes provided.

HF2508—Bishop (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Olmsted County auditor/treasurer appointment authorized.

HF2509—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes

Metropolitan special taxing districts budget and levy public hearing dates modified.

HF2510—McElroy (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Minnesota collection agency collector license holders prohibited from using assumed names.

HF2511—Pawlenty (R)
Education

Building space average age threshold reduced relating to school district alternative facilities bonding and levy program qualifications.

HF2512—Rest (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance

Homeowner's insurance nonrenewals regulated, and automobile and homeowner's insurance discrimination limited.

HF2513—Tompkins (R)
Taxes

Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amounts modified to reduce marriage penalties.

HF2514—Tompkins (R)
Taxes

Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

HF2515—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Minnesota forest resources council membership expanded to include a representative from the Indian Affairs Council.

HF2516—Pawlenty (R)
Taxes

Deferral of property taxes and special assessment provided for property dedicated to the arts.

HF2517—Murphy (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources

Carlson County tax forfeited land sale terms modified.

HF2518—Nornes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Fergus Falls authorized to impose an additional sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax.

HF2519—Bettermann (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Douglas County tax increment financing district provided special rules for a tourism project.

HF2520—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Health care conscience and religious liberty protection provided.

HF2521—Bishop (R)
Judiciary

Advanced health care directive provisions modified, and living wills and durable power of attorney for health care laws combined.

HF2522—Greiling (DFL)
Education

K-12 education policy changes and rulemaking provided.

HF2523—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes

Petroleum and special fuel tax recodified, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF2524—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary

Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references, and making miscellaneous technical corrections.

HF2525—Koskinen (DFL)
Governmental Operations

Independent School District No. 11, Anoka-Hennepin, Teachers Retirement Association deadline extended for a certain teacher.

HF2526—Osthoff (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Absentee ballot provisions modified.

HF2527—Stanek (R)
Taxes

Annuities paid to survivors of public safety officers income tax exemption provided.

HF2528—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Community rehabilitation program funding provided for home ownership counseling services for persons with mental retardation, and money appropriated.

HF2529—Olson, M. (R)
Health & Human Services

Gender reassignment surgery determined not to be a medically necessary treatment option for gender dysphoria.

HF2530—Wejcman (DFL)
Judiciary

Putative father's adoption registry provisions modified.

HF2531—Murphy (DFL)
Health & Human Services

Carlton County nursing home licensure and certification moratorium exception approval extended.

HF2532—Chaudhary (DFL)
Transportation & Transit

Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics and graduated licensing system established, driving privileges restricted for permit and provisional license holders, and violation-free period required prior to advancement to next license stage.

HF2533—Stanek (R)
Judiciary

Professional bail bonding agents who perform enforcement services required to be licensed as private detectives.

HF2534—Stanek (R)
Judiciary

Pawnshop data release authorized to criminal justice agencies for law enforcement purposes.

HF2535—Stanek (R)
Judiciary

Innocent third parties whose property is damaged by law enforcement officers provided compensation responsibility clarification, state compensation and local government reimbursement process established, and money appropriated.

<p>HF2536—Juhnke (DFL) Education School district youth recreation levy provided.</p>	<p>HF2547—Skoglund (DFL) Judiciary Anti-paper terrorism act; public official and employee protection provided, fraudulent lien filing prohibited, and remedies and penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF2559—Farrell (DFL) Judiciary Ramsey County juvenile crime prevention pilot program provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2569—Broecker (R) Transportation & Transit Flexible highway and metropolitan road accounts created, and highway user tax distribution fund proceeds distribution formula modified.</p>
<p>HF2537—Juhnke (DFL) Health & Human Services Kandiyohi County alternative care and elderly waived programs reimbursement rates increased.</p>	<p>HF2548—Jennings (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources State park permit provisions modified for nonprofit, volunteer groups.</p>	<p>HF2560—Luther (DFL) Education Local government facility grants provided for regular enrichment activities during nonschool hours, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2570—Broecker (R) Governmental Operations State agency retainage payment options modified.</p>
<p>HF2538—Wagenius (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Pollution Control Agency's annual performance report required to contain additional emissions information.</p>	<p>HF2549—Winter (DFL) Taxes Regional development commissions levy limit modified.</p>	<p>HF2561—Hausman (DFL) Transportation & Transit Hiawatha, Riverview, Northstar, Cedar, and Northwest transit corridors design and construction authorized, St. Paul to Hastings commuter rail developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2571—Kelso (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Scott County workforce center construction in Valley Green industrial park provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2539—Goodno (R) Economic Development & International Trade Historical Society appropriated money for expansion of the Red River Valley Center, and bond issuance authorized.</p>	<p>HF2550—Otremba, M. (DFL) Health & Human Services Rural critical access hospitals designated to establish a Medicare rural hospital flexibility program.</p>	<p>HF2562—Peterson (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Montevideo recreational trail completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2572—Kelso (DFL) Taxes Counties with Indian casinos payment conditions modified relating to revenues under tribal tax agreements.</p>
<p>HF2540—Dawkins (DFL) Taxes Counties appropriated proceeds from mortgage registry and deed taxes.</p>	<p>HF2551—Tunheim (DFL) Transportation & Transit First haul definition modified relating to farm trucks.</p>	<p>HF2563—Stanek (R) Judiciary Licensed part-time peace officers provided eligibility under the soft body armor reimbursement program.</p>	<p>HF2573—Huntley (DFL) Health & Human Services Emergency medical services communications needs assessment conducted outside the seven-county metropolitan area, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2541—Rukavina (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Gunn Lake dam construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2552—Jennings (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Safety provisions enacted relating to persons on amusement rides.</p>	<p>HF2564—McCollum (DFL) Transportation & Transit Municipal state-aid street system mileage determination modified.</p>	<p>HF2574—Molnau (R) Environment & Natural Resources Licensed game and fish subagent bonding required.</p>
<p>HF2542—Rest (DFL) Taxes Charitable contributions subtraction authorized for individuals who do not itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes.</p>	<p>HF2553—Rukavina (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy St. Louis County caller identification and blocking services provided.</p>	<p>HF2565—Delmont (DFL) Health & Human Services Human services claim error notification required.</p>	<p>HF2575—Hasskamp (DFL) Taxes Gravel, equipment, and certain vehicles purchased by a town for road maintenance sales tax exemption provided.</p>
<p>HF2543—Hasskamp (DFL) Education Crow Wing and other counties provided additional family visitation centers, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2554—Marko (DFL) Taxes Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF2566—Hausman (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Commissioner of transportation and the Metropolitan Council required to seek comments of the light rail joint powers board on metro transit and transportation issues, and joint board membership and authority expansion provided.</p>	<p>HF2576—Juhnke (DFL) Transportation & Transit Medical emergency vehicles required to sound both audible signal and display lighted red light when responding.</p>
<p>HF2544—Tunheim (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Timber wolf hunting season established, licenses awarded to livestock owners by lottery, license holders authorized to resell, and taking restrictions and conditions provided.</p>	<p>HF2555—Rostberg (R) Economic Development & International Trade Low-income persons with chemical sensitivities assisted, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2567—McCollum (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Ramsey County open absentee balloting pilot program extension authorized.</p>	<p>HF2577—Stang (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Richmond annexed to the Paynesville area hospital district.</p>
<p>HF2545—Rostberg (R) Transportation & Transit Trunk Highway No. 65 in Cambridge designated as State Trooper Timothy J. Bowe Memorial Highway.</p>	<p>HF2556—Farrell (DFL) Judiciary Ramsey County appropriated money for breaking the cycle of violence pilot project.</p>	<p>HF2568—Broecker (R) Judiciary Minors prohibited from engaging in body piercing without parental permission, and penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF2578—Stang (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Water main improvement assessment payments to the city of Freeport required.</p>
<p>HF2546—Osskopp (R) Transportation & Transit U.S. Highway No. 61 speed limit established from Wabasha to Kellogg.</p>	<p>HF2557—Juhnke (DFL) Transportation & Transit Truck tractor wheel flaps required, vehicle axle weight restrictions regulated, and technical changes provided.</p>		
	<p>HF2558—Juhnke (DFL) Transportation & Transit Driver's license agent effective date provision corrected.</p>		

HF2579—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Wastewater infrastructure funding provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF2580—Carlson (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Brooklyn Center Earle Brown Heritage Center debt assumption provided by the state, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2581—Delmont (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade

Emergency assistance and transitional housing programs appropriated money.

HF2582—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, authorized to establish a school bank as part of an educational program.

HF2583—Luther (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare four month uninsured requirement exemption provided, and eligibility requirements modified for children who are part-time students.

HF2584—Evans (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2585—Jaros (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Benefit options provided for retirees affected by local relief association consolidations.

HF2586—Skare (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Resident definition modified relating to game and fish provisions.

HF2587—Skare (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Bemidji Historical Museum renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2588—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County commissioners to serve as metropolitan council members, candidate and member economic interest state-

ments regulated, contributions to candidates regulated, and study required.

HF2589—Wagenius (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Snowfence easements, highway closures, and signs regulated, state transportation plan revised, private carriers regulated, flexible highway account created, town highways and bridges funded, and conveyances to public bodies permitted.

HF2590—Jennings (DFL)
Judiciary
Security deposit interest rates provided.

HF2591—Rifenberg (R)
Taxes
Vacant platted property assessment provided.

HF2592—Rifenberg (R)
Judiciary
Private property protection act adopted.

HF2593—Juhnke (DFL)
Education
Child guide prevention program appropriated money.

HF2594—Juhnke (DFL)
Judiciary
Child guide prevention program appropriated money.

HF2595—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities authorized to provide contract bid specifications, design, and construction standards.

HF2596—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Private landowners provided grants to construct ring dikes within 1997 flood damage area.

HF2597—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Indecent exposure while confining or restraining another person deemed a felony, and sex offender registration required.

HF2598—Delmont (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Dispute resolution process provided for cities and counties relating to the establishment or improvement of a county state-aid highway within a city.

HF2599—Tunheim (DFL)
Taxes
Fund raising event time period extended for sales tax exemption purposes.

HF2600—Luther (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care assistance allocation formula modified, and repealer without effect provided.

HF2601—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Building and construction contract lien and claim waivers and subcontractor payments regulated, and redemption period modified for property sold at a mechanic's lien foreclosure sale.

HF2602—Erickson (R)
Health & Human Services
Abstinence education grant requirements established.

HF2603—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program statewide payment method modified.

HF2604—Macklin (R)
Taxes
Property tax rebate and property tax reform provided, levy limits extended, individual alternative minimum tax calculation modified, tax receipts from certain athletic events dedicated, and money appropriated.

HF2605—Dawkins (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
St. Paul transit zone property designated as an enterprise zone.

HF2606—Wagenius (DFL)
Judiciary
Cities required to collect and maintain information on the occurrence and disposition of crimes within their jurisdictions, and reports required.

HF2607—Rukavina (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Spend-up limit exemption and additional reimbursement for real estate taxes provided to a certain nursing facility completing a moratorium exception project.

HF2608—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Anoka County; bond issuance authorized for library building construction and an annual debt levy

HF2609—Delmont (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Anoka County tax forfeited lands that border public water or wetlands sale or conveyance authorized.

HF2610—Bishop (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Rochester authorized to impose permanent sales, use, and excise taxes, proceed expenditures specified, and referendum required.

HF2611—Kelso (DFL)
Education
American Indian language and culture programs, post-secondary preparation grants, and scholarship funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF2612—Jennings (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 95 designated as State Trooper Timothy J. Bowe Memorial Highway.

HF2613—Luther (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, levy authorized to fund instructional services for at-risk children.

HF2614—Luther (DFL)
Education
School district low-income concentration levy program established.

HF2615—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
DWI criminal penalties modified, intensive supervision program sentences authorized, and technical changes provided.

HF2616—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Dakota County dangerous dog registration system city administration provided.

HF2617—Milbert (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Foster care licensing provisions modified relating to correction orders.

HF2618—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Recreational motor vehicle registration modified, driver's license and liability insurance required, operational restrictions modified, personal watercraft provisions modified, and Iron Range off-highway recreation development repealed.

HF2619—Stanek (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide payment method modified.

HF2620—Westfall (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide payment method modified.

HF2621—Erickson (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide payment method modified.

HF2622—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Maple Grove law enforcement training facility provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2623—Delmont (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Local government correctional service retirement plan created.

HF2624—Osthoff (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Port development assistance grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2625—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Workers' compensation self-insurance authority terminations and commercial self-insurance groups regulated, and investment, funding, reporting, and transfer requirements provided.

HF2626—Boudreau (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Faribault state land conveyance authorized.

HF2627—Winter (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Regional Development Commission grants provided to assist local governments with land use planning preparation, and money appropriated.

HF2628—Holsten (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Stillwater territorial prison wall renovation engineering study provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2629—Sviggum (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Former legislators, constitutional officers, commissioners, and certain deputies and assistants prohibited

from lobbying the legislature or administrative agencies for one year after leaving office.

HF2630—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Family day-care licensure provisions modified.

HF2631—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Dependent health insurance coverage extended to include veterans who are full-time students.

HF2632—Luther (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Dishonored check civil penalties relief provided to nursing home or health care facility inpatients.

HF2633—Jennings (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Historical Society North West Company Fur Post Interpretive Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2634—Winter (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Marshall regional emergency response training center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2635—Skare (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Headwaters Regional Development Commission authorized to establish

a not-for-profit housing corporation.

HF2636—Skare (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Bemidji Headwaters Science Center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2637—Hasskamp (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Crosby provided funding for the Hallet Community Center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2638—Luther (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
School bus passive restraint system installation grants authorized, study required, and money appropriated.

HF2639—Daggett (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Detroit Lakes Community Center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2640—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Stillwater provided funding for stage III of its flood control project, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2641—Rest (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Professional and professional services defined relating to professional corporations and firms.

HF2642—Jefferson (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Standard collection procedure exemption provided to overpaid re-employment insurance benefits.

HF2643—Farrell (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Settlement division established in the office of administrative hearings, transfer of judges, small claims court, duties, and funds provided.

HF2644—Carruthers (DFL)
Taxes
Use tax de minimis exemption expanded.

HF2645—Luther (DFL)
Education
North Hennepin Community College provided funding for capital improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2646—Jefferson (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Department of Economic Security technical changes provided.

Independent seniors



Rep. Bob Westfall receives a copy of the American Association of Retired Persons 1998 legislative agenda from Marion Jacobson, *left*, along with other Lake Park, Minn., residents, Eric and Donna Chalimonczyk, *center*, and Gordon Bartholomay, *right*. About 200 seniors from around the state came to the Capitol to encourage legislators to support their "Keep Seniors Independent" agenda.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
House Calls at (612) 296-9283.
All meetings are open to the public.
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MONDAY, Jan. 26

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: Budget briefings, Department of
Economic Security, Minnesota Humanities
Commission.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: University of Minnesota capital budget
request, Mark Yudof, president, University of
Minnesota. Dr. Frank Cerra, vice president,
Academic Health Center, University of
Minnesota. Dean Robert Elde, College of
Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF2394 (Mares) Levy to purchase
school buses.
HF2446 (Sviggum) Levy to purchase school
buses.
HF2445 (Leppik) School district parking fee
contingent on school bus ridership.
HF2345 (Entenza) Increase school lunch and
food storage aid.
HF2405 (Johnson, A.) Categorical aid for student
health services.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: Overview of governor's budget
recommendations, Jim Reinholdz. Public

facilities authority capital requests, Terry
Kuhlman. Office of Environmental Assistance,
capital request, Tom Osdoba and David Benke.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Feedlot regulations overview by the
Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; discussion
of Generic Environmental Impact Statement.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF2427 (Munger) Deformed frog
research.
HF326 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing rights
affirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Presentation of the governor's strategic
capital budget plan for the Department of Human
Services and Veteran's Home Board.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF2313 (Skoglund) Arson investigative
data system created, state fire marshall authorized
to license private fire investigators, making it a
crime to engage in fire investigation activities
without a license, and money appropriated.
HF2306 (Mullery) Direct and indirect costs of
crime studied by the legislative auditor.
HF2326 (Bishop) Sex offender treatment facilities
required to provide treatment information, end-
of-confinement review process clarified, and
community and victim notification provisions
modified.
HF2606 (Wagenius) Requiring certain cities to
collect and maintain information on the
occurrence and disposition of crimes within their
jurisdictions; requiring periodic reports.
Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Department of Military Affairs, capital
budget requests, Brigadier General Gary LeBlanc,
executive director. Department of
Administration capital budget requests,
Commissioner Elaine Hansen.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel
Agenda: Governor's budget recommendations,
department overview, Barb Yates, assistant
commissioner.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HFXXXX (Osthoff) Absentee ballot bill.
HFXXXX (Greiling) Secretary of State
housekeeping bill.
HF2338 (Folliard) Gulf War veterans bonus
program modified to facilitate eligibility
verification.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF216 (Mariani) Employment contract
provisions modified.
HF2646 (Jefferson) Re-employment insurance
housekeeping bill.
HF2642 (Jefferson) Re-employment insurance
benefit overpayment collections.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: Continuation of metropolitan
parking discussion, John Dewitt, Transit for
Livable Communities.
HFXXXX (Mahon) Public safety department
bill.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg
Agenda: November forecast. The governor's
supplemental budget recommendation and
budget resolution.

TUESDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: Presentation by Lisa Larson, House
Research Department, on state funding for non-
public education.
HF2364 (Rest) Education income tax credit
income limitations modified and maximum
credit specified.
HF2311 (Greiling) Nonpublic schools subject to

state graduation requirements if families of students have claimed education-related expense tax reimbursements.

HF2337 (Folliard) Nonpublic schools subject to the pupil fair dismissal law if families of students have claimed education-related expense tax credits.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of review and recommendation of capital budget requests for the Department of Corrections and members. Testimony on construction of residential academies. (This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.)

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF2265 (Lieder) Motor vehicle registration law compliance pilot project established, and money appropriated. HF2267 (Lieder) Key bridges on the state trunk highway system replaced and reconstructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated. Capital budget bonding requests by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Minnesota Zoo capital supplemental requests, Kathryn Roberts and Jeff Higgins. Board of Soil and Water Resources capital requests, Ron Harnack.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HFXXXX (Johnson, A.) Department of Revenue Petroleum Recodification Bill. HFXXXX (Olson, E) Department of Revenue technical bill.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF1583 (Mullery) Nellie Stone Johnson bust placed in State Capitol. HF2355 (Greiling) State treasurer office eliminated and constitutional amendment proposed.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF2419 (Juhnke) Ambulance service standards modified, certification provided for emergency medical technicians, medical response units, and emergency medical technician instructors, training program approval required, fees set, and penalties provided. HFXXXX (Koskinen) Nursing home staffing. HFXXXX (Slawik) Hepatitis B immunization.

HFXXXX (Clark) Hepatitis C research. Additional bills may be added.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 22 meeting HFXXXX (Long) Department of Revenue policy bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Presentations by Assistant Commissioner Peter Sausen, Department of Finance, debt capacity forecast, Minneapolis convention center bonds purchase proposal.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF2308 (Slawik) Accountant licensing provisions modified, firm licensure required, and board of accountancy provided rulemaking authority. HF2315 (Leppik) Trademarks and service marks regulated, terms defined, and remedies provided. HFXXXX (Mullery) Relating to commerce, regulating building contracts. Additional bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF967 (Tomassoni) Horse racing licensee allowed to conduct card club activities. HFXXXX (Jennings) Minnesota Agriculture Power Project and cost recovery and acts of God.

2:30 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Continuation of Jan. 26 agenda.

Subcommittee on Regent Election Process/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rob Leighton

Agenda: Action on regents bills heard during joint committee process. HFXXXX (Leighton) Changes to regent election process.

4 p.m.

Anoka County Legislative Delegation

500N State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad,

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary.

Agenda: Northstar Corridor presentation. Review local bills from legislative delegation. Legislation of county concern.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 28

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget briefing, Department of Trade & Economic Development, Minnesota Humanities Commission.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) capital budget request, Morris Anderson, chancellor, MnSCU, Robert Erickson, chair, facilities committee, MnSCU Board of Trustees, Laura King, vice chancellor for finance, MnSCU. (Meeting will continue at 2:30 p.m.)

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Governor's K-12 education bonding recommendations. HF2321 (Seagren) Residential academies for at-risk students provided program grants, and money appropriated. HF2256 (Olson, E) Camp Rabideau in Chippewa National Forest restoration funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated. HF2388 (Sviggum) Independent School District No. 2758, Redwood Valley, multipurpose education and community center funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources capital request, Ron Nargang.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: Department of Revenue technical bill. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2236 (Wolf) City of Savage.

HFXXXX (Westfall) Flood policy.

HFXXXX (Milbert) Department of Natural Resources fisheries.

HF2418 (Rukavina) BWCA; permanent school fund funded through boundary waters canoe area campsite fees.

HFXXXX (Munger) Expansion of membership on School Trust Fund Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF2292 (Anderson, I.) ATM; automated teller machine use fees charged to other banks' customers prohibited.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of the 1998-99 November budget forecast, George Hoffman, director of Reports and Forecast Division, Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF2312 (Skoglund) Methamphetamine manufacturing provided criminal penalties, and sale, possession, and attempt to sell penalties modified.

HF2521 (Bishop) Durable power of attorney for health care.

HF2391 (Jefferson) Persons using children to import controlled substances into the state provided increased criminal penalties.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Capital budget review: Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF1554 (Dawkins) Certification of questions of law uniform act adopted.

HF1519 (Chaudhary) Landlords required to return rental application fees or provide reason for rental denial in writing, and penalty provided. HF2332 (Mullery) Covenant not to allow contraband on premises required as part of a residential lease.

HF1151 (Van Dellen) HIV virus transmission action against health care providers time limit imposed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF2339 (Clark) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.

HF2282 (Clark) Individual development account demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF2459 (Slawik) Child care quality. HF2283 (Delmont) Nonstandard hour child care development grants established, incentives provided, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Presentation of Commuter Rail Study, Al Vogel, Minnesota Department of Transportation. Presentation of Hiawatha Corridor proposal.

3:30 p.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HFXXXX (Schumacher) Library access bonding.

HF2448 (Chaudhary) Independent School District No. 14, Fridley, Central Middle School boiler and exterior windows provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

THURSDAY, Jan. 29

8 a.m.

Economic Development

Finance Division/

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget briefing, Minnesota Historical Society, Office of Dispute Resolution, Mediation Services.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Report on Joint Subcommittee on Regents Election Process and action on any bills and recommendations brought forward.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Continuation of review and recommendation of capital budget requests for the Department of Corrections and members. Testimony on construction of residential academies. Staff reports of studies and interim activities. (This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.)

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources request, Ron Nargang.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HFXXXX (Johnson, A.) Authorizing use tax payment with income tax return. Continuation of Jan 27 meeting if necessary.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF106 (Anderson, I.) House of Representatives; evenly divided state House of Representatives provided.

HF2453 (Trimble) Requiring the SBI to divest certain tobacco stocks.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Discussion of education tax credits. Additional bills may be heard.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Constitutional and federal tax considerations relating to bond authorization, Jean LeFevre, House Research. Revenue Building. General fund request for moving and telecommunications expenses, Commissioner Jim Girard and John Lally, Department of Revenue.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF2430 (Evans) Building contractor continuing education requirements and recovery fund fees increased, statutory housing warranties modified, statute of limitations extension provided for real property improvement actions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

6 p.m.

Subcommittee on Education Planning and Transitions/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Ruth Johnson,

Rep. David Tomassoni,

Agenda: HFXXXX (Johnson, R./ Tomassoni) Proposals to ease educational transitions.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF2174 (Kelso) Recodification of K-12 education statutes.

8 a.m.

**Higher Education
Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: University of Minnesota capital budget request, Mark Yudof, president, University of Minnesota. Dr. Frank Cerra, vice president, Academic Health Center, University of Minnesota. Dean Robert Elde, College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota.

**Subcommittee on Special Education/
K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

**Senate K-12 Education Budget Division/
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Mindy Greiling,
Sen. Martha Robertson

Agenda: HFXXXX (Greiling,) To testify, please contact Kathy Kerr at 296-7191. Testimony will be taken as time permits. (Look for an addition on the "Today" sheet to find out when you can pick up a copy of the bill draft at 125 State Office Building or 553 State Office Building.)

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Continuation of capital budget bonding requests, Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

10 a.m.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Presentation of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: HF2473 (Mullery) Allowing a peace officer to make a warrantless arrest based upon reasonable cause that a person on conditional release has violated a condition of release. HF2434 (Stanek) Peace officers authorized to apprehend and detain a probationer for probation violation reasonable cause. Additional bills to be added.

2 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

112 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener

Agenda: Review and follow-up on several recent financial audit reports.

Fifth governor bursts onto political scene

It's a fact!

William R. Marshall was a Civil War hero and Minnesota's fifth governor, but his initial appearance on the political scene was less than

statesmanlike.

At the age of 24, Marshall, who hailed from St. Anthony, was among the 18 men sworn into the House of Representatives when Minnesota's First Territorial Legislature convened in 1849.

Lawmakers at that time were charged with the difficult task of creating a government in a sparsely populated, geographically immense wilderness. It was not unusual for debate to get a bit heated, but Marshall was involved in an exchange that was unusual by any standards.

During that first session, Marshall was addressing the other members of the House when a member seated in front of Marshall called him a liar. Marshall was quick to respond.

The future governor leapt over his desk and, before anyone realized what was happening, he knocked his critic to the floor. Marshall then returned to his seat, apologized for the disturbance, and continued with his remarks.

Similar actions today would undoubtedly stir a great uproar, but in 1849, Marshall's behavior was attributed to pio-

neer ethics and the matter was largely ignored by other members of the Territorial Legislature.

By the time Marshall became governor, his outburst in the House was long forgotten.

Marshall's career outside of politics was marked by his diverse interests and many pursuits. He worked as a miner, banker, merchant, and editor at various times in his life. In fact, he was part owner of the *St. Paul Press* and was briefly owner of the *St. Paul Dispatch*.

Marshall became a brigadier general during the Civil War, and he was wounded at the Battle of Mobile.

After the war, Marshall returned to Minnesota, ran for governor as a Republican, and won. He took office in 1866 and served two two-year terms as the state's chief executive.

His administration was noted for the state's rapid growth (the population doubled to 350,000 during Marshall's time in office) and for Marshall's push to give African-Americans the right to vote in Minnesota.

He succeeded in that effort in 1868, before the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified and all states were forbidden to deny the right to vote on the basis of race.



William Marshall, Minnesota's fifth governor, lived by pioneer ethics while a member of the Territorial Legislature.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society



Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) demonstrated the Legislature's commitment to customer service during a Jan. 22 meeting of the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Nadezhda Lelyukh and her husband, Vladimir, were testifying in Russian through a translator. Lelyukh spoke of her family's housing difficulties as recent immigrants.

Lelyukh and other Russian immigrants were asked to testify on a bill (HF2342) that would extend a state program that provides grants to counties and community-based nonprofits to

develop innovative ways to keep people in their homes and out of emergency shelters. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Lelyukh was surprised when Jaros asked his questions directly in Russian. She then began answering his questions without the use of the translator.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park) soon reminded Jaros that the vote would take place in English and that it would be a great help to the other members if he would translate his question so all the members could follow.

The committee is still considering the bill.

Rep. Willard Munger . . .

Pioneer in environmental legislation turns 87 years old

By Grant Martin

When the Legislature adjourns this spring, Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) will have 21 legislative sessions under his belt, surpassing Walter E. Day as the person serving the most sessions in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Munger was honored by his House peers Jan. 20, the first day of the legislative session and Munger's 87th birthday.

A student choir from Fridley Middle School, of which Munger's great-granddaughter Katie Morrissey is a member, led the House in singing "Happy Birthday." And a reception was held in his honor in the House retiring room.

Munger currently holds the record for the most years served in the House at 41 years. He was first elected in 1954 from his West Duluth district. He has served the district since then with the exception of the 1965-66 session, which he missed after losing in a 1964 state Senate campaign.

An activist and pioneer in environmental legislation, Munger has chaired the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee since 1973, except when Republicans briefly held a controlling majority in the House.

His most noted legislative accomplishments include passage of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Act of 1989, and the Wetlands Conservation Act of 1991.

"I've loved every bit of it," Munger said. "I am in a position to carry out the dreams I have had since I was a kid."

Munger said that he was inspired to get involved in politics by the economic problems caused by over-logging in northern Minnesota. He said that his grandfather, who was a



Rep. Willard Munger, *right*, the longest-serving member of the Minnesota House, enjoyed a piece of his 87th birthday cake Jan. 20, as his daughter, Pat Lahr, talks with House Majority Leader Ted Winter during a reception in the House retiring room.

logger and an environmentalist, encouraged him to pursue politics.

"My grandpa used to tell me, 'Willard, it's no use talkin' about it. You've got to get elected. You can talk about it 'til the cows come home, but you can't do a thing about it until you get in the Legislature,'" Munger said.

He said that he recently had a physical and with his clean bill of health he plans to officially announce that he will run for re-election again this fall. Munger suffered the loss of his wife, Frances, in November 1997, an event that he said factored into his decision to run again in 1998.

"If my wife had lived, I would have considered not running," he said, "but she always wanted me to run again. It was one of the last things she said to me."

Munger must remain in office through 2001 to break the record for most years served in the Minnesota Legislature, including service in both the House and the Senate. This record is currently shared by former legislators Carl M. Iverson, Anton J. Rockne, and Donald O. Wright, each with 44 years of combined service in both bodies.

Minnesota's U.S. Senators

U.S. Senators

Senator

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Website: <http://www.senate.gov/~wellstone>

1998 House Standing Committee Schedule

Committee

Chair Phone
Meeting Day Room Time
(All rooms are in the State Office Building)

Agriculture

Wenzel 296-4247
Mon. 200 10 a.m.

Capital Investment

Kalis 296-4240
Tues., Thurs. 500S 12:30 p.m.

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Tunheim 296-9635
Tues., Thurs. 200 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development & International Trade

Jaros 296-4246
Wed. 200 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development Finance Division

Trimble 296-4201
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 500S 8 a.m.

Housing and Housing Finance Division

Clark 296-0294
Tues., Thurs. 500S 10 a.m.

Education

Carlson 296-4255
Tues., Thurs. 200 8 a.m.

Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division

Kinkel 296-2451
Mon., Wed. 5 12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division

Pelowski 296-8637
Mon., Wed., Fri. 500N 8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division

Kelso 296-1072
Mon., Wed., Fri. 5 8 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources

Munger 296-4282
Mon., Wed. 5 10 a.m.

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Osthoff 296-4224
Mon.-Thurs. B 8 a.m.

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Anderson, I. 296-4936
Wed. 200 10 a.m.

General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections

Milbert 296-4192
Mon. 300N 12:30 p.m.

Governmental Operations

Kahn 296-4257
Tues., Thurs. B 10 a.m.

State Government Finance Division

Rukavina 296-0170
Mon., Wed. 400S 10 a.m.

Health & Human Services

Dorn 296-3248
Tues., Thurs. 10 10 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division

Greenfield 296-0173
Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 10 a.m.

Judiciary

Skoglund 296-4330
Mon., Wed., Fri. B 10 a.m.

Civil & Family Law Division

Dawkins 296-5158
Wed. 400S 12:30 p.m.

Judiciary Finance Division

Murphy 296-2676
Tues., Thurs. 500N 8 a.m.

Labor-Management Relations

Jefferson 296-8659
Mon. 200 12:30 p.m.

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Rest 296-4176
Tues., Thurs. 10 12:30 p.m.

Regulated Industries & Energy

Jennings 296-0518
Tues., Thurs. 5 12:30 p.m.

Rules & Legislative Administration

Winter 296-5505
Call of the chair

Taxes

Long 296-0171
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 200 10 a.m.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Division

Olson, E. 296-4265
Mon., Wed. 200 8 a.m.

Sales & Income Tax Division

Johnson, A. 296-5510
Tues., Thurs. 300S 8 a.m.

Transportation & Transit

Wagenius 296-4200
Mon., Wed. 10 12:30 p.m.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division

Lieder 296-5091
Tues., Fri. 500S 8 a.m.

Ways & Means

Solberg 296-2365
Call of the chair

B-Basement Hearing Room

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

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211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota's budget

February 1997 forecast surplus for 1998-99 biennium, in billions	\$2.3
January 1998 forecast surplus for 1998-99 biennium, in billions	\$1.3
February 1991 forecast shortfall for 1992-93 biennium, in billions	\$1.2
January 1995 Minnesota Planning projected state and local revenue shortfall for 2004-05 biennium, in millions	\$800
January 1997 update of Minnesota Planning projected state and local revenue shortfall for 2004-05 biennium, in millions	\$400
Total spending for 1998-99 biennium approved in 1997, in billions	\$20.9
Spending called for in Gov. Arne Carlson's proposed 1998 supplemental budget, in millions	\$373
Governor's 1998 capital budget plan for state construction projects, in billions	\$1.02
Proposed total to be financed with general obligation bonds (paid from general fund), in millions	\$700
Amount spent in capital projects law passed in 1996 (comparable year), in millions	\$614.5
Total financed with general obligation bonds, in millions	\$485.3
Amount in 1996 bonding law for construction of a new prison in Rush City, Minn., in millions	\$89
Amount included in governor's 1998 capital budget plan for a new St. Paul hockey arena, in millions	\$65
Amount included in governor's 1998 capital budget plan for the Minneapolis Convention Center expansion project, in millions	\$87.1
Current balance in state's budget reserve, in millions	\$522
Biennial spending approved in 1997 for K-12 education, in billions	\$6.7
Attorney general's office 1999 operating funds line-item vetoed by the governor in 1997, in millions	\$24
Attorney general's office 1999 operating funds included in governor's 1998 supplemental budget proposal, in millions	\$22.5
State tax collections during fiscal year 1997, in billions	\$10.3
Total collected in income taxes, in billions	\$4.4
Total collected in sales taxes, in billions	\$3.4
Total collected in motor vehicle license taxes, in millions	\$491
Total collected in cigarette taxes, in millions	\$175

Sources: *Minnesota Data Book for Legislators*, 1997, House Research Department; *Laws of Minnesota*, 1996; *Laws of Minnesota*, 1997; *Minnesota Strategic Capital Budget Plan: Executive Summary*, 1998, Office of the Governor; *1998-99 Supplemental Budget*, Office of the Governor; *Staying Within Our Means*, 1997, Minnesota Planning.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 30, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 2



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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 30, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 2

Reflections



Gov. C. Elmer Anderson

Former Gov. C. Elmer Anderson, died on Thursday, Jan. 22, 1998, at the age of 85.

Not to be confused with two other governor Andersons (Elmer L. and Wendell R.) in recent decades, C. Elmer came to public office when he was only 26 years old as the lieutenant governor to 31-year-old Gov. Harold Stassen.

When Stassen and Anderson took office in 1939, the two were the considered "boy wonders" of the statehouse.

Anderson's political career began as the chair of the Young Republican League at the age of 24. He made his first trip to the state Capitol when he came to St. Paul to be sworn in as lieutenant governor.

Clyde Elmer Anderson was born in Brainerd, Minn., on March 16, 1912, the seventh of nine children and son of Swedish immigrants. He began school in the second grade, passed a high school entrance examination after grade seven, and skipped eighth grade.

Earlier, Anderson carried newspapers, worked on a farm, and worked for a news and magazine distribution center. Some time later, he bought the newspaper company and owned it for 26 years.

Anderson served with Stassen for two terms, but in 1942, the governor endorsed Edward J. Thye, from Northfield to run as lieutenant governor. Stassen had already decided to resign after he was re-elected, and then join the U.S. Navy to fight in World War II.

Thye defeated Anderson, serving as lieutenant governor for only three months before becoming the state's new chief executive.

Anderson ran again for the office in 1944 and won. He won again in 1946 and 1948, serving for a total of 11 nonconsecutive years — unmatched by any other lieutenant governor before or since. In this role, he served as the presiding officer of the Senate. Serving as lieutenant governor in 1951, Anderson moved up to become the state's 31st governor after Gov. Luther Youngdahl resigned.

In 1952, Anderson defeated DFL candidate Orville Freeman by amassing 785,125 votes — more votes than any other governor before him. Anderson completed a full two-year term as governor and left office after losing the November 1954 election to Freeman.

Anderson is remembered by some for a directive he once made to the Legislature as chief executive. He convinced the Legislature not to hide the clock to stretch the final day of the session. Covering the clock is no longer a procedure, but it did occur commonly back then. Even after Anderson's term in office and prior to the early 1970s, members often worked past midnight to enact one last law or two on the constitutionally mandated last day of the session. If the clock was not seen, then it was not necessary to adjourn by midnight. Anderson urged an end to the practice, and eventually it died out.

Anderson is survived by his wife, Lillian, two daughters, a son, two sisters, one brother, and many friends who respected his contributions to the state.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: An abstract image is created where Capitol dome lights reflect off the polished stone floor.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

University of Minnesota . . .

Yudof details \$252 million capital funding request

By Jim Thielman

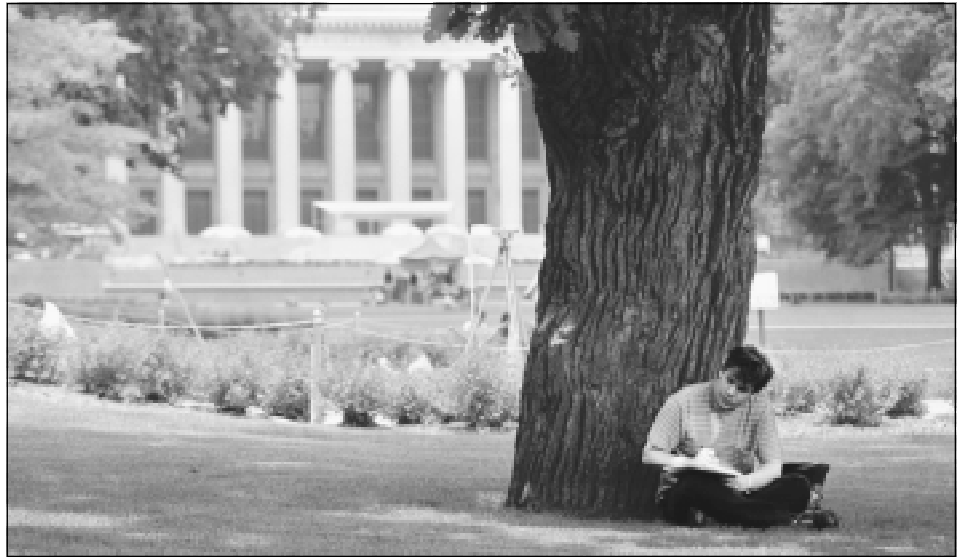
University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof is urging lawmakers to provide the resources to fulfill his ambitious vision to link campus building improvements with the development of vital educational programs.

Yudof told the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee about his plans to spiff up most of the older Twin Cities campus buildings. He combined that goal with the aim to make the university one of the nation's top five research institutions.

He asked lawmakers at the Jan. 26 meeting to approve his \$252 million capital funding request for 1998.

"Previously, 70 percent of our bonding requests have gone into new buildings and 30 percent have gone into benefiting existing buildings. This four-year proposal reverses those designations," Yudof said. "Seventy percent of the money will go into restoring the historic buildings on the north and south mall and elsewhere, and only 30 percent of the money will go into new buildings."

Yudof's "Capital Plan for the Support of Academic Programs in the 21st Century" calls for a total investment of \$776 million during the next four years. The funds would be used



The historic campus mall at the University of Minnesota would get a facelift under the \$252 million bonding proposal advanced by Mark Yudof, the school's new president.

Entering what will be his last legislative session, Gov. Arne Carlson already has called his support of the University's budget request "non-negotiable."

In a statement from the governor's office, Carlson said, "A central principal of this administration has been to focus on quality jobs for Minnesotans. In order to achieve that goal, you need to provide citizens with the educa-

million would be used to restore the Walter Library and to create a digital technology center and a science-engineering library in the building.

Also, \$29.5 million would build a new science and math center on the Morris campus, upgrade the heating plant there, and make health and safety improvements.

The Duluth campus would use \$25.8 million to upgrade science labs, build a new library, make code improvements and renovate classroom and other academic space.

Yudof, in his first year as president of the university, explained how his plan differs from requests made by earlier administrations.

"The idea here was, in large measure, to tie renovation, to tie the bonding package to specific investments in key academic programs," Yudof said. "[It was] not to just fix up buildings for their own sake, but to say, 'How does this advance the academic interdisciplinary program of the University?'"

Yudof called the \$70 million request for the molecular and cellular biology building a "tremendous, tremendous investment." The program has been identified as the university's top academic priority.

"If any of you are thinking of turning to an academic career," he told the representatives, "this is where the big money is. These people are very difficult to recruit."

"Seventy percent of the money will go into restoring the historic buildings on the north and south mall and elsewhere, and only 30 percent of the money will go into new buildings."

— University of Minnesota
President Mark Yudof

to preserve historic areas of the university campuses and to modernize classroom and lab space.

The \$252 million request for 1998 is much more than the U of M has received in recent bonding measures. Major bonding legislation is usually passed only in even-numbered years. In 1996, \$93.8 million was approved for construction and repairs involving the U of M system. In 1994, \$69 million went to the university.

tional opportunities needed to succeed in the working world."

Yudof described overall themes of his plan for the university, and he emphasized preservation of the historical buildings and districts on campus and enhancement of the school's academic reputation.

Under this year's bonding proposal, \$70 million would be used to build the institute for molecular and cellular biology. Another \$53.6

Yudof said regardless of the program, it is a struggle to pursue and retain blue-chip faculty without first-rate facilities.

"Let me just make the case in the strongest possible terms," he said. "In my judgment, many parts of this investment should have been made in 1987. That's one part. The second part of it is this is the critical area in science in the coming century, and not just in my judgment but the judgment of knowledgeable academicians across the country."

He quoted from experts who insist there are more than 1,200 physical and psychological disorders that have been tied to single genes.

"This research is absolutely critical," Yudof said. "We're doing a great deal of it, and we'll be doing more under this proposal. There are some who think virtually every disease will be shown to have some sort of connection to genes."

Yudof said other states that have invested in facilities and staff to conduct such research "have profited enormously, particularly in the pharmaceutical area." He said Minnesota's public-private partnerships would benefit from such and investment.

Yudof said the university already brings in \$150 million in grant funding, mostly through the National Institutes of Health. He said the university is thus "not starting at ground-level zero," but from a position of strength. And he said President Clinton has asked to increase the federal budget in molecular and cellular biology.

"We need to position ourselves to compete for this money," Yudof said.

The 53-year-old former executive vice-president at the University of Texas-Austin has also termed the Minnesota campus one the top five mall areas on the nation's college campuses. He says he is intent on preserving the historic value of the setting.

The 11 buildings on the mall area are among the older campus structures and all need major or minor work, he said. In the revitalization process, Yudof said he wants to modify Coffman Union and demolish the parking ramp that blocks a sweeping view from Northrop Memorial Auditorium to the banks of the Mississippi River.

Yudof said these changes would restore the concept of renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who designed the mall in 1907. The goal is to accomplish the work before the University's 150th anniversary in 2001.

The finance division took no action on the U of M's bonding proposal. The matter will be considered again later this session. 🐸



By Matt Wetzel

Gov. Arne Carlson said at the Jan. 29 installation of Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz that she brings to the state's highest court not only supreme legal skills but also important personal attributes.

"[She has] a sense of being the person to bring us all together. She has been given much — superb education, a superb opportunity to serve from her community — but as all true leaders, she has paid us back," Carlson said in remarks at the swearing-in ceremony at the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

Blatz, 43, Bloomington, a former member of the House of Representatives and now a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court, was sworn in by outgoing Chief Justice A.M. (Sandy) Keith. She becomes the 19th chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"It's with extreme gratitude I stand before you today. The journey of life is not a journey traveled alone," she said.

Also in attendance was her husband, Tom Berkelman, her sons, Hunter, Carter and Max, several Minnesota legislators, and judges from both the federal and state level.

Blatz said a judge's responsibility is not only listening to testimony, studying precedents, and then ruling, but serving on panels, on task forces, and in other roles that can help people and, ultimately, society.

"A judge can reach out to the community and prevent bad things from happening. That's a judge's responsibility," she said. Blatz said she found her work on a task force that addressed Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to be very rewarding.

A native of Bloomington, Blatz was in the Legislature from 1978 to 1994, and as a lawmaker, she built a reputation for leadership on family and children's issues.

She worked closely with current House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), and the two were first elected in the same year. Sviggum was on hand for the swearing-in.

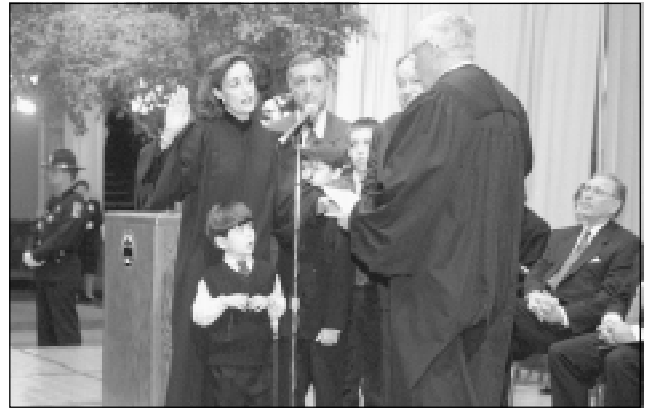
Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz served House from '78 to '94

"I felt proud for Kathleen," he said. "I'm comfortable that a person of her quality will be heading to the Supreme Court, whether it's family issues or getting tough on crime. I know she's a dear friend, extremely talented, and well-qualified."

Blatz holds a master's degree in social work, and she graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984. She served in the Legislature and worked as an attorney and as a prosecutor until 1994, when Carlson appointed her as a judge in the Fourth Judicial District Court, which includes Hennepin County.

She married Berkelman in 1984, and Berkelman, who now works for AT&T, spent seven years in the House as a DFLer from Duluth. Blatz's father is Jerome Blatz, a longtime state senator from Bloomington. He provided the family Bible used to swear in Blatz.

She said a major difference between be-



Former House member Kathleen Blatz is sworn-in as the first woman and the nineteenth chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court by outgoing Chief Justice A. M. (Sandy) Keith, *right*, during ceremonies Jan. 29 at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Joining Chief Justice Blatz during the swearing-in are her husband, Tom Berkelman, and sons, *left to right*, Max, Carter, and Hunter. Her father, Jerome V. Blatz, holds the Bible as his daughter is sworn in.

ing a legislator and being a judge is the feedback sought from the public in each position.

"When I was a legislator, you could go out and you could be asked several questions. You are expected to take a position. That's what voters expect," she said.

However, a judge cannot take a position until it's time to rule on a case, and that position must be based on the law, not on personal preference, she said, and she tries to explain that when she talks to people about the law and being a judge. 🐸

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Feedlots and the environment

Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended that \$1.2 million be spent to pay for a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) for animal feedlots to assess their impact, both on the economy and on the environment.

Carlson's plan was discussed Jan. 26 in a meeting of the House Agriculture Committee.

Feedlots have become a critical agriculture issue in rural Minnesota, because they have grown in size, and they are unpopular with some rural residents.

Many are afraid of what the large corporate farms containing large feedlots will do to family farmers. Concern also is focused on what the sometimes-noxious odors that emanate from the feedlots will do to the health of the people living nearby.

Each of the estimated 45,000 to 55,000 feedlots in the state produces millions of gallons of manure that has to be taken care of, and critics worry that earth-walled basins that hold the waste leak and may eventually burst.

"The hope is the GEIS will help all interested groups sift through the controversy and, hopefully, together develop plans for animal agriculture into the 21st century," said Susan Schmidt, policy liaison for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The first step is to develop an "inventory" of feedlots, according to the recommendation which is part of the governor's 1998 supplemental budget.

The project would be managed by the MPCA, the Environmental Quality Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health.

The GEIS would outline the types and locations of the feedlots, describe the overall characteristics of animal farming in the state, and assess the impact on air and water. The study also would describe the related economic issues and trends.

The governor hopes the long-term impact is that people will use the GEIS to develop and revise land-use plans and that state agencies and counties will use the findings to make or change laws based on the potential risks to people's health and the environment.

The GEIS will cost \$2.3 million and take up to two-and-a-half years to complete, said

Schmidt. Permitting for new feedlots would continue while the GEIS is conducted.

The committee took no action on the matter, and testimony on the plan is expected to continue this session.



BANKING

ATM transaction fees

A bill that would eliminate transaction fees assessed by banks on automatic teller machines (ATMs) they own met opposition from the banking industry during a Jan. 28 hearing before a House panel.

HF2292, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would prevent banks that own and operate more than two ATMs from assessing a surcharge for use of the machines.

The bill was debated by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, which Anderson chairs. The committee took no action on the bill, but the matter is expected to come up again this session.

ATM users often are hit with two fees for each transaction. One fee is assessed by their bank; the other is by the bank that owns the machine. Anderson's bill would address only the fee from the bank that owns the ATM.

That fee usually comes in the form of a charge at the time of a transaction at an ATM that is not owned by the consumer's bank network. Consumers are warned by the machine that they will be charged a certain fee and are given the option to discontinue the transaction.

Consumers often find a separate fee assessed at the end of the month on their bank statement.

"I don't like to be charged twice for the same transaction. By the way, the chair uses ATMs all the time," Anderson said.

Speaking in favor of the bill was Lea Schuster, a consumer advocate for the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group. Banks have encouraged the use of ATMs, Schuster said, because they are cheaper for banks than paying tellers.

One group hit hard by the surcharges are college students who often have to work and study beyond bank hours, Schuster said. And for that, they get hit with costly ATM surcharges.

"In today's economy, students are needing to pay cash. [They] should have the same access to the same services as all consumers," she said.

Schuster also said ATM owners are compensated by the consumer's bank with an "in-



Rod Nelson, president of First American Bank in Crookston, Minn., testifies against a bill that would prohibit certain types of fees charged for the use of automated teller machines. Joining him to testify before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Jan. 28, is Joan Archer, *right*, vice president of governmental relations for the Minnesota Bankers Association.

terchange fee," so the fee charged by the ATM owner is unnecessary.

The attorney general is supporting the bill. Eric Swanson, of the attorney general's consumer enforcement division, said the state's three largest banks own most of the ATMs. Customers of those large banks are not charged for use of ATMs owned by their bank.

What could happen, Swanson said, is that people may move their business to those large banks to avoid the ATM surcharges. That would be anti-competitive, he added.

"We're opposed to price gouging and anti-competitive behavior, which is going to hurt consumers," Swanson said.

Critics of the bill said it could reduce the availability of ATMs and hurt competitiveness in the banking business.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) said a \$1 fee for an ATM transaction is not out of line.

"If you go to TCF with a check and ask them to cash it, either they would charge you a substantial fee or they would not cash it," he said.

Joan Archer, of the Minnesota Bankers' Association, said the Legislature should not interfere with bank pricing. ATMs are a convenience that are paid for by user fees, she said.

Archer also said the legislation is unfair because it targets only banks, not retailers. In some cases, ATMs are owned by retailers.

John Corbett, of the Minnesota Savings League, which represents community banks, also expressed opposition to the bill. "What you're paying for is the convenience of having your money transferred to another bank so you can have access to it," he said. "Fees are one way to generate a profit. We are better off with financial institutions that make a profit."

budget surplus to the \$32 million that was an end-of-session balance from 1997.

There's a story behind that \$32 million. The majority of the leftovers, \$24.5 million, can be attributed to the governor's veto of the attorney general's office operating budget for 1999. The governor is now recommending to give the attorney general's office \$22.5 million in his most recent budget proposal.

At the beginning of each session, the governor proposes a budget to the Legislature. Essentially, the governor sets the terms of the budget debate and then the Legislature responds according to its wishes.

This year, the governor and the Legislature seem to be in agreement on the desired level of total spending.

The governor wants to use the projected \$1.3 billion surplus for \$373 million in new spending, \$841 million in property tax rebates and rate reductions and tax breaks for education expenses, and \$207 million for a so-called "Asian market fund" to brace for potential fallout from instability in Asian stock markets.

Due to a desire to protect against any future economic downturn, the committee's resolution contains a clause that allows them, if needed, to revisit the budget resolution after the February 1998 forecast. The Department of Finance has announced that the February forecast will be available to the committee Feb. 27.



CHILDREN

Child care challenges

Can I get it? Can I afford it? Can I trust it? These are the three questions a parent asks when it comes to child care, according to Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood).

Slawik is sponsoring a comprehensive child-care bill (HF2459) that was discussed by the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Jan. 28.

"There are three challenges in child care: availability, affordability, and quality," she said.

The panel also discussed another bill (HF2283), sponsored by Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), that aims to make more child care available during hours beyond the usual working day. The bill calls for grants to go to referral services for recruiting such after-hours providers.

Slawik said three out of four women with a child under the age of six are in the workplace. The number of parents seeking child care is projected to increase dramatically with new welfare reforms.

Recent findings about the importance of early brain development also lend credence to the cause for better child care, she said.

Slawik understands the dilemma of a working parent. Her second child is almost a year old, she said, and she agonized over finding good child care before the legislative session started.

Among the many goals of her proposal are a support system for child-care providers, incentives for low staff turnover, outreach into communities of color, and a loan forgiveness program.

Pat Gannon, of Starting Out Successfully, an Anoka County program that provides child-care operators with monthly phone contact, home visits, and training workshops, spoke about the importance of sound business advice.

"Providers are often isolated," Gannon said. "Home visits give them a connection to the infrastructure of the child care community."

Margaret Boyer, from the Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals, addressed the reasons for the high rate of turnover in the field. The biggest reason, she said, is low wages. Another contributing factor is emotional exhaustion.

Child-care workers often need two jobs to



Louis Alemayehu, project director of Cultural Beginnings, testifies before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division Jan. 28 in favor of a bill for quality child care. Alemayehu stressed the need for children to be exposed to child care that suits their particular cultural heritage.



BUDGET

Budget resolution approved

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a budget resolution Jan. 27 that calls for a maximum of \$1.36 billion in new appropriations for the 1998-1999 biennium.

The \$1.36 billion figure is the total amount of general fund money that is available to the Legislature this year for any purpose, whether it's new spending, tax relief, or new reserves.

Some of the money is already earmarked for specific programs. According to legislation enacted in 1997, education tax credits and some property tax reform measures were contingent on a surplus in the Department of Finance's November 1997 forecast.

To arrive at the \$1.36 billion figure, the committee added the projected \$1.33 billion

support themselves and on top of that, she said, "behavior management" becomes more difficult every day.

"There are a lot of children coming into day care whose families are very stressed and who are not receiving good care at home," Boyer said.

The early childhood division took no action on the two bills, but lawmakers on the panel did agree to form a child-care working group.



CRIME

Arson data system

An arson fire is reported in Minnesota every three-and-a-half hours, according to the state fire marshal. A bill approved Jan. 26 by the House Judiciary Committee would help investigators and prosecutors by establishing a statewide database to track these crimes.

"Arson is not a free crime when it comes to human beings," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill. "Firefighters risk their lives every time they fight a fire."

The bill (HF2313) was initiated at the recommendation of the Attorney General's Arson Task Force, which was created in 1995 to develop methods to combat the problem of arson in Minnesota. The task force is made up of investigators and prosecutors as well as representatives of the insurance industry.

Last year, the Legislature followed a task force recommendation and passed a law establishing the Minnesota Arson Strike Force, a team of investigators and experts who assist local authorities in arson investigations.

Skoglund's bill calls for the creation of an arson data system that would contain only basic information at the state level but would provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases. The database would be maintained by the state fire marshal.

The Judiciary Committee approved the bill for inclusion in the omnibus crime bill to be assembled later this session.



DRUGS

Penalties and methamphetamine

A bill that would increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine was approved Jan. 28 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The bill (HF2312) would raise methamphetamine to the same status as cocaine and heroin and would make the manufacture of any amount methamphetamine a first-degree controlled substance offense.

Law enforcement officials who testified at the committee hearing said the manufacturing provision is necessary because of the dangers inherent in the production of the drug.

"There are people involved in these operations who are subject to life-threatening activities without knowing what's involved," said Dennis Boser, sheriff of Mille Lacs County. "December of 1996 was the first time we had any knowledge of a meth operation in our county, and that was because of an explosion."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor, told the committee that the drug is made by mixing potentially explosive materials and, if it's done wrong, can be extremely dangerous.

"This is a product that is different from most of the chemicals that people abuse in that it doesn't come from across our borders," Skoglund said. "People can make it in their kitchens. And they do in this state."

Skoglund told the committee that in California, a state that has seen a dramatic increase in methamphetamine trafficking, one in five methamphetamine production labs is discovered because they explode.

Margaret Chutich, of the attorney general's office, compared the drug to "moonshine" because the ingredients can be purchased at drug stores.

"We believe that methamphetamine is equally as harmful as cocaine, maybe more because of the dangers of production," Chutich said. "They're cooking these things, and if

they do it wrong, they're making some very dangerous gases."

She told the committee that law enforcement is seeing an increase in methamphetamine activity. She said that in 1996, methamphetamine accounted for 8 percent of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lab work; in 1997, it accounted for 20 percent.

Four young people from Teen Challenge, a drug treatment program, spoke to members of the committee. The young people, who chose not to give their names, described their experiences as users of the drug.

"It's very easy to get," said a 19-year-old former user who suffered heart damage from methamphetamine. "It's as easy to get as marijuana, and because I'm underage, it's easier to get than alcohol."

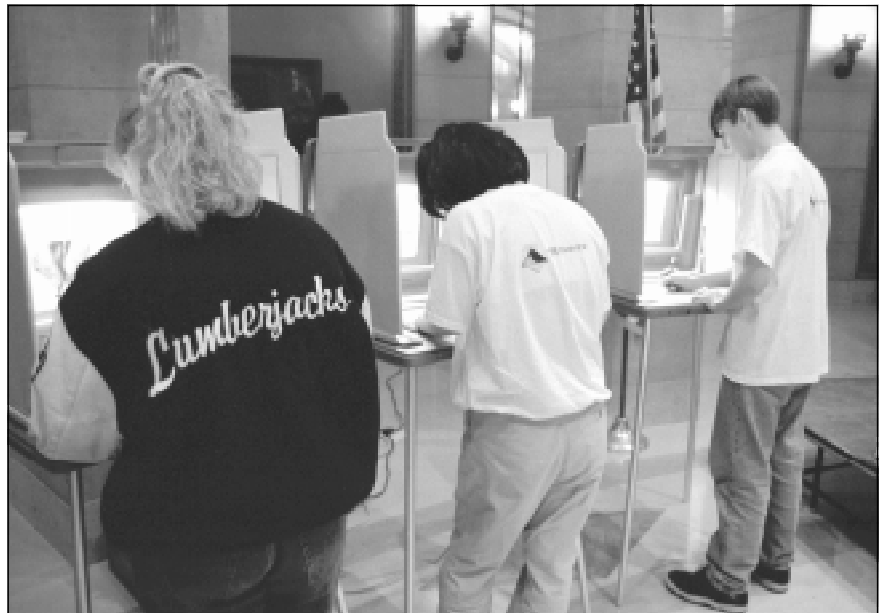
A 25-year-old woman from St. Cloud, Minn., said, "I was injecting anywhere from a gram to a half a gram every three hours. I bought a camcorder and sat in a hotel for three days filming outside because I thought the police were chasing me. I thought they were hiding in the trees."

One of the former users told the committee that he had considered making his own methamphetamine to save money.

"After you use it for a while it gets expensive, and you think you can make your own," he said. The former user said he was dissuaded by a friend who told him how dangerous manufacturing could be.

The committee approved the bill for inclu-

Youth summit



Youth delegates vote on a bill that would create a graduated driver's license system. The youths were part of the fourth annual Minnesota Youth Summit on Violence Prevention, a program that educates young people about the legislative process. The students come to the Capitol for a day to study legislation that affects young people. This year, 200 students participated in the Jan. 27 event.

sion in the omnibus crime bill to be assembled later this session.



EDUCATION

Gifted and talented students

Minnesota's gifted and talented students — how much attention they need, how much attention they're getting, and how much money should be spent on them — are the focus of two bills considered Jan. 23 by a House panel.

During a hearing before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, one legislator said that "profoundly gifted" students who aren't getting the proper challenges are being placed at-risk by the public schools.

The finance division discussed two bills — **HF2319**, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), and **HF2318**, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) — that aim to improve services for gifted and talented students. No action was taken on the proposals.

Greiling's bill would expand state funding for its gifted and talented program from \$1.5 million in 1998 to \$8.5 million in 1999, and the bill would remove the requirement that local school districts provide matching funds.

Currently, districts can get state grants of \$25 per student each year for local gifted and talented instruction, but the districts have to match that dollar for dollar. And the funds are not always available in a tight school district budget.

"We've heard from districts who didn't have time to actually apply [for the grant]," Greiling said. "Even with all the constraints, the money was used up last year."

Greiling's bill also would direct the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to designate a specific department staff member to serve schools and parents by being a resource on the gifted and talented program.

Bill Keilty, coordinator for gifted services at the Forest Lake Public Schools, said the state's current program is valuable, and with Greiling's proposed changes, would be even better.

"We've seen programs expand; we've seen programs that have not even existed in the past evolve," he said. "We're also very concerned about the need for a resource person for gifted and talented programs."

Keilty said the students and teachers in gifted and talented programs are frustrated by the inability to talk to someone at the state level about their concerns.

"Gifted programs have changed in time and are being requested to address a broader spectrum of students," he said. "The step to increase the funding seems appropriate."

Leppik's bill would direct school districts to pick up the pace of instruction to high-scoring students in elementary and secondary grades. Schools would have to ensure gifted pupils each have a written individual learning plan developed by a group that includes the student's teachers, parents, and counselors.

The plan would state the desired outcomes for the student and the curriculum and teaching methods to be used.

"If they are not doing this, the students are not getting an education appropriate to their above-average ability and are not being served by the school district," Leppik said.

Gifted and talented students who are not challenged eventually run into problems, she added.

"They will become extremely bored; they get into trouble," Leppik said.

Both bills were laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill to be assembled later this session.

School lunch program funding

A proposal to increase state aid for the school lunch program stalled in the House last year, but lawmakers are considering the matter again.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), sponsor

of **HF2345**, said his bill would make up for losses due to inflation that school districts have been forced to absorb. The Legislature appropriates a fixed amount for school lunch and food storage aid, and that amount was last increased in 1991.

"As school enrollment increases, the amount available per pupil to districts decreases," Entenza said. His bill would increase the 1999 state appropriation for school lunches from \$7,254,000 to \$9,035,000.

Polly Podpeskar, director of food and nutrition programs at Grand Rapids Public Schools, testified that the program is in need of additional funding, especially considering the high percentage (about 33 percent) of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

"We are constantly striving to strike a balance between nutritious meals and ones that are appealing to children," she said. "We're very sensitive about passing on price increases to paying students, who are often the children of the working poor."

Linda Skrian, president of the Minnesota School Food Association, said that while the national school lunch program is often cited as one of the most successful federal programs, federal funding has not been keeping pace with rising costs to districts.

While the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee did not vote on the issue during the Jan. 26 hearing, many members voiced support for the bill.

New member



Newly sworn-in Rep. James Clark, a Republican from Springfield, gets a congratulatory kiss from his wife, Cara, who is holding their daughter Claire. Sister-in-law Cori Gunnels and nephew Ben Gunnels share in the moment.

"This is one of the things that has been shown to make a difference," Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) said. "We should really grab it and run with it."

The division is considering the proposal for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Tax credits for education

Minnesota parents whose income puts them just over the eligibility level for taking advantage of tax breaks in a 1997 education law may get some good news in 1998.

The House Education Committee approved a bill Jan. 27 that would replace the specific income-level cutoff for claiming education tax credits with a gradual phase-out of the amount of credit a family can claim.

A law passed in the Legislature's 1997 First Special Session allowed families with incomes of up to \$33,500 to claim up to \$1,000 per child and \$2,000 per family as a tax credit for education-related expenses such as tutoring or educational summer camps. Families with incomes of \$33,501 and higher are currently not eligible for any credit.

"We're doing a disservice to Minnesota families by creating a cliff," said Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope). "We don't do this in any other tax policy that involves a credit in this state."

Rest is the sponsor of **HF2364**, which calls for gradually phasing out the education credit for taxpayers with incomes between \$30,500 and \$34,500. For each \$4 of income over \$30,500 that a family earns, the maximum per-child credit would decrease by \$1, under Rest's bill. At an income level of \$34,501, families would be ineligible to receive a credit.

Although the bill would decrease the amount of the credit for families who earn between \$30,500 and \$33,500, Rest said it would "treat Minnesota families fairly" by eliminating the cliff effect.

"It's unfair for families to get their expectations up about being able to spend extra money for a child's education, only to find out they're a few dollars over the limit," she said. She added that an unexpected \$200 bonus from a boss at the end of the year or interest from a savings account could cost families up to \$2,000.

But Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) said that the proposed change would be unfair to families whose benefit would be reduced.

"The message has long been out that at \$33,500 you get the full credit," she said. "People may already be looking at computer purchases or tutoring to take advantage of that credit."

An amendment introduced by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) proposed to begin the phase-out at incomes of \$33,500 and extend it to \$37,500. Such a change would require an additional \$6.5 million from the state.

The amendment was voted down by committee members who said they did not want to sink more education money into what several called "inefficient and unaccountable" tax credits.

Under Rest's bill, the state would not have to increase spending above what is anticipated for the current tax-credit payments. More families would be eligible for the credit, but fewer would receive the maximum amount. With the current law, about 200,000 families are expected to receive credits.

The bill was referred to the committee's K-12 Education Finance Division to be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 funding bill.

Residential boarding schools

When former Minnesota Vikings tight end Joe Senser appeared before lawmakers Jan. 28, he assured them that "at no time will I be asking you to build me a new stadium."

Instead, Senser was testifying before the



Joe Senser, a former tight end for the Minnesota Vikings, tells the K-12 Education Finance Division about his positive experience growing up at the Milton Hershey Academy, a privately endowed academy for fatherless boys in Pennsylvania. The committee heard testimony on a bill Jan. 28 that would appropriate money to create residential academies for at-risk students.

K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee on the merits of residential boarding schools for at-risk youth.

Senser attended a school for fatherless boys in Hershey, Penn., after his father died.

"My mother worked 80 hours a week, and she knew this was a way out for me, a way for a better life," he said.

By the time he went to the school, at age 11, he said he was "already started on that wrong path in life. My talents . . . to play football would never have shown through had [I not gone to that school]."

A bill to provide \$12 million to establish three such schools in Minnesota is before lawmakers this session (See *Session Weekly*, Jan. 23, 1998, page 7). **HF2321**, sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), is being considered for inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill.



ELECTIONS

Updating eligible voter lists

A bill advancing in the House would provide an efficient way of updating the lists of eligible voters and might make it more convenient for the people who move to vote in the next election, according to supporters.

The bill (**HF2387**), sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), would allow the secretary of state to periodically get names and addresses of Minnesota registered voters who have moved within the state and have given the U.S. Postal Service a change of address.

The secretary of state then would provide the names to county auditors, who would update their records and send the new resident a voting card with the location of their new polling place.

The House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee approved the bill Jan. 26.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) questioned if the bill might ask government to go too far out of its way to accommodate voters who move, when those people could easily take care of the necessary paperwork for voting along with all of the other change-of-address paperwork.

"Isn't that my responsibility rather than having the state trying to track [me] down? It seems like we have a good system in place," he said. "It's a responsibility to take the time to report that. It's that important."

Currently, people who move have to report their change of address to the local voting authority to get their new card.

"I don't think all citizens automatically take care of that," Folliard said. "It would be a convenience to citizens."

“... I get disappointed when I see the low voter turnout. Anything we can do at the Legislature to increase voter turnout, I’m for.”

Joe Mansky, director of the election division of the secretary of state’s office, said half the people registering on election day are doing so because they’ve moved and 20 percent of Minnesotans move during an average year.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



EMPLOYMENT

Employment contracts

A bill requiring written employment contracts to be in an employee’s main language received approval Jan. 26 from the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

HF216, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), was laid over at the end of the 1997 legislative session in part because of concerns that requiring such contracts would be an unmanageable burden to employers.

But after hearing disturbing testimony last March from a poorly treated Spanish-speaking worker, several lawmakers pledged to support the bill this year.

The bill would expand a current disclosure law, which applies only to the meat-processing industry, to protect non-English speaking employees in all jobs. It also calls for funding for the Department of Labor and Industry to translate disclosure forms and to launch a public awareness campaign.

“As a result of not understanding the terms and conditions of employment... workers are abused,” said Margarita Zalamea, executive director of the Chicano-Latino People’s Affairs Council.

Isabelle Martinez, who said she was unfairly fired from her job at a home for the elderly, testified through an interpreter that her employer verbally misrepresented employment terms to her in Spanish and then forced her to sign an English document that contradicted the oral job description.

Also testifying in favor of the bill were representatives from the Urban Coalition, the AFL-CIO, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

But officials from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Employment Law Council, and Retail Merchants and Employers Association all spoke against the measure.

The critics said they would support tougher penalties for employers who violate current laws — including one prohibiting employers from falsely representing job conditions or terms to prospective employees — but were

opposed to requiring written non-English contracts because of the obligation placed on employers.

“If [employers] are already violating the law on false representation, they’re probably not going to obey a new law requiring disclosure forms,” said Tom Hesse, of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. He also noted that Mariani’s bill does not provide for sanctions against employers who do not provide the translated forms.

But the committee rejected an amendment offered by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) that would have eliminated the disclosure-form requirements, increased penalties for violations of relevant current laws, and kept the plan for a public-awareness campaign in Mariani’s bill.

The bill now moves to the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.



ENVIRONMENT

Minnesota Zoo faces shortfall

Due to a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer, the Minnesota Zoological Gardens is asking the Legislature for \$1.5 million in supplemental funding for 1998.



Don Mereen, a volunteer for the Minnesota Zoo since 1991, holds a North American opossum for members of the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. Mereen and his companion were there to support Kathryn Roberts, general director of the Minnesota Zoo, who presented the agency’s supplemental and capital budget requests to the committee Jan. 27.

Kathryn Roberts, the Apple Valley zoo’s director, attributes the shortfall to bad luck, bad weather, and bad press. She presented the zoo’s supplemental and capital budget requests Jan. 28 to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Roberts said 75 percent of the zoo’s yearly attendance occurs between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The summer of 1997 was a disappointment.

“Attendance failed in the summer months,” she said. “No matter how well we do in the winter months, we’re unable to catch up with those 90 days in the summer.”

In June, Roberts said, the new Discovery Bay building opened a month late facing serious competition from Underwater World at the Mall of America. Discovery Bay is a marine education center that features a shark exhibit and an indoor dolphin amphitheater. The zoo had been counting on a projected boost in attendance from the new exhibit, she said.

To make matters worse, Roberts said, several of the sharks in the Discovery Bay exhibit died, and the subsequent media coverage caused people to wonder if the exhibit had been closed.

July brought 17 days of rain and attendance continued to lag, Roberts said.

But the worst assault on attendance occurred in August, when an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis struck many children who had played in one of the zoo’s fountains. Cryptosporidium is a one-celled organism that causes diarrhea, stomach cramps, and fever when it infects people. The outbreak likely was caused by a child with a soiled diaper playing in the fountain.

Roberts said the zoo endured three more weeks of bad press related to the health scare.

The zoo will celebrate its 20th birthday this spring, she said, and this is the first time it has ever had to come to the Legislature for supplemental funding to cover operating costs.

Jeffrey Higgins, the zoo’s financial officer, said if the zoo doesn’t receive the money, it may have to lay off 25 percent of its workforce, close several trails, and shut down the conservation office.

The committee took no action on the matter. The zoo’s funding request will be considered again later this session.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Funding frog research

Research into the cause of deformities found in frogs across the state would receive an infusion of fresh cash under a bill sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth).

Munger's proposal would appropriate \$500,000 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for continued research and monitoring of frog deformities.

"The frogs are the most sensitive of the creatures in our environment," Munger said. "I think they are telling us a story."

His bill (HF2427) was approved Jan. 26 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Under the proposal, the research funding would have to be shared with several other agencies and organizations studying the issue, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota, and Hamline University.

The proposed \$500,000 appropriation matches the amount included in Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental budget request.



Terry Fredin, of the Minnesota Frog Watch and A Thousand Friends Of Frogs project at Hamline University, listens as the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee approves a \$500,000 appropriation to continue the frog research. The research project was established to discover the reason why deformed frogs have been found around the state. Others testifying at the Jan. 26 hearing are Margaret Velky, *top left*, and Judy Helgen, *top right*, both of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Rep. Willard Munger, sponsor of the bill.

Munger said the issue is one of the governor's top environmental concerns.

The MPCA's first confirmed sighting of deformed frogs was in 1993. Interest in the issue increased after August 1995, when a group of students from LeSueur's New Country School discovered a large group of frogs with missing or deformed legs. After the students' discovery hit the press, there were similar reports from across the state.

Initial research was funded by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources in cooperation with the MPCA. Research has been carried out in conjunction with several partners, including the U of M, Hamline University, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Wildlife Health Center.

The 1997 Legislature authorized an additional \$200,000 for further frog research.

Currently, researchers are speculating that groundwater contamination or possibly ultraviolet radiation may be the cause of the deformities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has begun to examine the issue.

"We had better find out what's causing this environmental degradation," Munger said. "Or else, we're next."

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing privileges

A bill that aims to amend the Minnesota Constitution to protect hunting and fishing privileges stirred controversy Jan. 26 in the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), the bill (HF326) would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to declare a privilege of legal residents to take game and fish in accordance with law and regulations?"

During the committee hearing, Holsten said, "According to my belief system, the constitution is a list of values that we, as citizens, want to protect."

By placing this particular privilege in the constitution, he said, the state would officially recognize the "cultural heritage" of hunting and fishing.

Members of the committee agreed to send the bill along without recommendation.

Holsten sponsored a similar bill in 1996. It passed the Senate but stalled in the House that year, in part because of dissatisfaction with the wording of the proposed amendment.

The 1996 bill sought an amendment protecting the "right" to hunt and fish.

Holsten has altered the proposed amendment to read "privilege" rather than "right." He said that "privilege" is more accurate because it implies that one still must be held to certain standards.

"The language has evolved, and the issue has matured," he said.

Supporters said the bill would be a first step in standing up to anti-hunting and animal rights groups who seek to curtail the activities of hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

Jim Klatt, of the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance, said he is concerned about the situation in some states with initiative and referendum where voters have outlawed certain hunting seasons and activities such as sport fishing after heavy-duty campaigning by animal rights groups.

Minnesota is not an initiative and referendum state, but Klatt said he wants to make it difficult for those same activists to target Minnesota in the future.

"We are far better stewards of the land because we participate rather than watch from afar," Klatt said in defense of hunters and anglers.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources, said the agency supports the bill because it aims to protect hunting, fishing, and trapping.

"It also affirms the way the state regulates the harvest of our natural resources," he said. "If it passed as a constitutional amendment, it may make our jobs easier."

Critics argued that there is no need for such an amendment and, if approved, it would only serve to clutter the constitution.

Linda Hatfield, representing Friends of Animals and Their Environment, the National Fund for Animals, the National Humane Society of the United States, and the Minnesota Humane Society testified against the bill.

"The constitution provides the basic framework for protecting basic liberties," she said. "It is not intended to protect recreational pursuits."

Joan Harp, of rural Isanti County, said that as a landowner she is concerned about hunters who trespass on private property. She said the language may give hunters the false sense that hunting privileges take precedence over property rights.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), who chairs the committee, said that while he, too,

is a hunter and fisherman, he opposes the bill. "I feel that it is directed against one group of citizens in Minnesota," he said. "I don't relish that particular motive."

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GOVERNMENT

Tobacco investments

A bill that would require the State Board of Investment to divest 5 percent of its tobacco stock sparked debate Jan. 29 on the merits of Legislature-mandated social engineering and the demerits of smoking.

But Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), sponsor of **HF2453**, said the tobacco issue is not even his top concern in the bill. His proposal calls for the proceeds from the sale of that stock to be invested in the Minnesota Technology Equity Fund, a program that assists development in rural Minnesota by offering investment capital.

"It's been historically difficult for small rural companies to find debt-free capital," he said in testimony before the House Governmental Operations Committee. "I'm saying that I know of a really good use for about \$15 million, and I'd like to take it out of tobacco investments."

The investment board manages more than \$27 billion in public money, in large part, the retirement funds for state employees, teachers, and public employees.

Some lawmakers, including Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington), said they would support selling off the tobacco-related investments, but felt it was not the job of the Legislature to tell the board where to relocate the funds.

But others said they supported the idea of investing in pro-Minnesota programs, but for varying reasons, were not in favor of discriminating against tobacco stocks.

"I know I was a co-author of this bill originally," said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City). "But that must have been the day I quit smoking — I couldn't concentrate."

"It's a stupid thing to do investment-wise, when all testimony from the experts is that tobacco stocks are good investments."

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) said he does not want to engage in setting social policy through legislation.

"I'm worried about our system," Farrell said. "I don't really care about the investment."

Former Rep. Marc Asch testified as the vol-

unteer chair of the public advocacy committee of the American Heart Association's Minnesota chapter.

He called for the state to fully divest of all tobacco-related stocks, saying the drug is the nation's top killer.

"Minnesota is one of 10 states that have the most investments in tobacco," he said, adding that the state has more money invested in tobacco than do any of the tobacco-producing states.

The bill was sent to the committee's State Government Finance Division.

An evenly divided House

For the first time in its history, Minnesota may soon have a contingency plan in place for electing a speaker in an evenly divided House.

A bill that would establish a policy to be followed under such rare circumstances was approved Jan. 29 by the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Across the 50 states, there have been 24 occasions when the seats in a state Senate or House of Representatives have been evenly divided between two political parties.

And just about every instance has yielded a different method for choosing the speaker or majority leader. Some states deferred to the governor's party, while others came up with more creative plans. (Wyoming elected to hold a coin toss.)

When Minnesota found itself in that position after the 1978 elections, the two parties negotiated a bipartisan leadership. Rep. Rod Searle (IR-Waseca) became speaker, but Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) was named chair of the powerful Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Other standing committee chairs were selected from both parties.

"It took an awful long time to resolve that situation," Anderson said.

Twenty years later, the former speaker has introduced a bill that would dictate how to proceed when there is a tie vote for speaker or any other office in the House.

"I want to say that the introduction of this bill in no way indicates that I expect the House to be evenly divided in the near future," Anderson said. Currently, DFLers hold a six-seat majority, with elections coming up in November.

Under Anderson's bill, the candidate nominated by the caucus of the governor's party would be elected speaker in an evenly divided House. But all committee appointments would then be equally divided from each party.

"If the people of the state have spoken [and said] that they want an even distribution of

political parties, we should abide by that," Anderson said. "If a speaker is chosen in this manner, then he's still not going to dominate the House because you need 68 votes to pass a bill."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

State treasurer's office

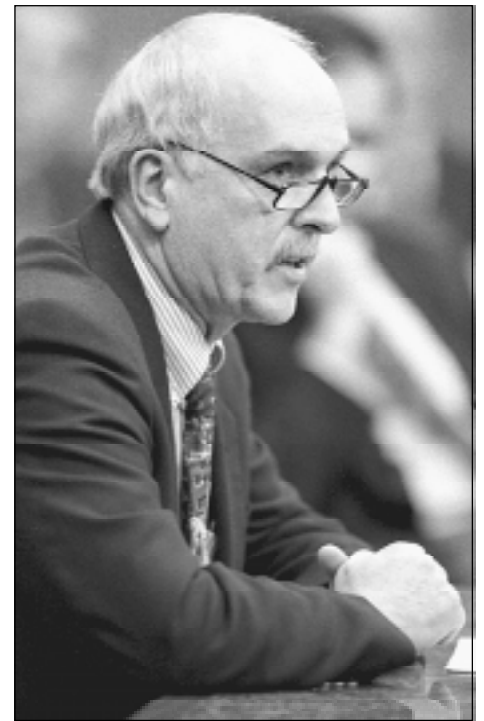
Minnesotans may get the opportunity in the November polls to decide whether the office of state treasurer should be abolished.

A bill (**HF2355**) that would do away with the office and transfer the treasurer's responsibilities to the commissioner of the Department of Finance was approved by the House Governmental Operations Committee Jan. 27.

Bill sponsor Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and co-sponsor Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) said the bill's goal is to streamline government.

"Such a statewide office should have significant policy ramifications to justify [maintaining it]," Knoblach said. "And we all know that most people don't even know who [the current state treasurer] is."

Proponents estimate that eliminating the office would save the state as much as \$2.5 million per year, in addition to increasing efficiency.



James Dunlop, the Reform Party candidate for state treasurer in 1998, tells the House Governmental Operations Committee that he would be happy to be the last person to hold the office. Dunlop, a deputy state treasurer from 1983 to 1987, testified before the committee Jan. 27. The committee approved a bill that would provide a vote on a constitutional amendment to abolish the office in 2002.

But opponents, including Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) and Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), said transferring duties to the commissioner of finance would concentrate too much power in one department, which is under the governor's authority.

"Does it excite anyone here to have all financial power rest on the governor?" Knight asked.

The bill calls for putting the necessary constitutional amendment to eliminate the office on the November ballot, at which time voters would also elect a final state treasurer. The office would be abolished in January 2001, at the conclusion of that officer's two-year term.

Greiling said the recurring discussion of whether to eliminate the office began in the 1940s.

The last time the issue came before lawmakers was in 1996, when a bill passed the Senate 54-1 but stalled in the House. That 1996 House proposal, also sponsored by Greiling, was approved by the House Governmental Operations Committee but did not come up for a vote on the House floor.

Greiling's current bill now moves to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Honoring Nellie Stone Johnson

Minnesota activist Nellie Stone Johnson may soon be honored as the first woman to have a sculpture of her image displayed in the state Capitol.

It took about two minutes for the House Governmental Operations Committee to approve a bill Jan. 27 that calls for a bust of the labor organizer and civil-rights activist to be placed in the Capitol.

The same bill was passed by the House last year, but because its Senate companion stalled, the House will need to repass the bill this year.

Since the 1930s, Johnson, who is now in her 90s, has been an active advocate for labor and human rights in Minnesota.

In the early 1930s, when her wages as an elevator operator at the Minneapolis Athletic Club were slashed, she helped organize the Minneapolis Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, serving as the group's first female vice president.

A decade later, she was instrumental in orchestrating the merger of the state's Democratic and Farmer-Labor parties. In 1945, she was the first black Minneapolis resident elected to citywide office.

She also helped create the office which later became the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission and the state Human Rights Department; helped win desegregation of the armed

forces; and was twice a representative to the Democratic National Committee in the early 1980s.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring the bill, said Johnson continues to be an important activist.

HF1583 now goes to the State Government Finance Division of the Governmental Operations Committee.



HEALTH

Hepatitis B immunizations

Vaccinating a small segment of young children could help eliminate the serious liver disease hepatitis B, which can lead to cancer or liver failure.

Dr. Deborah Wexler, executive director of the Immunization Coalition, told the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 27 that a bill to immunize the state's students would make Minnesota the 33rd state to enact such legislation.

The bill (HF2681) was approved and sent to the floor.

Sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), the bill would require children enrolling in schools or child care facilities to receive hepatitis B immunizations. The immunization requirement would apply to kindergarten students beginning in the 2000-01 school year.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus and spread by contact with an infected person's blood or other body fluids. It can also be spread by sharing washcloths, razors, toothbrushes, or needles, or in the process of tattooing.

Aggie Leitheiser, director of the Minnesota Health Department's Division of Disease Prevention and Control, said from 1990 to 1995, there were 591 known cases of hepatitis B in Minnesota, with 30 of those cases occurring in children 17 or younger.

But she said those who suffer from the disease are often without symptoms for years, so the exact number of people carrying the disease is unknown.

Wexler said about 80 percent of infants are now being vaccinated for the disease.

"This bill just catches those kids who have fallen into the cracks. It's a checkpoint," she said.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said the bill likely would come at no cost to the state.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

MnSCU seeks \$185.6 million

A severe 1997 winter followed by massive spring flooding took an abnormally high toll on buildings in the Minnesota State College and University (MnSCU) system, according to officials from the schools.

That weather-related stress is part of the reason MnSCU is seeking \$185.6 million for capital projects this year, said Morrie Anderson, MnSCU chancellor, during a Jan. 28 hearing of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

MnSCU's bonding request exceeds the \$162.8 million recommended by Gov. Arne Carlson, and is nearly twice as large as in 1996, when the Legislature earmarked \$86.5 million for MnSCU capital projects.

The largest item included in the current MnSCU request is for \$91 million in system-wide repair and maintenance projects. The request covers 335 individual projects for repair and replacement of buildings, equipment, and mechanical systems.

The largest proposed repair and maintenance projects at individual schools are \$16.2 million at Moorhead State University, \$11 million at Mankato State University, and \$9.6 million at St. Cloud State University.

The expenditures would be designated as Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) projects, which fit into a capital request category that includes health and safety improvements, other projects that update the exterior, interior, mechanical or electrical systems, and other infrastructure repair.

As was the case at the division's hearing involving University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof earlier in the week, lawmakers wanted to ensure the funds were to be used for projects specified under HEAPR and not for new construction.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) wondered if the state had not been "too loose" in its previous interpretation of HEAPR projects.

Moorhead State University President Roland Barden presented a detailed account of all the school's repair needs so lawmakers could judge the nature of the individual HEAPR requests. Barden and Anderson both stressed that the cost to defer HEAPR projects would exceed price of doing them now.

"We think it is important to take care of our existing asset base now," Anderson said.

MnSCU was created in 1995 by the merger of Minnesota's technical, community, and state colleges. The number of institutions was

reduced from 45 to the current 36, plus a campus in Akita, Japan.

Members of the finance division also discussed the need for an alternative to the cyclical need to repair flat roofs on many of the MnSCU buildings.

"It's beyond my comprehension why we build flat roofs in Minnesota," said Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), who chairs the higher education panel.

Robert Erickson, chair of the MnSCU facilities committee, said pitched roofs are more expensive to build and are difficult to engineer on current larger buildings. Construction of pitched roofs requires additional support because of the design and weight of the roofs, he said.

Pelowski said the initial cost might be greater but ultimately money likely would be saved by constructing buildings with pitched roofs.

Selecting U of M regents

A bill aimed at improving what many call a cumbersome and flawed process for selecting University of Minnesota regents was approved by the House Education Committee Jan. 29.

Under the plan, regents for the 12-member board would be selected based on rural and urban lines rather than congressional district lines, as they are currently chosen.

Five regents would have to reside in the seven-county metropolitan area, five would be required to live outside that area, and the remaining two would be at large. Currently, one regent is chosen from each of the state's eight congressional districts, and four at-large members are selected.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), sponsor of HF2741, said the greatest benefit of the proposed change would be eliminating the district caucuses from the selection process.

"The issue has been scrutinized by [members of a joint House and Senate subcommittees], the media, alumni, students, faculty, former candidates for regent seats," he said. "It became crystal clear that [the process involving] congressional district caucuses is very time consuming."

The proposal also addresses an issue faced last year when the 7th Congressional District yielded two very desirable candidates for regent seats and legislators had to choose between them.

"I think that almost everyone who met those candidates understood that both should have been on the board," Leighton said. "Under this proposal, they both could have been elected."

The bill also reorganizes the 24-member

Regent Candidate Advisory Committee to increase input from both the governor and the minority parties of the House and Senate. Currently, 12 members of that committee are chosen by the speaker of the House and 12 by the Senate Rules Committee.

The advisory committee interviews candidates and recommends finalists, who are then considered by the House and Senate education committees. Those committees endorse candidates before the full House and Senate vote on the finalists.

Under the bill, the advisory committee would be reduced to 15 members to be chosen as follows: four each by the House speaker and the Senate majority leader, one each by the House and Senate minority leaders, and three by the governor.

Typically, four regent seats come up for election in each odd-numbered year; the 12 regents serve staggered six-year terms.

Real brain



Robert Elde plopped a Tupperware container on the table, and quickly gained the attention of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee. The container held a human brain. It was among the props Elde brought to help educate committee members about the work done at the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences. Elde, a neurobiologist, is the dean of the college. Mike Martin, dean of the university's School of Agriculture, was last on the Jan. 26 agenda to make a pitch for his school. "Following Dean Elde and his traveling brain is a tough act for me," Martin said.

Legislators next will vote on regent candidates in 1999.

The bill will move to the House floor.



HOUSING

Housing discrimination

A proposal to provide grants to help solve the problem of housing discrimination was approved Jan. 27 by the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

The bill (HF2431) is sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), who said that he was motivated to action by reports of housing discrimination in his legislative district.

The bill would provide \$400,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations experienced in housing issues to deal with the problem of housing discrimination. The grants could be used to provide investigative and legal services to victims of discrimination or for fair housing testing and education.

Lawrence Winans, director of the Minnesota Fair Housing Center, testified in support of the bill. His organization does audits of landlords and property managers to study ways in which discrimination occurs.

"Discrimination in the field of housing is never blatant," he said. "A person does not come to the door and say, 'I do not rent to black people,' or 'I don't rent to Hispanics.'"

Christy Snow, who is the testing coordinator with the Fair Housing Center, described how audits are done. Two testers are sent to a housing agent. Both testers have the same scripted characteristics, such as income status and rental history, but differ on the characteristic being tested, most often race.

Larry Haqq and Shalia Lindsey, both testers who are African-American, read audit transcripts of exchanges they had with landlords. Snow read transcripts provided by white testers to show the differences in the behavior of the housing agents.

In one case, Lindsey said, she was asked to leave her driver's license in the rental office, and she was told it was necessary so that the property manager would have her identification in case something happened during the tour. A white tester with the same qualifications did not receive the same request.

"In one out of two audits, the person of color is treated less favorably than the person who is white," Snow said. "While neither tester was told they would not be welcome, the evidence is there that the African-American testers received different treatment."

The fair housing grants would be distrib-

uted by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

The bill now goes to the full committee.



HUMAN SERVICES

Hospital ownership

Nonprofit hospitals are generally viewed as charitable community assets, but from 1990 to 1996, a total of 192 nonprofit hospitals converted to for-profit status. In 1996, 60 nonprofit hospitals were converted.

A bill that would require nonprofit hospitals to provide 45 days of notice to the attorney general before making transfers involving 50 percent or more of hospital assets was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 28.

The bill (**HF381**) is sponsored by Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls). It would authorize the attorney general to make the transaction notices accessible to the public and to obtain public comment on any pending transaction.

While the attorney general's office already has the ability to investigate and stop such transactions that are not in the public interest, the bill ensures written notice would go to the attorney general's office well in advance of the deal.

Greenfield said it is easier to examine such deals before they are complete, rather than to "unscramble the egg" later.

"Often it's only after the deal is done that the public has any awareness that this transaction has taken place," said Cindy Jesson, of the attorney general's office. "The public learns afterward that maybe it was a sweetheart deal and the nonprofit seller did not get fair market value for the hospital. And that's important because if you get fewer dollars in the sale, then fewer dollars go into charitable trusts that help communities promote health care."

Before California adopted similar legislation, Greenfield said that state lost about \$2 billion in public investment. Greenfield said the law would help ensure that "a publicly owned hospital cannot just come in, take funds, and disperse them any way they want to. They have a responsibility to use this money in the public good in the health arena."

Greenfield also said the legislation would not prohibit companies exploring for-profit ownership in Minnesota.

"It's going to make for-profits think twice, but I don't think it's a prohibition," he said.

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Nursing home salaries

Emotional testimony accompanied a committee discussion of a bill that would provide a 5-percent salary adjustment to nursing facility employees.

Jeanette Hanson, of Stillwater, her voice tense with emotion, told of understaffing, lack of supplies, and frequent falls during her mother's 30-month stay in a nursing home.

She said on the last night of her mother's life, a caring staff member gave her mother "an old-fashioned back rub, and you could almost hear my mom purr." But Hanson said understaffing precluded that type of attention routinely.

The measure would allow certified nursing facilities to apply to the state for a 5-percent salary adjustment for employees starting Oct. 1, 1998. Low wages in the field and a general shortage of workers in the state has made it difficult for nursing homes to attract and retain workers.

The House Health and Human Services Committee sent the bill (**HF2684**), sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), to the committee's finance division Jan. 29.



LAW

Medical malpractice lawsuits

A bill to extend the time allowed to file a medical malpractice case from two years to six years has stalled on a tie vote. A similar bill, however, which would extend the limit in certain instances has received initial approval.

Both bills were heard in the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 28.

Current law requires that lawsuits dealing with medical malpractice must be initiated within two years of the occurrence of the malpractice in all cases.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) is sponsoring a bill (**HF1151**) which would make an exception to the statute of limitations in certain instances.

Troy Donahue, a member of the public, testified for Van Dellen's bill. He said that his wife had a mole removed in 1993 and it was misdiagnosed as benign. By the time they discovered that an error had been made, the statute of limitations had passed, and attorneys told them that they did not have a malpractice claim.

Donahue was told that if the case had occurred in Wisconsin, he would still have a claim. His wife died of cancer in 1996, a month after the cancer was found.

"Had this been caught at the time, maybe she'd still be alive. It's just terrible," he said.

William Stoeri, an attorney who represents doctors in malpractice cases, spoke in opposition to the bill. He said that the statute of limitations strikes a balance between the rights of plaintiffs and defendants.

"A statute of limitations exists because it is unfair for defendants some years down the line to come in and defend themselves," he said.

Stoeri said that it is difficult to build a defense based on a doctor's memory of what he or she did years ago. He said that they have to go back and review the standard of care from the year of the claim. They have to research what the correct response should have been in order to establish that the doctor did not act negligently.

"The difference in medical cases is that medicine advances extremely quickly. To go from two years to six years is an exponential expansion," he said. "I don't think that any patient would want to be treated with the standard of care from six or eight years ago."

Bob Tracy, of the Minnesota AIDS project, testified against one of the provisions in **HF1151**. The provision would extend the statute of limitations in cases where the HIV virus is passed from a health care worker to a patient.

Tracy said that there have been no cases of this sort in the state. He said that there has only been one case in the United States, and that case has been recently called into question.

"Particularly with the HIV provision, we are looking at a solution that is trying to find a problem," he said.

Van Dellen's bill received the division's approval and now goes to the full committee.

The division also heard a bill (**HF2491**) sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) that would increase the statute of limitations to six years for all medical malpractice cases.

When the bill came up for a vote, there was a tie, and the bill did not advance.

Making health care decisions

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) told the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 28 why he is sponsoring a bill to rework legislation he helped write dealing with durable power of attorney and living wills.

"I had the unique opportunity as the author of a bill to go to my attorney with estate planning issues and have my own lawyer say, 'You know what? I don't like your durable power of attorney law, and if you don't like

that, find another lawyer,” Bishop said, whose bill was approved by the committee.

HF2521 is based on the recommendations of a working group the Minnesota State Bar Association sponsored to review current law on health care decision-making and to suggest ways to make the laws more effective. The group is made up of government officials and representatives from health care organizations, consumer groups, and ethical and religious organizations.

Currently, a patient can create a document that designates the care to be received if he or she cannot communicate those wishes. The document is called a living will. In addition, a patient can name a person as his or her durable power of attorney, which authorizes that person to make health care decisions. The living will and durable power of attorney provisions are contained in two separate statutes.

“What we now have as a result is too confusing, and lawyers are choosing one or the other,” Bishop said.

The bill would combine the living will and the durable power of attorney into one document called a health care directive. The bill provides the criteria necessary for a directive to be valid and directs the commissioner of health to appoint an advisory task force to create a uniform health care directive form.

Barbara Blumer, an attorney from the working group, said the convenience of the new language would encourage all people to make decisions about their health care before it is too late.

“Our goal is to give Minnesotans a tool to express their wishes on health care decisions,” Blumer said. “This is a bill for young and old Minnesotans; it’s a bill for all Minnesotans.”

Helen Johnston from the Minnesota Board on Aging testified for the bill. She told the committee that last week a 97-year-old friend of hers was given medical treatment and that there were questions about whether the treatment was consistent with the friend’s wishes.

Johnston said if her friend had a health care directive on file with the doctor, the situation could have been avoided.

Jackie Schwiertz, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, told the committee that her organization has objections to the bill, especially a provision recognizing living wills from other states. She said if doctor-assisted suicide is made legal in other states, those living will documents may have to be honored in Minnesota.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

War against mosquitoes

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District would have to let affected communities know when the agency’s soldiers are coming with their pickup trucks and their chemical sprayers to wage war against mosquitoes, under a bill sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville).

The bill (HF2320) was considered Jan. 27 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee. It would require mosquito control to notify the local residents, affected property owners, and local government units before spraying mosquito-killing chemicals.

“The mosquito control district claims that everything they use is very safe,” Greiling said. “Over time in history, there have been chemicals that people thought were safe, and we found out they’re not so safe.”

The bill would require mosquito control to provide a minimum 48-hour notification before an insecticide treatment on public land or water by posting signs.

And the bill would require a minimum 48-hour notice when the spraying will be within 300 feet of farmland or within 1,000 feet of a home. That notification must be made in person or in the form of an information card on the door at each residence.

The bill also would require a notice of seven to 14 days to any city or town where spraying would occur within its limits.

Judy Bellairs, legislative director for the Sierra Club, told the committee of an experience last summer when a spraying truck from mosquito control came into her neighborhood emitting a fine mist which seemed to have an oily smell. No one knew the truck was coming.

“People cannot object if they do not know when their property is being sprayed,” she said.

The spray was made up primarily of chemicals that are toxic to fish and other forms of aquatic life, she said.

She also questioned the effects of residue left in the area. “People who are chemically sensitive should know about the spraying,” she said, acknowledging that mosquito control has a hotline with updates on spraying.

“People don’t know about the hotline,” she said.

Some committee members wondered if the bill might become another “unfunded mandate” handed down from the state.

Washington County Commissioner Dave Engstrom said it would, but that that’s part of doing business.

“We in local government look at anything as unfunded, but we do them. I think it’s really critical to know what kind of environment [homeowners] are getting into,” he said.

Joe Sanzone, director of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, said the district tries to “conduct a proactive notification program. We are open to change and to improve the way we do it.”

The bill, which was laid over, is expected to be taken up again later.



METRO AFFAIRS

Trolley for tourists

A plan to promote south Minneapolis neighborhoods with a trolley to transport tourists to the area rolled easily through the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Jan. 28.

HF2339, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), calls for developing a transit system to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with the Cedar-Riverside, Central, Phillips, Powderhorn, and Whittier neighborhoods in Minneapolis.

“This is a whole undiscovered part of the city that both tourists and residents don’t patronize or know about,” Clark said. She said the neighborhoods are full of ethnic restaurants and shops but the lack of accessibility keeps tourists away.

“By bringing some of the tourism into south Minneapolis, we generate added revenue for the state,” she said.

The bill calls for \$400,000 for planning and operational costs for starting the program and another \$40,000 for promotional costs. Those funds would be expected to be matched by sources such as the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and private businesses. A separate bill requests bonding for buying the buses.

The project is slated to include regular routes between the convention center and other areas, as well as chartered routes.

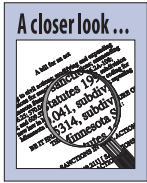
“This is a good investment in our economic development and in our inner city,” Clark said. “It’s the first attempt to develop inner-city tourism in Minneapolis.”

Several lawmakers at the hearing said they used to live or work in some of the neighborhoods in question and are in favor of development efforts.

“I always got the feeling that this was one of those neighborhoods that could just tip either way,” said Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), who used to work in south Minneapolis.

The bill now moves to the committee’s Economic Development Finance Division.

Homeowners, renters collect on budget windfall



By Nicole Wood

In an effort to return some of the state's budget surplus — then projected at a hefty \$2.3 billion — to homeowners and renters, the 1997 Legislature authorized a one-time property tax rebate.

Now it's time to collect on the budget windfall, but questions about eligibility and filing procedures abound.

To qualify for the rebate, homeowners must have paid 1997 property taxes on a homestead that was their principal residence. The taxes may have been paid directly, indirectly through an escrow arrangement with a mortgage lender, or under a purchase agreement for the property.

Likewise, renters must have paid rent in 1997 on a dwelling that was their principal residence.

The rebate amounts to 20 percent of property taxes paid for homeowners. Renters will be able to get a rebate of 3.6 percent of the rent they paid in 1997. That's about 20 percent of the estimated portion of rent that pays property taxes, according to the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

There is no dollar cap on the rebate, and its availability does not depend on income. Here's the tricky part: Although it is a *property* tax rebate, it must be claimed on the 1997 state *income* tax returns filed in 1998. The rebate is essentially a refundable credit against the state income tax.

The revenue department estimates that the rebate will cost the state \$500 million. Average individual rebates are expected to be \$300 for homeowners and \$175 for renters.

To collect the rebate, homeowners and renters — even those who are normally exempt from filing income taxes — must file Minnesota's individual income tax Form M-1.

In an attempt to make Form M-1's rebate section easy to identify, the companion booklets to Form M-1 have been updated with the slogan "Look for the Frog."

The revenue department has added a smiling frog symbol on Form M-1 that clearly marks the rebate section. It's a play on words that only an accountant could love. Get it? A frog says "rebate, rebate."

Homeowners will need their property tax statements issued by counties in 1997. A copy of the statement will have to be attached to the tax form to receive the rebate.

Landlords must supply renters with the documentation they will need to claim the rebate. The paperwork should be in the hands of renters before the end of January.

A rebate schedule on the back of the form details eligibility requirements. Many college students will be disappointed to read the fine print; renters who are listed as dependents on another person's income tax return do not qualify for the rebate.

At the moment, those who prepaid their 1997 property taxes in 1996 do not qualify, either. The law states that the rebate is based on a "percent of qualified property tax paid in calendar year 1997."

However, things could change for those who prepaid in 1996. The House Taxes Committee has approved a bill, **HF2294**, that would grant the rebate to early birds, too. The bill is headed for a vote on the House floor.

In the past, income tax refunds took anywhere from three weeks to two months to receive, depending upon when they were filed.

This year, the revenue department predicts that refunds may take twice as long — up to four months — because they expect to process

an additional 600,000 refunds more than the 1.2 million refunds handled last year.

It's a good idea to file early, and it's an even better idea to do so electronically. By electronic filing, the figures are automatically transferred

to the department's computer system, saving tedious data entry time and accelerating the rate of return.

In fact, electronic filers who arrange for direct deposit can expect a refund within 10 days.

For more information, contact the Department of Revenue Taxpayer Hotline at 296-3781 (Metro) or 1-800-652-9094 (Greater Minnesota), or to catch a bright green animated version of the rebate frog in action, visit the department's web page: www.taxes.state.mn.us.



How to do the paperwork for your property tax rebate

The property tax rebate approved by lawmakers will return an average of \$300 to homeowners and \$175 to renters. Here are some hints for completing the paperwork necessary to get the money.

Homeowners will find the qualifying amount of property taxes paid indicated on Line 1 of the 1997 property tax statement issued by counties last year. Homeowners who have misplaced the statement should call their county treasurer's office for a new copy. Property tax statement stubs and Truth in Taxation statements are not acceptable substitutes.

To calculate the rebate, homeowners should multiply the figure on Line 1 of the property tax statement by 20 percent.

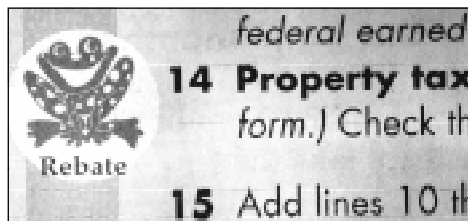
Renters will get the paperwork they need from their landlord. Landlords must present renters with two copies of a 1997 Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) no later than January 31, 1998. Line 1 of the CRP indicates the total amount of rent paid last year. To calculate the rebate, renters should multiply the figure on Line 1 of the CRP by 3.6 percent.

Why 3.6 percent and not 20 percent? For renters, the rebate equals 20 percent of "rent constituting property taxes," or the portion of rent that covers property taxes.

After calculating the rebate amount, there are three easy steps to complete the rebate section of Form M-1:

- 1) Check the homeowner or renter box on Line 14 (Look for the frog!)
- 2) Fill in the rebate amount on Line 14.
- 3) Attach a copy of your property tax statement or CRP.

The Department of Revenue expects to receive an additional 230,000 forms from people who are seeking the rebate but who don't qualify to file income taxes. People in that situation should write, "Do not meet filing requirements - rebate only," at the top of Form M-1, fill their name, address, and social security number, write in "0" for the amount of federal taxable income on Line 1, and complete the rebate section on Line 14.



The Minnesota Department of Revenue has added this frog symbol to the M-1 income tax form to mark the rebate section.

Early Taft visit inspires Erickson's political career

By Nicole Wood

Newly elected Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) has been a Republican since she was 10 years old growing up in Taft, N.D.

Her political awakening occurred in 1952 when the late President William Taft's son, U.S. Sen. Robert Taft, came through town. The younger Taft was seeking the GOP nomination for president, and he had vowed to visit every town named Taft in the country. Erickson's Taft was the smallest — population seven, with one sibling on the way.

Dwight Eisenhower got the nod from the Republican Party and went on to win the presidential election that year, but Taft's visit had a lasting effect on Erickson.

"That was my first real knowledge that there was a political process," she said. "My parents had already been proclaiming themselves Republicans, but it was my introduction to politics."

Erickson maintained her ties to the Republican Party when she grew up and moved to Princeton, Minn. Her first real campaign work, she said, was for John Zwach's congressional campaign in the 1960s. Zwach happens to be the father of one of Erickson's new House colleagues, Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior).

More recently, Erickson managed all four of former state Rep. LeRoy Koppendray's House campaigns.

"The experience of running his campaigns was absolutely essential," she said. "It paid off."



Rep.
Sondra Erickson

Erickson is quick to credit her predecessor and the supporters they had gathered over the years for their assistance in what was a whirlwind campaign — she had less than a month to get organized and to campaign before the Jan. 6 special election.

"I spent my holiday door knocking," Erickson said.

The decision to run for the District 17A House seat was by no means an easy one, Erickson said, because of her commitment to Princeton High School, where she teaches English, advises the school newspaper, and oversees the yearbook staff.

She has taken a leave of absence, she said, but with so many responsibilities, it has been difficult for her to wrap up things at the high school.

"It has been my life to teach, and I love it," she said. "I teach with a passion."

Rep. Erickson brings this enthusiasm for teaching to the House Education Committee, where she hopes to continue down the path toward increased accountability and emphasis on outcomes.

"It's so important, having been in the classroom for 30 years, that we all know, whether we're teachers, parents, or communities, that our children are learning something that they can take with them in life," she said. "The community at large has found out in employing and further educating our students that they are not at the standard they expect. Thus, we started this reformation."

Erickson's legislative agenda isn't limited to education. She also serves on the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee and the Economic Development and International

Trade Committee and its Housing and Housing Finance Division.

In language typical of a teacher, Erickson said she did her "homework" immediately after the election, and already she is sponsoring several bills. She hopes to address other key legislative topics, such as animal feedlots, soon.

Erickson adamantly opposes a proposed moratorium on feedlots in the state.

"I don't want to see the family farmer face another roadblock," she said.

She also has definite ideas about what to do with the state's projected \$1.3 billion budget surplus.

"I would like to see the surplus given back to the people," she said. "That means property tax reform and possible income tax reform."

Erickson said she comes from a "property poor" district.

"Property tax reform is major in District 17A because we have little to no industry, a low tax base, and a lot of land that is tax-free because it is a reservation," she said. "I would hope that eventually the Legislature would understand that there are some districts that face that dilemma."

District 17A

1995 population: 35,100

Largest city: Princeton

Counties: Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison

Location: east-central Minnesota

Top concern: "To continue to promote quality education in Minnesota that has accountability."

— Rep. Sondra Erickson

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate ... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building 296-4860

Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Research, House

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-9208

Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1216

TTY*, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Jennifer James: 'Our favorite stories have grown stale'



By Sandy Donovan

Everybody loves a good story.

But the trouble with stories, says cultural anthropologist Jennifer James, is that too many of us don't recognize when our favorite ones have grown stale.

"Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a prime example," James

told a group of lawmakers at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 28. "It took such a long time for people to even see that story. Most of us have walked by alcohol for our whole lives, but despite all the evidence, we were unwilling to believe it could be as damaging as marijuana [or] cocaine."

The reason, she said, is that people were too comfortable with the old story of alcohol as a relatively safe drug.

"It's not the evidence or the data that makes a difference, but how long we've been telling ourselves the story," she said. "There's nothing more painful than having your story invalidated."

James was addressing legislators and their staff as the second of two speakers in this year's Capitol Forum Series, sponsored by the McKnight Foundation and Minnesota Technology Inc.

She is a Seattle-based lecturer, writer, commentator, and former professor of psychiatry. Her books include *Thinking in the Future Tense* and *Success is the Quality of Your Journey*.

Her message to lawmakers was clear: Those who get stuck clinging to the parameters of old stories will be left in the dust.

"The key way to have influence is to be able to tell a compelling new story about the way things are or should be," she advised.

It's the speed at which society is changing that makes the invention of those new stories so difficult, she said.

One of the more compelling stories this decade, according to James, is welfare reform.

"Under the guise of welfare reform we have one of the most compassionate moves our society has made," she said. "Liberals are going crazy because the story they've been telling forever is changing."

But changing the welfare system, she insists, is a giant step forward.

"We finally understand in this increasingly sophisticated world that it is unacceptable to buy off a portion of society and move them to the side," she said. "We finally have to say that we do want these people in our society."

But while she praised the instigators of welfare reform as visionaries, she said there are many times in government when legislators need to stand back while the story writes itself.

In Minnesota, she said, the current proposal for hunting and fishing rights falls under that category.

"Give them the constitutional amendment to protect hunting," she said. "But understand that in the long run it doesn't matter — that story is already written."

"We've had far too many bunny books influencing the kids. Fourteen percent of adolescents claim to be vegetarian. Hunting is not in the future."

Having grown up on a farm and lived most of her life in a hunting and logging state, James says she's sympathetic to those interests, but, "the writing is on the wall."

"You can make far more money by protecting the environment than by not [protecting it]," she said. "In Washington, we lose federal

money every year for logging, which we continue in order to keep people employed.

"But at what time do you start to follow the new story?" she asked.

Lawmakers said they were particularly impressed with James, who spoke as part of the same series here last year, because she included so many Minnesota-specific topics in her talk.

However, she said she couldn't resist sharing her views on the recent, widely publicized news involving President Clinton.

"Of course we know the story we're all thinking about this week," she said. "It's really too soon for an anthropologist to talk about it, but heck, that'll never stop me."

She said polls showing that women overwhelmingly support Clinton this week indicate that gender is rewriting its own story.

"Women have increasingly less support for stupid women, for women who are unwilling to use their education, unwilling to do the decent thing," she said. "Women [are] waking up another notch."

James said that in the long run the story about Monica Lewinsky and Clinton won't have anything to do with character.

"Nobody really cares if he did it or not," she said.

But she did draw some chuckles from the audience for her opinion on the matter.

"It's probably true, and I say that only because she's his type — big hair and obviously not too bright," she said. "But the real story to come out of this will be that you can't have a private investigator pursuing your president."

She left the audience with some thoughts on how the story of lawmakers is being rewritten.

"The ways we divide politicians are becoming increasingly ineffective," she said, using herself as an example of the new constituent: fiscally conservative, but socially liberal.

She said leaders are having to address these new constituents.

"We're looking at a public that's going to make it increasingly difficult to hold leadership positions for a long time if there's no substance," she said.

At a reception following the talk, lawmakers said they found the evening inspirational.

"She really does stretch us and make us think," Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) said. "Unfortunately, sometimes it doesn't take long for us to slip back into the old routine." 🐾



Dr. Jennifer James, cultural anthropologist, presents her perspectives on public policy issues. James lectured at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 28 as part of the 1998 Capitol Forum Series.

Bill Introductions

HF2647-HF2999

Monday, January 26

HF2647—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environment and natural resources trust fund grants to local governments provided for upgrading individual sewage treatment systems and wells.

HF2648—Tomassoni (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Taconite mining program appropriated money.

HF2649—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

HF2650—Jennings (DFL)
Taxes
Sales and use tax capital equipment definition expanded to include central office and transmission equipment used for telephone service.

HF2651—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Housing with services establishments licensing requirements modified.

HF2652—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving below the average, and money appropriated.

HF2653—Leighton (DFL)
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF2654—Mahon (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Personalized license plates authorized for vehicles resembling pickup trucks, juvenile age provisions clarified relating to DWI-related driver's license revocation, and license reinstatement provisions modified.

HF2655—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Lake Crystal area recreation center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2656—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Nicollet County treaty site historic center grant provided, land acquisition and capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2657—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Public library accessibility grant amounts modified, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2658—Jaros (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Family anti-poverty program created, previous and welfare reform provisions modified.

HF2659—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
Income, franchise, sales, excise, property, healthcare provider, gambling, and administrative tax provisions technical changes provided.

HF2660—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Public libraries and school media center database access program established, and money appropriated.

HF2661—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical education and research trust fund, rural physician education account, mobile food unit, restaurants and food stands, and health report provisions modified, public health core functions established, and money appropriated.

HF2662—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance and General Assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.

HF2663—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare fraud prevention finger imaging project created, and money appropriated.

HF2664—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health plan company equal access required to include direct access to chiropractors, optometrists, and advanced practice nurses.

HF2665—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Intrastate hazardous material carriers provided continuation of the uniform registration and permitting program, criminal background check requirements eliminated, and fees imposed.

HF2666—Tomassoni (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Uninsured motorist identification database program established, and criminal penalties prescribed.

HF2667—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local Government Services Advisory Council member added, and appointments clarified.

HF2668—Kubly (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Passing on the Farm Center appropriated money.

HF2669—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Funds transfer to game and fish fund provided in cases of deer hunting area closure.

HF2670—Solberg (DFL)
Education
Itasca County school-to-work technology center project provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2671—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Provider payment modified relating to assisted living home care and medical assistance.

HF2672—Bakk (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Ely business technology center provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2673—Rest (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Compensation increase provided for state employees serving as certified disaster service volunteers of the American Red Cross.

HF2674—Peterson (DFL)
Judiciary
Big Stone County provided funding for emergency shelter and support services for battered women and their children, and money appropriated.

HF2675—Pelowski (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Winona bond issuance and sales and use tax authorized to finance dredging of Lake Winona.

HF2676—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Prosecution of certain juvenile offenses in adult court without a court ruling authorized.

HF2677—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home visiting program grant requirements specified, and money appropriated.

HF2678—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Tourism office competitive bidding exemption provided, contaminated cleanup grant application requirements clarified, Job Skills Partnership Board compensation provided, and wastewater infrastructure funding modified.

HF2679—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Enhanced sentencing expanded to include crimes motivated by involvement with a criminal gang.

HF2680—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Permanent school fund advisory committee membership and duties expanded.

HF2681—Slawik (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Hepatitis B immunization required for children.

HF2682—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes
Use tax liability payment on individual income tax return authorized.

HF2683—Huntley (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Improvements to St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center in Duluth authorized.

HF2684—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home staffing ratios and facilities reimbursement modified.

HF2685—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home staffing ratios and facilities reimbursement modified.

HF2686—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Board of Water and Soil Resources hearing provisions clarified, and wetland replacement approval required.

HF2687—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
County treasurer mortgage registry tax receipt payment obligations modified relating to multiple county mortgages.

HF2688—Macklin (R)
Taxes
Tax disclosure provisions clarified and technical changes provided.

HF2689—Huntley (DFL)
Taxes
Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF2690—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare disenrollment time period modified for failing to apply for medical assistance.

HF2691—Huntley (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Canosia permitted the off-sale of intoxicating liquor until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

HF2692—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public rights-of-way rule adoption deadline for the Public Utilities Commission extended.

HF2693—Skare (DFL)
Education
Old Bemidji High School combination with Northwest Technical College provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2694—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Income, franchise, and property tax policies modified, and Commissioner of Revenue provided additional powers.

HF2695—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Malt liquor sampling regulated.

HF2696—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Unauthorized possession or damage of merchandise pallets prohibited, and penalties and remedies provided.

HF2697—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organizations permitted maximum financial reserves increased.

HF2698—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare disenrollment based on income provided.

HF2699—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Major projects account created in the Trunk Highway Fund, and motor vehicle sales tax revenues dedicated.

HF2700—Harder (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Brown County nonprofit economic development corporation authorized, and local approval required.

HF2701—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing facility salary adjustment per diem modified.

HF2702—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Obstructing legal process offense felony penalty scope expanded.

HF2703—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare reform; caregiver grant garnishment protection provisions modified.

HF2704—Mulder (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Membership organizations required to notify members of their right to reduce dues by the same percentage the organization expended on political activities, and report to the Ethical Practices Board required.

HF2705—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Electronic *State Agency Guidebooks* and Internet availability of the *State Register* required, and money appropriated.

HF2706—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Electronic message reliability and certification authorities required, licensing and enforcement powers specified, and definitions and rulemaking provided.

HF2707—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Electronic message authentication and reliability regulated, and government keys exempted from public inspection and copying under the government data practices act.

HF2708—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established, dispute resolution procedures provided, and association of producers defined.

HF2709—Sykora (R)
Education
Early childhood and family education programs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2710—Kalis (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Farmamerica visitor's center at the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2711—Weaver (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Walleye, sauger, northern pike, muskellunge, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass angling season extension authorized.

HF2712—Bettermann (R)
Education
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities supplemental appropriations provided.

HF2713—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Flood protection plan review provisions modified, flood hazard mitigation grant limits increased, and water use permit processing fee provisions modified.

HF2714—Leighton (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Mower County; land acquisition adjacent to the Ramsey Mill Pond Wildlife Management Area authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2715—Kalis (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Free highway maps made available for distribution in other states.

HF2716—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association survivor benefit options made retroactive.

HF2717—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Disposition of interest on prepaid child support or maintenance specified.

HF2718—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile nonresident state trail sticker required.

HF2719—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Student grant provisions modified, and EdVest appropriation extended.

HF2720—Mares (R)
Transportation & Transit
Study of use of blue lights on emergency and road maintenance vehicles provided, and money appropriated.

HF2721—Farrell (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2722—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Red tag issuance authorized for underground petroleum storage tank violations, and penalties provided.

HF2723—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Certain child abuse information release restricted, citizen review panels established relating to child protection services, and child welfare reform provided.

<p>HF2724—Milbert (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Commercial netting provisions, minnow retailer provisions, and turtle license provisions modified, critical aquatic habitat acquisition provided, and catfish removal in certain waters authorized.</p>	<p>HF2735—Hilty (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Underground storage tank replacement loan and grant eligibility modified relating to small gasoline retailers.</p>	<p>HF2745—Evans (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Housing Finance Agency's bridges program appropriated money.</p>	<p>HF2756—Jennings (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Railroad charges to utilities for right-of-way access provided alternative dispute resolution.</p>
<p>HF2725—Mulder (R) Health & Human Services Certain public pools exempted from standards for pools with diving.</p>	<p>HF2736—Hilty (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Counties authorized to provide grants to nonprofit community food shelves.</p>	<p>HF2746—Luther (DFL) Transportation & Transit School bus safety provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF2757—Entenza (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.</p>
<p>HF2726—Slawik (DFL) Education Family and community services assistance grant program authorized, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2737—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Welfare reform; work first and other programs modified, and nonresidential child care program licensure modified.</p>	<p>HF2747—Peterson (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Montevideo historic railroad depot, related parking, and facilities capital improvement grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2758—Mullery (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Hennepin County Humboldt Avenue Greenway Project grant provided, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2727—Mulder (R) Governmental Operations Transferred employees of Luverne Community Hospital and Arnold Memorial Hospital provided pension coverage.</p>	<p>HF2738—Trimble (DFL) Education Metropolitan State University, St. Paul campus, library facility construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2748—Tomassoni (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2759—Mares (R) Education School district gifted and talented program grant local match requirement eliminated.</p>
<p>HF2728—Goodno (R) Taxes Border city development zones established, and enterprise zone incentive recapture modified.</p>	<p>HF2739—Trimble (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade St. Paul indoor tennis center construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2749—Bishop (R) Judiciary Judiciary finance and Department of Corrections supplemental appropriations bill.</p>	<p>HF2760—Knight (R) Judiciary Covenant marriages established, and grounds for dissolution specified.</p>
<p>HF2729—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Temporary licensure waiver authorized for certain dietitians.</p>	<p>HF2740—Greiling (DFL) Education Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriation.</p>	<p>HF2750—Wenzel (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Reinsurance intermediary-brokers regulated, and held or collected fund investment provided.</p>	<p>HF2761—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary Gang prevention and intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2730—Davids (R) Health & Human Services Human cloning prohibited, and criminal penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF2741—Leighton (DFL) Education Regional distribution of University of Minnesota regents established, and Regent Candidate Advisory Council membership and recommendation procedures modified.</p>	<p>HF2751—McCollum (DFL) Health & Human Services Emergency assistance funds made available to individuals meeting the hardship exception.</p>	<p>HF2762—McGuire (DFL) Health & Human Services Social worker licensure requirements modified.</p>
<p>HF2731—Harder (R) Economic Development & International Trade Windom area multi-purpose center bond issuance provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2742—Juhnke (DFL) Health & Human Services Willmar Regional Treatment Center buildings 3 and 14 renovated, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2752—Jefferson (DFL) Education Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, North Star neighborhood early learning center established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2763—Wagenius (DFL) Education Full day kindergarten phase-in provided, first grade preparedness program expanded, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2732—Wejcman (DFL) Health & Human Services Commissioner of Human Services appropriated money for the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.</p>	<p>HF2743—Solberg (DFL) Governmental Operations Mt. Itasca ski area facilities expansion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2753—Anderson, B. (R) Governmental Operations Elk River amateur sports hall of fame construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2764—Trimble (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy St. Paul authorized to conduct lottery games for youth educational and recreational program funding.</p>
<p>HF2733—Weaver (R) Judiciary Violent crime conviction, sentencing, and arrest disposition report established.</p>	<p>HF2744—Mullery (DFL) Education Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2754—Anderson, B. (R) Transportation & Transit Registration tax on passenger automobiles worth less than \$30,000 abolished.</p>	<p>HF2765—Evans (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Metropolitan Airports Commission limit on revenue use clarified and expanded relating to air facility expansion or upgrade.</p>
<p>HF2734—Bishop (R) Judiciary Sex offender registration expanded.</p>		<p>HF2755—Broecker (R) Economic Development & International Trade Youth Intervention Program grants provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2766—Orfield (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Metropolitan Council made an elective body, candidate and member economic interest statements and</p>

contributions to candidates regulated, policy advisory committee created, and levy authority modified.

HF2767—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Data Practices Act modified relating to the statewide Minnesota Family Investment Program and child support obligees.

HF2768—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Statewide comprehensive land use planning coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF2769—Pugh (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile insurance age threshold lowered for retirees declining wage loss reimbursement coverage.

HF2770—Pugh (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile accident victim right to bring a negligence action to recover for noneconomic detriment clarified.

HF2771—Koskinen (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health plans required to provide coverage for eyeglasses and hearing aids.

HF2772—Orfield (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Affordable defined under the metropolitan livable communities act, affordable and life-cycle housing goal progress required, metropolitan system plans expanded to include housing policy plan, and inclusionary zoning program required.

HF2773—Tunheim (DFL)
Judiciary
Private property protection act adopted.

HF2774—Kuisle (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County referendums conducted by county auditors clarified.

HF2775—Clark (DFL)
Education
Early childhood learning and protection facility grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2776—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State departments supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2777—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Department of Employee Relations experimental or research project provisions modified.

HF2778—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Governor authorized to enter into agreement with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

HF2779—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Housing for the elderly definition modified relating to human rights.

HF2780—Evans (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care self-employment exception eligibility modified.

HF2781—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
County crisis nursery technical assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF2782—Evans (DFL)
Judiciary
Domestic abuse definition expanded, and order for protection violation penalties clarified.

HF2783—Carruthers (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Brooklyn Center tax-increment financing districts class rates specified.

HF2784—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support enforcement provisions modified.

HF2785—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Release on pass provisions modified relating to mentally ill and dangerous persons, temporary jail confinement authorized for sexually psychopathic personalities and sexually dangerous persons, and technical changes provided.

HF2786—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure requirements modified.

HF2787—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Medical malpractice action statute of limitations modified.

HF2788—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
Youth Works Program repealer removed.

HF2789—Huntley (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Mental illness crisis housing assistance program appropriated money.

HF2790—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Chisago County recorder appointment permitted.

HF2791—Carlson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
High-occupancy vehicle lanes prohibited on I-394, and reversible one direction lanes designated.

HF2792—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Minnesota library for the blind and physically handicapped provided funding for the purchase of online catalog software, and money appropriated.

HF2793—Hilty (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center youth alcohol treatment wing construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF2794—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Telecommunications commerce regulated, telemarketing fraud outreach advocacy network established, and money appropriated.

HF2795—Jaros (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Integrated service network health care providers required to cover care provided by any licensed provider willing to serve the insurer's enrollees.

HF2796—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Dealer licensing and motor vehicle registration enforcement task force established.

HF2797—Daggett (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle title secure reassignment provided.

HF2798—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Eminent domain pipeline easement compensation requirements provided.

HF2799—Juhnke (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Municipalities authorized to issue two temporary on-sale licenses for official community festivals.

HF2800—Rostberg (R)
Education
Cambridge Community College master facilities plan second phase completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2801—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Consolidated Department of Natural Resources area field office in Warroad construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2802—Slawik (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Public Employee Retirement Association special surviving spouse benefit eligibility requirements prescribed.

HF2803—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Child care program transition year families definition clarified, employment and training assistance eligibility expanded, human services order review provisions modified, program costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2804—Slawik (DFL)
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

HF2805—Wejcman (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Sale of alcohol to under age persons provided minimum mandatory civil penalties, regular compliance checks for licensees required, home delivery regulated, under age purchasers provided minimum fines, and 50 milliliter bottle ban allowed.

HF2806—Slawik (DFL)
Judiciary
Indecent exposure felons required to register as predatory offenders.

HF2807—Juhnke (DFL)
Judiciary
Commissioner of public safety provided funding to hire four additional full-time forensic scientists for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and money appropriated.

HF2808—Knoblach (R)
Governmental Operations
Elected local units of government authorized to petition for amendment or repeal of agency rules, and petition consideration procedures established.

HF2809—McElroy (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Audited financial statement copies provided to members of the local unit of government, and town meeting presentment required.

HF2810—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Office of Technology authorized to designate additional unclassified positions, and payment of accumulated vacation leave upon layoff allowed.

HF2811—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Director of the Office of Technology membership to various organizations clarified, and technical changes provided.

HF2812—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Repeat violent crime offenders mandatory minimum sentences and lifetime probation required.

HF2813—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Omnibus juvenile and crime prevention bill.

HF2814—Tomassoni (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Durable medical equipment minimum definition established, and health plan companies required to disclose covered medical equipment and supplies.

HF2815—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Political subdivision audit information provided confidential data classification.

HF2816—Knoblach (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Sale or lease of property by a housing and redevelopment authority public notice requirements modified.

HF2817—Opatz (DFL)
Education
College campuses allowed to withdraw from statewide student associations, and campus representation modified.

HF2818—Chaudhary (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2819—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dental services medical assistance reimbursement rates increased.

HF2820—Orfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Patient protection act expanded, and independent health coverage dispute resolution process established.

HF2821—McElroy (R)
Taxes
Tax-increment financing district decertification responsibility and duration of reporting requirements clarified, and remedies provided for failure to file required reports.

HF2822—Kuisle (R)
Education
School district reimbursement grants authorized for additional construction expenditures relating to state prevailing wage statute expansion, and money appropriated.

HF2823—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
St. Peter wastewater treatment plant construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2824—Pugh (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Dakota County; housing and redevelopment authority employees not deemed county employees without county board consent.

HF2825—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Employment and training service provider definition expanded relating to the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

HF2826—Evans (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Manufactured home park conditions studied by the Department of Health.

HF2827—Workman (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design Board abolished.

HF2828—Tingelstad (R)
Health & Human Services
Commissioner of health public water supply approval authority modified.

HF2829—Murphy (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Proctor community activity center provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2830—Seifert (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agricultural Finance
Marshall flood control project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2831—Leppik (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Environmental supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2832—Solberg (DFL)
Education
Grand Rapids regional learning resource center funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2833—Leighton (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Austin wastewater treatment plant completion funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2834—Bakk (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Wastewater infrastructure loan program funded for eligible municipalities within the Northshore management zone, and money appropriated.

HF2835—Peterson (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Montevideo downtown redevelopment project funded, and money appropriated.

HF2836—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Home school defined relating extracurricular activities, and school boards required to allow full participation of all students.

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HF2837—Tomassoni (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Open bottle law exemption provided to persons designated by a licensed alcoholic beverage manufacturer or wholesaler.

HF2838—Tuma (R)
Taxes
Senior owned homestead estimated market value increase prohibited.

HF2839—Seagren (R)
Education
Minnesota Council on Economic Education provided funding for state graduation standards teacher training, and money appropriated.

HF2840—Rhodes (R)
Taxes
Sale of gold and silver coins and bullion sales tax exemption provided.

HF2841—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for vehicles less than seven years old.

HF2842—Tuma (R)
Transportation & Transit
License plate display of illegally obtained tab or stickers prohibited.

HF2843—Rifenberg (R)
Health & Human Services
Southeastern Minnesota Crisis Intervention Project provided funding for developmentally disabled persons in home and community based services, and money appropriated.

HF2844—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Board of Animal Health provided funding for expansion of the bovine paratuberculosis control program, and money appropriated.

HF2845—Folliard (DFL)
Judiciary
Grandparent visitation rights provisions modified, certain visitation rights of parents of custodial parents eliminated, mediation and payment of expenses required, and best interests of the child defined.

HF2846—Mahon (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile insurance premium reduction provided for completion of an accident prevention course.

HF2847—Kraus (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Albert Lea to Myre-Big Island Blazing
Star State Trail extension provided,
bonds issued, and money appropri-
ated.

HF2848—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Diabetes control and prevention ser-
vices funding provided, and money
appropriated.

HF2849—Garcia (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Public employer definition expanded
to include the Legislative Coordinat-
ing Commission.

HF2850—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Harassment statutes clarified and ex-
panded to include faxes and messages.

HF2851—Paulsen (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Beer brewer and wholesaler agree-
ment termination provided.

HF2852—Ness (R)
Education
Hard-to-place employee training pro-
gram proposal developed by the Min-
nesota State Colleges and Universities
in partnership with private industry.

HF2853—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Concurrent incarceration provisions
clarified for separate crimes or be-
havioral incidents, and concurrent
and consecutive sentences specifica-
tion requirements modified.

HF2854—Jefferson (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Science museum east building reno-
vated for the Minnesota Labor Inter-
pretive Center, bonds issued, and
money appropriated.

HF2855—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services
Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Cen-
ter facilities upgrade provided, bonds
issued, and money appropriated.

HF2856—Nornes (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Consolidated Department of Natural
Resources area headquarters con-
structed in Fergus Falls, bonds issued,
and money appropriated.

HF2857—Nornes (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Fergus Falls convention and civic cen-
ter construction provided, bonds is-
sued, and money appropriated.

HF2858—Munger (DFL)
Taxes
Wastewater treatment facilities
biosolid processing equipment sales
tax exemption provided.

HF2859—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance and General
Assistance medical care ambulance
services payments increased.

HF2860—Erickson (R)
Education
Residential academies for at-risk stu-
dents provided program grants, and
money appropriated.

HF2861—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support orders or maintenance
enforcement administrative hearing
procedures modified, and terminol-
ogy modified to agree with court rules.

HF2862—Sykora (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watershed district administrative
fund provisions modified.

HF2863—Hasskamp (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 371 Brainerd
bypass fully grade-separated inter-
change construction required.

HF2864—Broecker (R)
Taxes
Property tax rebate to include rebate
for prepaid taxes.

HF2865—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Nuclear waste; transport of high-level
radioactive waste readiness evalua-
tion and report required.

HF2866—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Departments of children, families,
and learning and economic security
reorganization codified.

HF2867—McGuire (DFL)
Education
Transition year families child care
assistance requirements modified,
and extensions provided.

HF2868—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance, Medicare, and
MinnesotaCare provisions modified,
Medical Assistance elderly waiver pro-
gram modified, nursing facility cost
report procedures modified, and
health maintenance organizations
surcharge offset provided.

HF2869—Delmont (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Administrative expense provisions
modified for various public pension
plans.

HF2870—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care cost information system
provisions modified, filing fee estab-
lished, and money appropriated.

HF2871—Carlson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Interim superintendents earning limi-
tations and annuity payment reduc-
tions exemptions provided.

HF2872—Greiling (DFL)
Education
School district superintendents per-
formance contracts and salary in-
creases authorized.

HF2873—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Transportation and public safety
supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2874—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Education Finance Act of 1992
repealed.

HF2875—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Interagency services for children with
disabilities act adopted.

HF2876—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Surface transportation fund estab-
lished, motor vehicle sales tax per-
centage dedicated, and money
appropriated.

HF2877—Lieder (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Fertile; Agassiz Environmental Learn-
ing Center improvements provided,
bonds issued, and money appropri-
ated.

HF2878—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No.
2609, Win-E-Mac, fund transfer au-
thorized.

HF2879—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Flood-affected school districts aver-
age daily membership modified.

HF2880—Finseth (R)
Judiciary
Private property protection act
adopted.

HF2881—Dawkins (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metro area driver license examina-
tion central reservation system imple-
mented, driver license examiners
increased, and money appropriated.

HF2882—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Full day kindergarten phase-in pro-
vided, first grade preparedness pro-
gram expanded, and money
appropriated.

HF2883—Kubly (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Granite Falls project turnabout ap-
propriated money.

HF2884—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions
modified, and criminal penalties pro-
vided.

HF2885—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County; private sale of sur-
plus state land in Mountain City au-
thorized.

HF2886—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Department of Economic Security
data collection provisions modified.

HF2887—Luther (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Local government correctional
service retirement plan created.

HF2888—Evans (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
New home and home improvement
statutory warranty period doubled.

HF2889—Paymar (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Ramsey County provided funding for
Ford Bridge improvements, bonds
issued, and money appropriated.

HF2890—Tunheim (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Savings association act maintained.

<p>HF2891—Kubly (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Farm tractor clock-hour meter tampering prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties prescribed.</p>	<p>HF2902—Osthoff (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Metropolitan greenways and natural areas established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2912—Juhnke (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Pennock appropriated money for wastewater infrastructure funding, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2923—Evans (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, appropriated money for renovation of Island Lake elementary school.</p>
<p>HF2892—Peterson (DFL) Agriculture Value-added agricultural livestock processing and marketing grant program expanded to include other commodities, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2903—Tomassoni (DFL) Education Regional public library systems appropriated money.</p>	<p>HF2913—Koskinen (DFL) Health & Human Services Home-sharing program appropriated money.</p>	<p>HF2924—Luther (DFL) Governmental Operations State board purchase of tobacco stock prohibited.</p>
<p>HF2893—Jennings (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.</p>	<p>HF2904—Kahn (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade St. Anthony heritage education center appropriated money, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2914—Evans (DFL) Education Health and safety revenue authorized for use in certain new construction relating to schools.</p>	<p>HF2925—Evans (DFL) Judiciary Criminal penalties provided for possession of marijuana plants regardless of weight.</p>
<p>HF2894—Jennings (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limit exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF2905—Juhnke (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Sibley State Park sanitation building appropriated money, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2915—Evans (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, funds usage authorized.</p>	<p>HF2926—Tunheim (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses authorized for state universities.</p>
<p>HF2895—Tomassoni (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Township mutual insurance companies permitted investments expanded.</p>	<p>HF2906—Juhnke (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Prairie Woods residential and environmental learning center appropriated money, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2916—Seifert (R) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Lazarus Creek floodwater retention project construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2927—McCollum (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Ramsey County authorized to purchase from or through health care cooperatives on behalf of Ramsey nursing home.</p>
<p>HF2896—Rukavina (DFL) Health & Human Services Increased incidence of respiratory disease in northeastern and central Minnesota studied, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2907—Wolf (R) Regulated Industries & Energy Replacing public utility capital structure approval with security issuance relating to public utilities, and clarifying definition of a telephone company.</p>	<p>HF2917—Weaver (R) Environment & Natural Resources Anoka County land conveyance authorized.</p>	<p>HF2928—Pugh (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Establishing do-not-call procedures relating to commercial telephone solicitation, and providing penalties.</p>
<p>HF2897—Rukavina (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Union organizations rights and duties established, unfair labor practices provisions expanded, and equal time requirements provided.</p>	<p>HF2908—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations Grants provided for noncommercial television stations, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2918—Jennings (DFL) Health & Human Services Nursing home bed licensure and certification moratorium exception provided.</p>	<p>HF2929—Pugh (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Use of automatic dialing system regulated.</p>
<p>HF2898—Gunther (R) Economic Development & International Trade Economic development supplemental appropriations bill.</p>	<p>HF2909—Jennings (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Contractor's recovery fund provisions modified, and access expanded to include subcontractors.</p>	<p>HF2919—Biernat (DFL) Education Metropolitan Council authorized to contract to transport students in independent school district nos. 625, St. Paul, and 1, Minneapolis.</p>	<p>HF2930—Daggett (R) Taxes Motor vehicle lessor tax and fee exemption provided.</p>
<p>HF2899—Swenson, H. (R) Taxes Road construction or maintenance machinery, equipment, and vehicles purchased or used by political subdivisions provided sales tax exemption.</p>	<p>HF2910—Koskinen (DFL) Transportation & Transit Highway nos. 242 and 10 upgrade provided, money appropriated, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2920—Delmont (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Electronic funds transfer authorized for certain transactions by lawful gambling organizations.</p>	<p>HF2931—Daggett (R) Judiciary Law enforcement agencies authorized to sell forfeited firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories.</p>
<p>HF2900—Krinkie (R) Taxes Income tax rates and brackets modified, property tax reform account repealed, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2911—Seifert (R) Taxes School buses exempted from motor vehicle sales tax.</p>	<p>HF2921—Delmont (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Employee eligible to make sales on behalf of a distributor definition provided, powers and duties specified, and licensure provisions specified.</p>	<p>HF2932—Tomassoni (DFL) Judiciary Life insurance policy proceeds and annuities payable upon death of a spouse exempted from attachment, garnishment, or sale.</p>
<p>HF2901—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary CHIPS; children in need of protective services definition expanded to include certain juvenile petty offenders.</p>		<p>HF2922—Goodno (R) Taxes Sales and use tax exemption provided for the state, its agencies, and political subdivisions, and reporting procedure established.</p>	<p>HF2933—Leighton (DFL) Judiciary State corrections administration, judicial district corrections coordinator, and local corrections advisory</p>

board created, and annual comprehensive plan required.

HF2934—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Taxes

Federal tax conformity provided relating to education expenses.

HF2935—Kielkucki (R)

Agriculture

Commissioner of agriculture granted rulemaking authority in warehouse and grain storage laws.

HF2936—Wolf (R)

Education

Energy conservation account and liquefied petroleum gas account funds transferred to the commissioner of children, families, and learning for low-income energy programs.

HF2937—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Human services programs rate adjustment provided, legislative intent established, and money appropriated.

HF2938—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Case mix scores used to assess persons with mental retardation eliminated, employee rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF2939—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Federally required toxic chemical release reporting state requirements eliminated.

HF2940—Bakk (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

International Wolf Center improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2941—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Teachers Retirement Association part-time teacher provisions modified.

HF2942—Jennings (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Alcohol derived cider subject to taxation.

HF2943—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

Juvenile dispositional residential treatment facility temporary bed moratorium imposed, and out-of-home placements studied.

HF2944—Long (DFL)

Taxes

Internal revenue code references updated.

HF2945—Rest (DFL)

Judiciary

Work reporting and income withholding transmittal time lines modified relating to child support enforcement.

HF2946—Bettermann (R)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Sauk River Watershed District appropriated money for dam improvements.

HF2947—Hilty (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Department of Administration technical corrections bill.

HF2948—Jennings (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2949—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Motor vehicle antifreeze disposal prohibition provisions modified.

HF2950—Chaudhary (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority grant provided for construction of a transit hub in Columbia Heights, and money appropriated.

HF2951—Tomassoni (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

St. Louis County private sale of tax-forfeited peat land authorized.

HF2952—Garcia (DFL)

Local Government

& Metropolitan Affairs

Cities permitted to review Metropolitan Council capital projects for consistency.

HF2953—Otremba, M. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

County grants provided for children's mental health services, and money appropriated.

HF2954—Wagenius (DFL)

Taxes

Metropolitan transit expenditures levy reduced or eliminated with property tax reform account funds.

HF2955—Mares (R)

Education

Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving below the average, and money appropriated.

HF2956—Wejcman (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Board of Podiatric Medicine licensing provisions modified relating to national and regional testing, and technical corrections provided.

HF2957—Erickson (R)

Economic Development & International Trade

Kanabec County Courthouse improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2958—Otremba, M. (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Ottertail County; pioneer public television grant provided for construction of a noncommercial television translator tower, and money appropriated.

HF2959—Kahn (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Fort Snelling international hostel improvements and hazardous material abatement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2960—Stanek (R)

Judiciary

Minnesota State Patrol additional helicopter flight time provided, and money appropriated.

HF2961—McCollum (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Ramsey County grant provided for family service center improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2962—Clark, K. (DFL)

Education

Lead abatement program appropriated money.

HF2963—Clark, K. (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Homeownership zones program established, and money appropriated.

HF2964—Slawik (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2965—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Second set of license plates issued for physically disabled persons.

HF2966—Workman (R)

Transportation & Transit

Truck axle weight limits clarified and regulated.

HF2967—Rifenberg (R)

Education

Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, management assistance study authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2968—Jefferson (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Prevailing wage rate definition modified, terms defined, and construction project truck drivers subject to prevailing rental rates.

HF2969—Entenza (DFL)

Education

Postsecondary state grant student share reduction decreased.

HF2970—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Salary increase provided for judges, and employee and employer contribution rates for certain judges retirement plans modified.

HF2971—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism

& Consumer Affairs

Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.

HF2972—Seifert (R)

Taxes

Student loan interest deduction federal conformity provided.

HF2973—Evans (DFL)

Local Government

& Metropolitan Affairs

Corridor planning pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF2974—Huntley (DFL)

Economic Development

& International Trade

Glensheen Mansion in Duluth improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2975—Kelso (DFL)

General Legislation,

Veterans Affairs & Elections

Vietnam war veterans' bonus additional payments authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2976—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
County state-aids funds transfer to revolving loan account prohibited until gas or vehicle registration tax rates are increased, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2977—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Temporary on-sale liquor license restrictions modified.

HF2978—Olson, E. (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Town consolidation provided.

HF2979—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Telephone company depreciation deregulation conditions established.

HF2980—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Small telephone company telecommunications service competitor service area obligations prescribed.

HF2981—Stang (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle gross weight based licenses written application requirement abolished, and civil penalties provided.

HF2982—Stang (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Lawful gambling organizations lawful purposes definition expanded to include Americans with disabilities act compliance expenditures.

HF2983—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Minnesota residential mortgage originator and servicer licensing act adopted.

HF2984—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
School counselor need assessed, school-to-work pilot programs funded, upward bound programs expanded, postsecondary planning efforts enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF2985—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child welfare reform; certain child abuse information release restricted, citizen review panels established relating to child protection services, and money appropriated.

HF2986—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes
Minnesota Working Family Income Tax Credit calculation assistance required for certain families.

HF2987—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minnesota State Retirement System service credit purchase authorized for a certain person.

HF2988—Smith (R)
Education
School district facilities used for recreation programs provisions modified.

HF2989—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Two and three unit nonhomestead property class rates reduced, class 4bb property target class rate eliminated, and city noncompliance provisions extended.

HF2990—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Welfare programs providing an education choice provisions modified.

HF2991—Long (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF2992—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation services provisions modified.

HF2993—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
Order for protection/minor respondent violations provided criminal penalties, firearm possession prohibited, and harassment restraining order service of notice clarified.

HF2994—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement actuarial cost allocation modified.

HF2995—Orfield (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Advisory council on official publications created.

HF2996—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Rosemount experiment station improvements provided for a Minnesota turf and grounds research and education center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2997—Knoblach (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Water quality standards cost-benefit model study required, and task force created.

HF2998—Westrom (R)
Education
University of Minnesota, Morris campus, improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2999—Molnau (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less exempt from certain temporary liquor license restrictions.

HF3000-HF3088 were not available at press time.



During a Jan. 23 meeting of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) questioned an item in the governor's bonding proposal calling for money for a women's athletic field at the University of Minnesota.

"I think we're going down the wrong track when we assign a men's soccer field or a women's soccer field," Dehler said. "There shouldn't be titles on a men's facility or a women's facility. We do that with bathrooms. 'Is there a difference between a men's soccer field and a women's soccer field?' he asked.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) answered, "It's pink."

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), committee chair, noted for the record that a female had uttered the sarcastic response.

A heavy hitter was on hand Jan. 28 when light rail transit was discussed by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Former Minnesota Viking safety Paul Krause, now a Dakota County commissioner, attended the meeting. He is also a member of the Light Rail Transit Joint Powers Board. Krause played for the Vikings from 1968-1979.

A week earlier, Krause received the highest honor a former National Football League player can get. The league's career leader in interceptions with 81, he was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Morrie Anderson, chancellor of the Minnesota State College and University System, began the Jan. 28 meeting of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee by congratulating the chair.

Anderson told Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), who is rather strict about starting hearings on time, that "House time is much better than Senate time."

"Chancellor," Pelowski said, "I think you'll find the House bills are much better, too."

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

House Calls at **(612) 296-9283**.

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MONDAY, Feb. 2

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget briefings, Penumbra Theater, Public Utilities Commission, Council on Black Minnesotans.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education bonding bill.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Recommendations of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Subcommittee.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Repealing the Labor Day school start limitation.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Extending interim contracts for retired superintendents and principals.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Repealing the cap on superintendent salaries.

Discussion of principles related to education budget categoricals, natural disaster related requests from schools, school district fund transfer requests.

HF772 (Evans) Health and safety revenue program expanded to include indoor air quality, school construction project information requirements modified, indoor air quality task force established, and money appropriated.

K-12 capital bonding recommendations.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources capital budget proposal.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF349 (Kahn) Hemp; industrial hemp classified as an agricultural product, hemp growers license required, and regulatory authority transferred.

HF2382 (Rukavina) Indoor housing facilities temperature rule exemption provided to a certain kennel.

HF2708 (Juhnke) Regulation of contracts between farmers and processors.

HF2798 (Juhnke) Providing certain requirements for compensation to landowners for pipeline easements.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2485 (Rukavina) New snowmobiles required to be equipped with auxiliary light power and switches.

HF2484 (Anderson, I.) All-terrain vehicle operation provisions modified.

HF1690 (Hasskamp) Personal watercraft operation requirements modified.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Consideration of capital budget requests for human services and veteran's nursing homes. Presentation of the governor's supplemental budget. Recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Continuation of any bill not completed at the Jan. 30 meeting.

HF2597 (Skoglund) Indecent exposure while confining or restraining another person deemed a felony, and sex offender registration required.

HF2288 (Mullery) Consecutive sentences allowed when offender commits additional crimes prior to sentencing, and guidelines modified.

HF2702 (Weaver) Expanding the scope of certain felony penalties for the crime of legal process.

HF2679 (Biernat) Expanding the enhancement

of penalties for crimes committed for the benefit of a gang to include crimes that are motivated by involvement with a gang.

HF2305 (Mullery) Gang-related felony crime penalties increased, mandatory minimum sentences provided for witness tampering, and witness and victim protection fund appropriated money. Additional bills will be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Department of Administration continuation of capital requests including those for the Department of Revenue, Department of Transportation and BCA buildings.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Review of Office of Community Services administrative costs, Barbara Yates, assistant commissioner.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: HF2293 (Jefferson) Senate District 58 pilot project created authorizing absentee voting without qualification.

HF2567 (McCollum) Ramsey County open absentee balloting pilot program extension authorized.

HF2277 (Tunheim) Candidates required to obtain written permission from an organization prior to campaign material statements of support for a candidate or ballot question.

HF2338 (Folliard) Gulf War veterans bonus program modified to facilitate eligibility verification.

HFXXXX (Kelso) Authorizing payment of Vietnam veteran bonus.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: SF1074 (Kelly, R.);

HF1693 (Pugh) 911 system and police and fire department public safety dispatchers, essential employees.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF2654 (Mahon) Relating to public safety; allowing personalized license plates to be issued for certain trucks resembling pickup trucks.

HF690 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle compulsory insurance law violation minimum fine imposed.

HF719 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle registration suspension authorized in certain circumstances, and registration provisions modified.

HF2589 (Wagenius) Snowfence easements, high-

way closures, and signs regulated, state transportation plan revised, private carriers regulated, flexible highway account created, town highways and bridges funded, and conveyances to public bodies permitted.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m. or After Session

**Subcommittee on Licensing &
Scope of Practice/
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Linda Wejcman

Agenda: HF668 (Seagren) Industrial hygienist and safety professional title protection act adopted.

HF885 (Greenfield) Physical therapy board established, and license requirement provided.

HF1135 (McCollum) Massage and Oriental bodywork therapist licensure requirement established, and penalties provided.

HF396 (Wejcman) Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and criminal penalties provided.

5:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF1278 (Clark, K.) Financial institution reasonable account fees required.

HF2437 (Mullery) Financial institutions required to provide lifeline savings and checking accounts, and ATM fees and service charges regulated.

HF2721 (Farrell) Financial institutions; regulating fees and charges imposed on account holders and others.

HF2292 (Anderson, I.) ATM; Automated teller machine use fees charged to other banks' customers prohibited.

7 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Agriculture Finance
& Rural Development/
AGRICULTURE**

Creekview Park Neighborhood Center
5001 Irving Ave. N, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chr. Rep. Gary Kubly

Agenda: Local bug infestation; testimony by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, state and local officials and local citizens.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF2214 (Murphy) High school pupils enrolled in postsecondary courses allowed to participate in high school activities, and post-sec-

ondary course grades excluded from pupil's grade point average.

HF2404 (Bakk) Snowmobile safety training provided to K-12 students.

HF2836 (Opatz) Home school students participation in public school extracurricular activities.

HF2276 (Biernat) School districts authorized to require summer school attendance.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Supplemental budget requests for Board of Judicial Standards, Department of Corrections, Ombudsman for Corrections, Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Public Defense Board, Department of Public Safety.

(This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.)

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF2561 (Hausman) Hiawatha, Riverview, Northstar, Cedar, and Northwest transit corridors design and construction authorized, St. Paul to Hastings commuter rail developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

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

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources capital budget proposal.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2303 (Dawkins) Public libraries and multicounty, multitype library systems sales tax exemption provided.

HF2804 (Slawik) Expanding the dependant care credit.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HFXXXX (Kinkel) Department of Administration bill covering the 1997 reorganizational orders pertaining to the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

HF2705 (Kahn) Making the state register available on the Internet.

HF2673 (Rest) Salaries for state employees on disaster leave.

HF800 (McElroy) Legislative capital investment commission established, and duties specified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF885 (Greenfield) Physical therapy board established, and license requirement provided.

HF668 (Seagren) Industrial hygienist and safety professional title protection act adopted.

HF1306 (Hausman) Health plan coverage required for off-label drug use, and advisory council established.

HF2786 (Wejcman) Relating to health professions; modifying provisions relating to speech-language pathologists, unlicensed mental health practitioners, alcohol and drug counselors, and hearing instrument dispensers.

HF2767 (Entenza) Relating to human services; modifying the Data Practices Act.

HFXXXX (Greenfield) Health care cost information systems.

HF2649 (Wejcman) Relating to health; creating an office of health care consumer assistance; advocacy, and information; amending the enrollee complaint system for health maintenance organizations; extending the date of establishing an informal complaint resolution process.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Limited sales license for manufacturing homes.

HF2555 (Rostberg) Low-income persons with chemical sensitivities assisted, and money appropriated.

HF2344 (Clark, K.) Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided, and money appropriated.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: HF2659 (Olson, E.) Technical bill, Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Explanation of assumptions used in capital budget detail sheets, Tom Ulness, Department of Administration.

HFXXXX (Kalis) Unified contingency fund created.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HFXXXX (Tunheim) Relating to mortgages; enacting the Minnesota residential mortgage originator and service licensing act; establishing licensing and enforcement mechanisms; amending 1996 Minnesota Statutes.

HF2757 (Entenza) Relating to commerce; regulating residential mortgage loans; establishing table funding requirements; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 82.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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

Agenda: HF2700 (Harder) Authorizing the formation of a nonprofit corporation by Brown County.

HF2627 (Winter) Appropriating money for regional planning.

HF2610 (Bishop) Rochester authorized to impose permanent sales, use, and excise taxes, proceed expenditures specified, and referendum required.

HF2357 (Wejcman) Age ceiling for new firefighters in Minneapolis eliminated.

HF2566 (Hausman) Commissioner of transportation and the Metropolitan Council required to seek comments of the Light Rail Joint Powers Board on metro transit and transportation issues, and joint board membership and authority expansion provided.

HF2608 (Johnson, A.) Anoka County; bond issuance authorized for library building construction and an annual debt levy retirement.

HF2790 (Jennings) Permitting appointment of the Chisago County recorder.

HF2774 (Kuisle) Clarifying the conduct of certain county elections.

HF2736 (Hilty) Counties; authorizing gifts to certain food distribution organizations.

HF2667 (Rest) Legislative auditor; adding a member to the local government services advisory council.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Providing additional antislamm and disclosure requirements on long-distance service providers.

HFXXXX (Kulby) Minnesota Agri. Power Project/ Cost Recovery and acts of God.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Department of Public Service technical bill.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission regulatory requirement reduction.

Additional bills may be added.

3 p.m.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF2522 (Greiling) K-12 education policy changes and rulemaking.

Additional bills may be added.

4 p.m.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, continuation of capital bonding requests. HF2739 (Trimble) St. Paul indoor tennis center construction grant money provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF2753 (Anderson, B.) Elk River amateur sports hall of fame construction provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF2502 (Rukavina) Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Giants Ridge cross-country ski event facility enhancement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 4

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget Briefings for Centers for Independent Living, Department of Commerce, Department of Public Service.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education bonding bill.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HFXXXX (Opatz) School site accountability.

HFXXXX (Seagren) Education accountability system.

HFXXXX (Jefferson) Education reform and accountability.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF2284 (Kubly) Noncontiguous land classification provisions modified for the purposes of agricultural homestead determination.

HF2322 (Sviggum) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

HF2509 (Johnson, A.) Metropolitan special taxing districts budget and levy public hearing dates modified.

HF2591 (Rifenberg) Vacant platted property assessment provided.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF2074 (Jaros) Duluth Hartley Nature Center improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF2075 (Munger) Duluth Lake Superior Zoo improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2367 (Rukivina) Mountain Iron and Virginia flood projects provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2368 (Rukivina) St. Louis County; Fayal sewer system provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2408 (Sekhon) Anoka County; Linwood Township surface water drainage system provided, and money appropriated.

HF2361 (Sekhon) Anoka County; Linwood Township surface water drainage system provided, and money appropriated. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2515 (Bakk) Minnesota Forest Resources Council membership expanded to include a representative from the Indian Affairs Council.

HF2231 (Tuma) BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF2418 (Rukavina) BWCA; permanent school fund funded through Boundary Waters Canoe Area campsite fees.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF2748 (Tomassoni) Relating to families; establishing the Minnesota family asset initiative for education, housing and economic development.

Additional bills may be added.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of presentation of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HFXXXX (Biernat) Failure to appear after release penalty increased; failure to honor subpoena made a crime of being accomplice after the fact.

HF2409 (Stanek) Procedures for compelling material witness attendance at hearings provided.

HF2806 (Slawik) Requiring individuals convicted of felony indecent exposure to register as predatory offenders.

HF2734 (Bishop) Registration of sexual offenders; requiring certain offenders moving into Minnesota to register within five days; authorizing adult and juvenile offender registration information to be maintained together; expanding prosecutorial jurisdiction.

Additional bills will be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Assembly of bonding recommendations to Capital Investment Committee. If necessary, this meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

12 noon

Governor's State of the State Address.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF2390 (Pugh) Real and personal property conveyances and transactions regulated, and technical changes provided to the uniform partnership act.

HF2233 (Clark, K.) Landlords not required to store tenant's personal property after abandonment or eviction.

HF2363 (Clark, K.) Abandoned property five-week mortgage redemption period clarified relating to trespassers.

HF2439 (Mullery) Nuisance cases and tenant remedies provided.

HF2530 (Wejcman) Putative father's adoption registry provisions modified.

HF2590 (Jennings) Security deposit interest rates provided.

HF2779 (Chaudhary) Housing for the elderly definition modified.

HFXXXX (Chaudhary) Modifying the required contents of petitions seeking judicial review of driver's license revocations and petitions seeking expungement orders.

1 p.m. or Immediately Following
Governor's Speech

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF2678 (Gunther) Department of Trade and Economic Development housekeeping bill. HFXXXX (Huntley) Providing for on the job training in skilled trades and money appropriated.

HF2339 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.

HF2282 (Clark, K.) Individual development account demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

Family & Early Childhood Education

Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF2560 (Luther) Local government facility grants provided for regular enrichment activities during nonschool hours, and money appropriated.

HF2752 (Jefferson) Neighborhood center bonding.

HF2465 (Clark, K.) Authorizing spending to acquire and to better public land and buildings and other public improvements of a capital nature; providing for early childhood learning facilities; authorizing issuance of bonds; appropriating money.

Time and Room to be Announced

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Transportation bonding bill.

Additional bills may be added.

3:30 p.m. or After DFL Caucus

Higher Education

Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education bonding bill.

4 p.m.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Transportation bonding bill.

Additional bills may be added.

THURSDAY, Feb. 5

8 a.m.

Economic Development

Finance Division/

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2287 (Mullery) Youth intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2456 (Clark, K.) Appropriating money for the Youthbuild program.

HF2454 (Trimble) Appropriating money for the 50th Conference of the Interstate Indian Council.

HF2648 (Tomassoni) Relating to appropriations, appropriating money for the taconite mining grant program.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Bonding recommendations from finance divisions.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Minnesota Center for Crime Victim's Services: Introduction, governor's executive order, budget request, plan for the future, roundtable disposition, testimony. This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Metro greenways, trail connections, parks bonding request.

Additional bills may be added.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2322 (Sviggum) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF2502 (Rukavina) Bonding recommendations of the State Government Finance Division.

Continuation of Feb. 3 agenda if necessary.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF2723 (Entenza) Child welfare, Department of Human Services.

HFXXXX (Greenfield) Relating to human services; changing provisions in Medical Assistance, Medicare, and MinnesotaCare; Department of Human Services.

Additional bills may be added.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HFXXXX (Long) Preservation of federally assisted housing.

12:25 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Tour of University of Minnesota capital projects. (University of Minnesota bus will be departing from in front of the State Office Building at 12:25 p.m.)

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF2706 (Kahn) Relating to commerce; providing for the reliability of electronic mes-

sages; providing for certification authorities; providing licensing and enforcement powers; defining terms; providing rulemaking; amending Minnesota Statutes 1997 Supplement. HF2221 (Entenza) Service station business operating hours regulated, and motor fuel retailer fuel purchase options provided.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HF2588 (Orfield) County commissioners to serve as metropolitan council members, candidate and member economic interest statements regulated, contributions to candidates regulated, and study required.
HF2809 (McElroy) Requiring copies of audited financial statements to be provided to elected officials.
HF2824 (Pugh) Clarifying the employment status of certain employees in Dakota County.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Relating to telecommunications; requiring competitive local exchange carriers to provide service to all consumer classes.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Requiring parties to a telephone or telecommunications proceeding of the Public Utilities Commission or Department of Public Service to pay costs.
Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

1/2 Hour After Session

Subcommittee on Government Efficiency & Oversight/ ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Betty McCollum
Agenda: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, continuation meeting regarding fee.

3:30 p.m. or After Session

Subcommittee on Data Practices/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: To be announced.

4 p.m. or After Session

Subcommittee on Gaming/ REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: Gaming bills to be announced.

Subcommittee on Health Care Access/ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Huntley
Agenda: HF875 (Tunheim) Health plan enrollee health care services provider choice required.
HF2664 (Delmont) Relating to health; clarifying the equal access requirements on health plan companies.

FRIDAY, Feb. 6

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: University of Minnesota supplemental budget request.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF2763 (Wagenius) Expanding all-day kindergarten.
HF2483 (Jefferson) Driver safety education pilot program for students established, and money appropriated.
HF2252 (Olson, M.) Statewide educational testing grant program established, and money appropriated.
HF2613 (Luther) Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, levy authorized to fund instructional services for at-risk children.
HF2614 (Luther) School district low-income concentration levy program established.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: HF2270 (Winter) Air ambulance registration exemption provided.
HF2612 (Jennings) Trunk Highway No. 95 designated as State Trooper Timothy J. Bowe memorial highway.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: To be announced.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of presentation of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HFXXXX (Skoglund) Expanding the stalking and harassment law to include certain types of harassment committed against a peace officer in retaliation for the officer's performance of official duties in connection with a criminal investigation.
HFXXXX (Biernat) Authorizing state correctional investigators to use force to apprehend fugitives from state prison.
HF2285 (Skoglund) Firearms offenses provided increased minimum sentences.
Discussion of Judiciary Finance Division's bonding recommendations.
Additional bills to be announced.

10:30 a.m.

Subcommittee on Agriculture Finance & Rural Development/ AGRICULTURE

Ledeboer Hog Farm
Prinsburg, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Gary Kubly
Agenda: Tour of hog farm, discussion of feedlot issues. (Van leaving the East doors of State Office Building at 8:30 a.m. Expected to return to Capitol by 3:30 p.m.)

Legislative Audit Commission

118 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener
Agenda: Review of the program evaluation report on transit services.

12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

1 p.m.

Regent Candidate Advisory Council

400N State Office Building
Agenda: Report on status and plans of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, William E. Hogan, II, chair, Board of Regents. Discussion of regent candidate recruitment strategies in 1998, Nedra Wicks. Discussion of RCAC document revisions for 1998-99.

2 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

112 Capitol Building
Chr. Sen. Steven Morse
Agenda: To be announced.

'Cyber-employment' in Minnesota

It's a fact!

Minnesota is the "cyber-employment" leader in its seven-state region, and the state's high-tech workers earn about 50 percent more than their

lower-tech counterparts, according to a recent report by the American Electronics Association.

But that's not to say that high-tech workers in Minnesota are on top of the employment barrel: The same report shows that the wages earned by the state's high-tech employees ranked only 22nd in the nation.

The report by the country's largest high-tech trade association tracks the industry's rates of employment, salaries, and exports by state from 1990 to 1995 by using federal labor statistics.

According to the report, 55 of every 1,000 private-sector employees in the Minnesota were working in a high-tech field in 1995. Only five states had a higher ratio (California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey).

While Minnesota's total population is 20th nationwide, the state came in 13th for the number of workers employed by high-tech firms.

Computer developing, manufacturing, and servicing accounted for almost one-half of Minnesota's 109,000 high-tech jobs in 1995, while the others were mostly in telecommunications, industrial electronics, and electronic-component manufacturing for companies such as Honeywell and 3M.

On average, Minnesota high-tech workers earned \$42,618 in 1995 — far more than the statewide average salary of \$27,050. But in several other states, salaries for high-tech workers compared even more favorably with wages for the rest of the workforce, leaving the Minnesota with a rank of 22nd for high-tech salaries.

However, Minnesota did rank high — 13th — for its amount of high-tech exports. In 1995, a full 53 percent of the state's total exports were defined as high-tech. That amounted to \$4.6 billion in exports.

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Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Date

Oct. 1, 1997

LeClair G. Lambert

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List as of January 28, 1998

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
45A Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934		37B Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926	
19B Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063		40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158	
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936		55A Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363	
6A Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	575	2190		65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714	
10B Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317		57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135	
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219		55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188	
30B Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573		36B McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212	
25B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237		54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342	
30A Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249		39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192	
53B Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153		35A Molnau, Carol L. (R)	287	8872	
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255		21B Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336	
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709		58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262	
52A Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331		7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282	
23A Clark, James (R)	211	9303		8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676	
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294		20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344	
38A Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533		10A Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946	
11A Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293		2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265	
31B Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278		19A Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237	
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158		16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612	
14A Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808		60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281	
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226		29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236	
29A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635		66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224	
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248		11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	545	3201	
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799		37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306	
42A Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363		42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449	
17A Erickson, Sondra (R)	247	6746		38B Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128	
52B Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141		64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199	
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277		32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637	
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918		13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228	
44A Folliard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964		39A Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	583	6828	
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	417	5375		46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176	
9A Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515		28A Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368	
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173		44B Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889	
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387		32B Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069	
26A Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240		18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364	
48A Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513		5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170	
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373		17B Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	517	5377	
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333		41A Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803	
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824		21A Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374	
8B Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308		50A Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439	
56A Holsten, Mark (R)	345	3018		4A Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516	
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228		62B Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330	
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246		57A Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807	
58B Jefferson, Richard (DFL)	577	8659		34A Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188	
18B Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	591	0518		3B Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	445	2365	
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510		33B Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502	
24B Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065		14B Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373	
15A Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206		28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	267	2273	
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257		23B Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634	
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240		43B Sykora, Barb (R)	389	4315	
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072		50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369	
20B Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534		5B Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	593	0172	
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)	537	2451		36A Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506	
40B Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218		67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201	
16B Knoblach, Jim (R)	207	6316		25A Tuma, John (R)	301	4229	
49B Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231		1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635	
27A Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216		34B Van Dellen, Todd (R)	291	5511	
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	303	2907		51B Vandever, Ray (R)	255	4124	
15B Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346		63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200	
31A Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378		49A Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729	
56B Larsen, Peg (R)	307	4244		61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	407	7152	
27B Leighton, Rob (DFL)	527	4193		12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247	
45B Leppik, Peggy (R)	393	7026		9B Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	225	6829	
2A Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	515	5091		13A Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929	
33A Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806		22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505	
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171		41B Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185	
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751		43A Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066	

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Higher education in Minnesota

Total enrollment in Minnesota public and private universities and community and technical colleges, 1996	242,000
in 1990	258,000
in 1986	215,000
Percent of Minnesota high school graduates who attend a postsecondary institution within one year	71
Annual tuition at state universities, 1997	\$2,852
in 1982	\$1,350
Annual tuition at U of M's College of Liberal Arts, 1997	\$4,549
in 1982	\$2,128
Minnesota's 1997 spending on higher education, in billions	\$1.1
Percent of state budget	12
Percent of 1997 state higher education funds that went for instruction	66
Per capita state and local spending for higher education in Minnesota, 1995	\$181
U.S. average	\$148
Minnesota's rank among states	14
Percent of instructional costs at Minnesota public postsecondary institutions paid by students, 1994	37
in 1982	26
Institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system	37
Number of two-year colleges	29
Number of state universities	7
MnSCU-operated campuses in Akita, Japan	1
Enrollment at all MnSCU campuses, fall 1996	145,000
Enrollment at all U of M campuses, fall 1996	48,690
Additional enrollment in extension classes, fall 1996	18,522
International students enrolled at U of M, fall 1996	2,751
Countries represented	126
Undergraduates as percentage of total enrollment at state universities, 1996	92
Undergraduates as percentage of total enrollment at the U of M, 1996	73
Undergraduates as percentage of total enrollment at Minnesota private colleges, 1996	76

Sources: *Annual Report, 1997*, University of Minnesota; *Higher Education Enrollments: Current Conditions and Recent Trends, 1998*, House Research Department; *Degrees of Excellence: Higher Education in Minnesota, 1997*, Minnesota Planning.

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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 6, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 3

Reflections

The governor's State of the State message to state officials and lawmakers is one of the many governmental duties guided by the tradition of protocol.

In Minnesota's bicameral Legislature, the constitutionally mandated "... message to each session of the Legislature ..." becomes a joint meeting of 201 members, with both the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate presiding. The governor, other constitutional officers, and judges are invited guests.

Protocol dictates that on the day of the governor's speech, around 11:45 a.m., senators, led by their chief sergeant-at-arms, and other officials are escorted to the House chamber by designated legislators and by representatives of the military.

The House chief sergeant-at-arms announces each arrival, then is given permission by the speaker for the guests to enter the chamber. The governor is the last dignitary to enter, and begins the message promptly at noon.

Gov. Henry H. Sibley, the state's first chief executive, and the six governors who served over the next 21 years gave an annual address during each year of their two-year terms in office. Legislators met on an annual basis. From 1881 to 1971, the Legislature met biennially, so the governor gave only a biennial report of progress in the state. Since 1973, the governor has once again reported annually to the legislators who meet each year of a two-year session.

In 1969, Gov. Harold LeVander added "State of the State" as the name of the official report to Minnesotans.

For 140 years, most governors' messages or inaugural addresses have been given in the legislative chambers under protocol. But Gov. Rudy Perpich, in 1983, delivered a separate inaugural address at Hibbing High School.

Likewise, in 1988, he had legislators and other officials load onto four buses at the Capitol, and travel 110 miles away for an evening State of the State speech at Winona State University.

In 1990, Perpich's last message occurred at Bloomington Jefferson High School. His speech did not focus on the state's condition, the budget, or even revenue forecasts. The 15-minute message focused on building a drug-free environment. Again breaking protocol, the address was written by David Carr, a free-lance writer and recovering cocaine addict.

Gov. Arne Carlson made his final State of the State address on Feb. 4 in the House chamber (*See related story, page 17*) but his 1996 message was given to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce at a hotel miles from the Capitol in the near southwest suburbs. A different audience. And for the first time, State of the State guests ate dinner and paid \$60 per person for chamber members and \$80 for nonmembers.

Carlson's final message to the state this week was given to a more traditional audience of legislators, state officials, school groups, and the general public.

Once again, protocol prevails.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Evergreen needles covered with frost add a glittery softness to the Capitol grounds.

—Photo by Laura Phillips

First Reading

Noise on the lakes . . .

Proposed personal watercraft restrictions resurface

By Nicole Wood

The Land of 10,000 Lakes is being overrun by 27,000 personal watercraft (PWC) operators, according to supporters of a bill that would strictly limit use of the increasingly popular watercraft.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) is sponsoring the bill, which she has dubbed the personal watercraft safety and courtesy act.

Lakeshore property owners, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), PWC manufacturers, watersport enthusiasts, and others brought their disparate opinions on personal watercraft to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 2.

"In a democracy, it is unacceptable that such a small and noisy minority have such a negative impact on others," Jeff Brown, of Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation, told the panel.

Proponents of the bill said that the foremost problem with PWCs is the noise.

Dr. Peter Army, who has lived on Turtle Lake in Shoreview since 1953, said he has stopped fishing because of the PWC noise which he described as analogous to swarming bees.

"It's incessant. It drives you inside," he said. "People who use them should think about how they invade other people's privacy."

Supporters of **HF1690** also accused PWC operators of reckless disregard for boaters, swimmers, and wildlife.

Helen Wilkie, representing Polaris Industries, a Minnesota manufacturer of snowmobiles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and personal watercraft, gave the industry's response to the proposed legislation.

Wilkie said the real problem is a lack of enforcement of existing laws.

"Polaris is doing what [it] can to support

Bombardier of Canada — "a major player in the industry" — has introduced a PWC that reduces noise by 50 percent, Wilkie said, and the rest of the industry is close on Bombardier's heels.

Wilkie said while Polaris supports "user-friendly" education and an age requirement, they do not agree with the proposed ban on lakes up to 200 acres.

"Should people who are fortunate enough to own lakeshore property have the ability to ban something on public waters simply because they don't like it?" she asked.

Well-known Twin Cities businessman Irwin Jacobs was among those who stepped up to testify in favor of the bill. Jacobs is the chair of Genmar Holdings Inc., a manufacturer of several boat lines including Lund, Larson, and Crestliner.

He has recently withdrawn his membership from the National Marine Manufacturers Association in protest against industry support of personal watercraft.

Jacobs said he believes PWCs are bad for the boating industry. In fact, he said, they shouldn't be considered boats in the first place.

Some on the panel questioned his motives. "There's no question I have a lot invested in the boat business," he said. "I don't need any help for my business. I believe in free enterprise."

Jacobs, who lives on Lake Minnetonka, said he has witnessed the personal watercraft problem firsthand while cruising the lake on his pontoon boat.

"They don't stay within the buoys, and they zig and they zag," he said. "If they claim to be boats, why don't they act like boats?"

U.S. Coast Guard figures show that while PWCs make up 5 percent of the watercraft, they cause 37 percent of the accidents, Jacobs said.

"It's not about the safe and friendly users," he said. "It's about the abusers."

Scott Hough, of Plymouth, said that although he is a safe and courteous rider, he, too, supports the bill.

"A lake is a neighborhood," he said. "How can you as a good neighbor not have liability insurance?"

Armed with a videotape of a PWC buzzing incessantly in front of her lake home, Kathy

Continued on next page



Personal watercraft, which critics describe as noisy and disruptive, would be banned from many Minnesota lakes, under a bill advancing in the House.

The bill (**HF1690**) is Hasskamp's second attempt in as many years to "accommodate the reasonable rider and give everyone else some relief," she said. The committee approved the bill.

Among the provisions in the bill are a ban on all personal watercraft from lakes of 200 acres or less in size, mandatory certification and liability insurance, an increase in the minimum operator's age from 13 to 16, an expanded no-wake zone, and reduced hours for full-throttle operation.

law enforcement," she said, "but chasing loons and high speeds are already illegal."

Wilkie compared the current PWC situation to the introduction of snowmobiles in the 1960s.

"Controversy and conflict always surround the introduction of new and innovative products," she said.

Wilkie did admit that noise is a problem. She said Polaris has updated their engines and mufflers and is working on sound-deadening materials.



Irwin Jacobs, owner of a company that produces several lines of boats, testifies Feb. 2 in support of a bill that would limit the use of personal watercraft on Minnesota lakes.

Continued from page 3

Blunt of Nisswa said her neighborhood went downhill with the arrival of the machines.

Seeking privacy and tranquillity, Blunt and her husband moved north from the Twin Cities three years ago. They spent their first summer on their 153-acre lake watching loons, ducks, eagles, and osprey, she said, and then the PWCs arrived.

Now her sandy shorefront has turned to muck, she said, and there is only one pair of loons left.

"The wildlife activity changed dramatically when the louder, faster, more erratic watercraft arrived," she said.

Blunt explained that although a ban on lakes up to 200 acres in size would remove 87 percent of Minnesota's lakes from PWC use, the remaining 13 percent of the lakes have enormous amounts of water surface area.

Pam Perry, a wildlife biologist with the DNR in Brainerd, said she is deeply concerned about the effects of personal watercraft on wildlife and loons.

The bill would mandate a DNR study on the impact of PWCs on loons and loon nesting areas. Loons prefer to nest in shallow water close to shore where traditional boats can't go, Perry said.

"Now we have a recreational vehicle that

Continued on page 18



As governor's chief of staff, Omann recalls youthful impact

By Jim Thielman

At one time, he was the new kid (almost literally) on the block. But Bernie Omann, now Gov. Arne Carlson's chief of staff, doesn't recall being treated like a college kid when he stepped into the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1986.

Omann was a student at St. Cloud State University when he won a special election to replace his father, Ben, who died at the beginning of his 1986 term.

"The nice thing was," Omann recalls, "I was 22, and my vote mattered as much as someone who was 60 or 70. In '86, there weren't as many younger legislators as there are now. As I recall, the closest one to me in age was in [his] early 30s. But people dealt with me as just a member."

This 80th Legislative Session features plenty of young representatives. Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is 23, Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) is 24, and there are others in their 20s and early 30s. But Omann was peerless when he began his six years in the House Republican Caucus.

Omann recalls his age quickly took a back seat to knowledge when he entered the House.

"In the committee process, it doesn't take legislators long to decide who studies the issues," Omann says. "And whether you're 60 or 25, no one comes into it who doesn't have something to learn."

"I don't know what it would be like to go back now, being a little bit older, but I never felt being younger was a hindrance. One thing that people who are young bring is a different perspective, and people appreciate a different perspective."

As Carlson's chief of staff, Omann has worked to move legislators toward passing a bill that would call for construction of a new baseball stadium in the metropolitan area. He said one fond memory from his House days was working to get a provision in a bonding bill for the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud.

At the time, St. Cloud State was a Division

III hockey program. But the team boasted former Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks at its helm, and the intent from the start was to get St. Cloud into Division I, the most competitive level of intercollegiate play.

The \$9.5 million arena was plagued by financial problems, and like the stadium topic Omann recalls, "it was a controversial issue in the district I represented. But look at it now: No way St. Cloud would be Division I without it."

Omann still resides near Sartell, Minn., which is north of St. Cloud.

In 1992 and 1994, Omann challenged DFLer Collin Peterson for the 7th Congressional District seat. Omann lost by scant percentage points each time.

In 1993 and 1994, he was assistant state commissioner of agriculture. In that capacity during the flood of '93, Omann was



Bernie Omann, Gov. Arne Carlson's chief of staff, talks with members of the press after a recent news conference announcing a new proposal for an open-air stadium for the Twins.

known for helping coordinate Carlson's many trips and meetings related to the issue. Omann's intimate knowledge of rural issues was also considered to be a plus in the agriculture department role.

He became Carlson's special assistant in 1994 and was named the chief of staff in May 1997. At 32, Omann is one of the younger chiefs of staff to serve a governor.

With Carlson overseeing his final legislative session, Omann will soon have to mull his options for the future.

"At this time, I just want to help the governor get his proposals through the Legislature and help implement his vision," Omann said. "I haven't spent a great deal of time looking to get outside of the political arena." 🐾

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Studying industrial hemp

A bill that would call for a study of industrial hemp and its uses was approved by the House Agriculture Committee Feb. 2.

The bill (**HF349**), sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), passed on a 9-7 vote. It attracted controversy because hemp is in the same family as marijuana, an illegal controlled substance in the United States since 1937.

Both plants carry the scientific classification of *cannabis sativa*, but they are different, according to information supplied to the committee by the North American Industrial Hemp Council.

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the intoxicating drug in both marijuana and hemp. Marijuana contains 3 percent to 20 percent THC, while hemp contains .05 percent to 1 percent THC. In the latter case, 10-12 "joints" would have to be smoked in a short time to get high, according to the council. And that amount of smoke and gas would be hard for anyone to take, the council claims.

Proponents say industrial hemp can be made into paper which can be recycled more often than wood-derived paper, and that hemp can be used for clothing, fiber board, twine, bird seed, and oil. The finished product has no THC in it.

The uses for Minnesota farmers are obvious, according to Tom Cochrane, executive director of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council.

"Anytime we are able to provide an alternative crop with so many advantages, it's a good choice. If we don't find a way to study it, I think we're being remiss in working with our [farmers]," he said. "With the ability we have to improve a product that has as much potential as this, it would be a crying shame if we didn't find a way to use this."

The House considered the bill last year, but the measure did not come up for a vote on the House floor. A similar measure passed the Senate in 1997.

Hemp, which is grown in Canada and 25 other countries, has been a topic of discussion in several states.

But Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said she has problems with even doing a study.

"I don't see why we're studying a lose-lose

[situation]," she said. "This, to me, is nothing but a way to legalize an illegal drug."

Some also expressed concerns that marijuana plants could be hidden in a hemp field, but Kahn said hemp usually crowds out the marijuana plant and makes it hard for it to grow.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) encouraged her colleagues to support the bill.

"I don't drink, I don't smoke, and I didn't even pretend to inhale in college. And I'm familiar with [agricultural] technology," she said.

Mike Campion, assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (MBCA), testified against the bill, saying there would be opposition from the law enforcement community.

The bill would direct the University of Minnesota, working with the Department of Agriculture and the MBCA, to study issues related to industrial hemp production.

The bill now moves to the floor.



BANKING

Eliminating ATM surcharges

Despite opposition from the banking industry and several lawmakers, a bill that would eliminate some surcharges on Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) was narrowly approved Feb. 2 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The bill (**HF2292**), sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would prevent banks that own more than four ATMs from assessing a surcharge for use of the machines.

An earlier version of the bill would have applied to banks that own more than two machines, but Anderson offered an amendment to address concerns about how the bill would affect smaller banks.

ATM users are usually hit with two fees for each transaction. One fee is assessed by their bank; the other is assessed by the bank that owns the machine. Anderson's bill would address only the latter fee, which usually comes in the form of a charge at the time of the transaction at an ATM not owned by the customer's bank network.

Customers then often find a separate fee assessed at the end of the month on their bank

statement. That fee would be unaffected by the bill.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), who was among the bill's critics on the committee, said the measure — even with Anderson's amendment — would hurt small banks.

"Changing the threshold from two to four doesn't change that," Van Dellen said. "It seemed pretty clear the small community banks did depend on their ability to make contracts with larger banks."

"If you want to vote for the bill, you think you know better than the private economy. I know we regulate banks, but we don't need to regulate this. It's a choice that our constituents want."

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) was on the opposite side of the debate.

"I think this is an important piece of legislation," Mariani said. "Bank services are critical . . . for citizens to be able to function in society. I think it responds directly to what citizens demand of their government."

The bill now moves to the House floor.



CHILDREN

Child protection system

Why did the system fail to protect Desi Irving? That question has plagued people working in the child protection system since the child's tragic death in February 1997.

"We still don't know what happened to Desi Irving," Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said at a House Judiciary Committee meeting Jan. 30. "We have families that are crying out for help and assistance who are not getting help and assistance."

Entenza is sponsoring a bill (**HF2985**) that would provide comprehensive changes to Minnesota's child protection system. The bill has received approval from the Judiciary Committee and is currently being reviewed by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Last year, Mildred Irving plead guilty to second-degree murder in her three-year-old daughter's death. She admitted to the court that she repeatedly hit Desi with an extension cord, broke one of Desi's arms, and punched her in the abdomen so hard that her liver was lacerated. The autopsy results showed that Desi had suffered numerous broken bones,

had cigarette burns and many other scars, and had been suffering from malnutrition before her death.

The brutality of Desi's death was accented by the fact that evidence shows that the Irving family had been in contact with Hennepin County's child protection services.

Legislators sought to make sure that children like Desi were protected in the future. Attempts to bring Hennepin County caseworkers to testify before the Legislature during the interim failed due to data privacy issues. Caseworkers expressed a desire to disclose the facts of the case. However, they feared losing their jobs if they broke the data privacy law.

Last year, legislation that would have opened the child protection cases in the courts to public scrutiny passed both bodies of the Legislature, but differences could not be worked out in conference committee in time for the end of session.

However, the Minnesota Supreme Court has instituted a pilot project starting in June to open court hearings in such cases.

In January 1998, the legislative auditor released an evaluation of the state's child protection system. The auditor found that services varied greatly from county to county and that no external oversight exists to monitor the actions in these cases. The auditor suggested numerous approaches to reforming the current state of the system.

Entenza's bill incorporates many of the suggestions, along with changes recently mandated by federal law. **HF2985** would create a more uniform statewide system and attempt to provide a sufficient level of oversight to make sure that the cases are handled effectively. The bill also seeks to place children more quickly into permanent living situations, either with a parent or another alternative home.

In addition, the bill would require that the Department of Human Services design a statewide child protective services plan with input from the county-administered programs. And the bill would appropriate \$30 million to the department for child welfare initiatives.

Diane Benjamin, of the Children's Defense Fund, testified in support of the bill before Judiciary Committee. She said that this approach will resolve some of the issues in the state's child protective system.

"In the past, we have been working in the margins in these situations," Benjamin said, "and we are excited about this legislation because we think it takes a big step forward."

HF2985 now is on its way to the Health and Human Services Finance Division.



CONSUMERS

Money up front

Real estate deals are seldom sealed by a handshake these days. In a time of mortgage company failures, it's best to get the money up front, according to Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul).

"Some people have walked away from the title transfer with no money," he said, during a Feb. 2 hearing before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Although this has never happened to anyone in Minnesota, Entenza said, his bill (**HF2972**) would ensure that "qualified" loan funds are always available at the closing of a residential real estate deal. The committee approved the measure.

"Qualified" is clearly defined in the bill. Some types of qualified funds include cash in the form of U.S. currency, cashier's checks or bank money orders issued by a federally insured financial institution, and U.S. treasury checks.

Martin Henschel, from the title arm of Edina Realty, said he supports the bill because his company has had a few situations where the loan money did not come in for several weeks after closing a sale.

Curtis Loewe, of the attorney general's office, said more than 10 states have adopted "good money" legislation to guarantee the money is available at closing.

"When people go to a closing, they expect

everything to be done," he said. "All this bill would do is ensure good funds."

The bill now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Home mortgage services

Shopping for a home mortgage can be risky and confusing. Consumers often assume they are dealing with a bank whose activities are heavily regulated when, in fact, their lender or broker may be an unknown player in the residential mortgage industry.

Should anything go wrong during the process, the consumer is left without any recourse except, perhaps, an appeal to the attorney general's office.

A bill (**HF2983**) sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) would license and regulate companies that perform residential mortgage services in Minnesota.

With the support of the Department of Commerce, the attorney general's office, and the Minnesota Real Estate Services Association, **HF2983** was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 2.

The bill also would establish an industry-wide code of conduct against infractions such as misrepresentation of services, misleading statements, or deceptive advertising. The standards of conduct would apply even if the business, such as a bank or credit union that is already regulated, was exempt from licensing.

Tunheim said that more than 40 states have

Music appreciation



Eiji Oue, music director of the Minnesota Orchestra, concentrates on a piece performed by Sarah Kwak, first associate concertmaster, left, and Vali Phillips, principal second violin, Feb. 5 in the House chamber.

already adopted regulatory programs that address residential mortgage transactions.

"Clear standards of conduct which apply to all residential mortgage originations will provide a level playing field within the industry as well as offer protection to consumers," he said.

The bill now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.



CRIME

Court-ordered appearances

The second time was a charm for a bill that would make it easier for prosecutors to compel offenders and witnesses to appear in court.

HF3051, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), would increase penalties for individuals who defy a court subpoena to appear in relation to a violent crime.

The bill stalled on a tie vote the first time it came up in the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 4. Later, during the same meeting, Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) moved that the bill be reconsidered, and after a clarification, the bill was approved.

The bill creates a five-year felony penalty for knowingly and willfully violating a court-ordered appearance in relation to a crime of violence. The bill also requires that the action must be intended to obstruct the criminal justice process.

Mike Freeman, Hennepin County attorney, testified in support of the bill. He said that the bill is necessary to make sure that criminal trials are not impeded.

"This is an attempt to provide some additional inducements so that people show up," Freeman said.

Michael Jones, of the Communities of Color Institute, told the committee that he had reservations about the bill. He said that he fears the bill would be used to compel people who fear retaliation to testify.

Jones described what happened when he once witnessed a murder at a bar in Minneapolis. He said that he was put in the back of a squad car where everyone could see that he was a witness, and although he wanted to see justice done, he felt very uncomfortable in the situation.

"When it dawned on me, I got scared. And this is real," Jones said. "Because I have kids and they need a dad — someone who will be around for the next 60 years or so."

Jones said everyone who lives in a community plagued by violence wants to see justice done. He said that some protection needs to be put in place to make sure that witnesses feel safe in the justice system.

"Quite frankly, if it's bad enough and I feel threatened, I'm out of the state, and justice is not done," Jones said. "Even parents tell their kids in some situations, 'Don't talk. You're putting your family at risk'"

The bill is set to be included in the omnibus crime bill to be assembled this session.

Obstructing police officers

A bill that would toughen penalties for obstructing police officers was debated Feb. 2 by the House Judiciary Committee.

HF2702 is sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), who said the bill is in response to a situation that occurred in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Officer David Westberg, of the Coon Rapids Police Department, told the committee that he and other officers were trying to remove some disorderly individuals from a motel in late 1997. He said that the situation came to a point where arrests became necessary. As the officers were attempting to remove disorderly individuals, others began to verbally confront and "chest butt" the officers.

And, Westberg said, the situation soon got worse. Five arrests had to be made, two officers suffered broken bones, and one officer suffered a heart attack.

Under current law, individuals must act with the knowledge that their action creates a risk of death or substantial bodily harm to be charged with felony obstruction, which is punishable by up to five years in prison. Weaver's bill would remove that requirement, making it easier to prosecute people who obstruct police officers.

Paul Young, assistant attorney with Anoka County, testified in support of Weaver's bill. He said the current law for obstruction of the legal process is too restrictive.

If punches had been thrown by the individuals in the Coon Rapids case, they could have been charged with fourth-degree assault, according to Young. However, in this specific incident punches were never thrown.

"The dilemma I had was trying to find a crime that this action fit into," Young said. "We have to show the intent to commit the harm, and it's an unfair burden for officers to prove and for prosecutors to establish."

The committee took no action on the bill. It is expected to be discussed again this session.

Gang-related crimes

The House Judiciary Committee approved two bills Feb. 2 that would increase penalties on illegal activities done for the benefit of a gang.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring legislation that would increase the penalties for witness tampering — a problem often associated with gang cases.

HF2305 adds witness tampering to the list of crimes requiring a minimum prison sentence.

David Steinkamp, assistant attorney general assigned to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, told the committee of a situation where a witness was stopped on the street by a carload of suspected gang members. She was told she had better not go to court, and when she looked in the car she saw that the driver had a gun. The gun was never pointed at her, but the threat was implicit, he said.

Mullery's bill also would add witness tampering to the list of eligible crimes which can define an organization as a criminal gang.

"[Witness tampering] is the bread and butter of gang activity," Steinkamp said. "When you add witness tampering, you increase the parameter as to what counts as a gang and that is very helpful."

Dakota County Attorney Jim Backstrom told the committee that increasing the penalty for witness tampering is necessary to effectively prosecute gang members.

"Clearly, this sends the message that these types of crimes will not be tolerated," Backstrom said.

HF2305 also would provide grant money to the counties to fund programs to help ensure the safety and security of witnesses. Steinkamp said there is a misconception that the counties have large budgets to deal with witness protection. He said that the new funds would be used to make witnesses who testify feel more comfortable.

Also, Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring **HF2679**, which would enhance a current law that provides increased penalties for some gang-related crimes.

The bill would expand the law to increase penalties for all crimes that are motivated by involvement with a gang.

Mike Freeman, Hennepin County attorney, said the new language is necessary to assist prosecutors in gang-related cases. He said that the current law was a step in the right direction, but the proposed expansion would make it more effective.

"[The current law is] a good idea, but it's difficult to prove," Freeman said. "We believe this [change] will help us make use of a statute that, frankly, has not been useful before."

Both bills are set to be included in this year's omnibus crime bill.



EDUCATION

The state and failing schools

A plan for the state to take over failing schools faced some opposition at its first committee hearing Feb. 4.

HF3214, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would measure a school's performance based on its scores on the new statewide tests. Schools showing poor scores over several years could eventually be turned into state-sponsored charter schools, over which school districts would lose their authority.

But some members of the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee said the proposal goes too far in punishing districts.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) called the bill "harmful overkill."

And Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), chair of the full Education Committee, said that it's not clear that the state could do a better job of running at-risk schools than districts could.

The bill is one of several this year that try to identify accountability for poor showings on the newly implemented statewide testing.

Under Opatz's plan, schools that show a 1 percent increase in scores would be eligible for reward money, while schools that showed a 5 percent decrease would be eligible for state assistance.

That assistance would include state-appointed educators sent in to monitor the schools. After several years without improvement, schools could be converted into charter schools and the new board of directors would have the authority to fire or demote teachers.

Opatz said that state takeover would likely be a rare event.

"But what alternative do we have?" he asked. "Do we just throw up our hands?"

Opponents of the bill included teachers unions and school districts.

Minneapolis Superintendent Carol Johnson specifically criticized a provision that would allow students to transfer from failing schools to successful schools. She said already issues of space "are no small task" in Minneapolis schools.

The division did not vote on the bill, but later will consider it for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 funding bill.

Top priority capital projects

Metro-area magnet schools and residential boarding academies were designated top-priority building projects by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education

Committee, which finalized its prioritized list of capital projects Feb. 4.

The division considered 31 project requests and ranked them according to importance.

At the top of the list is \$15 million for developing a magnet school in Robbinsdale to aid integration in the western metropolitan area. That amount would cover estimated building costs for one of three proposed schools in the West Metro Education Program. The program first received planning funds from the 1990 Legislature.

The division's recommendations also include (as a lower priority) \$15 million for a similar school in the eastern metropolitan area.

Another \$2 million is ranked among the top five K-12 bonding priorities to allow completion of a downtown Minneapolis magnet school. A lower priority on the division's list is the same amount to provide startup costs for an Edina magnet school, with \$11.2 million for construction costs at that location far down on the list. Those two schools are also part of the West Metro Education Program.

All funds for magnet schools are proposed to come from general obligation bonds. The

governor's bonding proposal included no funding for magnet schools.

But the division's second-ranked project — residential boarding academies for at-risk youth — carries the governor's full support. The division and the governor both recommend \$12 million from the general fund to develop three academies.

Third on the division's list of priorities is a St. Paul community-based elementary schools project, which also has the governor's approval. Both recommend \$4.6 million in bond funds for that project.

The division sent a bill (**HF772**) listing the K-12 bonding priorities to the full Education Committee. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton).

The bonding recommendations will eventually be submitted to the House Capital Investment Committee to be considered for inclusion in this year's bonding bill.

School year start dates

A bill that would allow schools to start classes before Labor Day was opposed by the hospitality industry during a Feb. 2 House committee hearing.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), would permanently repeal a ban on schools starting before Labor Day. The measure would take effect in the 2000-2001 school year.

A 1997 law allows districts to start the school year as early as the Wednesday before the holiday for the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 academic years.

Wolf told the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee that **HF3003** was one of the results of an interim subcommittee which tried to "take a good look at anything we could do to take some constraints off the [school] districts."

Bob Meeks of the Minnesota School Boards Association supported the proposal.

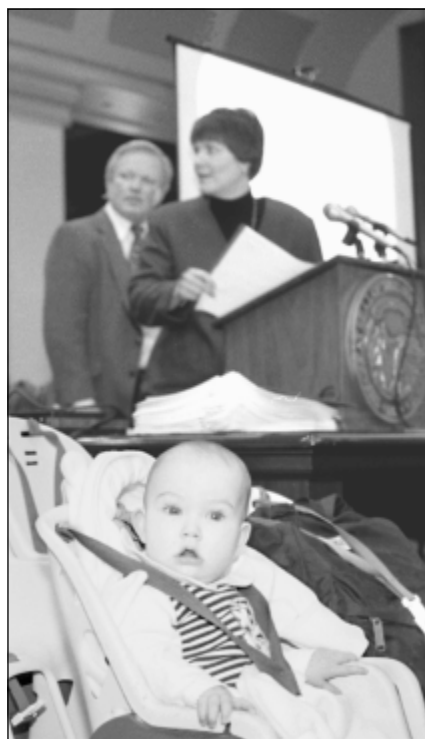
"This is really a local decision and should be based on local needs," he said.

But representatives from hospitality trade associations said that moving up school start dates would harm that industry.

"[Starting after Labor Day] adds an additional week to 10 days to a very small [tourism] season," Tom Newcome, of Hospitality Minnesota, said. He asked the committee to wait to see how the current two-year "compromise" works out, saying there was no need to rush legislation aimed at 2000-2001.

However, some lawmakers said that the well-being of hospitality businesses should not affect decision-making by an education committee.

Child endowment



Seven-month-old Maria Gisselquist, daughter of Minnesota Historical Society employee Shana Crosson, captures the attention of those attending a Capitol press conference where Sen. John Hottinger and Rep. Nora Slawik unveiled a bill that seeks a constitutional amendment creating an "endowment for Minnesota's children."

"Here, we're looking at what's good for kids," Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said.

Committee chair Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee) agreed.

"If parents want to start after Labor Day, local school board representatives are not going to turn a deaf ear to that desire," she said. "To me, this is a stereotypical local-control issue."

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Compulsory summer school

Minnesota students may soon have a new incentive to pass their basic skills tests: avoiding summer school.

A bill approved by the House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives Feb. 3 would give school districts the authority to compel students to attend summer school.

And district officials said they could use that authority to provide assistance for students who fail one or more of the basic skills tests given under the state's graduation rule.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring **HF2276**, said the bill's goal is to give districts more control.

"If a school district is to be accountable for results, then it should have all the leverage it needs to achieve those results," he said.

The bill also would redefine a truant student as one who has missed five days of school. Under current law, a child must miss 15 days to be considered a truant. Once a student is officially declared a truant, child protective services can intervene to assist the student.

The proposal is supported by the Minneapolis School District, which hopes to build on the success of its 1997 summer school program.

Last summer, more than 10,000 students attended summer school in that district, and many showed up to six months of academic growth after a two- to eight-week program.

But only 30 percent of the district's eighth-graders who failed the basic-skills test showed up for summer school — and that's the number officials say they want to improve.

"There are students who don't take [the tests] seriously," said John Oullette-Howitz of the Minneapolis district, who helped organize last year's program. "We want them to find out before the year 2002 — when they don't get their diploma — that the district takes it very seriously."

The bill would allow districts to determine for themselves which students must attend summer programs.

The bill now moves to the full Education Committee.



ELECTIONS

Absentee ballots

For some, the goal is to remove as many obstacles as possible to voting. They did it in a pilot project in Ramsey County, and now they're looking to do it in a pilot project in Senate District 58 in north Minneapolis.

HF2293, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), would allow eligible voters in Senate District 58 to vote by absentee ballot until Jan. 1, 2002, without having to provide a reason.

The House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee approved the bill Feb. 2.

All voters would have to do is apply in writing to the Hennepin County auditor's office, providing such basic information as their name, address, and signature.

"The district has repeatedly had the lowest voter turnout in the entire state, and we have the largest number of minorities in the state," Jefferson said.

It's also an area with a high concentration of poverty and renters, and all of those factors often mean low voter turnout, he said.

A result of the low voter turnout is that people running for statewide office often don't make north Minneapolis one of their campaign stops.

"We would hope we would have more can-

didates coming into the area," Jefferson said.

Under current law, people wanting to vote with an absentee ballot must have a reason, such as absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge. An absentee ballot is mailed or given to the voter, who fills it out like a regular ballot and mails it back to the county auditor's office. The ballots are held until election day, then tallied with all the other ballots.

"The bill would increase voter turnout," said Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State.

But there was some opposition to Jefferson's bill.

"How are we going to make sure the people actually do live in the district? Things change all the time. Is it really feasible?" Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) asked.

The committee also approved a bill (**HF2567**) that would extend the pilot project in Ramsey County. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul).

In 1991, Anoka, Hennepin, Polk, and Ramsey counties were part of a pilot project which allowed for open absentee balloting. In 1994, Ramsey County had the pilot project extended until this year, and the county now wants the project extended until Dec. 31, 1999.

McCollum said she has heard positive things about the project.

"There has been no indication of fraud; we just want to continue it the way it's been," she said.

Both bills now move to the House floor.

Women in sports



Girls from schools all over the state gather in the Capitol rotunda to celebrate Girls and Women in Sports Day Feb. 5. The event, sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition to Promote Women in Athletic Leadership and the National Girls and Women in Sports Day Committee, celebrates females who participate in sports, encourages participation, and recognizes sports leaders.



EMPLOYMENT

The right to strike

Would a strike by 911 dispatchers threaten a community's public safety?

That was the crux of a debate Feb. 2 over a bill that would grant public safety dispatchers the status of essential employees.

Under that status, workers give up the right to strike, but they can still request arbitration in a labor dispute.

Frank Whippler, legislative chair of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association, testified in support of **HF1693** before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

"In our view, a strike would be detrimental to public safety," he said.

His description of dispatchers as "indispensable to the community" drew a round of applause from dispatchers in the audience.

The committee approved the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul).

Also in support of the bill are the Minnesota Professional Firefighters Association, Law Enforcement Labor Services, and, according to Whippler, 96 percent of the state's 911 dispatchers.

But officials from both the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties testified against the bill.

"A strike would be disruptive and unpleasant, but not an immediate threat to public safety," said Kevin Frazell, of the League of Minnesota Cities.

He cited a strike by Ramsey County dispatchers — the only such strike in the state's history. Public safety was not threatened when backup county workers took over for the striking dispatchers, Frazell said.

Concern about taking away the workers' right to strike was at the heart of opposition to the bill.

"It is, at times, essential for people to go on strike and walk the picket line so that their fellow workers can benefit," Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said. "As you start down this path of essential employees, where does it end? I'm afraid we're going to do away with the right of all employees to collectively bargain."

But other lawmakers said that although they were sympathetic to Rukavina's point, they supported the bill because it came with the backing of the employees, the employers, and the union.

"If this were coming from Gov. Carlson, I would not be supportive," Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) said. "The reason I support this

bill is because it is fundamentally coming from the workers."

The bill now moves to the House floor, where it stalled last year after passing out of the same committee. A companion bill passed the Senate last year.



ENVIRONMENT

Motors in boundary waters?

Despite decades of debate, the controversy over the use of motors in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) continues.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) is sponsoring a bill (**HF2231**) that aims to finalize the status of the BWCAW once and for all.

The bill would ensure that the phasing out of motors that was agreed upon in the 1978 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act continues on schedule.

Tuma said that U.S. Sen. Rod Grams and U.S. Rep. James Oberstar are currently supporting legislation to roll back the clock on the issue.

"Minnesota needs to send a strong message to Congress that we do not want to go backwards on this effort," Tuma said.

The bill passed the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 4.

But the proposal was met with major opposition from Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

"The entire [BWCAW] is in my district and the issue is much more complicated than what Rep. Tuma has brought here today," he said. "Please do not be misled to think that this bill restores the integrity of the 1978 act."

Bakk said that there were some things in the 1978 act that were not well planned, particularly a ban on motorized boats on lakes along the Canadian border.

"Canadians have motors," he said. "It makes no sense to allow motors on one side of an imaginary line and not on the other."

Bakk said that Congress and the U.S. Forest Service are trying to deal with that and other complicated issues.

"It shouldn't be the Legislature that monkey with a delicate compromise that was reached in 1978," he said.

The bill now moves on to the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee.



FAMILY

Family asset accounts

A problem for low-income people is that the cost to get out of their fix — like buying a home, going to college, or starting a small business — is prohibitive.

An attempt to ease those costs is found in a bill (**HF2748**) sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm). The bill would allow low-income families to contribute money to a "family asset account" and receive matching amounts from the state or a private organization.

The money could then be spent for certain approved purposes, like paying for school or a house, making a major home repair, or starting a small business. To be eligible, a family's annual income could be no more than twice the federal poverty level. The poverty level for a family of four is \$16,050.

The bill was heard and approved Feb. 4 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

"This is a very simple bill. It's such a good thing that both the credit unions and the banks are supporting it," Tomassoni said.

Tomassoni said the proposed program could be compared to an Individual Retirement Account. Other states are considering such programs and similar legislation is pending in the U.S. Congress, he said.

Harland Tardy, of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, said groups like his would work with families who are in the program, along with the banks and credit unions.

Often, people renting an apartment or a house pay more in rent than they might in a monthly house payment, but they can't afford a down payment, he said.

The program would allow them to save in a "family asset account," get their savings matched, and use the money for a down payment on a house, he said.

"It's just any family trying to better themselves," Tomassoni said.

Under the bill, the matching funds from the state and private sector would be kept in a separate account, and the family would not get the money until they have finished an economic literacy course and achieved their goals for buying a home, paying for school, or devising a business plan.

The program would be administered by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bill now moves to the House Education Committee.

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HEALTH

'Off-label' drug use

According to a 1990 Gallup survey of oncologists, about 10 percent of cancer patients do not receive the treatment prescribed by their physicians, even if the patient responds to that treatment.

The problem occurs when a prescribed drug has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating certain forms of cancer.

The attempt to treat patients with the so-called "off-label" use of drugs is not uncommon, says Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe). Mulder, a practicing family physician, said, "Every physician in this state uses off-label drugs for patients."

But, Mulder said, "Managed-care [health plans] sometimes don't want to pay for its use."

Under a bill sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), health plans could not exclude reimbursement of off-label drug use in cancer patients, provided the drug is recognized as a treatment of cancer in standard medical literature.

The bill, which was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 3, would not cover experimental drugs used in cancer treatment.

Nurse Ann Deshler, of Edina, told committee members that sometimes a rare form of cancer responds to treatment used in more common cancers. But if the FDA has not approved a drug for treating that specific cancer, a patient might be denied reimbursement.

Deshler has been a registered oncology nurse for 19 years. She told of a patient who responded well to an off-label treatment, only to see his coverage eventually denied. She said such problems are frustrating for the patient and that medical professionals are forced to expend their time dealing with insurance companies "on a case-by-case basis when the time could be used to treat patients."

Hausman's bill (HF1306) would prohibit all health plans, including Medicare supplemental coverage, from refusing to pay for these cancer treatments. There are 27 other states with similar laws.

The bill moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Licensing naturopaths

For the fourth time since 1986, a bill that would license naturopathic physicians has been introduced in the House.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring the bill (HF396), which was heard Feb. 2 by the Subcommittee on Licensing and Scope of Practice of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

The bill would license and regulate naturopathic doctors under the Board of Medical Practice. Naturopaths would have to graduate from an approved naturopathic medical college or degree-granting program, and pass the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination. They also would have to practice in Minnesota for two years under a board-approved, licensed physician, osteopath, or naturopathic physician.

Naturopaths treat clients with nutrition, herbal remedies, manipulative therapy, massage, and other non-invasive techniques. From 1927 to 1974, naturopaths could practice by registering with the state Board of Healing Arts. Since 1974, they have existed in legal limbo.

Wejcman said, "This legislation doesn't put anyone out of business." Those who provide homeopathic and other remedies would still be able to do so. What the bill would do is allow licensed naturopaths the exclusive right to use certain terms, such as "naturopathic physician" and the abbreviation, "N.D." Violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The bill was prompted after a naturopath who had practiced in St. Paul since 1983 was

accused of practicing medicine without a license in 1996. An injunction against the naturopath was lifted when she and the Board of Medical Practice agreed she would stop calling herself a physician.

At the time, she was among six naturopathic doctors in the state with four-year degrees in the field. A dozen other states already license naturopathic doctors.

The bill was sent to the full House Human Services Committee, along with a separate bill (HF1135) that would allow massage and Oriental bodywork therapists to register with the state. The latter bill would serve a similar purpose for massage therapists, and would not define the scope of practice.

Sponsored by Betty McCollum (DFL-St. Paul), the bill would allow massage and Oriental bodywork therapists to register with the Board of Chiropractic Examiners after meeting certain requirements. Only registered practitioners would be allowed to use the title "Registered Massage Therapist" or "Registered Oriental Bodywork Therapist."



HIGHER EDUCATION

Biology building funding

The construction of a \$70 million cellular and molecular biology building is the centerpiece of the University of Minnesota's 1998 legislative funding request. But some lawmakers argued Feb. 5 that only \$8.5 million for design and demolition should be appropriated this session.

Defibrillator demo



A dummy is used to demonstrate how to use an automatic external defibrillator during an American Heart Association event Feb. 2 in the Capitol rotunda. The event was part of an effort to educate people about the need for public access to the life-saving defibrillators.

Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon), the lead Republican of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, was concerned that regional construction companies would be unable to keep pace with burgeoning projects in this booming economy.

The finance committee ultimately approved \$416.5 million in bonding for statewide higher education building projects and sent the bill to the full Education Committee.

Bettermann said the House Capital Investment Committee on which she serves has concerns over approximately \$660 million in unissued bonds, not all of which are for higher education, from earlier bonding laws.

"All of the builders around the state are busy, and they cannot necessarily keep up with building projects," Bettermann said.

She said some lawmakers would prefer to fund only the design portion of the biology building.

But Dr. Frank Cerra, head of the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, said construction on the molecular biology building would begin in the fall of 1999 and the building would open in 2001. Cerra said a university-wide policy committee has been operational for eight months, and the committee is certain "we are on track with our timeline."

Some lawmakers also wanted to increase from \$43 million to \$65.2 million the appropriation for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU).

HEAPR projects include building health and safety improvements, infrastructure repair, and projects that update the exterior, interior, mechanical or electrical systems. MnSCU comprises Minnesota's 36 technical, community, and state colleges.



HOUSING

Remedies for 'sick houses'

New homes are tighter and better insulated than in the past. Trouble is, according to Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), they may rot from trapped moisture or make people sick if not properly ventilated.

Evans, who is sponsoring a bill (**HF2430**) that aims to remedy problems with "sick houses," brought the well-publicized issue to the House Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 3.

She reminded the panel of the plight of homeowner Sue Stavenau, of Plymouth, who had testified before the committee Jan. 29.

Stavenau was the subject of a Minneapolis *Star Tribune* investigative series, "The Trouble with Houses," which first drew significant attention to the issue last fall.

"Her house has ruined her life, her health, and her pocketbook," Evan said.

One provision of Evans' bill would increase contractor license fees to pay for a public information program about residential construction issues, including potential moisture and indoor air quality problems.

The bill also would increase new home warranty periods and give homeowners more time to report defective conditions and seek legal action. The bill was narrowly approved by the committee.

The provision of the bill that drew the most criticism would require the commissioner of public service to adopt, as part of the state energy code, rules that require new residential buildings to contain mechanical ventilation systems.

Tom Joachim, from the building code division of the Department of Administration, said that due to the "tightening" of homes required by the state building and energy codes, mechanical ventilation systems are necessary to protect against moisture and other problems.

"In the effort to save energy, am I now creating the need for more energy?" asked Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul).

Lisa Peterson, of the Builders Association of Minnesota, said that although energy is required to operate mechanical ventilation systems, people will still see overall savings.

Since the "tightening" of homes has caused the need for mechanical ventilation in the first place, some critics on the panel wondered if the building and energy codes need to be revamped.

"I think we should look at what caused the need for mechanical ventilation in the first place," said Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee).

Opponents of the provision also objected to the cost.

Peterson said that Department of Public Service figures put the estimated cost of a mechanical ventilation system at \$6,084 for a new two-story, 3000-square-foot home selling for \$150,000.

"What concerns me," Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) said, "is that everyone talks about affordable housing and this will add on even more money."

The bill now moves to the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Chemical sensitivity

Kenneth Wuori, of Prior Lake, told lawmakers that he was forced to sleep in a van outside his townhouse because of his reaction to household chemicals in the new dwelling.

"I could not go into my new house . . . for fear that I would get ill," he said, in Feb. 3 testimony before the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Myra Radel, of Little Canada, told the committee she has had chronic problems with the overwhelming number of chemicals in her home. She said that she had to move out of a relatively chemical-free environment because she had a reaction to the chemicals in her roommate's hand lotion.

Wuori and Radel told the committee that they suffer from a disorder called multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). They have allergy-like sensitivity to a broad range of household substances, such as cleaning solvents, detergents, perfumes, and household dust and mold.

They said they often suffer from back pains, sleep disorders, stomach pains, anxiety, chronic fatigue, and respiratory problems due to the large number of chemicals common in homes.



Susan Lasley, of St. Paul, who has Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, listens to testimony before the Housing and Housing Finance Division about a bill that would make grants of up to \$25,000 available to individuals with the disorder to help them in making their homes free of chemicals.

HF2555 sponsored by Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti), would provide grant money to people who suffer from MCS to refurbish their homes to make them chemical-free. Currently, loans are made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to finance improvements, but Rostberg said the funds should come in the form of grants.

"One of the problems we have is that people with MCS cannot qualify for these loans because they are unable to work," Rostberg said.

The bill proposes that \$1 million be made available in the form of grants administered through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, enough for 40 grants totaling \$25,000 each.

"We need scent-free housing," Wuori said. "It's important that we have sleeping quarters because sleeping in a van or a tent, as some people with MCS do, is as bad as being homeless."

The bill was laid over by the committee and is expected to be included in this year's omnibus housing bill.

Low-income high-rises

Chris Learned, a resident of Minneapolis, said that a society had developed among the 350 residents in her rent-subsidized housing complex on Oak Grove near Loring Park. People look after and take care of each other. She said that older people, Russian immigrants, and low-income young people all see to it that no one is overlooked.

All that will change if the plan to make her high-rise a market-rate property becomes a reality, she said.

"The announcement of the mortgage prepayment in June of 1997 was the beginning of the systematic dismembering of our society," Learned said.

Learned was referring to the decision by the owners of her place of residence to refinance the balance of their federal mortgage, allowing the owners to charge market-rate rent for the units. The decision means an increase of approximately \$200 in rent per month for the elderly, handicapped, and low-income tenants in the building.

In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program where developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing, such as Learned's building. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of these complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mort-

gage and to begin charging market rate rent.

The situation at Learned's building could happen at the over 300 apartment complexes throughout the state that were financed through the federal program. The owners of Hopkins Village in Hopkins, Knox Landing in Bloomington, and Grand Pre By the Park and Selby-Dayton in St. Paul have all announced that they plan to take advantage of the prepayment option.

Learned and many others currently living in federally assisted housing testified before the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee on Feb. 5.

"The only solution that would help us save our homes at this point is to have a nonprofit organization buy our building," Learned said.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (**HF2991**) that would equip the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), local units of government, and nonprofit organizations to deal with this issue. The Oak Grove building is in Long's district.

The bill authorizes the MHFA to issue loans and provide tax credits to assist in maintaining already existing low-income housing. The financial incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

HF2991 was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year's omnibus housing bill.



INDUSTRY

'Negative checkoff'

Telephone customers sometimes receive mailed notices that their long distance carrier will be switched unless the customer cancels the change. The practice is called "negative checkoff."

Under a bill introduced by Rep. Loren Jennings (D-Harris), long distance carriers would be required to make audio recordings of customers authorizing a negative checkoff and to be able to produce the recordings if contested.

If the carrier could not provide such evidence, the bill (**HF3042**) would force the carrier to pay the cost of returning the customer to the original long distance service and to assume the cost of the services during the unauthorized period.

Representatives of AT&T told the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Feb. 3 the company had no opposition to that section of the bill. AT&T and some other long distance providers use a practice called "third-

party verification," in which the customer tells a third party during a telephone solicitation that the change is authorized.

But AT&T opposed a section of the bill pertaining to public notification of rate increases. Currently, long distance carriers may notify customers of rate hikes through bill inserts, direct mailing, phone call, or publication of the increase in general circulation newspapers. The latter is the most common form of public notification.

The bill would repeal the provision that allows carriers to notify customers of increases through newspaper ads.

AT&T representatives said newspaper ads are the most efficient and affordable method of disclosure. The company said if the method were eliminated, it would increase their cost of providing service to Minnesota customers.

The committee took no action on the bill.



TAXES

Child care tax credit

With seven of 10 mothers in the workforce, five of six mothers with children under the age of six working, and with the cost of having an infant in day care running about \$7,000 a year, some see a great need for more help from the Legislature.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) is sponsoring a bill (**HF2804**) that would lend a hand in that direction. The bill was approved Feb. 3 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The state currently allows a child care tax credit equal to a percentage of child care costs, up to a maximum of \$720 for one child or \$1,140 for two or more children. That credit begins to decrease for parents making \$17,340 a year and is completely phased out for parents making \$31,080.

Slawik's bill would decrease the rate in which the credit is phased out and increase the income at which the credit would be completely phased out to \$45,080 per year.

Slawik said 22,000 new children enter the day care system every year and that paying for that child care takes an average 10 percent of the family income.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) was in favor of the proposal, but he said there might be opposition from people making more than \$45,080.

"We ought to look at a way to make it more universally acceptable," he said.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) also expressed concerns about the bill.

"Aren't you concerned that this is a deepen-

ing of the difference in the way we treat people with children and the way we treat single people and people who don't work outside the home?" he asked.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said it's important to try to help parents and, ultimately, children.

"The world wouldn't last any longer if people didn't have children," she said. "With the job market the way it is, we are bringing everyone into the workforce."

Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council, urged caution. He said the bill would likely "encourage" families to make the decision to have both parents work and put the children in day care.

"[The government should be] allowing families to make the child care decision, rather than being encouraged by tax policy," he said. "Government policy should be necessitating, rather than encouraging them, biasing them in favor of day care. I think we're giving them the wrong incentive."

The bill now moves to the full Taxes Committee.

Permanent tax reductions

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) believes the time is now for a permanent tax cut, and he's brought forth a bill that would do just that.

The bill (**HF2322**) had two hearings recently before two divisions of the House Taxes Committee — first in the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division Feb. 4 and the Sales and Income Tax Division Feb. 5. Both divisions sent the bill to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Sviggum said there have been six consecutive budget forecasts showing surpluses in state coffers. And instead of providing one-time tax refunds, Sviggum said, people — particularly those in the low- and middle-income categories — should be given a permanent tax reduction.

The bill would permanently reduce income taxes for low- and middle-income people and provide a one-time rebate for property taxes paid in 1998.

The property tax rebate would match the one approved for property taxes paid in 1997. That means homeowners would get back 20 percent of property taxes paid in 1998, and renters would get 3.6 percent of rent paid (the portion of rent that goes to pay property taxes).

"The bottom line of my bill: Return the money to the taxpayers," Sviggum said. "I would like to make sure we can't spend the money. Members, I will tell you it's time for a reduced tax rate in Minnesota."

Reaction from the Property Tax and Tax

Increment Finance Division was mixed, and there were differences of opinion as to who is paying more taxes.

"We have been overtaxing the property taxpayers," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls). "I've overwhelmingly had complaints about the burden of property taxes."

Long also said she was concerned about making permanent tax cuts and shortly thereafter having to pass higher taxes because the economy takes a downturn. That happened in 1979 and 1986, she said.

Tax break for libraries

Public libraries would get financial assistance in the form of a new tax break, under a bill advancing in the House.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) is sponsoring a bill (**HF2303**) that would give public libraries the same exemption on paying sales tax that is currently enjoyed by public schools.

The bill was approved Feb. 3 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The exemption would apply to public libraries and cooperative regional library systems. County and state law libraries were granted the exemption in 1993.

The exemption for public libraries is now limited to the buying of reading material and equipment used by patrons, software and cataloging, and circulation equipment.

Dawkins' bill would expand that exemption. Examples of purchases that would be-

come exempt from sales tax include furniture, work stations, laminating and binding machines, office and building supplies, and utility services.

Ken Behringer, of the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, said the current law can be confusing.

"If I buy a delivery vehicle, it's not taxable. If I buy a vehicle for training, it is taxable. It limits the libraries' flexibility," he said.

It's estimated that the change in the tax code would cost about \$90 million a year in sales tax revenue. But Behringer said the public pays for that sales tax now, in the form of the property tax revenue that usually supports public libraries.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), chair of the division, expressed support for the bill.

"Libraries are probably the most value [taxpayers] get for their tax dollars," she said.

The bill now moves to the full Taxes Committee.



TRANSPORTATION

Light rail transit

Opponents of a bill that would provide a \$106 million bonding request for a light rail transit (LRT) system told the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 3 that LRT would lead to the ruination of the local bus system.

New stadium proposal



Rep. Loren Jennings and Sen. Roy Terwilliger explain the funding aspects of a new proposal for a downsized, open-air stadium for the Minnesota Twins during a Feb. 3 press conference. They said the plan would allow a new ballpark to be built without using tax dollars, but the plan has been criticized because it would use the income taxes paid by both Twins and visiting players to help repay bonds that would be issued to pay for the stadium.

Lisa Lee, of Minneapolis, said LRT would create a "rigid, limited form of service" that would become an expensive proposition in the long run.

Opponents said the plan would create transportation that only moves people from the suburbs to downtown, but forgets about bus riders. LRT typically serves urban-suburban markets with short distances between stations.

But Peter McLaughlin, chair of the Metropolitan LRT Joint Powers Board, said, "It's time to think beyond the strategies that have been pursued in this region in the past 20 years, strategies that have resulted in a one-third drop of people riding the bus."

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), the bill (**HF2561**) would appropriate \$100 million to match federal and other local funding for the \$370 million construction of a light rail project from downtown Minneapolis to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

A total of \$200 million would come from federal transit capital funds. Of the remaining

\$70 million, \$30 million has already been spent locally on planning and infrastructure and another \$40 million in local funding is to be raised.

The remaining \$6 million in the \$106 million bill would go to study expansion of the system into St. Paul and other corridors.

The LRT spending is not included in Gov. Arne Carlson's bonding proposal or his supplemental budget request.

The bill is expected to be considered again this session.

Vehicle registration

Minneapolis police officer William Lundquist said used automobiles involved in crimes are often improperly registered, and the paper trail often stops with the previous, law-abiding owner.

A bill that would suspend or revoke a vehicle registration if the buyer fails to apply for a new certificate of title within 10 days of the

sale was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 2.

The bill now moves to the committee's finance division.

Lundquist told of hit-and-run incidents, traffic violations, and gas station driveoffs involving cars that were never registered following a private sale. Often, a law-abiding person who sold a car was still listed as its owner.

The bill (**HF719**), sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), would require state motor vehicle title forms to contain a separate "notice of sale." The vehicle's title number and identification number would be printed on the notice.

The bill would exempt a seller from damages involving a vehicle after the sale if the seller completes and mails the notice of sale within a week of the transaction.

The bill also would authorize the Department of Public Safety to suspend or revoke a vehicle registration if the new owner fails to apply for a new certificate within 10 days of the purchase.

Gov. Hammond known as 'scholar in politics'

It's a fact!

The administration of Minnesota's first and only bachelor to serve as governor did not last long.

Gov. Winfield Hammond, known as "a scholar in politics," was elected in 1914 and died in 1915 before the end of his first year of service.

"Hammond was a good governor, but had little chance to make a record," one observer commented.

Hammond, the state's 18th governor, was born in Southboro, Mass., in 1863. During his lifetime, he would work as a teacher, prosecuting attorney, high school principal, superintendent of schools, congressman, and governor.

He came to Minnesota in 1884, shortly after graduating from Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., and settled in St. James, Minn., where he began a career in education. Hammond was principal of the high school in Mankato, Minn., and later the president of the St. James School Board. In 1895, he became superintendent of schools in Madelia, Minn.

In his spare time, Hammond studied law, passed the bar, and became a lawyer. He also became active in Democratic politics. Hammond ran for the U.S. House in

Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District in 1892 but was beaten by Republican John Lind, who also later served as governor.

Not until 1906 did Hammond take another shot at Congress, but that time he won. In Washington, D.C., he became a member of the important House Ways and Means Committee and was quickly recognized as a party leader.

In 1914, the Democrats persuaded him to run for governor, and although he remained at work in Congress and did little campaigning, Hammond beat Republican William Lee by more than 12,000 votes.

The temperance movement held center stage in the election, and Hammond —

labeled a "wet," or prohibition opponent — won, in large part, because of his views on the matter, historians note.

However, Hammond was not extremely outspoken on the issue. He paid the matter little attention in his inaugural address. Instead, he encouraged the Legislature not to spend a lot of time discussing temperance because so much time and energy had already been devoted to the issue.

Still, soon after he took office, the Legislature gave counties the authority to regulate saloons outside cities.

There was little time for much else during Hammond's stay in office.

Hammond was 52 years old when he died of a sudden stroke Dec. 30, 1915, while in Clinton, La., on personal business.

"He was the highest minded man I ever knew," Charles Andrist, Hammond's secretary, said then. "Every question was decided on the basis as to whether it was right or wrong, not whether it was expedient or advisable politically."

Hammond's body was returned by train for burial in Mount Hope Cemetery in St. James. He was succeeded by Lt. Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist.



Gov. Winfield Hammond

Photo from *Men of Minnesota*, R. L. Polk & Co.

Clark picks up baton, advances father's civic desire

By Jim Thielman

After James T. Clark's father passed away, Clark found a copy of a letter that eventually inspired him to consider public office. The letter was written by Clark's father to then-president



Rep. James T. Clark

Ronald Reagan.

"My father was proud of his World War II service and his work as a member of the Rotary, and he wrote to President Reagan how he was a great believer in the democratic process and a great waver of the American flag," Clark (R-Springfield) recalled. "My father wanted to know how he could continue to contribute to his country now that he was retired.

"I don't know if President Reagan responded, or what course my father would have taken."

Clark's father passed away shortly after the letter was written.

But in a sense, Clark picked up the baton. Before reading the letter, Clark's vision as a public servant was uncertain. However, Clark soon began to work on political campaigns to get involved in the political process.

"Before I read my father's letter, public office was never a goal or an aspiration of mine," Clark said.

When the late Rep. Barb Vickerman died of cancer last December, Clark was approached by state Republicans, and his collision with a political career began.

He won the party's endorsement to face DFLer Bonnie McKnight in a special election. Clark then won overwhelmingly at the polls Jan. 20 by a 3,864 to 1,874 margin.

Representing a Minnesota district in the House was something the marketing major from Scarsdale, N.Y., never imagined. He earned his undergraduate degree at Iona Col-

lege in New Rochelle, N.Y., a suburb known as home to television's Rob and Laura Petrie on "The Dick Van Dyke" show. He later graduated cum laude from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Mich. But his political baseline was set years before he became an honors law student and assistant editor of the law review at Cooley.

"When I was a senior in high school, I watched Ronald Reagan's acceptance speech," Clark said, "and I think that crystallized my political philosophy. It sparked my interest in politics."

Clark worked on political campaigns for former President George Bush and U.S. Sen. Rod Grams, but he hadn't considered a campaign of his own until party members beckoned. After talking with his wife, Cara, the decision was made.

"I have an eight-month-old daughter, and we wanted to be sure that I would be able to have enough time to be a good father and husband," he said.

Along with being a good parent, he emphasized he wants to keep the channels of communication open to his "neighbors," whom he emphasized are not simply "constituents."

"Springfield is a small town of 2,300 people," Clark said. "About 60 of them were here for the swearing-in ceremony. In a town of that size, they're not your constituents but your friends and neighbors, and I know already they will certainly pick up the phone."

Clark says it was partially his desire to know his neighbors that brought the couple to Minnesota. His wife is an Iowa native, with relatives in Minnesota.

"Minnesota is an ideal environment to raise a family," Clark said. "New York is a nice place to visit."

Clark said the main complaint he hears from his friends and neighbors is "over-regulating and mandating" by the government.

"The one thing I want is permanent tax reduction," he said. "That will be what we're here to work on. What the government has done is overtaxed citizens. We have a \$1.3 billion surplus in this state, and this is not the government's money. It's the citizen's money. It's my neighbors' money. Getting their money back to them is the one issue I will continue to work on."

Clark will serve on the House Health and Human Services Committee and its finance division, the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee, and the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.

"It's been hectic," he said. "I've only been here a couple days and there's no training period. But there have been other representatives who have taken me under their wing."

And there are always thoughts of his father. Secured on Clark's key ring is a thin piece of metal that identified a military man in World War II.

"Something I always carry around with me is my father's dog tag," Clark said. "I was rubbing it the other day as I was walking toward the Capitol. It was a very satisfying feeling to me. I know my father would be very proud of what I'm trying to do here."

District 23A

1995 population: 33,661

Largest city: Redwood Falls

Counties: Brown, Redwood

Location: southwestern Minnesota

Top concern: "We are blessed to have a \$1.3 billion surplus. My top priority is to return this money to the taxpayers in the form of a permanent tax reduction. This money is not the government's money. It is your neighbors' money and my neighbors' money. It needs to be returned to them."

— Rep. James T. Clark

Constitutional Officers

Governor

Arne H. Carlson

130 State Capitol

75 Constitution Ave.

St. Paul 55155 296-3391

Lieutenant Governor

Joanne E. Benson

130 State Capitol

75 Constitution Ave.

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Attorney General

Hubert H. Humphrey III

102 State Capitol

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Secretary of State

Joan Anderson Growe

180 State Office Building

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St. Paul 55103 296-2551

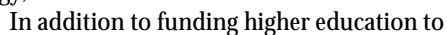
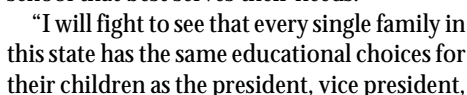
State Treasurer

Michael A. McGrath

303 Administration Building

50 Sherburne Ave.

St. Paul 55155 296-7091



He did not mention his 1997 priority of a
Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

new ballpark for the Twins baseball team.

The governor wrapped up his speech with an appeal for compassion toward those in need.

"I want all of our children to grow up in a society that focuses on opportunity rather than entitlement," he said.


And he urged support of continuing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome research — an effort spearheaded by his wife, Susan.

He said that proactive programs like that research and his proposal for boarding schools will contribute to the health of future generations.

"We have to realize that all parents are not

equipped to be good parents," he said.

He spoke of his desire to look back on his administration as one that offered "succeeding generations the opportunity to genuinely pursue history."

"It's my prayer that one day a young person who we have helped will be standing here as governor." 

House and Senate leaders react to governor's speech

DFL leaders in the House and Senate applauded what Gov. Arne Carlson said Feb. 4 in his last State of the State address, but there was some criticism over what he didn't say.

Speaking to a joint session of the Legislature in the House chamber, Carlson called for a commitment to high-tech education and high-tech jobs. He also pushed for private school vouchers and residential academies for at-risk youth.

"I appreciate his call for higher education funding," said House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

But the speaker questioned Carlson's lack of attention to public schools.

"What about the 850,000 school children in the state?" Carruthers asked. "That's something the Democrats will work for. We should be concerned about what the future will portend. We've got to work to improve K-12 education."

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the final words of the governor's speech resounded for him.

Carlson ended by saying that he hoped that a disadvantaged child of today would someday have the chance to stand in his place.

Sviggum said, "I think we all have dreams about the future of our children. The question is: Does government need to spend more on children? We want to empower parents in this role, not just the educational bureaucracy."

He said the governor didn't appear to be as fiscally prudent as in the past. It was the "fiscal management of the last few years that allowed him to make this speech. This speech had much more of a spending theme to it," Sviggum said.

But Sviggum said Republicans embrace Carlson's overall vision to strengthen Minnesota's higher education system and make it a leader in the area of medical and biological research.

"It's the total size of the budget that we have a problem with," Sviggum said. "It's just too large."

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) said the governor has a long list of goals for the final year of his administration.

"That doesn't necessarily mean he's going to get everything he wants," Moe said. "Our job is to look forward into the 21st century." And Moe said some of the governor's suggestions originally came from the DFL. "But that's

OK because I think it indicates in the final analysis we worked together," he said.


House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) said he would have liked more from the governor about the rural and agricultural economy.

"Small businesses are the greatest job creators for the state," Winter said. "I wanted to see more emphasis put on our economy of agriculture in Minnesota. People all across the state depend on that."

Carruthers was asked to sum up Carlson's tenure as governor. "I think he's done a good job. Certainly, he's somebody who cares deeply about the state of Minnesota. We've cut property taxes, we've reformed the welfare system," Carruthers said.

One thing the governor did not mention in his speech was a possible new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, who are threatening to move to North Carolina without one. A bill for a new stadium has been introduced.

"It's not a high priority," Carruthers said.

"At this point, it's like any other bill; it's been introduced," Winter said. 

Continued from page 4

can zoom in and create havoc in places that have become sanctuaries," she said.

Each year, Perry sends out an informal loon watchers survey. Her latest survey included questions about loon sightings and nesting habits as well as an addendum asking about the frequency of boats and other watercraft use.

The response Perry received from concerned loon watchers in Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing counties reinforced her fears: 54 percent said PWCs are negatively affecting the loons on their lakes.

"This is the state's playground, and this is the heart of loon country," Perry said. "We have a clash here."

Jim Medema of the Jet Sporters Association of Minnesota said that it would be unfair to crowd the larger lakes with a ban on smaller lakes.

The association is also against a provision in the bill that says a PWC could be operated only at slow speed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to sunset.

"This provision would harm everyone who actually has a day job," Medema said.

Although noise is a problem, he said, it can be resolved by changing rider habits through enforcement, education, and improved technology.

Medema said his group would support a mandatory education program and an increased no-wake zone.

"The current state of affairs is not OK, but we don't want unfair restrictions," Medema said. "Until we've given education and media publicity a chance, it is unfair to consider statewide bans."

"Just because somebody turns on a PWC does not mean the day is ruined, that fishermen have to go in, that swimmers are afraid to swim."


The bill now moves to the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee. 

Exhibit shows architect's influence on U of M campus



This is how the University of Minnesota campus would have looked if architect Cass Gilbert's contest-winning plans had been followed. The ambitious designs were not used, but Gilbert's influence on the campus remains evident today.

Image courtesy of the University Archives

By Nick Healy

State Capitol architect Cass Gilbert's grand vision for the University of Minnesota campus was never fully realized. Perhaps it never really could have been.

After all, Gilbert's plans for elaborate terraces, gardens, and Greek amphitheaters running between a domed auditorium at one end of the mall and the Mississippi River at the other would have required a budget as spectacular as the architect's drawings.

Still, the spirit of Gilbert's 1908 "General Plan for Laying Out the Grounds and Locating the Buildings on the Campus of the University of Minnesota" often guided subsequent development of the mall.

An exhibition of Gilbert's campus drawings and plans runs from Feb. 6 to March 22 in the William G. Shepherd Room at the Weisman Art Museum on the U of M campus.

The exhibition "provides a look at the ideas and perceptions of campus planners when the university's landscape was raw material and shows how they dealt with this landscape against the changing needs of the students and the expanding institution," said Carole Zellie, one of two curators for the display, which is called "An Enduring Emblem: Cass Gilbert and the Plans for the University of Minnesota."

The museum show is particularly timely right now. The condition of the campus mall and its overall importance to the university have drawn new attention in recent months from university and state leaders.

Mark Yudof, the university's new president, has made restoration of the campus mall

and improvement of campus buildings top priorities for the university. Lawmakers this year are considering whether to finance the first phase of Yudof's four-year \$776 million plan for capital improvements at the U of M.

This year's proposed \$252 million bonding package for the university would provide money to improve key buildings on the Minneapolis campus, including major projects at Walter Library and Ford Hall, both on the mall.

"The exhibit is a tangible reminder of the value in setting a vision for a place so that the essential character of the place — here at the University of Minnesota campus — is preserved even as changes are made," said Thora Cartlidge, the exhibit's other curator.

The exhibit of Gilbert's U of M drawings also is another sign of a resurgence of interest in the architect, who was considered a national leader in his field during the early years of this century.

Gilbert is best known outside of Minnesota as the architect of the U.S. Supreme Court, The U.S. Customs House, and the Woolworth Building, the latter two located in New York.

But in Minnesota, Gilbert is recalled as the designer of the State Capitol, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Building, and numerous homes and churches in and around St. Paul.

Gilbert grew up in St. Paul and practiced architecture in the city for 27 years. He won a design competition for the Minnesota Capitol in 1895, and that event began his career designing important, well-known buildings for government and business.

"He used art, sculpture, and color all to-

gether to make a nice, smaller — so to speak — public building," said Carolyn Kompelien, manager of the Capitol Historic Site. "It's a very well-done building, and it's held in very high esteem as far as its architectural design. This building was what really launched him in his career."

By the time Gilbert entered the competition to design the U of M campus mall, he had offices in New York and St. Paul, and he had been awarded the commission for the U.S. Customs House.

Gilbert's design for the Minnesota campus was modeled on Columbia University, which itself was patterned after Thomas Jefferson's plan for the University of Virginia.

The contest-winning plan was considered too costly by the U of M Board of Regents, which eventually dismissed Gilbert in 1910. Not a single building on the campus mall was designed by Gilbert, but as the exhibit demonstrates, he had a great influence on his successors.

The exhibition includes the original drawings of the designers of existing buildings on the campus mall along with the Gilbert drawings, and the documents reveal the impact of Gilbert's work.

And the exhibition is another step in the rediscovery of Gilbert, whose style had passed out of fashion by the time of his death in 1934, and the renewed celebration of his work.

"There are a lot of people who have come to appreciate his classical designs," Kompelien said.

For more information about the Gilbert exhibition, call (612) 625-9494. 🐼

Bill Introductions

HF3000-HF3448

Thursday, Jan. 29

HF3000—Knobloch (R)
Governmental Operations
St. Cloud police consolidation account special one-time postretirement adjustment provided.

HF3001—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
St. Paul grant provided for the construction of the Minnesota African-American performing arts and education center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3002—Wolf (R)
Education
Retired principal or superintendent allowed to serve as an interim administrator without financial penalty.

HF3003—Wolf (R)
Education
Labor Day; school year start before Labor Day prohibition repealed.

HF3004—Wolf (R)
Education
Superintendent salary cap removed.

HF3005—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF3006—Carlson (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Rule 80 nursing facilities rate setting formula modified.

HF3007—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance recipients provided a spouse asset allowance for the alternative care program.

HF3008—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Large energy facility definition expanded to include high voltage transmission lines that cross state boundaries.

HF3009—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric utility personal property tax exemption provided relating to school districts adjusted net tax capacity.

HF3010—Molnau (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Consumer report copy fees regulated.

HF3011—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF3012—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Retirement Plan provisions modified.

HF3013—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care provider uniform billing requirements established.

HF3014—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Contributing to a child's delinquency, juvenile petty offender status, and need for protection services laws clarified, and penalties imposed.

HF3015—Hausman (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Como Park education resource center in St. Paul funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3016—Farrell (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Stroh's Brewery site redevelopment and job creation assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3017—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Elementary class size reduction program funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3018—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
White pine acquisition and management funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3019—Hausman (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Millennium screenwriting festival planning funded, local screenwriter grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3020—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Consumer advisory board staffing and funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3021—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health insurance premium tax calculation modified, regional coordinating boards abolished, proposed health coverage mandate assessments provided, and money appropriated.

HF3022—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Sexually transmitted disease prevention initiatives appropriated money.

HF3023—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Repeat theft crime penalties clarified.

HF3024—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

HF3025—Entenza (DFL)
Education
K-12 education finance supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3026—Mahon (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Wold Chamberlain Field in Richfield improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3027—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal tort liability exception clarified relating to snow and ice accumulation.

HF3028—Pawlenty (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle dealer licensing regulated, and exception provided to non-profit organizations.

HF3029—Pawlenty (R)
Education
Higher education assistance trust fund established, and money appropriated.

HF3030—Pawlenty (R)
Education
Building space average age threshold reduced relating to school district alternative facilities bonding and levy program qualifications.

HF3031—Pawlenty (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
City council members permitted to vote on an appointment to fill a mayor or clerk vacancy.

HF3032—McCollum (DFL)
Education
School district alternative facilities program eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF3033—McCollum (DFL)
Education
School district alternative facilities program eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF3034—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile mentoring pilot programs appropriated money.

HF3035—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Harassment and stalking crime expanded to include injury of a peace officer's reputation, and enhanced penalties provided.

HF3036—Jaros (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Independent living centers appropriated money.

HF3037—Kubly (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Biomass fuel exemptions and power purchase contract provisions modified.

HF3038—Kubly (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 17 Minnesota river bridge designated as the William Angermeyer Memorial Bridge.

HF3039—Pawlenty (R)
Judiciary
Subsequent controlled substance conviction provisions expanded to include dispositions under the controlled substance prescription law.

HF3040—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Long-term nursing care facility payroll documentation procedures modified.

HF3041—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes
Local property tax levy limit growth factors modified.

HF3042—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Long-distance telephone provider additional antislamming disclosure requirements provided, price increase notification requirements clarified, and international calls for information services billing provisions modified.

HF3043—Trimble (DFL)
Education
Metronet; libraries throughout the state appropriated money for a Minnesota authors video series.

HF3044—Chaudhary (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Twin Cities metropolitan area transit accessibility board established, powers and duties assigned, and money appropriated.

HF3045—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance income eligibility standards increased for the aged, blind, or disabled.

HF3046—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance and General Assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.

HF3047—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home bed certification moratorium exception provided.

HF3048—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Concurrent sentences allowed for separate crimes only with compelling reasons, and jail time credit limited.

HF3049—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Reimbursements modified for certain nursing facilities in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Brown counties.

HF3050—Rostberg (R)
Education
Cambridge Community College master facilities plan completion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3051—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Failure to obey certain subpoenas provided felony penalties, and felony offender failure to appear for criminal proceedings provided increased penalties.

HF3052—Seagren (R)
Education
K-12 education finance supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3053—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Interference with privacy and making obscene or harassing telephone calls exempt from juvenile petty offenses.

HF3054—Paymar (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Public Arts St. Paul appropriated money for art projects throughout the city.

HF3055—Mariani (DFL)
Judiciary
Ramsey County juvenile crime prevention pilot project appropriated money.

HF3056—Peterson (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 378, Dawson, cooperative education and community center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3057—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Road or highway redefined, trunk highway and general fund expenditures regulated, transportation spending goals established, state patrol funded, motor fuel tax rates adjusted, local bridge replacement authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3058—Solberg (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Itasca County tourism expenditures increased pending local approval.

HF3059—Juhnke (DFL)
Judiciary
Juvenile court records made public in certain cases, and annual delinquency disposition reports required.

HF3060—Rukavina (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Virginia authorized to issue an additional on-sale liquor license.

HF3061—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Driver's license revocation judicial review petition and judicial expungement order petition content requirements modified.

HF3062—Carlson (DFL)
Education
Technology funding program created, first grade preparedness program made permanent, and summer school activities additional compensatory revenue authorized.

HF3063—Clark, K. (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Green Institute, Inc. appropriated money for job creation in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis.

HF3064—Clark, K. (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
State telephone assistance program amended to conform with federal requirements, automatic enrollment provided for certain persons, TAP surcharge increased, and state universal service fund developed.

HF3065—Dorn (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Comprehensive health insurance maximum lifetime benefit increased.

HF3066—Winter (DFL)
Education
Delivered fuel account established, and money appropriated.

HF3067—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
Written domestic abuse police reports provided data classification.

HF3068—Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Ratification of certain labor agreements and certain plans and proposals relating to state employees provided.

HF3069—Trimble (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Small business owners with tanks located on their properties provided petroleum fund reimbursement eligibility.

HF3070—Wolf (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Homeowners variance allowing operation of decorative gas lamps provided.

HF3071—Wolf (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Petroleum product specifications modified.

HF3072—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care premium tax payment modified, and exemption provided.

HF3073—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Child care provider licensure provisions modified.

HF3074—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
State of Minnesota storm sewer reconstruction project in Bayport appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3075—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Public employee insurance trust fund appropriated money.

HF3076—Kalis (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Quad-lakes restoration project in Faribault and Blue Earth counties appropriated money.

HF3077—Knoblach (R)
Governmental Operations
State building maintenance costs required in annual operating budget.

HF3078—Mahon (DFL)
Judiciary
South metro joint public safety training facility in Richfield appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3079—Pawlenty (R)
Taxes
Charitable contribution tax credit provided.

HF3080—Wejcman (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis allowed to exceed bonding limit for water supply capital improvement projects.

HF3081—Paymar (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Paul bonding limits set.

HF3082—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Harriet Island redevelopment in St. Paul appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3083—McElroy (R)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan public safety radio system appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3084—Ness (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Meeker County economic development authority authorized.

HF3085—Peterson (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Emergency management division required to provide volunteer resource coordination during disasters, and money appropriated.

HF3086—Osthoff (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Acquisition of metropolitan regional recreational open space provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3087—Rostberg (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Cambridge sewer and water services appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3088—Kielkucki (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Waverly granted funds to establish Hubert H. Humphrey museum and learning center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Monday, Feb. 2

HF3089—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Mankato State University Foundation authorized to construct a black box theater, and ownership transfer to the state required.

HF3090—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Unlimited possibilities plan grant provided for high school to college or work assistance, and money appropriated.

HF3091—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF3092—Goodno (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Social Security number required as a condition of check acceptance prohibited, and dishonored check case prosecution provided.

HF3093—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Minnesota collection agencies regulated, and certain out-of-state agencies exempt.

HF3094—Harder (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 2884, Red Rock, accelerated transition plan authorized.

HF3095—Rhodes (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
First Sunday in February designated as Four Chaplains Sunday in honor of four chaplains who sacrificed their lives during World War II.

HF3096—Davids (R)
Transportation & Transit
Chatfield roadway construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3097—Davids (R)
Transportation & Transit
Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway route modified.

HF3098—Schumacher (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Foley tax increment finance district revenue expenditure authorized for a wastewater treatment facility outside the district.

HF3099—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds allocated to the highway user tax distribution fund and the transit assistance fund.

HF3100—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Local bridge grants provided for construction and repair, and money appropriated.

HF3101—Skare (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Bemidji authorized to impose additional sales and excise taxes for the purpose of funding convention center construction.

HF3102—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Small city cost-share program created for wetland replacement, and money appropriated.

HF3103—Anderson, B. (R)
Agriculture
First-time and seasonal food handlers license provisions modified.

HF3104—Delmont (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Lottery retailer bonus plan established, holiday game conducted, operating reserve account created, additional advertising fund expenditure authorized, and conflict of interest clarified.

HF3105—Pawlenty (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Eagan authorized on-sale liquor licenses increased.

HF3106—Erhardt (R)
Judiciary
Motor vehicle air bag on-off switch installation and deactivation regulated, and dealer limited liability provided.

HF3107—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

HF3108—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
Youth initiative grants provided to local governments for public improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3109—Ness (R)
Education
Special education cooperatives nos. 52-937, Crow Wing, and 52-938, Meeker and Wright, disabled access improvement grant reauthorized, and money appropriated.

HF3110—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Walleye, sauger, northern pike, muskellunge, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass angling season extension authorized.

HF3111—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Forfeited vehicle return subject to agency approval, convictions in other states used for harassment penalty enhancement, restitution hearing request 30-day limit provided, and financial institution search warrants filed within 30 days.

HF3112—Tompkins (R)
Judiciary
Value of stolen property definition clarified relating to theft.

HF3113—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

HF3114—Skare (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Workforce center programs school-to-work initiatives support provided, and money appropriated.

HF3115—Evans (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Health homes pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF3116—Ness (R)
Education
Graduation rule expanded to include knowledge of personal and family financial management and investment.

HF3117—Paulsen (R)
Education
School plan or school closure provided to improve student achievement levels based on minimum state expectations, and unrequested leave of absence provisions modified for teachers at closed schools.

HF3118—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
Counties provided unorganized town road maintenance funding through natural resources land payments in lieu of taxes.

HF3119—Olson, E. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Officer of a local unit of government authorized to contract with the unit to provide construction services and materials under certain circumstances.

HF3120—Rest (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance and health plan underwriting standards modified to prohibit the use of credit history of the applicant to deny coverage.

HF3121—Jennings (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State design-build contracts provided, and rulemaking authority provided.

HF3122—Chaudhary (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Extended leave of absence deadline extended for a certain teacher.

HF3123—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public Utilities Commission or Department of Public Service telecommunications proceeding costs to be shared by all parties.

HF3124—Rukavina (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Minimum value of above-market passenger automobiles increased for motor vehicle sales tax purposes.

HF3125—McGuire (DFL)
Education
Gang prevention and intervention program appropriated money.

HF3126—Osskopp (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Community-based planning and goal provisions repealed.

HF3127—Luther (DFL)
Education
Full day kindergarten phase-in provided, first grade preparedness program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF3128—Seifert (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 415, Lynd, funds transfer authorized.

HF3129—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Rental housing assistance program established, homeless adult pilot program expanded, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF3130—Koskinen (DFL)
Education
Alternative facilities program expanded, compensatory revenue formula modified, referendum equalization aid increased, elementary achievement program established, and money appropriated.

HF3131—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Agriculture
Midwest interstate dairy compact established, and money appropriated.

HF3132—Chaudhary (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Columbia Heights commuter rail station planned and designed, and money appropriated.

HF3133—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Red or white pine planting required for each acre developed and removed from agricultural use in certain counties.

HF3134—Bishop (R)
Judiciary
Crimes committed by persons on bail study required, and money appropriated.

HF3135—Stanek (R)
Health & Human Services
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF3136—Greiling (DFL)
Education
General education formula training and experience revenue component restored, and money appropriated.

HF3137—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
State debt collections act modified.

HF3138—Evans (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Automatic external defibrillator use authorized, 911 emergency call required, and civil liability immunity provided.

HF3139—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Beer brewers and wholesalers regulated, and obligations of successors provided.

HF3140—Kalis (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Zippel Bay State Park provided a state park permit exemption, Garden Island state recreation area established in Lake of the Woods County, and state park additions provided.

HF3141—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Above-ground storage tank rule review provided.

HF3142—Koskinen (DFL)
Education
Child care assistance reimbursement rates modified, and wage enhancements for provider rates provided.

HF3143—Sekhon (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agricultural Finance
Twin Cities metropolitan area state and regional park trails connected, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3144—Wenzel (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 371 four-lane expressway improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3145—Rest (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Housing Finance Agency low-income housing tax credit allocation and compliance monitoring review provided.

HF3146—Gunther (R)
Governmental Operations
Fairmont Police Relief Association surviving spouse retirement benefits increased, and additional annual postretirement adjustment mechanism provided.

HF3147—Pugh (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Criminal alcoholic beverage transportation or importation penalty provisions modified, and liquor license local option election provision eliminated.

HF3148—Kubly (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Manufactured home sales regulated, and limited dealers' licenses authorized in certain cases.

HF3149—Kubly (DFL)
Education
Independent school districts nos. 421 and 426, McLeod West Interdistrict Cooperative, new pre K-12 facility construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3150—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Minnesota retail electric competition act adopted.

HF3151—Bettermann (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Douglas County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF3152—Paulsen (R)
Taxes
Minimum income tax subtraction provided for certain elderly and disabled persons.

HF3153—Huntley (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
On-the-job training program for skilled trades developed, and money appropriated.

HF3154—Chaudhary (DFL)
Education
Class size reduction program funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3155—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Complainant's sexual behavior evidence admissibility in sexual harassment actions limited.

HF3156—Pugh (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Hubbard County school trust land sale required.

HF3157—Winter (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Luverne provided an exemption from the Minnesota Investment Fund Grant limit for job loss offset, and appropriation reallocated.

HF3158—Peterson (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 378, Dawson-Boyd, education and community center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3159—Seifert (R)
Governmental Operations
Bureaucracy control act adopted requiring legislative and executive approval of proposed administrative rules.

HF3160—Bishop (R)
Taxes
Hospital sales tax exemption effective date modified.

HF3161—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified.

HF3162—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
State correctional investigators authorized to use force to apprehend state prison fugitives.

HF3163—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Public defender law corrections, updates, and clarifications provided.

HF3164—Mullery (DFL)
Judiciary
Presumptive sentence departures permitted based on offenders prior juvenile offense record.

HF3165—Rest (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Manufacturing and housing project
bond allocation provided.

HF3166—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical assistance and
MinnesotaCare program information
provided in English, Spanish, Viet-
namese, and Hmong.

HF3167—Slawik (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund estab-
lished, money appropriated, and con-
stitutional amendment proposed.

HF3168—Chaudhary (DFL)
Taxes
Residential property owners provided
a 1998 tax rebate, and seasonal recre-
ation residential property owners and
renters included.

HF3169—Larsen (R)
Taxes
Seniors provided an additional prop-
erty tax refund.

HF3170—Larsen (R)
Education
School year length set at 175 days of
instruction.

HF3171—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Watchmaker or jeweler liens provided
for value of the work performed.

HF3172—Wagenius (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan transit authority and
commuter rail fund established, and
money appropriated.

HF3173—Winter (DFL)
Judiciary
Children from a subsequent family
taken into account when setting the
level of child support.

HF3174—Rest (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Advisory council on metropolitan
area critical problems, and money
appropriated.

HF3175—Rest (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Residential hospice advisory task force
established to study facility licensure,
and money appropriated.

HF3176—Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare eligibility require-
ments modified for persons with con-
tinuation coverage.

HF3177—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Job-training programs study require-
ments modified to include wage rate
and group breakdown information.

HF3178—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal utility proprietary and
competitive business data classified
as nonpublic, and open meeting law
exception provided.

HF3179—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Municipal provision of telecommu-
nications services regulated.

HF3180—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Board of natural resources created,
and powers and duties transferred.

HF3181—Clark, K. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
African-American men with hyper-
tension studied, cultural wellness
grant program implemented, and
money appropriated.

HF3182—Anderson, B. (R)
General Legislation, Veterans
Affairs & Elections
Picture identification card required
to vote.

HF3183—Mariani (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Housing Finance Agency nonprofit
capacity building grants provided, and
money appropriated.

HF3184—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Prenatal alcohol abuse civil commit-
ment provided, and reporting re-
quired.

HF3185—Boudreau (R)
Judiciary
Children in need of protection case
plans expanded, maltreatment of mi-
nors provisions modified, and risk
assessment alternatives and perfor-
mance measurement task forces es-
tablished.

HF3186—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Juvenile corrections facilities licen-
sure restricted.

HF3187—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Minnesota Technology, Inc.'s seed
capital fund changed to equity fund
and provisions modified.

HF3188—Trimble (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environmental response provided at
eligible mixed municipal solid waste
facilities posing human health and
environmental risks.

HF3189—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Summer youth employment pro-
grams appropriated money.

HF3190—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Neighborhood Development Center,
Inc. grant provided, and money ap-
propriated.

HF3191—Paymar (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public Utilities Commission required
to reconsider telephone area code as-
signments for the metropolitan area.

HF3192—Juhnke (DFL)
Taxes
New farm machinery sales tax ex-
emption provided, and aquaculture
equipment subject to sales tax.

HF3193—Ness (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Hutchinson authorized to impose
additional taxes to fund a civic and
community center, and recreational
facilities.

HF3194—Wenzel (DFL)
Agriculture
Agricultural crop security interest
regulated, and collateral provisions
modified.

HF3195—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agricultural Finance
Little Falls; Mississippi River east bank
sediment cleanup state share funding
provided, and money appropriated.

HF3196—Wenzel (DFL)
Education
Little Falls Carnegie library improve-
ments provided, bonds issued, and
money appropriated.

HF3197—Folliard (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 270,
Hopkins, model transportation and
school start time policy created, re-
port required, and money appropri-
ated.

HF3198—Folliard (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association and
First Class City Teacher Retirement
Fund Associations part-time teach-
ing position eligibility modified re-
lating to qualified full-time service
credit participation.

HF3199—Leighton (DFL)
Education
Charter school employment and op-
erating provisions modified.

HF3200—Munger (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Lake Superior and Mississippi Rail-
road improvement grant provided,
and money appropriated.

HF3201—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Agriculture
Unpasteurized fruit juice and cider
labeling required.

HF3202—Pelowski (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Winona State University teaching per-
sonnel authorized to purchase ser-
vice credit for unreported extended
leave of absence.

HF3203—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Proposed health plan coverage man-
dates assessed.

HF3204—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled
substance listing effective date de-
layed.

HF3205—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Challenge grant program maximum
business loan amount increased.

HF3206—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No.
2854, Ada-Borup, health and safety
revenue use authorized.

HF3207—Knoblach (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agricultural Finance
Stearns County; quarry park and nature preserve improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3208—Dehler (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Lottery retailer commissions adjusted.

HF3209—Dehler (R)
Transportation & Transit
Firearms safety training designation provided on drivers' licenses and identification cards.

HF3210—Dehler (R)
Taxes
Golf course class rate reduction eligibility extended.

HF3211—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Becoming an Outdoors Woman program continuation and expansion provided, and money appropriated.

HF3212—Mares (R)
Education
Residential academies for at-risk students provided program grants, and money appropriated.

HF3213—Kinkel (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Hospice programs required to properly dispose of legend drugs.

HF3214—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Successful schools defined, at-risk school improvement plans developed, school improvement fund and distinguished educators program established, at-risk to charter schools transformation provided, studies required, and money appropriated.

HF3215—Wagenius (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association payment of survivor benefits to a certain person authorized.

HF3216—Solberg (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Transportation improvement fund created, motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated, motor fuel tax increased, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3217—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Historical educational programs grants provided for elementary and secondary school curriculum design, and money appropriated.

HF3218—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
State made financially responsible for costs associated with the treatment and confinement of persons who are sexually psychopathic or sexually dangerous.

HF3219—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary
Automatic external defibrillator purchase grant program established for local law enforcement agencies, and money appropriated.

HF3220—Ness (R)
Labor-Management Relations
State contracted project compensation ranges established for all job classifications and prevailing wage rates assigned.

HF3221—Skare (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Breast and cervical cancer control program funding provided for screening of low-income individuals, and money appropriated.

HF3222—Huntley (DFL)
Judiciary
911 emergency dispatchers relieved from tort liability in certain cases.

HF3223—Slawik (DFL)
Education
Class size reduction program funding enhanced, school district debt service levy full equalization provided, and money appropriated.

HF3224—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
General Assistance citizenship requirements modified, state food assistance programs created for certain legal noncitizens, noncitizen family food assistance benefits extended, and money appropriated.

HF3225—Jefferson (DFL)
Taxes
Minneapolis Convention Center improvement materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF3226—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Gunn Lake elevation level provided, and penalties provided.

HF3227—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 93, Carlton, district building and services coordination developed, and money appropriated.

HF3228—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Teachers Retirement Association and First Class City Teacher Retirement Fund associations service credit purchase authorized for prior military service, out-of-state teaching service, and pre-1976 maternity leaves or breaks-in-service.

HF3229—Jennings (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Cigarette displays accessible to the public limited to cartons of 10 units or more.

HF3230—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Shipment and possession of wild animals taken on the Red Lake Indian Reservation north of the 49th parallel authorized, and no state license required.

HF3231—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Prepaid medical assistance program expansion and county-based purchasing provisions modified.

HF3232—Farrell (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Sign contractor voluntary registration provided.

HF3233—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
District and state public defender representation eligibility clarified.

HF3234—Leighton (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal liability provisions modified.

HF3235—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
St. Paul sales tax revenue distributed to the STAR program to be awarded through a grant review process, and allocation provided.

HF3236—Rest (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Retail sale of tobacco licensed by local units of government, specified substances in cigars disclosure exemption provided, and the sale of unopened cartons on cigarette displays accessible to the public authorized.

HF3237—Chaudhary (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Columbia Heights enterprise zone established, and tax incentives provided for high technology businesses.

HF3238—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agricultural Finance
Critical habitat private sector matching account special license plate revenue required to be matched by public appropriations.

HF3239—Jennings (DFL)
Taxes
Sparkling wine excise tax reduced.

HF3240—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Low-income housing property tax class rules clarified, penalties modified, and fees and penalties deposited in the housing development fund.

HF3241—Pelowski (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Voter registration reassignments to correct precinct and election district provided following legislative redistricting, and money appropriated.

HF3242—Bishop (R)
Capital Investment
Omnibus bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bonds issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3243—Dempsey (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Hastings municipal water park construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3244—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Water conditioning contractors and installers licensed and regulated, continuing education required, and registration required for water conditioning units claiming to remove primary contaminants.

HF3245—Dorn (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Mankato technology center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3246—Lieder (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Ada disaster loan guarantee provided for damaged public health care facility operating losses, and money appropriated.

HF3247—Jennings (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
St. Croix Valley heritage center designed, prior bond proceeds cancelled, and money appropriated.

HF3248—Anderson, B. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Biodiversity Treaty; Congress memorialized to oppose the ratification of the Biodiversity Treaty.

HF3249—Larsen (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Land mines; United States government urged to sign the international convention to ban land mines.

HF3250—Garcia (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Aircraft safety; president and Congress memorialized to enact the Aircraft Repair Station Safety Act of 1997.

HF3251—Pelowski (DFL)
Education
University of Minnesota law clinics program provided funding for low-income legal assistance expansion, and money appropriated.

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HF3339—Hilty (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric utilities required to disclose supply sources and pollutant amounts.

HF3340—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public utilities energy conservation improvements definition expanded.

HF3341—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Sand Dunes State Forest office facility/interpretive center designed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3342—Kinkel (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Town subordinate service district dissolution petitions provided.

HF3343—Sykora (R)
Health & Human Services
Fetal alcohol syndrome campaign implemented, statewide network of FAS diagnostic clinics and grant programs established, study required, and money appropriated.

HF3344—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Incentives for child care services for children with disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

HF3345—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide provisions modified, and service unit plans modified.

HF3346—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 94, Cloquet, reading readiness program provided, and money appropriated.

HF3347—Mullery (DFL)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Multiple unit dwelling candidate access denial prohibitions modified, and felony penalties provided.

HF3348—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Twins baseball franchise community ownership provided, stadium construction conditions established, and money appropriated.

HF3349—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Northstar research coalition created to leverage the University of Minnesota's research capabilities, and money appropriated.

HF3350—Orfield (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Advisory council on official publications created.

HF3351—Bishop (R)
Taxes
Construction materials and supplies used to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act sales tax exemption provided.

HF3352—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Critical habitat private sector matching account special license plate revenue required to be matched by the critical habitat license plate matching account.

HF3353—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Washington County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3354—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Washington County; Twin Lake flooding problems engineering analysis funded, and money appropriated.

HF3355—Rest (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Investments of insurers act adopted.

HF3356—Milbert (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Taking of white bears prohibited.

HF3357—Murphy (DFL)
Judiciary
Court surcharge and fine assessment provisions revised and consolidated.

HF3358—Ness (R)
Governmental Operations
Broad statutory delegations of rulemaking authority to state agencies studied, and rulemaking regulated.

HF3359—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Occupational regulatory oversight council established to coordinate health-related and non-health-related occupation regulation boards, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3360—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
Recognition of domestic abuse protection orders from other states clarified, and mutual orders not entitled to full faith and credit in certain cases.

HF3361—Mares (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Cochlear implant health plan coverage required.

HF3362—Greiling (DFL)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Public's right to know; independent expenditures definition expanded, independent campaign expenditure notice requirements modified, and lobbying costs disclosure in full required.

HF3363—Seagren (R)
Education
School districts required to notify parents of transition goals and services for their children with disabilities, eligible institutions definition modified relating to student grants, and money appropriated.

HF3364—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Three direct reduction iron processing facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3365—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Education
Central Lakes College, Staples, and Northwest Technical College, Wadena, improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3366—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Justifiable homicide expanded to include preventing the commission of a felony by certain trespassers.

HF3367—Solberg (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Itasca County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3368—Abrams (R)
Governmental Operations
Independent School District No. 16, Spring Lake Park, teacher provided service credit purchase for a sabbatical leave.

HF3369—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Low-income taxpayer assistance services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3370—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
Victims of domestic violence address confidentiality program established, and money appropriated.

HF3371—McCollum (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Transit-related capital improvements bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3372—Kahn (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Mississippi whitewater trail established in Minneapolis.

HF3373—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Capitol mall memorials repair and rehabilitation funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3374—Solberg (DFL)
Education
Retired health benefits expenses school district levy authority made permanent.

HF3375—Tomassoni (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Trained force of firefighters maintained by the commissioner of natural resources, and public employee definition expanded.

HF3376—Juhnke (DFL)
Education
Ridgewater Community College Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3377—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Fire service training board established, training and education assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3378—Westrom (R)
Health & Human Services
Vision Loss Resources, Inc. rehabilitation and community centers funded, and money appropriated.

HF3379—Winter (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Ambulance services health plan company reimbursements provided.

HF3380—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Claims against the state limited relating to losses involving the operation of a recreational motor vehicle on a trunk highway right-of-way, highway closures regulated, and civil penalties imposed.

HF3381—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Morrison, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, and Kanabec counties compensated for tornado damage, and money appropriated.

HF3382—Jennings (DFL)
Judiciary
Unlawful detainer provisions modified, court felony filing fee reduced, stay of execution eliminated, and storage period reduced for tenants property after writ execution.

HF3383—Schumacher (DFL)
Taxes
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3384—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Noncitizen food stamp program continued, and money appropriated.

HF3385—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Legal nonlicensed family child care minimal safety standards required, and child care fund assistance receipt prohibited if standards are not met.

HF3386—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Safe houses with homeless targeted youth services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3387—Rifenberg (R)
Judiciary
Private property rights protection act adopted.

HF3388—McGuire (DFL)
Education
St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota dairy barn renovation and conversion funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3389—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Financial institutions provided limited liability for criminal alert network data errors regarding fraudulent checks.

HF3390—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Criminal alert network funded, and money appropriated.

HF3391—Juhnke (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Willmar and Litchfield volunteer rescue squad relief associations authorized, and service pensions provided.

HF3392—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Municipal levy limits repealed.

HF3393—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Housing trust fund grant provided to Metro State University for a student housing pilot program, and money appropriated.

HF3394—Trimble (DFL)
Education
St. Paul Technical College worker information resource center funded, and money appropriated.

HF3395—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan commuter rail service study requirements modified.

HF3396—McGuire (DFL)
Education
Child care assistance and child care programs modified, provider rate bonus for reading programs and school-age child care program grants established, and money appropriated.

HF3397—Bradley (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 535, Rochester, special education services loan provided, and money appropriated.

HF3398—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Low impact forestry act adopted.

HF3399—Lieder (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Flood hazard mitigation programs funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3400—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home planning and transition grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF3401—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home licensed bed inactive status established.

HF3402—Davids (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance company affiliate rebates prohibited.

HF3403—Davids (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Preston to Forestville Blufflands Trail completion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3404—Davids (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Root River Trail in Lanesboro parking facility improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3405—Davids (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Credit card issuers required to disclose on each billing statement the number of months it would take to pay off account balance based on minimum payments.

HF3406—Boudreau (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Local alcoholic beverage sale and possession restriction provisions clarified.

HF3407—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Optional/special function school sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3408—Mahon (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
No-fault auto insurance disability and income loss benefits regulated.

HF3409—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services
Stearns and Sherburne County ICFs/MRs provided reimbursement for field audit disallowances, spend-up limit exemptions provided, and money appropriated.

HF3410—Slawik (DFL)
Education
Full-day kindergarten, technology enhancements, and gifted and talented programming site-based funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3411—Harder (R)
Taxes
Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amounts modified to reduce marriage penalties.

HF3412—Rhodes (R)
Health & Human Services
Autopsy mandate exemption provided for religious beliefs.

HF3413—Rostberg (R)
Judiciary
Convicted traffic offenders who fail to appear at probation review hearings provided driver's license suspension.

HF3414—Davids (R)
Governmental Operations
Available investments expanded for public supplemental pension or deferred compensation plans.

HF3415—Harder (R)
Agriculture
Value-added agricultural product loan program purposes expanded, proposed feedlot environmental review requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF3416—Finseth (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

HF3417—Juhnke (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
University of Minnesota appropriated money for turkey respiratory disease control and prevention research.

HF3418—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund shorter service death-while-active retirement benefits increased, and annuity escalation provided.

HF3419—Bakk (DFL)
Judiciary
Mandatory life sentence without release imposed for all types of first-degree murder.

HF3420—Sviggum (R)
Governmental Operations
Hiring freeze imposed on certain public and legislative employers.

HF3421—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Animal feedlots and practices limited, generic environmental impact statement prepared on the long-term effects of the livestock industry, livestock industry environmental steering committee created, and money appropriated.

HF3422—Sykora (R)
Education
Direct child care assistance payments modified.

HF3423—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health and human services providers annual rate adjustment provided.

HF3424—Molnau (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Independent School District No. 112, Chaska, eastern Carver community collaborative project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3425—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Education
Independent school districts nos. 593, Crookston, 361, International Falls, 706, Virginia, and 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, supplemental revenue modified.

HF3426—Greiling (DFL)
Education
High school league governing board member appointment date established, rule review required, and commercial relationship prohibition repealed.

HF3427—Jefferson (DFL)
Education
Gary Neil Sudduth education reform act; nonwhite and white at-risk student educational needs met, educational success obstacles identified, staff development and community training provided, advisory council created, and money appropriated.

HF3428—Knight (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3429—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Adolescent pregnancy prevention plan established, and money appropriated.

HF3430—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Plumbing inspection program expanded.

HF3431—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Office of educational responsibility established, and money appropriated.

HF3432—Wenzel (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Life insurance company investments and financial transactions regulated, qualified long-term care policies regulated, and chronically ill individual definition modified.

HF3433—Harder (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Watonwan River flood abatement project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3434—Harder (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Martin County Fox Lake wastewater project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3435—Macklin (R)
Taxes
Proposed property tax levy notices permitted to include transit levy information.

HF3436—McElroy (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Regular route transit service and transit zone definitions modified, transit zone maps redrawn, and property tax rate application prohibition removed for retail structures in transit zones.

HF3437—Munger (DFL)
Judiciary
Hazardous materials team reimbursements provided, and money appropriated.

HF3438—Westrom (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Farwell-Kensington sanitary district established, and tax levies authorized.

HF3439—McElroy (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Burnsville amphitheater admissions tax imposed and tax increment finance district established.

HF3440—Rukavina (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Minimum wage increased, and large and small employer requirements specified.

HF3441—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Animal waste technician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, cleanup fund created, ordinance update assistance provided, and generic environmental impact statements required.

HF3442—Wenzel (DFL)
Judiciary
Interstate emergency management assistance compact adopted.

HF3443—Osthoff (DFL)
Capital Investment
Minnesota financial institutions required to be principal underwriters of state bond issues.

HF3444—Mullery (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Parenting leave requirements extended to 12 weeks.

HF3445—Davids (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Chatfield water system improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3446—Trimble (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
St. Paul provided a grant to acquire right-of-way in the Phalen corridor, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3447—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, grant requirements and information provided, and money appropriated.

HF3448—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Board of Water and Soil Resources appropriated money for small non-industrial private forest land management.

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.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Feb. 9

8 a.m.

Economic Development

Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2466 (Winter) Authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for capital improvements to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant facilities in Walnut Grove.

HF2639 (Daggett) Detroit Lakes Community Center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2423 (Swenson, H.) New Ulm; Herman Monument restoration, enhancement, and protection provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2605 (Dawkins) St. Paul transit zone property designated as an enterprise zone.

HF2194 (Chaudhary) Fridley Historical Museum restoration provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2656 (Johnson, R.) Nicollet County treaty site historic center grant provided, land acquisition and capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF2511 (Pawlenty) Building space average age threshold reduced relating to school district alternative facilities bonding and levy program qualifications.

HF3032 (McCollum) Modify eligibility for alternative facilities program.

HF3033 (McCollum) Modify eligibility for alternative facilities program.

HF2914 (Evans) Health and safety revenue authorized for use in certain new construction relating to schools.

HF2915 (Evans) Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, funds usage authorized.

HF3206 (Lieder) Authorizing the use of health

and safety revenue for Independent School District No. 2854.

HF2879 (Lieder) Flood-affected school districts average daily membership modified.

HF2412 (Lieder) School district flood losses appropriation extended.

HF3109 (Ness) Reauthorizing canceled facilities grant to Crow River Education Co-op.

HF2474 (Opatz) Independent School District No. 742, St. Cloud, authorized to purchase a community education site with remaining bond proceeds.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF2360 (Sekon) City base aid increase provided for newly incorporated cities.

HF2436 (Tunheim) County assessor notification limited concerning agricultural homesteads abandoned due to flooding.

HF2549 (Winter) Regional development commissions levy limit modified.

HF2821 (McElroy) Tax-Increment Financing district decertification responsibility and duration of reporting requirements clarified, and remedies provided for failure to file required reports.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF2584 (Evans) Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2877 (Lieder) Fertile; Agassiz Environmental Learning Center improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2414 (Lieder) Polk County; Maple Lake Regional Park and Trail development provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2562 (Peterson) Montevideo Recreational Trail completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Schumacher) Sand dunes.

Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HFXXXX (Peterson) Feedlot legislation; "Living with Livestock" feedlot proposal.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2418 (Rukavina) BWCA; permanent school fund funded through Boundary Waters Canoe Area campsite fees.

HF3140 (Kalis) State Parks.

HF3297 (Long) MERLA; statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act.

HF3275 (Tomassoni) Percentage of moose licenses to be selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.

HFXXXX (Munger) Small woodlots.

HF1561 (Finseth) Natural snow fencing funding provided, and money appropriated.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Public testimony on the governor's supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Veteran's Home Board, Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Board of Medical Practice. To testify contact Vic Thorstenson, committee administrator, 296-2317; or Don Jorovsky, legislative assistant, 297-7202.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF381 (Greenfield) Nonprofit health care trust defined and transaction agreement regulation provided.

HF2486 (Greiling) Voter eligibility and campaign material provisions ruled unconstitutional eliminated.

HF2286 (Skoglund) Violent crime offense penalty provisions modified, and mandatory sentence provisions recodified.

HF24 (Weaver) Life sentence provided for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF2397 (Mullery) Probation revocation hearings provided preponderance of the evidence standard.

Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF3241 (Pelowski) Voter registration updates.

Supplemental budget requests by the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the State Auditor, and Gambling Control Board.

Additional bills and agencies may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF2748 (Tomassoni) Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.

HF2581 (Delmont) Emergency assistance and

transitional housing programs appropriated money.
HF3167 (Slawik) Children's endowment fund.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

Room To Be Announced.
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF2526 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot provisions modified.
HF581 (Hausman) Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF57 (Sviggum) Unicameral legislature provided with 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF59 (Anderson, I.) Unicameral legislature provided with 102 to 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF158 (Greiling) Unicameral legislature provided with 99 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF1456 (Carruthers) Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF905 (Pugh) Legislature reduced in size, term limits imposed, partially unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
(Committee meeting will be televised on KTCI Channel 17.)

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF1895 (Hilty) Workers' compensation rehabilitation program requirements modified.
HF2643 (Farrell) Settlement division established in the office of administrative hearings, transfer of judges, small claims court, duties, and funds provided.
HF2897 (Rukavina) Union organizations rights and duties established, unfair labor practices provisions expanded, and equal time requirements provided.
HF2849 (Garcia) Public employer definition expanded to include the Legislative Coordinating Commission.
HF2365 (Bettermann) Public works prevailing wage rate provisions eliminated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

Room To Be Announced.
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: HFXXXX (Lieder) Transportation bonding bill.
HF3265 (Marko) Relating to transportation; defining road or highway; requiring certain expenditures from the trunk highway fund; establishing transportation spending goals.
HF3057 (Lieder) Relating to transportation; redefining road or highway; imposing requirement restrictions on transportation expenditures from the trunk highway fund and general fund; establishing spending goals for transportation.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

**Subcommittee on Business Regulation/
COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER
AFFAIRS**
500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Al Juhnke

Agenda: HF2695 (Tunheim) Malt liquor sampling regulated.
HF2926 (Tunheim) Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses authorized for state universities.
HF3139 (Tunheim) Relating to commerce; regulating beer brewers and wholesalers; providing for the obligations of successors.
HF2977 (Entenza) Temporary on-sale liquor license restrictions modified.
HF3060 (Rukavina) Relating to liquor; authorizing the city of Virginia to issue an additional on-sale license.
HF2999 (Molnau) Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less exempt from certain temporary liquor license restrictions.
HF2837 (Tomassoni) Open bottle law exemption provided to persons designated by a licensed alcoholic beverage manufacturer or wholesaler.
HF2691 (Huntley) Canosia permitted the off-sale of intoxicating liquor until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
HF2799 (Juhnke) Municipalities authorized to issue two temporary on-sale licenses for official community festivals.
HF2805 (Wejcman) Sale of alcohol to under age persons provided minimum mandatory civil penalties, regular compliance checks for licensees required, home delivery regulated, under age purchasers provided minimum fines, and 50 milliliter bottle ban allowed.
HF2851 (Paulsen) Beer brewer and wholesaler agreement termination provided.
HF3105 (Pawlenty) Relating to liquor; increasing authorized liquor licenses for the city of Eagan.
HF3293 (Kraus) Relating to liquor; authorizing the city of Albert Lea to issue additional on-sale licenses.
Additional bills may be added.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

1/2 Hour After Session

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: HF2467 (Winter) Authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for construction of Prairieland Expo.
HF2758 (Mullery) Hennepin County Humboldt Avenue Greenway Project grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF2655 (Gunther) Lake Crystal area recreation center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3026 (Mahon) Public improvements; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for the construction of improvements for certain recreational facilities for the city of Richfield.
HF2961 (McCollum) Ramsey County grant provided for family service center improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

4 p.m.

**K-12 Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF2483 (Jefferson) Driver safety

education pilot program for students established, and money appropriated.
HF2522 (Greiling) K-12 education policy changes and rulemaking provided.
HF2611 (Kelso) American Indian language and culture programs, post-secondary preparation grants, and scholarship funding increased, and money appropriated.
HF2788 (Dawkins) Youth Works Program repealer removed.
HF3090 (Schumacher) Grants for unlimited possibilities plan.
HF2839 (Seagren) Minnesota Council on Economic Education provided funding for state graduation standards teacher training, and money appropriated.
HF2967 (Rifenberg) Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, management assistance study authorized, and money appropriated.

TUESDAY, Feb. 10

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF2680 (Munger) Permanent school fund advisory committee membership and duties expanded.
HF3094 (Harder) Red Rock School, reduction in school board membership.
HF2919 (Biernat) Metropolitan Council authorized to contract to transport students in independent school district nos. 625, St. Paul, and 1, Minneapolis.
Additional bills may be added.
(This meeting will continue at 6 p.m. in room 200 if necessary.)

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Supplemental budget requests, Public Defense Board. Others to be announced. This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: HF2589 (Wagenius) Snowfence easements, highway closures, and signs regulated, state transportation plan revised, private carriers regulated, flexible highway account created, town highways and bridges funded, and conveyances to public bodies permitted.
HF3057 (Lieder) Road or highway redefined, trunk highway and general fund expenditures regulated, transportation spending goals established, state patrol funded, motor fuel tax rates adjusted, local bridge replacement authorized, and money appropriated.
HF3265 (Marko) Trunk highway fund expenditures required, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and tax revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.
HF3216 (Solberg) Transportation improvement fund created, motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated, motor fuel tax increased, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF2976 (Juhnke) County state-aids funds

transfer to revolving loan account prohibited until gas or vehicle registration tax rates are increased, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HFXXXX (Davids) Blufflands.

HFXXXX (Davids) Eyota-Chatfield.

HFXXXX (Davids) Lanesboro parking.

HFXXXX (McCollum) Hoyt flood control.

HF2714 (Leighton) Mower County; land acquisition adjacent to the Ramsey Mill Pond Wildlife Management Area authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 5 if necessary.

HF3068 (Solberg) Ratification of labor agreements.

HF2924 (Luther) State board purchase of tobacco stock prohibited.

HF2777 (Jefferson) Department of Employee Relations experimental or research project provisions modified.

HF2947 (Hilty) Department of Administration technical corrections bill.

HF1965 (Hilty) Administration department, office of environmental assistance, public service department, state archaeologist, and transportation regulation board reorganization orders codified.

HF2708 (Juhnke) Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established, dispute resolution procedures provided, and association of producers defined.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF2870 (Greenfield) Health care cost information system provisions modified, filing fee established, and money appropriated.

HF2649 (Wejcman) Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

HF2868 (Greenfield) Medical Assistance, Medicare, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified, Medical Assistance elderly waiver program modified, nursing facility cost report procedures modified, and health maintenance organizations surcharge offset provided.

HF2565 (Delmont) Human services claim error notification required.

HF2630 (Delmont) Family day-care licensure provisions modified.

HF2461 (Clark, K.) Establishing a grant program for research on hepatitis C; establishing a public education campaign on hepatitis C; appropriating money.

HF1135 (McCollum) Massage and Oriental bodywork therapist licensure requirement established, and penalties provided.

HF1297 (Entenza) Sign language interpreter certification required, standards established, and penalties provided.

HF3258 (Greenfield) Congress memorialized to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

HF3138 (Evans) Automatic external defibrillator use authorized.

HF3231 (Bradley) Prepaid Medical Assistance Program expansion and countybased purchasing provisions modified.

HF2662 (Bradley) Medical Assistance and General Assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF2789 (Huntley) Mental illness crisis housing assistance program appropriated money.

HF3115 (Evans) Establish healthy homes pilot project.

HF3183 (Mariani) Capacity building, VISTA \$65,000.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF3281 (Murphy) For the Committee on judiciary, bonding recommendations.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF2794 (Tunheim) Telecommunications commerce regulated, telemarketing fraud outreach advocacy network established, and money appropriated.

HF3071 (Wolf) Relating to motor fuels; updating petroleum specifications.

HF2510 (McElroy) Minnesota collection agency collector license holders prohibited from using assumed names.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: HF3101 (Skare) Bemidji authorized to impose additional sales and excise taxes for the purpose of funding convention center construction.

HF3193 (Ness) Hutchinson authorized to impose additional taxes to fund a civic and community center, and recreational facilities.

HF2257 (Chaudhary) Columbia Heights appropriated money for capital improvements, and bonds issued.

HF2973 (Evans) Corridor planning pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF3081 (Paymar) St. Paul bonding limits set.

HF2320 (Greiling) Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission required to give notice prior to insecticide application.

HF2635 (Skare) Headwaters Regional Development Commission authorized to establish a not-for-profit housing corporation.

HF3157 (Winter) Luverne provided an exemption from the Minnesota Investment Fund grant limit for job loss offset, and appropriation reallocated.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: Gambling bills that pass out of subcommittee.

HFXXXX (Jennings) Modifying definition of energy conservation improvements.

2 p.m.

St. Paul Delegation

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Farrell

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF3320 (Peterson) Feedlots: moratorium.

HFXXXX (Winter) Feedlots: 750 AU/EIS.

(Meeting will move to 5 State Office Building after 5:30 p.m. if necessary.)

**Subcommittee on Data Practices/
JUDICARY**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

Agenda: Any bill not completed at the Data Practices meeting on Feb. 5.

HF3067 (Paymar) Data practices; classifying certain law enforcement data.

HF2371 (Mullery) Attorney general maintained consumer complaint data access modified.

HFXXXX (McGuire) Parking data classified.

HF1626 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.

Final passage of omnibus data practices bill (McGuire).

Additional bills may be added.

3 p.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF2895 (Tomassoni) Township mutual insurance companies permitted investments expanded.

HF3272 (Tomassoni) Insurance; township mutual companies; regulating farm risks.

HF2846 (Mahon) Automobile insurance premium reduction provided for completion of an accident prevention course.

HF1604 (Tomassoni) No-fault automobile insurance nonowned vehicle residual liability insurance regulated.

HF2500 (Rest) Customer loss or theft of a debit card limited liability provided.

HF2512 (Rest) Homeowner's insurance nonrenewals regulated, and automobile and homeowner's insurance discrimination limited.

HF2016 (Haas) Financial institution loan solicitation by mailing a check payable to the addressee prohibited.

HF2890 (Tunheim) Savings Association Act maintained.

HF2750 (Wenzel) Reinsurance intermediary-brokers regulated, and held or collected fund investment provided.

HF1278 (Clark, K.) Financial institution reasonable account fees required.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza
Agenda: HF3199 (Leighton) Modify charter school provisions.
HF3266 (Kelso) Clarify contractual arrangements for charter schools.
HFXXXX (Greiling) High school league modifications.
HF3116 (Ness) Requiring personal and family financial management in profiles of learning.

4 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn
Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

8 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF2798 (Juhnke) Eminent domain pipeline easement compensation requirements provided.
HF3318 (Peterson) Southwest State University regional studies center; appropriating money.
HF2892 (Peterson) Value-added agricultural livestock processing and marketing grant program expanded to include other commodities, and money appropriated.
HF2935 (Kielkucki) Commissioner of agriculture granted rulemaking authority in warehouse and grain storage laws.
HF3201 (Otremba) Requiring labeling on unpasteurized fruit juice and cider.
HF3103 (Anderson, B.) Changing food handler licensing provisions.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 11

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
Agenda: HF2257 (Chaudhary) Columbia Heights appropriated money for capital improvements, and bonds issued.
HF2835 (Peterson) Montevideo downtown redevelopment project funded, and money appropriated.
HF2747 (Peterson) Montevideo historic railroad depot, related parking, and facilities capital improvement grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2539 (Goodno) Historical society appropriated money for expansion of the Red River Valley Center, and bond issuance authorized.
HF2829 (Murphy) Proctor community activity center provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3088 (Kielkucki) Waverly granted funds to establish Hubert H. Humphrey museum and learning center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF2878 (Lieder) Independent School District No. 2609, Win-E-Mac, fund transfer authorized.
HF3128 (Siefert) Lynd fund raiser.
HF3130 (Koskinen) Expand alternative facilities program, modify compensatory revenue and fund elementary achievement program.
HF2359 (Sekhon) School district compensatory revenue calculation alternative established, and money appropriated.
HF2464 (Johnson, A.) Establishing an alternative calculation for compensatory revenue; appropriating money.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
Agenda: HF2482 (Rest) Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit and inputs to taxable services and certain analgesics sales tax exemptions effective dates modified, federal conformity and property tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.
HF2516 (Pawlenty) Dakota County dangerous dog registration system city administration provided.
HF2322 (Sviggum) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.
Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF2686 (Munger) Board of Water and Soil Resources hearing provisions clarified, and wetland replacement approval required.
HF1847 (Munger) Tax-forfeited and land bordering public waters sale provisions modified.
HF3256 (Leppik) Lakes initiative.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson
Agenda: HF2582 (Johnson, R.) Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, authorized to establish a school bank as part of an educational program.
HF2309 (Leppik) Equal consumer credit provided for spouses.
HF2971 (Entenza) Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.

HF1306 (Hausman) Health plan coverage required for off-label drug use, and advisory council established.

HFXXXX (Davids) Financial institutions; mortgage regulation.
HF2983 (Tunheim) Minnesota residential mortgage originator and servicer licensing act adopted.
Additional bills may be added.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF2395 (Mullery) Felony-level offenders failing to appear in court provided increased criminal penalties.
HF3023 (Stanek) Relating to crime; clarifying repeat offender penalties for theft crimes.
HF2429 (Murphy) New juvenile facilities licensure conditions specified, placement bed moratorium imposed, and exceptions provided.
HF2943 (Murphy) Juvenile dispositional residential treatment facility temporary bed moratorium imposed, and out-of-home placements studied.
HF3186 (Larsen) Relating to corrections; restricting the licensing of juvenile correctional facilities.
HF2376 (Evans) State correctional facilities performance report required to include programming and inmate job placement information.
HF2568 (Broecker) Minors prohibited from engaging in body piercing without parental permission, and penalties provided.
Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
Agenda: Department of Administration; supplemental budget request, Year 2000 request, Minnesota Youth Initiative, governor's portrait.
HF2705 (Kahn) Electronic State Agency Guidebooks and Internet availability of the State Register required, and money appropriated.
Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins
Agenda: To be announced.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Josos
Agenda: HF3084 (Ness) Authorizing Meeker County to establish an economic development authority.
HF3283 (Tunheim) Authorizing Kittson County to establish an economic development authority.
HF3177 (Mullery) Changing requirements for a study of on-the-job training programs.
HF3161 (Mullery) Changing the Department of

Trade and Economic Development reporting requirements for business subsidies.

HF3016 (Farrell) Stroh Brewery property development

HF3246 (Lieder) Disaster loan guarantee for the city of Ada.

HF3114 (Skare) Appropriating money for work force center involvement in school to work initiatives.

HF3019 (Hausman) Appropriating money for screenwriters grant programs.

HF3063 (Clark, K.) Appropriating money for the Green Institute Inc.

(Meeting will reconvene in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building at 4 p.m.)

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Citizenship update, Barry Shaffer, DCFL adult basic education supervisor.

HF3066 (Winter) Delivered fuel accounts.

HF3125 (McGuire) Gang prevention.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

4 p.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: To be announced.

4 p.m. or After Session

Hennepin County Delegation

300N State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams,

Rep. Linda Wejcman

Agenda: Mortgage and deed registration; tax and child welfare.

2 Hours After Session

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF2737 (Goodno) Welfare reform; Work First and other programs modified, and nonresidential child care program licensure modified.

HF2990 (Huntley) Welfare programs providing an education choice provisions modified.

HF3259 (Greenfield) Food stamp benefits extended for noncitizens, public housing residents' MFIP-S grant reductions delayed, alcohol and drug dependent persons' benefits continued, TANF funds transferred to federal Title XX allocation, and money appropriated.

THURSDAY, Feb. 12

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF1529 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Convention Center expansion authorized, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2209 (Jaros) Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2857 (Nornes) Fergus Falls convention and civic center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: To be announced.

(This meeting will be continued at 6 p.m. in Room 200 State Office Building if necessary.)

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Supplemental budget requests, courts. Others to be announced. This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 10 if necessary.

HFXXXX (Kahn) Omnibus pension bill.

HF3121 (Jennings) Design build contracts.

HF2706 (Kahn) Electronic message reliability and certification authorities required, licensing and enforcement powers specified, and definitions and rulemaking provided.

HF384 (Kahn) State agency procurement procedures modified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF396 (Wejcman) Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and criminal penalties provided.

HF3326 (Greenfield) Home care bill of rights modified relating to the Office of the Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans.

HF2398 (Goodno) Personal care services termination standards set, transition plans required, recipients provided appeal rights, and temporary stays of termination allowed.

HF2729 (Goodno) Temporary licensure waiver authorized for certain dietitians.

HF2503 (Bradley) Region 10 Quality Assurance Commission appropriation carryover authorized.

Additional bills may be added.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF2963 (Clark, K.) Home ownership zones program established, and money appropriated.

HF2816 (Knoblach) Sale or lease of property by a housing and redevelopment authority public notice requirements modified.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Bonding recommendations from the the Family & Early Childhood Finance Division and the K-12 Education Finance Division. Boarding school concept.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF2695 (Tunheim) Malt liquor sampling regulated.

Additional bills may be added.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HF3042 (Jennings) Omnibus regulated industries bill.

Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After session

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: To be announced.

1/2 Hour After Session

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2683 (Huntley) Improvements to St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center in Duluth authorized.

HF2248 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park Arts Center

construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF3019 (Hausman) Economic development; providing for grants to local screenwriters.
HF3054 (Paymar) City of St. Paul; appropriating money to fund Harriet Island redevelopment.
HF2488 (Skare) Battle Point cultural and education center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2587 (Skare) Bemidji Historical Museum renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

7 p.m.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim
Agenda: Petrofund bills from the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

7:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF2278 (Wenzel) Milk handling assessment collection and proceed distribution provided, milk handler assessment account established, and money appropriated.
HF2844 (Peterson) Board of Animal Health provided funding for expansion of the bovine paratuberculosis control program, and money appropriated.

FRIDAY, Feb. 13

8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF3217 (Kelso) Grants for historical

education programs.
HF2349 (Ness) Basic skills summer school funding reinstated, and money appropriated.
HF2875 (Greiling) Interagency services for children with disabilities act adopted.

Transportation & Transit

Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 10.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: Feedlot legislation.
Additional bills may be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: HF3319 (Peterson) Feedlots: licenses, permits, GEI, etc.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HF2993 (Paymar) Order for protection and minor respondent violations provided criminal penalties, firearm possession prohibited, and harassment restraining order service of notice clarified.
SF395 (Robling); HF64 (Pawlenty) Biological specimens required prior to release from imprisonment from persons convicted of causing

the death of someone while committing criminal sexual conduct.

HF2297 (Mullery) Correctional institution autopsies conducted in all unattended inmate deaths, Red Wing juvenile correctional facility bed limitation exemption provided, and at-risk youth and girls included in the Camp Ripley weekend camp.

HF2853 (Weaver) Concurrent incarceration provisions clarified for separate crimes or behavioral incidents, and concurrent and consecutive sentences specification requirements modified.

HF2472 (Mullery) Authorizing probation officers to impose community work service for a violation of a condition of probation; providing for district court review of the imposition of community work service.

HF3204 (Pugh) Delaying the effective date for listing the drug Carisoprodol as a controlled substance.

HF2329 (Mullery) Individuals on conditional release required to carry a verification card, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3039 (Pawlenty) Relating to controlled substances; redefining a Minnesota Statute, offense as a prior controlled substance conviction.

HF2375 (Clark, K.) Prostitution offenses committed in a school, park, or public housing zone provided increased penalties.

Final passage and rereferral of omnibus crime bill to Judiciary Finance Division.

Additional bills may be added.

1 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn
Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 12 and rereferrals from other committees under Rule 5.10.

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Anderson, Bruce		Johnson, Alice M.		Ozment, Dennis	AHZ-ment
Anderson, Irv		Johnson, Ruth		Paulsen, Erik	
Bakk, Thomas	BOCK	Juhnke, Al	JUNK-ee	Pawlenty, Tim	paw-LENTY
Bettermann, Hilda		Kahn, Phyllis		Paymar, Michael	
Biernat, Len	BE-AIR-NAT	Kalis, Henry J.	KAH-liss	Pelowski Jr., Gene	
Bishop, Dave		Kelso, Becky		Peterson, Doug	
Boudreau, Lynda	Boo-DROH	Kielkucki, Tony	keel-COO-ski	Pugh, Thomas	PEW
Bradley, Fran		Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony"		Rest, Ann H.	
Broecker, Sherry	BROKE-er	Knight, Kevin		Reuter, Doug	ROOT-er
Carlson, Lyndon R.		Knoblach, Jim	NOB-lock	Rhodes, Jim	
Carruthers, Phil	ka-RUH-thers	Koskinen, Luanne		Rifenberg, Michelle	RIFF-en-berg
Chaudhary, Satveer		Kraus, Ron	CROUSE	Rostberg, Jim	
	SUT-veer	Krinkie, Phil		Rukavina, Tom	roo-ka-VEEN-a
	CHAW-dree	Kubly, Gary W.	KOO-blee	Schumacher, Leslie	SHOE-mocker
Clark, Karen		Kuisle, William	KWEEZ-lee	Seagren, Alice	
Clark, James		Larsen, Peg		Seifert, Marty	SY-fert
Commers, Tim	COMM-erz	Leighton, Rob	LAY-ton	Sekhon, Kathleen	SEEK-on
Daggett, Roxann		Leppik, Peggy		Skare, Gail	SCAR-ee
Davids, Gregory M.		Lieder, Bernie	LEED-er	Skoglund, Wes	SKOHG-lund
Dawkins, Andy		Lindner, Arlon		Slawik, Nora	SLAH-wick
Dehler, Steve	DAY-ler	Long, Dee		Smith, Steve	
Delmont, Mike		Luther, Darlene		Solberg, Loren	
Dempsey, Jerry		Macklin, Bill		Stanek, Rich	
Dorn, John		Mahon, Mark P.	MAY-on	Stang, Doug	
Entenza, Matt		Mares, Harry	MAIRS	Sviggum, Steven A.	SWIG-um
Erhardt, Ron	AIR-hart	Mariani, Carlos	mar-ee-AHN-ee	Swenson, Howard	
Erickson, Sondra		Marko, Sharon		Sykora, Barbara	sick-OR-ah
Evans, Geri		McCollum, Betty	mah-CALL-um	Tingelstad, Kathy	
Farrell, Jim		McElroy, Dan	MACK-el-roy	Tomassoni, David	tom-a-SONY
Finseth, Tim		McGuire, Mary Jo		Tompkins, Eileen	
Folliard, Betty	FOLLY-ard	Milbert, Bob		Trimble, Steve	
Garcia, Edwina	gar-SEE-ah	Molnau, Carol	MOLE-now	Tuma, John	TOO-ma
Goodno, Kevin		Mulder, Richard		Tunheim, Jim	TON-hyme
Greenfield, Lee		Mullery, Joe		Van Dellen, H. Todd	
Greiling, Mindy	GRY-ling	Munger, Willard		Vandever, Ray	
Gunther, Bob		Murphy, Mary		Wagenius, Jean	wa-GHEEN-yus
Haas, Bill	HAHZ	Ness, Robert "Bob"		Weaver, Charlie	
Harder, Elaine		Nornes, Bud	NOR-ness	Wejcman, Linda	WAITS-man
Hasskamp, Kris		Olson, Edgar		Wenzel, Stephen G.	WEN-zel
Hausman, Alice		Olson, Mark		Westfall, Robert L. (Bob)	
Hilty, Bill		Opatz, Joe	OH-patz	Westrom, Torrey	
Holsten, Mark		Orfield, Myron		Winter, Ted	
Huntley, Thomas		Osskopp, Mike	AHZ-cop	Wolf, Ken	
Jaros, Mike	YAH-ohs	Osthoff, Tom	AHST-hoff	Workman, Tom	
Jefferson, Richard H.					

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Child protective services

Estimated number of child maltreatment allegations received by county child protection agencies in Minnesota, 1996	50,000
Investigations conducted by Minnesota child protection agencies, 1996	16,684
Cases in which maltreatment was determined to have occurred, 1996	6,725
Percent of maltreatment cases labeled child neglect	54
States, including Minnesota, with county-administered child protection services	10
Counties in Minnesota	87
Counties that operate their own child protection agency	82
Counties that collaborate with others for child protection services	5
County child protection agencies that investigated less than 20 percent of 1996 maltreatment allegations	5
County child protection agencies that investigated more than 90 percent of 1996 maltreatment allegations	9
Reports of maltreatment investigated annually statewide from 1994 to 1996, per 1,000 children	14
Investigations in Itasca County, per 1,000 children	3
Investigations in neighboring Hubbard County, per 1,000 children	29
Days state law allows to begin investigation after report of maltreatment	3
Percent of investigations started within three days in Hennepin County (state's most populous county), 1994-1996	44
Percent of investigations started within three days in remaining counties, 1994-1996	91
Cases open per full-time-equivalent child protection caseworker statewide, September 1997	15
Counties reporting fewer than 10 open cases per caseworker	13
Counties reporting 40 or more open cases per caseworker	7
Percent of families with child maltreatment determinations in 1993 that had another determination of maltreatment in the same county within three years	18
Department of Human Services' recorded number of child deaths attributed to maltreatment, 1994-1996	49
Number found to be injury cases erroneously reported as deaths	25
Annual child welfare expenditures in Minnesota, in millions	\$300

Source: *Child Protective Services*, January 1998, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

For more information



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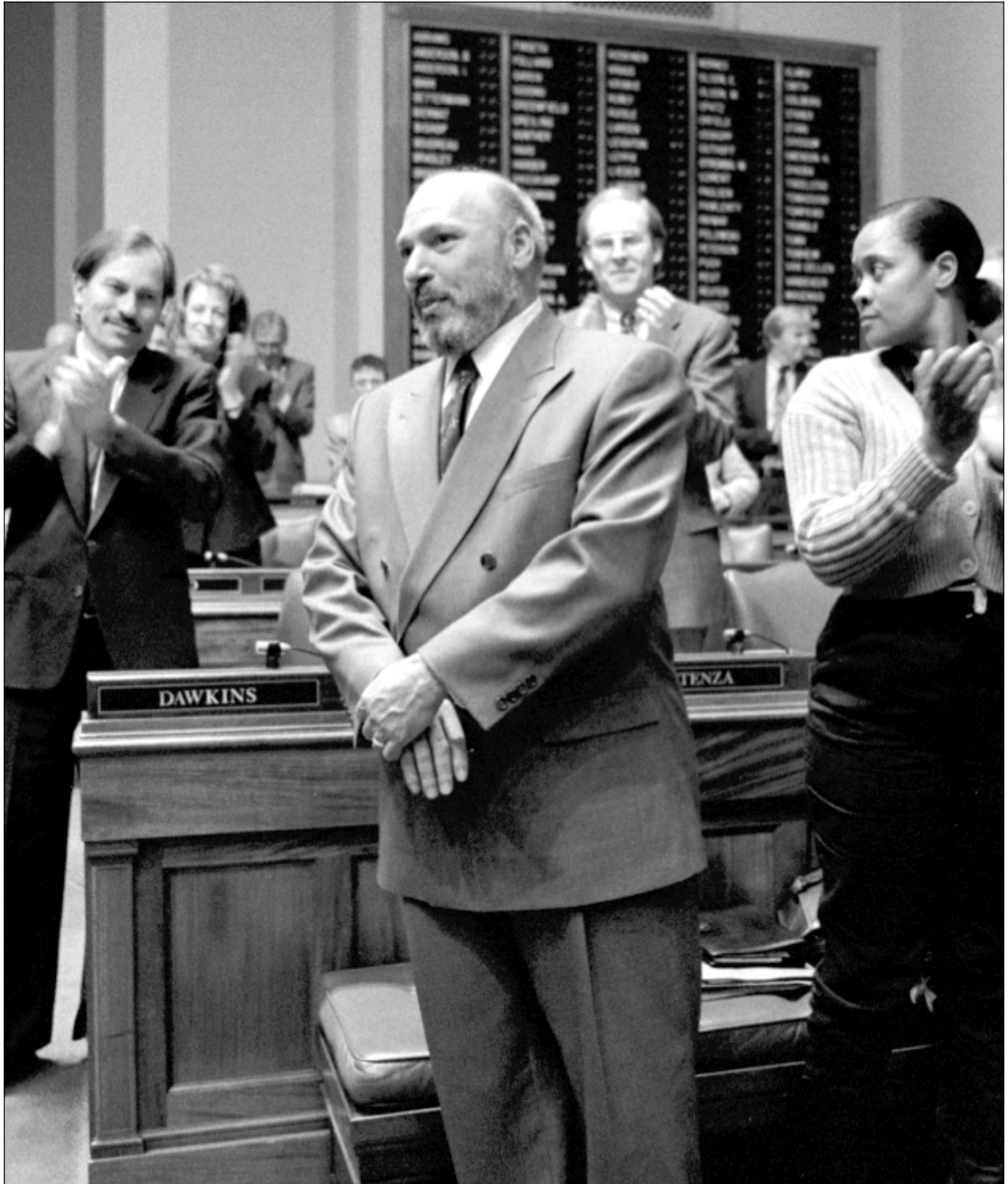
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 13, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 4



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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections



August Wilson

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson came to the Capitol on Feb. 9 to garner financial support for a new African-American theater and music complex. He is the accomplished creator of the nationally known plays "Fences," "The Piano Lesson," and other successful productions on Broadway and across the country.

Wilson's first play was produced in 1981 at St. Paul's Penumbra Theatre, which is now seeking funding to expand. He touted the theater as the most outstanding African-American theater in the country. He told legislators that Penumbra's role could be expanded with the creation of an arts center that would help to interpret the African-American experience.

Legislators greet hundreds of important individuals and groups who come as guests or to support an important issue. These visitors are received in the House chamber and its private retiring room. Wilson's visit may have broken the record for the number of individuals who requested to meet the famous guest in the private area behind the chamber.

Surrounded by the room's quiet grandeur, Wilson stood before the ornate fireplace and graciously greeted the many people who wanted to take a photograph with him.

So many members, staff, and guests lined up that the number equaled the receptions held for the 1990 U.S. presidential hopefuls who breezed through, and the 1991 formal visit by then-Czechoslovakia President Vaclav Havel.

Historical records do not indicate how many people greeted Teddy Roosevelt in 1909 when he came to honor the establishment of the Superior National Forest. But it is noted that others with national affiliation were also visitors. These included Vice President Hubert Humphrey; Vice President Walter Mondale; Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Warren Burger; presidential candidate Harold Stassen; presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy; and civil rights activist and former Georgia State Sen. Julian Bond.

Like Wilson and recent visitor Minnesota Orchestra's Eiji Oue, other well-known members of the arts have come to the House members' sanctum. Visiting artists in the past included opera contralto Marion Anderson, Minnesota author and Nobel Peace Prize winner Sinclair Lewis, and Hollywood producer Otto Preminger, Sister Kenny, Joe Louis, James J. Hill, and Will Rogers are just a few other well-known figures who have come to meet House members.

With all of its formal decor, the retiring room on a late session night can be totally different from the site where a prominent playwright like August Wilson was received. In the last days of a legislative session, it is not uncommon to see pizza sharing in progress, or a wide assortment of oriental food being passed around. One might also see a couple of members resting on the original leather benches as they wait to vote on some long and intricate bill.

Obviously, a visit to the House retiring room is a public, yet private "behind the scenes" adventure.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Playwright August Wilson, two-time Pulitzer Prize recipient and Tony Award winner, is greeted by legislators and guests in the House chamber. Wilson came to the Capitol Feb. 9 to support funding for a proposed African-American arts complex.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

When the wind blows . . .

Lawmakers develop three plans to tackle feedlot woes

By Matt Wetzel

Julie Jensen, her husband, and her six children live on a piece of land near Olivia in Renville County.

Sometimes, family members wake up with headaches, nausea, and upper respiratory problems. Jensen's daughter sometimes has trouble keeping her balance. When the wind changes, Jensen said it smells almost like a septic tank or rotten eggs.

Lisa Davies also lives in Renville County, and her residential problem is flies, which she said swarm around her home in great numbers. The children can't play on the swings, the family can't use the grill, they can't entertain guests, and they have to be very careful about opening the door, Davies said.

And what do Jensen and Davies have in common? They both live near feedlots — very large ones. Both Renville County residents testified on feedlot legislation in recent days before House committees.

Renville County is home to the cooperative pork producer ValAdco and the liquid egg producer Golden Oval Egg. And what those producers have in common is that both operate large feedlots.

A feedlot is a lot or building or combination of lots and buildings used to feed, breed, raise, and hold animals. Feedlots are designed as a confinement area. Manure can accumulate, so underneath the feedlots are manure basins, often made of clay or earth. There are an estimated 45,000 feedlots in Minnesota.

An increasing number of feedlots are found on agricultural operations that are not simply small family farms where the hogs and cattle graze and the soybean and cornfields stretch out forever.

Competition and consolidation has cut down the number of family farms and increased the number of so-called factory farms, which also increases the number and size of feedlots and the number of complaints from people who live near them.

But some in rural Minnesota believe that the larger farms are needed to keep agriculture alive, that the smaller farms can no longer compete, and that agriculture has to change with the times. They say they are fighting to keep their families in farming.

Responding to the complaints about feedlots, legislators have introduced bills trying to



Feedlots, such as the one these hogs occupy, are fast becoming the most controversial topic in rural Minnesota, and legislators are struggling to come up with a solution.

address the problems, and three significant feedlot proposals are advancing in the House.

The bills include a measure that would place a moratorium on feedlots while a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) is done, a bill that would provide for training and licensing of animal waste technicians, and a bill that would ban earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities and establish a livestock industry and environmental steering committee.

Also, Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental



Testimony comes from both sides of the fence concerning a bill that would limit the size of feedlots and require farmers to pay for environmental impact statements before gaining state permits to expand the size of a feedlot. Rex Oberheim, *left*, a Martin County farmer, testified in favor of the proposal and Jim Quakenbush, *right*, a Stevens County farmer, testified against the measure before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 10.

budget calls for a GEIS to be conducted on feedlots.

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), himself a farmer, has introduced two bills (**HF3441** and **HF3320**) related to the issue.

HF3441 is called the "Living with Livestock" feedlot bill. The bill would require that after March 1, 2000, those who manage and apply animal wastes hold valid animal waste technician licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempted.

Peterson's bill also would prohibit the issuance of a permit for clay, earthen, or plastic-lined animal waste lagoons. And no permit would be issued for a feedlot with a design capacity of 1,000 animal units or more, unless the applicant has a federal permit under the Clean Water Act. (An animal unit is a measurement of waste produced by a specific species. One animal unit is equal to one slaughter steer or heifer, 2.5 hogs over 55 pounds, or 100 chickens.)

Peterson's bill also would establish a statewide contingency plan to contain and clean up animal waste spills, a county-by-county inventory of feedlots, and an option for counties to adopt and update new feedlot ordinances. It also calls for a GEIS.

HF3320 would place a moratorium on any new permits for construction of feedlots of 750 animal units or more or the expansion of

open-air manure storage structures until July 1, 2000, or after the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) has given to the Legislature a timeline and cost for doing a GEIS.

A third bill (**HF3421**) comes from House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), also a farmer.

Winter's bill would forbid permits to increase or establish feedlot capacities greater than 1,875 hogs, 15,000 calves, 533 dairy cows, or 750 feeder cattle, unless the applicant gets an environmental impact statement. That can cost between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

His bill would also ban open-air, below-ground earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities after July 1, 1998. Existing structures would have to be replaced by June 30, 2001, under the bill.

Winter's bill also creates a livestock industry environmental steering committee made up of legislators, farmers, and environmentalists to perform a GEIS, which would examine long-term effects of the livestock industry and its effects on the state, including the effects on environment, the family farm, and the roles of local government.

Jeff Gresser, who is a construction supervisor from Martin County, said Winter's bill would hurt.

He said he has been busy helping construct feedlots and his business has been successful. He testified against the bill Feb. 10 before the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

"If that would shut off, people would be laid off and people wouldn't have jobs. That would certainly be devastating if that happened," he said.

Linda King, an Olmsted County farmer, agreed, testifying against Peterson's moratorium bill, **HF3320**, which also was heard Feb. 10 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. She said any farmer in business today has to expand and has to invest a lot of money.

"Minnesota's agriculture economy does affect every citizen," she said. "The Minnesota farmer will not go back to the back-breaking operation of the past. Minnesota farmers and their profits are Minnesota's greatest treasure."

Both **HF3320** and Winter's **HF3421** bill were approved by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Both bills moved to the House Agriculture Committee.

Peterson was very passionate in his presentation of **HF3441**, the "Living with Livestock" bill, which was approved by the Agriculture Committee Feb. 9 and the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 11.

"I believe the middle ground is still being worked," Peterson said. "I think I've worked

hard on [the bill], and I've got some soul in this thing. If we lose the ability to keep working toward a middle ground by defeating this tonight, in my heart of hearts, I believe rural Minnesota will never be the same. You will be owned by the corporations.

"I want my kids to own agriculture. I don't want them working for the country store. I don't believe it does any good in rural Minnesota," he said.

Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) said Peterson's "Living With Livestock" bill would go too far.

"It's a really important issue to my district too," Kraus said. "With so many good people on each side of the issue, why couldn't we have had more middle ground?"

HF3441 now moves the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. 🐾



Ogren enjoys private sector, recalls 'passion' of lawmaking

By Sandy Donovan

Former Rep. Paul Ogren, a DFLer who served an Aitkin-area district, says there's no job in the world like being a legislator.

"It was utterly fascinating," he said. "Your job is to champion people's needs and concerns. That's a rare privilege and it's very exciting."

During his 12 years in the House (1980-1992), Ogren championed the health-care needs of Minnesotans as an architect of MinnesotaCare, the comprehensive reform package passed by the 1992 Legislature.

Today, he continues to work in that field at Health Strategies Group, a private health-care consulting firm, and said he hopes to see the state further improve access to care for low-income citizens.

"There are far too many people who don't go to the doctor simply because they can't afford it," he said. "Today, MinnesotaCare helps over 100,000 people a year, and I think that's marvelous. But I regret that so much of the money raised in 1992 under the MinnesotaCare Act went to pay for prior and other objectives."

Although Ogren is perhaps best remembered for his work on health-care reform, he says he is equally proud of his efforts in creating the Fond du Lac Community College in 1990. While in the House, he also chaired the powerful Taxes Committee.

And although he said he would not have missed his years in the House, he also

said he is enjoying life in the private sector.

"It's terrific having a private, unlisted telephone number," he said. "And having a personal private life that cannot be intruded on at the whim of constituents is something to enjoy."

After retiring from the Legislature, Ogren campaigned for the DFL gubernatorial nomination for the first few months of 1993. He pulled out of the race in May of that year, citing the potential that his candidacy would have jeopardized the career of his wife, Associate Justice Sandra Gardebring of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Judges are prohibited by state code from participating in partisan politics.



Former Rep. Paul Ogren, the architect of the MinnesotaCare program, is in the private sector now, but he's still working on health issues.

Ogren then spent several years as executive director of the St. Paul-based Center for Health Care Access and Reform, a national nonprofit group that gathered health-care information and assisted with policy crafting.

Today, he said, he's happy in the "for-profit sector," occasionally thinking back to the "raw vitality of legislating, the opportunity to advocate with absolute and exuberant passion." 🐾

Highlights



BANKING

A student-run bank

Accounting students at St. Peter High School in southern Minnesota may have a chance to see what things are like in a real bank. Legislation advancing in the House would allow their school district to sponsor a student-run bank.

A bill (**HF2582**) sponsored by Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) would establish a school bank as part of an educational program. The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Besides the classroom instruction, students would operate a student bank, perhaps working with four St. Peter banks that have shown interest in lending a hand.

The students would handle savings accounts for other students at the high school and make small loans, according to the high school's plans.

Students would have to do many things that folks at city banks must do: maintain accurate records, establish positive customer relations, and make tough decisions.

The aim is that upon completion of the course, students would have a better understanding of saving, establishing credit, and other personal finance responsibilities.

The bank would be run by students in grades 11 and 12.



Jon Kautt, left, a senior at St. Peter High School, and George Shoenborn, an instructor in business, accounting, and banking at the school, testify in support of a bill that would establish an educational bank project in their school.

Mark Haukoos, a student who will be taking the banking course, told committee members he is eager for the chance to be part of the student-run bank.

"It teaches [students] about how financial institutions work; it puts them in real positions. It gives them experience in making loan payments and taking out loans," he said.

Lawmakers approved a similar measure in 1997 that allows students at Bemidji High School to operate a bank serving other students and employees of the school.

Johnson's bill now moves to the House floor.

Bank service charges

A bill that would limit certain bank service charges has stalled in a House committee.

The bill (**HF1278**), sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), was rejected Feb. 10 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The proposal would limit checking account service charges at state-chartered banks and would try to persuade federally chartered financial institutions to limit their checking account service charges.

The state can't directly regulate federally chartered financial institutions, but the bill would use state and local deposits and loan programs as incentives to get them to comply with fee limits. In other words, the federally chartered banks could not be depositories for state money if they didn't follow the limits on fees.

The committee rejected a heavily amended version of Clark's bill. Earlier versions of the legislation would have placed a limit on the charges for money orders and penalties for checking account overdrafts. Clark's initial proposal also would have encouraged banks to establish low-fee checking accounts and prevented banks from clearing the largest check first when a customer is overdrawn.

The latest version of the bill has only the limit on service charges.

Some committee members tried to breathe life back into the bill the day after the proposal was rejected by the committee. But that effort — led by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) — came up short. A quorum was not present to vote on Marko's motion to reconsider the bill.

Women and credit history

A bill advancing in the House would address concerns of divorced women and widows who are denied loans or credit cards because they don't have an individual credit history.

The problem often arises after a divorce or a death because, in many cases, loans and credit cards were in the husband's name. Women who may have been dutiful borrowers suddenly find themselves unable to get a credit card or take out a loan.

A bill (**HF2309**) sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) would attempt to rectify that by requiring that creditors consider a credit history in the name of the applicant's spouse and that creditors report a credit history in the name of both spouses. The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Don Banks, a staff attorney with Dayton Hudson, argued that the bill would duplicate much of what is already in federal law.

When a woman applies for credit and is turned down, the creditor must tell her why, and then the woman has a chance to appeal, he said. If there's something wrong on the report, she can see about getting it changed.

Banks also said the bill would go too far in some areas.

"It would require creditors to give equal weight to a spouse's credit history as much as their own," Banks said. "The science of how to grant credit is very difficult. We pay actuaries to do that."

How to grant credit is best left to the industry, Banks said.

Jim Farnham, a credit bureau lobbyist, said he does not think getting credit is a common problem for women.

"We don't see this kind of issue coming up in consumer interviews," he said.

Leppik said the need for her bill remains.

"We've heard them say the system should work, and in all probability, that is the way it does work. Then there are times when an applicant finds she has no credit history," she said. "This [bill] would give that person recourse to state court and small claims court. The applicant still has to establish her own credit-worthiness."

The bill now goes to the House floor.



CHILDREN

Gang intervention, prevention

In many cases, there are only two ways out for gang members — death or incarceration.

That's according to Denise Sjoberg, manager of the Weed and Seed Initiative, a program that assists targeted neighborhoods in eradicating violent crime and illegal drug and gang activity.

Sjoberg testified before the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 11 in support of a gang prevention and intervention bill sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights). The committee took no action on the bill.

HF3125 would provide funding to local organizations to reach children and young adults who are either at risk for criminal gang involvement or who have expressed interest in terminating their gang affiliation.

After-school activities, job skill training, and counseling are among the services that would be offered to the young people.

Sjoberg said the bill is necessary to ensure that "kids who want out will have options."

Anthony Carter, coordinator for the Summit-University Weed and Seed program, told the panel that children as young as seven are recruited to act as lookouts during drug deals.

"Gangs recruit like colleges," he said.

The kids who are most easily lured into gangs are lacking in family and peer relationships and spiritual balance, Carter said.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) questioned the need for another gang-focused program.

There are "hundreds" of programs already in place, he said. "We can't hold somebody's hand for 24 hours a day."

Most programs are not saving the people who are already in gangs, Carter said, and there is also a need to heighten awareness about existing programs.

It's better to spend money on gang prevention and intervention, Carter said, before it has to be spent on the criminal justice system.

"We need to learn how to save lives instead of condemning lives," he said.

The issue likely will be considered again later this session.

Endowment fund for children

The latest brain research shows that the road map for successful learning develops long before a child heads off to kindergarten.

A bill (**HF3167**) that would create a permanent endowment fund to improve the physi-

cal, intellectual, and emotional development of Minnesota's youngest citizens was approved Feb. 10 by the Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), the bill would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to create a permanent endowment fund to enhance the development of young children through the age of four?"

Research indicates the portions of the brain that control language, emotions, and logical reasoning develop before the age of five, Slawik said.

Placing the endowment in the constitution, she said, would create a long-term funding source for early childhood education and heighten awareness of the importance of early brain development.

"The science is there; the proof is there," Jim Koppel, of the Children's Defense Fund, told the panel. "If there's any chance of us saving money in the future on social programs, we have to make this investment."

Possible sources for initial funds for the endowment include surplus dollars in state coffers, a portion of any proceeds from the state's tobacco lawsuit, or a temporary tobacco tax increase.

Additional funding could come from tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Glenn Dorfman, of the Minnesota Association of Realtors, pledged his organization's

support in fundraising and recruiting other donors.

"Part of the reason we haven't seen much in the way of returns [on social spending] is because we haven't spent the money in the right place," he said.

HF3167 was later approved by the full Education Committee and now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



CONSUMERS

Help for health care consumers

When consumers want resolutions to their health care complaints or questions, many don't know where to turn. Under **HF2649**, an office of health care consumer assistance would be created, possibly providing a one-stop center for consumer needs.

"This is not regulatory; it's advocacy," bill sponsor Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) told the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 10. "It's about navigating the system."

The committee approved the bill, which now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

The bill emerged from the Patient Protection Act of 1997. In part, that act sought to prevent health plans from interfering with the doctor-patient association and to provide consumers with accurate information regarding relationships between health care providers and health plan companies.

Head starters



Marilyn Bell, 9, and her brother Aaron, 4, play on the floor of the Capitol rotunda as their mother, Sharon, rests after a long day of promoting continued funding for Head Start programs before lawmakers. The family also attended a rally Feb. 11 as part of Minnesota Head Start/State Parent Organization Legislative Day on the Hill.

Wejcman said each health plan has its own internal process for consumer issues, and the process can be complicated. Among the bill's supporters was Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), whose husband died of liver cancer in 1997. She agreed the system is "difficult to solve."

The proposed office would help patients and enrollees understand and assert their legal rights, get appropriate health care referrals, access the services of other agencies, help enrollees resolve complaints, and make recommendations to health plan companies on ways to streamline their consumer complaint process.

Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) said the office might be just a "Band-Aid" on a messy health care system, and asked who could possibly answer the broad range of questions the office would likely receive.

Wejcman said the governor would appoint a nonpartisan director with broad consumer advocacy knowledge, and who is qualified to address legal, administrative, and public policy issues. The director would have at least nine staff members, under the bill.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) said consumers are already confused over who to call with health care questions. Wejcman said with proper public relations, consumers would become aware of the office and its intent to provide one main stop to handle and direct all manner of complaints.

Lindner also said the office might relieve health care companies of paying someone to do the job.

Wejcman said the new office would require an initial budget of about \$700,000.

Telemarketing fraud

Telemarketing fraud is a \$40 billion industry that preys on senior citizens, according to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

A bill (**HF2794**) that would establish an outreach and advocacy network to educate senior citizens about the dangers of telephone scams was approved Feb. 10 by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

The network would be facilitated by the attorney general's office working in conjunction with private organizations such as AARP and the Minnesota Senior Federation.

"Education is probably the most important thing we can do for our senior citizens," Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), the bill's sponsor, said.

Doug Davis, an AARP representative, said seniors are particularly vulnerable to phony

lotteries and "can't-miss" investment schemes.

Many senior victims are well-educated, he said, and it's a mistake to think that "unsophisticated, sweet old ladies and gentlemen" are the only ones being conned out of their savings.

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) questioned the need for the state to fund such a program. He said he tells his elderly father to "just hang up the phone."

Cass Welsh, a consumer fraud investigator with the attorney general's office, said victims do not know how to get off the phone.

"That generation is particularly courteous," Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said. "It goes against the way they were raised to just hang up."

Ted Robb, president of the Minnesota Telemarketing Manager's Association, said the industry does not support the bill.

"As geographically remote as we are in Minnesota," he said, "it would work to our disadvantage to discourage sales over the telephone."

Proponents said that honest telemarketers have nothing to worry about.

"This bill will do nothing to hamper legitimate telephone solicitations, such as carpet cleaners or siding salesmen," Davis said.

"What we are talking about," Welsh said, "is the dark side of the marketplace."

The bill now moves to the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Debt collectors using aliases

Collection agents may give a name when they call to demand payment from debtors, but it isn't necessarily the agent's real name.

Under a bill (**HF2510**) sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), collection agents would no longer be allowed to operate under assumed names.

The bill was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 10.

"The state of Minnesota currently regulates, certifies, or licenses 100 professions," McElroy said. "Debt collectors are the only professionals allowed to use an alias."

Carol Trebelhorn, president of the Minnesota Association of Collectors, said the right to use an assumed name was negotiated with the Department of Commerce 10 years ago.

Currently, debt collectors must register their given and assumed names with the department.

Collectors are required to identify themselves when they telephone someone, she said, and if there is a complaint, the real name is easily traced through those records.

Aliases are a matter of safety, Trebelhorn said. Two-thirds of the collectors are women who make between 65 and 100 calls a day.

"Telephone collectors are frequently placed in hostile situations," Trebelhorn said.

Although he is sympathetic to their potential vulnerability, McElroy said, other risky professions, such as social work or law enforcement, are not granted the same anonymity.

"I think it's a matter of consistency," McElroy said. "The essence of fairness is consistency."

The bill is headed for the House floor.



CRIME

Curbing repeated violence

A bill that would make "three strikes and you're out" the law in Minnesota was debated Feb. 9 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The bill (**HF24**) would require life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes.

Bill sponsor Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said that these measures are needed to curb the rise in repeat violent offenders.

"It doesn't take a brain surgeon to know that someone who is in prison cannot commit a crime," Weaver said, whose bill is expected to come up again later this session.

A St. Paul business owner whose family has been affected by violent crime testified in support for the bill.

The man told the committee that his daughter was kidnapped and raped by a man who had nine previous felony convictions. The father asked that his name be withheld to protect the identity of his daughter.

"A woman is no longer safe when repeat felony offenders are allowed to return to the streets," the man said.

The man told the committee that his daughter was abducted outside her apartment complex in Edina and held captive for 10 hours until she finally escaped. During that time, she was beaten with a tire iron and repeatedly raped.

The man said that his daughter's life has been completely changed since the abduction. She has had to undergo reconstructive surgery and has to be tested frequently for the HIV virus because the offender has tested positive. She had to get rid of her apartment and car because of the painful memories associated with the crime, her father said.

"He took our most precious possession and destroyed her," he said. "If she must live with this her whole life, why shouldn't he? Rape,

murder, sexual assault — sentence them to life, not just a few years.”

Weaver attempted to address the concerns of the members of the committee. He said that his bill was not aimed at petty offenders. He said that it is an attempt to get violent repeat offenders off the streets.

“I want to emphasize to members that this bill does not count as a third strike shoplifting,” Weaver said. “We are talking about someone who is willing to do and is convicted of three violent crimes.”

Corrections officials have not released cost projections for the increased sentences. But Weaver said that keeping violent offenders in prison would save money in the long run.

“When you figure the cost of this bill, you cannot think about it in a vacuum,” Weaver said. “You need to consider it in the perspective of total costs saved by society.”

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) is also sponsoring a separate bill that also would address repeat violent offenders. **HF2286** would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for “career criminals” and would reduce the number of violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Both bills were laid over for consideration at a later date.

Dealing with false allegations

In July of 1997, two Richfield police officers were accused of raping a woman during their patrol. The charge was found to be false, but, the officers said, the allegations alone were very damaging.

Both officers were cleared of any wrongdoing after a two-week investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension concluded that the woman had made up the story.

The officers, who asked that their names not be used, testified before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6 in support of a bill (**HF3035**) that would provide new penalties for making such false accusations.

The officers told the committee that the ordeal was something that they never want to experience again.

“Some people made the comment that it’s just part of my job. Obviously, it’s not,” one of the officers said. “After 24 years, I was questioning whether I should remain in the profession.”

The bill would make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties. The bill also would add police officers to a list of judicial officials who are covered from retaliatory harassment under current law.

The committee approved the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Dennis Flaherty, executive director of the Minnesota Police Officers Association, said that police departments are forced to deal with such false allegations as part of the job.

“All law enforcement agencies at one time or another have individuals level charges at police officers,” Flaherty said. “They do it for a wide number of reasons. They’re vindictive. They’re mad at the cop. They’re possibly using it as a bargaining chip.”

One of the Richfield police officers told the committee that he had only been on the force for 14 months when the incident took place. He said he was shocked when he arrived at work and his commanding officer escorted him out of the station.

“Here I am a brand new officer and I’m calling a defense attorney. It was really overwhelming,” he said. “To this day, I don’t think I’m as effective a police officer as I was before this incident.”

Skoglund told the committee that such false allegations impede the criminal justice process and wreak havoc on the lives and the

families of the officers involved.

“Sex charges seem to last forever,” Skoglund said. “You can’t seem to wash them off yourself.”

One of the Richfield officers told the committee that he doubted that he would ever recover from the stigma associated with the allegations.

“Professionally, my reputation means more to me than anything, and that reputation is tarnished,” he said.

HF3035 is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime bill.

Increase in juvenile crime

The rise of juvenile crime was a major concern expressed to legislators during the October 1997 House Mini-Session in Willmar. Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) told members of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6.

Now Juhnke is pushing legislation that would change the way juvenile crimes are handled in the courts.

“We’re seeing a dramatic increase in juvenile crime,” Juhnke said. “The ones that concern us the most are the repeat offenders — the ones who are doing it over and over again.”

Juhnke’s bill (**HF3059**) would attempt to address such concerns by opening some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public.

For juveniles under 14 years of age, the bill would make court records available to the public if the juvenile is found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense.

For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would open all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense. The records would be closed to the public when the juvenile turns 21.

The bill was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime bill.

Drive-by shooting penalty

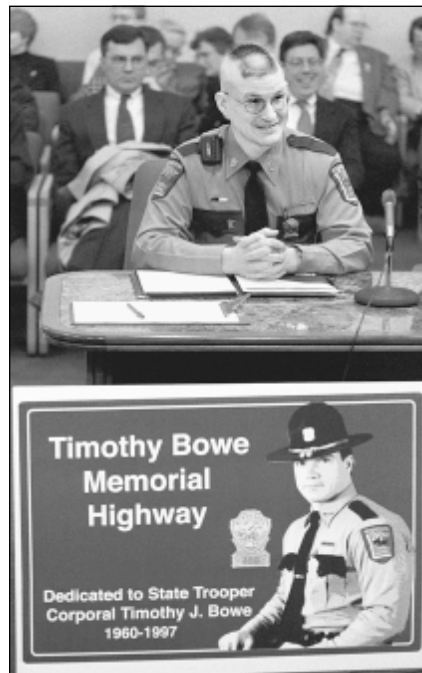
A bill that would increase the penalty for committing a drive-by shooting was approved by the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 6.

Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), sponsor of **HF2505**, told the committee that the idea was brought to him by a constituent whose husband was shot at while driving on Interstate 35W in August 1997.

The Roseville teenager who fired the shots was initially charged with a felony level drive-by shooting charge, but eventually pleaded down to a second-degree assault offense.

Delmont told the committee that the constituent felt that the severity level of the crime

Highway memorial



Minnesota State Patrol Sergeant Russell Wicklund remembers his former colleague Timothy Bowe, the first Minnesota State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty since 1978. Bowe was shot to death last year in rural Chisago County while answering a residential shooting call. Wicklund testified Feb. 6 in favor of a bill that would designate a 14-mile stretch of Trunk Highway 95 as State Trooper Timothy Bowe Memorial Highway. The bill was approved by the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

justified an increased penalty. Delmont's bill would raise the maximum penalty for firing into an occupied vehicle from a five-year prison term to a 20-year term.

HF2505 is scheduled to be included in the omnibus crime bill.

Convicted felons with guns

Society needs to send the strong message that if you're a convicted felon who is illegally in possession of a gun, you're going away for a long time, according to Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III.

Humphrey told the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 6 that stronger measures are necessary to keep the streets safe from gun violence.

Humphrey testified before the committee in support of **HF2285**, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

The bill would increase the mandatory minimum prison sentence from 18 months to five years for convicted felons illegally possessing a firearm.

"This measure will send a strong message that gun violence is unacceptable here," Humphrey said.

The bill was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year's omnibus crime bill.



DEVELOPMENT

Convention center expansion

A new proposal to finance the Minneapolis Convention Center expansion was debated Feb. 12 by the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

The bill (**HF1529**) was laid over and could possibly be included in this year's omnibus economic development bill.

Last year, a different expansion proposal passed the full Economic Development and International Trade Committee, but the measure stalled on the House floor.

Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton told the full committee last year that the proposal represented a completion of the project.

The original plans, which called for nearly 500,000 square feet of floor space, were scaled back to the existing 280,000 after then-Gov. Rudy Perpich vetoed the proposed project in the 1980s. After state funds were vetoed, the city paid for the convention center with \$350 million in bonds, imposing a half-cent sales tax to service the debt.

Last year's proposal called for the state to

Visiting media



House leaders field questions Feb. 12 from about 60 visiting journalists during the annual Media Day on the Hill. Minority Leader Steve Sviggum, *left*, House Speaker Phil Carruthers, *center*, and Majority Leader Ted Winter participated in the event, which is designed to help journalists who don't normally cover the Capitol learn about the workings of the Legislature and the issues before it.

appropriate approximately \$37 million to begin construction with the understanding that a future bonding plan would include the remaining portion of the estimated \$147.5 million expansion.

The new proposal, which was included the governor's 1998 bonding plan, would allow the city of Minneapolis to issue \$175 million in bonds to cover the design and construction of the convention center expansion. The state would issue its own bonds in the amount of \$87 million and use those funds to provide a grant to the city of Minneapolis to assist with the payment on the city bonds.

The effect of this arrangement is that there would be no increase in the city's debt service costs, thereby protecting its AAA bond rating. The city would be solely responsible for cost overruns or cost savings on the project.

The governor's office projects that the \$175 million expansion will produce 4,000 new jobs and will generate \$4 million annually in new sales tax receipts.

Sayles Belton testified this year that the convention center is a statewide economic development tool because the facility showcases Minnesota businesses.

"It provides a competitive advantage for Minnesota businesses, not just in the metro area but all over the state," she said.

Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill, told the committee that action would have to be taken by the Legislature this year for the city to be able to issue bonds for the project.

The Economic Development Finance Division also heard testimony on convention cen-

ter improvement projects in Duluth, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, and Rochester. These projects also will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus economic development bill.



EDUCATION

All-day kindergarten

Children who attend all-day kindergarten do better throughout their school career than those who don't, according to supporters of a bill that would phase in a full day of school for all Minnesota kindergartners.

HF2763, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), was discussed by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 6. The panel took no action on the bill.

The proposal would provide money to certain schools to implement all-day kindergarten programs. Schools would qualify based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, and the number of eligible schools would increase annually until 2004, when all schools would receive the funding.

The bill would stipulate that in 1999, schools in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Greater Minnesota would have to have more than 50 percent of their students eligible for the lunch program to receive the kindergarten funds. Suburban schools in the seven-county metro area would have to have more than 25 percent of students eligible for the lunch program to qualify.

In 2000, the eligibility cutoff for the two groups would go down to 40 percent and 20 percent, respectively. By 2004, all schools in Minnesota would qualify for the all-day kindergarten revenue.

Qualifying schools would have the option of implementing a full-day kindergarten, and the schools could offer families a choice between full- or half-day programs. Kindergarten attendance would remain optional.

Wagenius said the bill is aimed at increasing first-grade preparedness.

"Successful young kids become successful older kids, and they don't end up in the criminal justice system," she said.

Cheryl Furrer of the Minnesota Education Association said it's appropriate to use some of the forecast budget surplus to develop all-day kindergarten, which several studies have shown to benefit children.

"It seems like the time is right to make an investment in kids," she said. "Kids represent 25 percent of the population, and I ask you, are they worth 25 percent of the budget surplus?"

But some lawmakers criticized the plan's differing levels of qualifications for the two groups of schools.

"My kids are not going to benefit from this," Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) said. "In our district, we have poor families and we have minorities, but we don't have enough. So we're going to exclude them, and I don't think that's fair."

Wagenius said she also would prefer to see every child in the state have the opportunity to go to full-day kindergarten right away, "but we have to recognize that that's not fiscally possible."

The division will consider the bill for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Graduation rule funding

Minnesota schools have just about eight months before the state's new graduation requirements kick in, and lawmakers are working on plans to get them additional funding to help make the new standards effective.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) brought his proposal (**HF3610**) before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 11.

Carruthers' plan would give schools about \$13 million in fiscal year 1999 and about \$45 million in fiscal 2000 and in years thereafter. The money would go directly to schools for staff development and implementation of the new requirements. The division took no action on the bill.

"The purpose is to help all the people involved in our education system to implement the graduation standards," he said.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), the division's chair, said providing schools with money to implement the standards is her top priority this year.

"I believe this year is a critical year," she said. "If we want this major effort to go ahead, I think we have to put some money out there."

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton), a co-sponsor of Carruthers' bill, is also sponsoring a separate bill (**HF3263**) that would provide one-time funding of \$50 million for standards implementation.

"I certainly think the ongoing funding is necessary," she said. "I'm only disappointed I didn't combine my bill with this earlier."

Carruthers agreed that ongoing funding is an integral piece of his plan.

"The theory is that the grad rule is a major change that will continue to evolve," he said. "Students and teachers will continue to work to improve the standards."

The division will consider the bills for inclusion in an omnibus K-12 funding bill.

Reducing class sizes

Reducing class sizes in public schools is on the minds of many lawmakers this year. A House panel heard three separate proposals Feb. 11 to provide funds to keep classes smaller.

All three plans target second- and third-grade classrooms, and all would provide money to schools that keep those classes to 20 students or fewer. Current law provides funding for schools to reduce the size of their kindergarten and first-grade classrooms to 17 students or fewer.

Ian Keith, who teaches sixth grade at St. Paul Longfellow Magnet School, testified about the burden of overcrowded classrooms before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

He said that of the 28 children in his class, five are reading on a second-grade level.

"Three of them are learning disabled, and there they are all day, struggling with me, while at the other end I have three or four kids reading at a high-school level," he said. "It's an incredible challenge, no one is getting the attention they need, and then to those academics you add the behavior piece."

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who is sponsoring one of the class-size reduction bills (**HF3017**), said that current class sizes are "making teaching an endurance race."

Other lawmakers — including Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), a teacher who once had a classroom of 42 students — agreed

that reducing class size is an important part of improving the quality of education.

But Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) cautioned that while "our ideal goal would be to have 15 students in each class, I think we have to set more realistic numbers. As much as we want to do that, we also have a limited amount of resources."

In addition to Entenza's bill, the division discussed **HF3233**, sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), and **HF3154**, sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley).

The division took no action on the bills, but will consider them later this session for inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Schools, public transportation

Although some parents say they don't want their children riding public buses to and from school, a bill that would allow the St. Paul and Minneapolis school districts to seek agreements to use public transportation was approved by the House Education Committee Feb. 10.

In fact, several thousand students from those districts already ride Metro Transit buses, especially for after-school activities. But Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of **HF2919**, said current law sets some barriers to districts entering into certain kinds of agreements with transit companies.

"This bill is a way of allowing for continued dialogue," he said. "Any issue would still have to be approved by the local school board and the Metropolitan Council."

Judy Miller, a parent living in St. Paul, testified against the proposal, citing safety concerns that include longer ride times, bus stops located further from home, and the potential danger to children having to transfer buses downtown.

She also said the plan may hurt the city's program of voluntary desegregation because many parents will not want their children to ride public buses to schools across town. Three other St. Paul mothers also testified against the bill.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) agreed and urged lawmakers to take "a stand that the House is in favor of safety on school buses."

But Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) said the bill would not necessarily put money in front of safety — and that school districts should be trusted to look out for children's safety.

"When transportation continues to take a larger bite out of the education budget, then education suffers," she said. "We have to be

looking at other models and discussing how we can do a better job for kids."

In the end, lawmakers determined by vote that it would be appropriate to let the districts deal with the issues individually.

"I think the testimony was appropriate, but this was the wrong venue," Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said. "That testimony should be made in front of the school board who will make the ultimate decision."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Driver education program

Three high school students brought their proposal for a pilot driver education program to the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

"We learned that there's a public concern about teenage driving, and we wanted to connect the increased dropout rate and students not doing well in school with that," said David Nieman, a senior at Minneapolis Southwest High School and a member of the citywide student council.

Nieman worked with seven other members of the council's subcommittee on driving to develop a plan that they felt would provide affordable quality driver education while encouraging students to perform well in school.

The result is in **HF2483**, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), which would provide \$2.5 million to establish three two-year pilot programs across the state.

Students would be required to have passed 80 percent of classes taken the previous year to

be eligible for the program. State funds would pay 80 percent of driver education costs (about \$210 per student) and students would pay the remaining 20 percent.

"If it was state funded, that means it could also be state regulated," Nieman said, suggesting the state could mandate extra training for nighttime driving or other areas where teens historically have problems.

The proposal also calls for suspending the licenses of teens who drop out of school after completing the program.

David Sodenberg, of the Association for Professional Driving Instructors, said the bill would make it difficult for private instructors to compete for students. He reminded the division that a 1997 law already provides tax credits to some families for driver education expenses.

And some lawmakers said they were concerned by what they see as the discriminatory nature of the bill.

"We have a lot of students who need jobs," Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said. "If we pass this law, we put them in a tough place: Do they go to school and use this program, or do they continue to work for supplemental income?"

Nieman said the student council had hoped the bill would encourage teens to do well in school. He suggested the bill could be rewritten to allow principals to exempt certain students from the qualifications.

The bill is similar to current laws in Illinois and North Carolina. The division will consider the proposal for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

More funding for scholarships

It's been 10 years since the state has increased funding for scholarships for American Indians, but a bill discussed Feb. 9 in the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee would change that.

HF2611, sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), proposes \$1.5 million in increased funding over two years to three separate programs: American Indian Scholarships, American Indian Post-Secondary Preparation Grants, and American Indian Language and Culture Programs.

All three programs are aimed at increasing high school graduation rates and college attendance rates for members of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized tribes.

Kelso said the bill was one of several recommended by an interim task force headed by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) and concerned with finding solutions for minority and at-risk students.

"We've increased scholarships for students of color recently, but did not increase those for American Indians," Kelso said.

Under the bill, each of the three programs would get funding increases of \$250,000 per year in 1998 and 1999.

Of the three, American Indian Scholarships receives the most state money, with an appropriation of \$1.85 million per year. The need-based scholarships fill the unfulfilled needs in students' financial aid packages, which most likely include federal grants, loans, parent contributions, and student contributions.

Undergraduates are eligible for up to \$3,000 per year from the state scholarship program, and their tribes are expected to match the amount received.

That program has been around since 1955, a year when not one American Indian graduated from high school in Minnesota. In its first year, scholarships helped five American Indian students attend college, and today the program helps about 900 a year, according to Joseph Day, executive director of the state's Indian Affairs Council.

The division set aside the bill for possible inclusion in its omnibus K-12 funding bill later this session.

Student art



Genevieve Hanson, a junior at Hinckley-Finlayson High School, takes a closer look at some student art work from around the state. The exhibit, in the north wing of the Capitol Feb. 9, was sponsored by the Minnesota Alliance for Arts in Education to promote awareness of arts education.



ENVIRONMENT

Bonding for the environment

While debate swirls over the future of Minnesota's rebounding timber wolf population, a House committee has approved a proposal to improve a popular destination designed to introduce humans to the species.



Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn., presents a bonding request for improvements at the center during a hearing at the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 9.

Under a \$270 million bonding proposal approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 12, the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn., would receive \$336,000 in state bond proceeds for a variety of improvements.

"Our role and mission is public education about wolves," said Nancy Gibson, co-founder of the center, during Feb. 10 testimony before the committee.

Home to four wolves — MacKenzie, Lucas, Lakota, and Kiana — the nonprofit center is supported mainly by membership contributions, endowments, and merchandise sales from its mail order catalog.

Mary Ortiz, the center's executive director, said the organization has more than 8,500 members from all 50 states and 38 nations.

The center estimates that over 250,000 visitors have passed through its doors since it opened in 1993. A similar number is estimated to have visited the U.S. Forest Service's Boundary Waters permit station within the wolf center's building.

Gibson said that with all of the traffic through the facility, improvements to the driveway and the heating and ventilation system are high priorities.

The center also intends to add exterior lighting for evening programs, build a garage, replace the lecture hall seating, repair the wolf

enclosure, and create an interactive children's exhibit.

Noticeably absent from the bonding bill is funding for the governor's proposed \$14 million Veterans Memorial State Park in Duluth, Minn.

Here's a look at some of the provisions in the bonding proposal:

- The Department of Natural Resources would receive nearly \$207 million for a myriad of projects, including \$28.8 million for grants to local governments to prevent or control flood damages, \$24.6 million to improve trails in the Metropolitan area park system and connect them with existing state and regional trails, \$20.0 million to establish and maintain metropolitan-area greenways and natural areas, and \$8.3 million for safe harbors on Lake Superior.
- The Board of Soil and Water Resources would receive \$27.1 million. Of that figure, \$16.8 million would target wetlands for protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. Under RIM, landowners are paid to retire certain lands from agricultural production or place wetlands into conservation.
- The city of St. Paul would receive \$14.0 million to develop the Como Park Education Resource Center at the Como Zoo. The center would focus on fostering children's appreciation of animals and the environment.
- The Minnesota Zoological Gardens would receive \$3.2 million for roadway and parking lot improvements. The Apple Valley zoo also has requested \$1.5 million in supplemental funding for 1998 to make up for a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer.

The bonding proposal now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Living snow fences

Minnesota lawmakers spent \$20 million last year to help cities and counties recoup some of their weather-related costs from record-breaking snowfalls during the previous winter.

Of that money, a total of \$11 million was distributed to local governments for snow removal expenses.

A bill that aims to reduce the need for such spending in the future was approved Feb. 9 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

HF1561, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would fund a voluntary program for landowners to plant and maintain trees, shrubs, and grass strips alongside roads in an effort to control drifting and blowing snow.

"I think last winter was a good testament as to why we need this bill," Finseth said.

The bill would provide \$500,000 for grants to soil and water conservation districts to enter into cost-sharing contracts with landowners. The contracts could provide for annual payments to the landowners to cover land and maintenance costs.

North Dakota has a similar new program, Finseth said, and the initial results are promising.

"Franklin Roosevelt promoted living snow fences during the Dust Bowl days," Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) said. "They were very effective."

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GAMBLING

State lottery advertising

The Minnesota State Lottery needs a bigger advertising budget and would benefit from promotions tied to holidays, according to George Anderson, director of the Minnesota State Lottery.

Anderson testified in support of **HF3104** before the House Regulated Industries Committee, which approved the bill Feb. 10. The proposal now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The bill, sponsored by Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), would allow the state lottery to have holiday themes in its advertising and game strategies. State law currently prohibits lottery advertising from "exploiting" a religious holiday.

Legislators said they did not want to see religious symbols used by the state lottery, but amended the wording of the bill to allow depiction of figures such as Santa Claus or a Christmas tree. Anderson estimated the state loses \$5 million to \$10 million dollars per year under that prohibition.

That estimate is on his knowledge of holiday-themed promotions in the gambling industry, "which are very popular," Anderson said.

The bill would also increase from 2.75 percent to 4 percent the maximum amount of annual gross revenues that the lottery can spend on advertising. Anderson said the change wouldn't necessarily mean more advertising, but would help maintain an adequate level of advertising.

Anderson said advertising rates on Twin Cities television stations have risen 64 percent in the past five years, and Twin Cities' radio advertising rates have risen 20 percent. In

Duluth, radio advertising rates are up more than 30 percent in the past five years, he said.

"This would add about three or four million dollars to our advertising budget," Anderson said.

He said retail signage, which involves wiring for lights in the signs, has also aged and needs to be replaced. In Minnesota, state lottery retailers receive signage free of charge, so some of the new advertising dollars would be used for new signs.

The bill also would allow the state lottery to pay a bonus of not more than 10 percent to lottery retailers if lottery sales rise over the previous year. The bonus would be distributed among retailers in proportion to their sales.



GAME & FISH

More time for ice fishing

Resort owners and anglers who have been disappointed by an unusually mild winter may get a lift from a bill heading for the governor's desk.

The bill, which would extend the 1998 ice fishing season until March 1, passed the House Feb. 11 on a 125-0 vote.

The season is normally closed the third Sunday in February. The additional two-week window this year would give resorts an opportunity to capture some lost revenue and anglers a chance to make up for lost time.

The Department of Natural Resources supports the extension; however, the department would have the authority to close the season in the event of an early thaw.

Another provision in the bill would extend the deadline for ice fishing houses to be removed from lakes.

State law mandates that the ice fishing houses be removed from lakes by the end of February. The bill stipulates that if the last day of February falls on a Saturday, the deadline should be extended by one day.

That's the case this year, so the deadline to get ice fishing houses off lakes would be March 1.

The bill (**HF2492/SF2111***) is sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). The Senate approved the proposal Feb. 12 on a 47-0 vote.

Moose odds increase

Ten-time losers in the Minnesota moose hunting license lottery might get lucky this year under a bill (**HF3275**) the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee approved Feb. 9.

Sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), the bill calls for 5 percent of the moose licenses issued each year to come from a pool of applicants who have applied at least 10 times to no avail.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources, said there were 198 permits issued out of 16,899 applications last year.

Holmes said the moose harvest was 152, which means those fortunate few who win the license lottery have good odds for success.

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GOVERNMENT

Unicameral legislature bill

Supporters of the switch to a unicameral legislature in Minnesota had their chance Feb. 9 in the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee, but they were unsuccessful.

A bill (**HF581**) sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) that would have placed the constitutional question on the ballot in November was defeated on an 11-5 vote in the committee.

However, there are several other unicameral proposals that the committee did not act on, and those measures could be considered later this session.

Hausman's bill would create a unicameral (one-house) legislature called the senate with 135 members, each of whom would serve four-year terms.

If voters were to approve the constitutional amendment, the new model of legislature would begin in January 2003.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said she likes the idea.

"With a bicameral legislature, too much power is concentrated in the hands of the conferees. With a unicameral legislature, we wouldn't have a conference committee, therefore, everything could always be amended," she said.

When similar bills are approved in the House and Senate, conference committees convene to reconcile any differences. Once agreement is reached in the conference committee, a bill is sent back to each body for final approval, and that bill cannot be amended. Lawmakers must accept or reject the conference committee report as is.

During the meeting, Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud) told committee members that he visited Nebraska, the only state that has a uni-

cameral legislature, and liked what he saw.

"They've never had a serious effort to go back to a bicameral legislature," he said.

Nebraska's constitution was amended in 1934, and the first unicameral legislature there convened in 1937. Nebraska's Legislature is nonpartisan and has 49 senators. The move was made during the Depression to save money.

"Ninety-nine percent of city councils are unicameral," Kleis said, and some cities are bigger than some states. Canada has a unicameral legislature, as do the governing boards of most businesses.

"They don't have two boards of directors," Kleis said.

But Kleis had a hard time selling some members of the committee, including Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope).

"Comparing city councils with legislative bodies in my mind is a silly comparison and one you best not make," she said.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) said conference committees are not as undesirable as critics have said.

"The conference committees are open to the public, they resolve the difference in two bills, then it goes back to both chambers. I would think you would open yourself up to less public input [with a unicameral legislature]," he said.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) also had concerns about the one-house legislature.

"Speeding up the process at a time when people have less access to government because of events in their lives holds some concerns for me. This might work well in Nebraska, but I just have a great deal of difficulty [with it]. It's apples to oranges," she said.

Kleis said the goal of the unicameral system is greater efficiency, not greater speed.

"When it works in Nebraska, it's a very deliberative process. If you do it once, it's a very deliberate process," he said. "You have better responsiveness to the people that send you here in a unicameral legislature."

Asked what might be different in a Minnesota with a unicameral legislature, Kleis responded, "Maybe there wouldn't be as much cynicism in government."

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), chair of the committee, said a "fatal flaw" in the bill is the proposed four-year terms, which he considers too long.

"If you want to get rid of accountability in government, I can't think of a better way to do that," he said.

Funding request defended

With charts and graphs in hand, representatives of the Office of the Attorney General appeared before a House committee Feb. 9 to defend their 1999 funding request.

Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto authority to strike the office's entire 1999 budget of \$24.4 million last year, citing "unnecessary, imprudent, and unacceptable" growth in the department.

"The governor's veto was unprecedented," Lee Sheehy, chief deputy attorney general, told the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Carlson reinstated \$22.5 million for the office in his supplemental budget proposal this year, but Sheehy and Deputy Attorney General Margaret Chutich said they need about \$3 million more to operate effectively in 1999.

Chutich, who heads the office's law enforcement division, said the office has had to turn down counties' requests for help on tasks including homicide prosecutions, drug investigations, and white-collar crime investigations.

"If the rate of referral in homicide cases and the rate of growth in criminal cases continues without more funding, there will be more declinations," she said.

The pair also defended their office against Carlson's charges of spendthrift practices.

"Our services are a bargain," Sheehy said. "Our rates are substantially lower than in the private sector . . . [and] our attorneys are not even at 85 percent of the compensation levels of other public service attorneys."

Sheehy also noted that through the office's efforts, millions of dollars are reclaimed for the state, including, for fiscal years 1996 and 1997: \$23 million to the state treasury, \$27 million to Minnesota consumers, and more than \$200 million in defeated claims against the state.

The office's 1999 proposed budget is divided into three categories: \$13.6 million for law enforcement, \$2.2 million for agency representation, and \$8.7 million for defense and prosecution of civil claims.

The division will consider the request for inclusion in its omnibus state government finance bill.

Youth empowerment

Saying he doesn't often make such promises, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) assured two young people Feb. 11 that his committee would approve their funding request or he would "personally hold everything else up."

Becky Jarvis, 16, and Tangene Hayslett, 20, appeared before the State Government Finance Division of the House Governmental Operations Committee to support the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

The youth-empowerment movement grew out of the Presidents' Summit for America, an April 1997 national gathering in Philadelphia to promote community volunteerism.

"We have youth and adults at the table together and a lot of our goals turn out to be similar," Jarvis said. "Youth needs to be empowered to talk about problems and to take responsibility for them."

Both Jarvis and Hayslett spoke about their own experiences dealing with disenfranchised youth.

"Just having someone who you know is interested, someone who says 'good job' makes the difference," Hayslett said.

Donna Gillen, the alliance's director, said the organization works throughout the state developing resources, such as relationships with mentors, aimed at helping "young people to fulfill their promise."

She said the organization relies heavily on existing institutions — schools, churches, businesses — to build partnerships between youth and the rest of the community.

The alliance is asking the state for \$1.5 million. The bulk of the group's budget comes from private sector donors including Dayton Hudson, General Mills Inc., Lutheran Brotherhood, and Pillsbury.

The group has also received \$49 million from various state agencies.

The division will consider the request for inclusion in its omnibus state government finance bill.

HUMAN SERVICES

Child protective services

Minnesota is one of 10 states in which child protective services are provided by county rather than state employees. A study by the legislative auditor reveals child protection investigations vary widely among counties, partly because counties do not uniformly interpret maltreatment definitions in Minnesota law.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) proposes to appropriate money for pilot projects that would create more uniformity statewide. The bill (**HF2985**) also would focus on prevention for abused and neglected children.

The House Health and Human Services Committee approved the policy part of the bill Feb. 12. The appropriations part of the bill was

sent to the committee's finance division.

Gov. Arne Carlson has called for \$10 million for child welfare services in his current budget. Entenza's bill requests \$30 million. Some of that would go to three metropolitan and three rural counties for a pilot project aimed at improved child protection oversight.

The bill would provide \$3,500 for each of 2,100 assessments in the pilot project during each of the next four years. Entenza said that figure would include the salary of the case worker, services provided, counseling, parental support, and other related services.

Entenza said the cost of removing a child from a home runs from \$11,000 to \$34,000. In 1996, \$164 million was spent on out-home placements in Minnesota. Only \$31 million was spent on prevention through family preservation services.

INDUSTRY

Telephone companies pay

The dynamics of telecommunications have brought numerous players into the industry, but when the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) allocates costs incurred during its investigations, telephone companies pay the charge.

That would change under a bill (**HF3123**), sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris). The bill would charge the costs incurred by the PUC to all parties involved in a proceeding that comes before the commission.

The House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee approved the bill Feb. 5.

The bill was prompted, in part, by a case that involved the reselling of a service provided by a utility.

Jerry Knickerbocker, of the Minnesota Telephone Association, told of a case in which a local phone company claimed that a service user was improperly reselling the service provided by the phone company. The phone company argued this before the PUC and was found to be correct.

"And lo and behold the telephone company gets the bill for the cost of this proceeding," Knickerbocker said. "The company pays for being proven right. The commission has no ability at the present time to assess anyone other than telephone companies."

Knickerbocker said the changing nature of the industry is likely to mean similar cases will multiply, not diminish. He said the effect of the current arrangement means telephone customers ultimately and unfairly foot the entire bill.

The committee made a change to the bill

after hearing from citizens concerned that the proposal would deter individuals from bringing a case before the PUC.

Alvin Huff, who represented the American Association of Retired Persons, told the committee that telecommunications issues are too complex already, and "the end result of this bill will have a chilling effect on dialogue" between citizens and the PUC.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) asked, "Why would an individual come before the PUC if the individual has to pay part of the cost?"

The bill was amended to exclude citizens and certain "end-users" of telephone services from footing a portion of the bill for PUC actions. The altered bill now moves to the House floor.



LAW

Omnibus family law bill

The omnibus family law bill (**HF2784**) was approved by the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 11.

The most ambitious portion of the bill is a somewhat altered version of the parenting plan proposal backed by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul).

The parenting plan proposal (originally introduced as **HF1323**) would restructure state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

Under current law, the courts establish custody in situations where the placement of the child is an issue after marriage dissolution. Courts designate a custodial parent, and all decisions concerning the child are made by that parent.

Under the new language, parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would be provided the option to compose a plan that would ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. The document would outline visitation and custody issues for the child. Courts would then approve the parenting plan.

Initially, the bill required that this option be instituted by the courts statewide. The latest version of the bill creates a pilot project and gives each judicial district the power to decide whether or not to participate in the pilot.

The omnibus family law bill, sponsored by Dawkins, now goes to the full Judiciary Committee.

Creepy crawler



Minnesota Zoo volunteer Maryce Carl shows off a giant African millipede to 3-year-old Jeffrey Wieters, of Big Lake, Minn., as his sister Joy, 5, looks on. Minnesota Zoo staff were at the Capitol rotunda Feb. 10 for a rally to highlight the zoo's mission and goals.



METRO AFFAIRS

Met Council members elected?

Under a proposal headed for the House floor, members of the Metropolitan Council would be elected and some would serve on both the council and the board of commissioners in their home county.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (**HF2588**) that would change the way members of the Metropolitan Council are selected.

"A significant government entity with this kind of taxing power should be elected," Orfield said, during Feb. 11 testimony before the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Orfield has introduced several bills calling for an elected Metropolitan Council in recent years, including one last year that passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The Metropolitan Council was created in 1967 and is responsible for regional planning in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. It's one of the largest regional governments in the country and oversees the regional bus system, wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation that serves disabled people.

Its annual budget is \$360 million, partially paid by property taxes. It has approximately 3,500 employees. The council is governed by a

board of directors appointed by the governor. There are 16 members, each representing a different portion of the region, and a chair.

Orfield's latest bill drew much debate during committee hearings on the matter.

Under the proposal, the Legislature would redistrict the metropolitan area after the 2000 census into equal-sized council districts.

When a council district is wholly within a county, the district would be the same as the county commission district. Thus, the person elected in that district would serve on both panels.

For Metropolitan Council districts not within a single county, only candidates for a county board could file (separately) for election to the Metropolitan Council. If elected to both offices, they would serve in both offices.

So it would have the effect of making county commissioners in each county members of the Metropolitan Council.

"I think the main thing the bill addresses is the aspect of accountability," said Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), a co-sponsor of the bill.

Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt testified in support of the bill.

"We feel there is a disconnection between the constituency and the Metropolitan Council members," she said.

But Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) had some concerns about the proposal.

"One of the pluses of having the governor appoint [the Metropolitan Council] is that there is some turnover from time to time," he said. "What happens if they're elected forever

and ever? Do you worry that someone will get on and then be on it forever and a day?"

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said she does not like the idea of county commissioners serving on the council.

"A lot of the decision-making is dependent on the council serving as a regional group. I think there would really, truly be a conflict," she said. "I have some real problems with those people maintaining their neutrality to the people that elected them."

The bill was approved Feb. 11 by the metropolitan affairs committee and Feb. 12 by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee.



MILITARY

NATO expansion resolution

A bill calling for a resolution to ask President Clinton and Congress to support the admission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary to NATO passed the House Feb. 9.

A NATO expansion to include those three countries is anticipated in April 1999, pending U.S. Senate approval. That body is expected to vote on ratifying the necessary treaty within the next two months.

HF2417, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), passed on a vote of 117-2.

Jaros spent about two months translating for NATO troops in northeastern Bosnia last summer.

"My idea is that every country should join NATO, and then once everybody is joined in support of peace, we won't need any more armies," he said.



TAXES

Dependent care tax credit

A measure that expands the eligibility for the dependent care tax credit — particularly for parents with children in day care — was approved Feb. 12 by the House Taxes Committee.

The bill (**HF2804**) is sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood).

The state currently allows a child care tax credit equal to a percentage of child care costs, up to a maximum of \$720 for one child or \$1,140 for two or more children. That credit begins to decrease for parents making \$17,340 per year and is completely phased out for parents making \$31,080.

Slawik's bill would decrease the rate in which the credit is phased out and increase the in-

come at which the credit would be completely phased out to \$45,080 a year.

"What the tax credit really is about is children, and young children," Slawik told the committee.

She said with seven of 10 mothers in the workforce and five of six mothers with children under six working, there is a need for that help. The cost for having two children in child care can be \$9,500 per year, she said.

Claudia Grant, owner-administrator of Capitol Child Care, said the bill is important for young families.

"Early entry career people really struggle to pay for child care. It's a good attempt at helping their families be self-sufficient," she said.

The bill is set to be included in this year's omnibus tax bill.



TRANSPORTATION

New transportation fund?

Minnesota has averaged one proposed constitutional amendment a year since 1980, and a bill that would create a new state transportation fund would maintain that pace.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport), proposes that voters decide whether there should be a constitutional amendment to establish a new transportation fund for highways and public transit.

The fund would receive all revenues from state motor vehicle license taxes (about \$485 million) and 20 percent of the revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax (about \$80 million), and the money would be reserved for highway and transit purposes.

The bill (**HF3265**) was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 9 and sent to its finance division, which has yet to take action on the bill.

The bill also requires that funding for State Highway Patrol enforcement on state trunk highways, other than commercial vehicle enforcement, come from the general fund, rather than the trunk highway fund. The bill also would forbid the use of highway dollars to construct buildings.

The new transportation fund — which would be dubbed the intermodal surface transportation trust fund — would provide revenue for highway, bridge, and transit projects. The intent is to create a fund that can be used to match federal transportation funds, including dollars for options such as light rail transit.

"We don't have the dollars to match every one of these funds," Marko said, "and we need some flexibility for optional transportation methods."

Specifically, she would like to see Minnesota in a better position to secure funds available under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).

In 1991, ISTEA was considered revolutionary federal transportation policy. Federal allocations were to be tied to state funds with an emphasis on preserving, or making more efficient use of, current transportation systems. ISTEA was also to encourage innovative transportation solutions.

ISTEA also allowed funding to be "flexed" from one program to another. Giving state and local decision-makers funding flexibility enabled inter-city rail to continue or expand operations, for instance.

Part of the intent of **HF3265** is to provide the state with funding to solve its transit, traffic, and parking problems in the Twin Cities area. In that region, construction for new highway projects is estimated to exceed \$55 million a mile. And while roughly 250 miles of new highway was laid in the Twin Cities area in the past 20 years, only 20 miles of additional highway is planned in the next decade.

Rural areas of Minnesota, where the cost of highway construction is considerably lower, also would be eligible for matching federal funds under **HF3265**.

Marko's bill calls for the proposed amendment to the state constitution to be placed on the November 1998 ballot.

Since 1980 there have been 18 proposed constitutional amendments on the ballot, of which 13 were adopted. Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of both the state House and Senate. A majority vote of the total number of persons voting in the next state general election is required to ratify proposed amendments.

Graduated licensing for teens

In an attempt to diminish the number of accidents involving younger drivers, 26 states have enacted graduated licensing for teenage drivers. The concept requires younger drivers to meet minimum requirements en route to attaining full driving status.

Minnesota would join those states under a bill (**HF2532**) sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley). No Minnesota teen below the age of 17 would be eligible for a full driver's license under the bill. Currently, Minnesota teens can earn full driving privileges at age 16.

The House Transportation and Transit Committee approved the bill Feb. 11; it now moves to the committee's finance division.

Under the bill, drivers in Minnesota would

have to be 16 years old and possess a learner's permit for at least six months to be eligible for a provisional license. The applicant would have to be free of traffic violations or convictions in the six months before application. Applicants also would have to complete an approved driver education course.

The provisional license would allow unsupervised driving between 5 a.m. and midnight. Exceptions would be made for trips related to employment, education, or religion. Drivers under 18 applying for an adult license would need to hold the provisional driver's license for at least a year and incur no driving convictions or violations.

During the 1997 session, bills for teen graduated licensing were introduced in both the House and Senate. The House bill stalled in the Transportation Committee. Its companion bill in the Senate reached the floor but never came up for a vote.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 35 percent of deaths in the 15 to 19 age group result from motor vehicle crashes. In 1996, 6,319 traffic deaths occurred in the 16 to 20 age group.

In a graduated licensing system, full driving privileges are phased in, with the teen gradually accumulating driving experience. The first such model was developed 20 years ago by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The bill also would create youth-oriented driver improvement clinics for young and novice drivers with a history of improper driving practices. The clinics would require up to nine hours of training at a cost of no more than \$50.

Light rail transit

The prospect of a light rail transit (LRT) system in the Twin Cities moved closer to reality Feb. 9 when the House Transportation Committee approved a bonding proposal that would provide \$106 million toward LRT development.

The LRT funds would provide \$99 million to build a transportation line from downtown Minneapolis to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Mall of America. The line is being called the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor.

The state's \$99 million would be matched with \$200 million in federal transit capital funds.

The remaining \$7 million for LRT in the bonding proposal would be used to study expansion of the LRT into St. Paul and other corridors and to study commuter rail development.

LRT typically serves urban-suburban mar-

Harriet Island plan



Errol Fernandez-Edwards, *right*, coordinator and design team member of West Side Riverfront Planning and Development, speaks about the cooperation his group has had with the city of St. Paul on plans to redevelop Harriet Island. Tim Agness, *left*, of the St. Paul Parks Division also testified Feb. 6 before the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

kets with short distances between stations. Commuter rail primarily serves the urban market, and is characterized by station-to-station distances of about 2.5 miles. It uses existing rail lines.

The bill calls for \$24 million to be available in fiscal year 1999 for the Hiawatha Corridor project and \$25 million for the project in each of the subsequent three fiscal years.

An earlier Hiawatha Corridor plan called for \$100 million for the project and \$6 million in studies for future expansion. However, an

additional \$1 million was shifted to fund commuter rail studies for the Young America rail line from Carver County to Minneapolis and the Bethel rail line linking Cambridge with the Northstar Corridor of the LRT system in Anoka County.

The bonding proposal also calls for \$34 million for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation.

The bill (**HF2373**), sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.



Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) indicated she was having a difficult time hearing testimony from Ralph McQuarter, of the Department of Human Services, during a meeting of the finance division of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

"I'm a soft-spoken person," McQuarter said, which prompted committee chair Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) to say: "We'll have to change that. It doesn't work well around the Legislature."

Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters) had a point to make while the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee finalized its bonding recommendations Feb. 12.

During a flurry of last-minute amendments and requests for even more money, he spoke up.

"I've been voting 'no' on all of these amendments, and I don't want any of the members to take it personally," Kalis said. "I'm just practicing."

Kalis chairs the House Capital Investment Committee, through which all requests for bonding dollars must pass before going to the House floor.

A bill that would license naturopathic physicians (**HF396**) was removed from the House Health and Human Services Committee agenda Feb. 12 after it became apparent it would not be heard in the Senate this session.

Sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), the bill is the fourth of its kind since 1986.

Before Wejcman pulled the bill from consideration, she said, "I don't normally support a unicameral legislature, but I'd favor it this morning if it means we could get rid of the Senate."

New member . . .

Ray Vandever to focus on taxes, education, crime

By Grant Martin

Recently elected Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake) likes to put his money where his mouth is.

"I firmly believe we have a strong and good form of government," he said. "But it's also very delicate, and it depends on one thing and that's citizens being involved at some level or another to make it work."



Rep.
Ray Vandever

And he has been involved. Vandever served on the Mounds View Charter Commission. He is a member of the Forest Lake Planning Commission and a former member of the government affairs committee of the Suburban Area Chamber of Commerce. He also has served as a volunteer probation officer in Anoka County.

He said that his experience in local government will help him better serve the people of his legislative district, especially because he is familiar with the current local issues.

"It gives me an idea of what the local problems are in the district I represent," Vandever said. "There are some issues with the proposed merger of Forest Lake and Forest Lake Township that really shine the light on local problems."

Vandever lives in Forest Lake with his wife, Camille, and their four children, Paul, Phillip, Cara, and Alana. He owns a real estate appraisal firm that has been in business since 1981.

He made his first attempt at elected office in

1996 when he challenged incumbent state Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) and lost. But Vandever said he was very proud of how the vote turned out, considering the fact that he was running against an incumbent.

"I was pretty convinced that the voters liked and approved of my message to do that well," he said.

Vandever said his numbers were particularly good in the half of that Senate district that comprises his current House district.

So when Rep. Doug Swenson (R-Forest Lake) resigned to take a new job as a judge in the 10th Judicial District Court, Vandever felt that he was the right person for the job.

"I did not expect that to happen when it did and it was clearly an opportunity coming out of the Senate race and doing well on our side of the district against an incumbent," he said. "I thought it was a good fit."

Vandever said that he plans to focus on taxes, crime, and education as a member of the House. He said that taxes are too high in Minnesota, and he will focus on providing tax relief for families.

"My priorities will be lower taxes and reduced state spending. I want to work very hard to see that we reduce that level of taxation for hard-working families," he said.

Vandever said that the state also has to protect its population against violent crime.

"We want a clear signal that this is the wrong place, the wrong state to come and commit violent crime," he said.

When it comes to violent crime, the state must be concerned with safety first — more than rehabilitation — but the state should also work on developing prevention programs to

keep youth out of crime, Vandever said.

"I served as a volunteer probation officer a number of years ago in Anoka County, and I do think that those kinds of programs that work with youth are the probably the most likely to be successful," he said. "Getting to kids, I think this is where we have the best chance of success."

Vandever says that he wants to ensure the quality of education in his district.

"I think equitable funding for education is a big issue in a lot of suburban districts, and ours is no exception. That is important to me," he said.

Vandever won the special election on Jan. 27 and he was sworn in to office on Feb. 5. He said that after a week on the job, he has been impressed by the speed at which things move in the Legislature and with the commitment of the members.

"There are people I have met on both sides, from both parties who are passionate about their views and representing their constituents," he said. "It really confirms my appreciation for our system of government."

District 51B

1995 population: 40,179

Largest city: Lino Lakes

Counties: Anoka, Washington

Location: Northeastern suburban metro

Top concern: "Reducing the level of taxation. I think clearly in Minnesota we're overtaxed. I want to work very hard to see that we reduce that level of taxation for hard-working families. That's very important to me."

—Rep. Ray Vandever

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate ... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building 296-4860

Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Research, House

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-9208

Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency

296-2100

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1116

TTY*, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Bill Introductions

HF3252-HF3338, HF3449-HF3703

HF3252-HF3338 were inadvertently left out of last week's *Session Weekly*.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

HF3252—Clark, K. (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities assisted in implementing preferred economic development practices, businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified, inducing businesses to relocate penalized, and money appropriated.

HF3253—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Nonprofit drug-and-alcohol-free rental housing agreement immediate termination permitted.

HF3254—Kahn (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
County recorder and registrar functions provided additional methods.

HF3255—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Three strikes; mandatory life sentence without parole imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense, and mandatory life sentence imposed for second violent felony offense.

HF3256—Leppik (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Heritage Lakes initiative created to improve lake and ecosystem quality, and advisory council provided.

HF3257—Larsen (R)
Judiciary
Sauk Centre and Thistledeew correctional facilities considered special education residential care and treatment programs.

HF3258—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medicaid; Congress memorialized to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities.

HF3259—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Food stamp benefits extended for noncitizens, public housing residents' MFIP-S grant reductions delayed, al-

cohol and drug dependent persons' benefits continued, TANF funds transferred to federal Title XX allocation, and money appropriated.

HF3260—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Suburban Hennepin Regional Park district employee authorized to change coverage from the Public Employees Retirement Association coordinated plan to the public employees defined contribution plan.

HF3261—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care program funding for elimination of county waiting lists provided, and money appropriated.

HF3262—Mariani (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care program assistance eligibility income upper limit raised, and money appropriated.

HF3263—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards teacher training funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3264—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Counterfeited trademark possession, manufacture, or distribution prohibited, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3265—Marko (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk highway fund expenditures required, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and tax revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.

HF3266—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Charter school contractual agreements for teaching and administrative services clarified, and exemption created for existing arrangements.

HF3267—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
CODEFOR; Computer Optimized Development-Focus On Results law enforcement strategy demonstration

grant program established in Hennepin County, and money appropriated.

HF3268—Dawkins (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties government affirmative action plan requirements for contractors modified.

HF3269—Milbert (DFL)
Education
Inver Hills Community College reimbursed for campus entrance construction costs, and money appropriated.

HF3270—Milbert (DFL)
Education
Inver Hills Community College campus entrance constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3271—Pugh (DFL)
Education
Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, lease levy for instructional space authorized.

HF3272—Tomassoni (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Township mutual fire insurance company farm risks regulated.

HF3273—Seifert (R)
Taxes
New farm equipment and aquaculture production equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF3274—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
McLeod County; Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3275—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Percentage of moose licenses to be selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.

HF3276—Skare (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Beaver damage control grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3277—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Deliberating grand jury provided interpreter assistance for jurors who are communication handicapped.

HF3278—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Firearm permit penalty enhancement clarified relating to prior convictions.

HF3279—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Landlords prohibited from accepting earnest collateral as a condition to refuse consideration of other prospective tenants, and civil penalties provided.

HF3280—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical assistance special transportation services reimbursement modified.

HF3281—Murphy (DFL)
Capital Investment
Corrections and Public Safety departments capital improvement finance bill.

HF3282—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 700, Hermantown, sports/physical education complex provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3283—Tunheim (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Kittson County Board of Commissioners authorized to establish an economic development authority.

HF3284—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Minnesota free flow of information act; witness information disclosure conditions fixed.

HF3285—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
St. Louis County Sheriff's Department employee authorized a prior service credit purchase in the Public Employees Relief Association police and fire fund.

HF3286—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Hibbing Community and Technical College technical education facility constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3287—Seifert (R)
Health & Human Services
Mortuary science lifetime, limited license issued for volunteer or emergency practice applicants.

HF3288—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Weed and seed; crime, drug, and illegal activity eradication program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3289—Kielkucki (R)
Education
University of Minnesota Board of Regents prohibited from requiring 4-H chapters to comply with human rights provisions and refrain from sexual orientation discrimination.

HF3290—Daggett (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Perham Area Technology Center renovation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3291—Dorn (DFL)
Education
Mankato State University student athletic facilities remodeling and construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3292—Greenfield (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Winchell Trail in Minneapolis restoration and construction provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF3293—Kraus (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Albert Lea authorized to issue additional on-sale liquor licenses.

HF3294—Ness (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Hutchinson Community Center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3295—Rifenberg (R)
Transportation & Transit
Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3296—Long (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Advertisements, public art, and informational signs allowed on highway rights-of-way bicycle racks and storage facilities.

HF3297—Long (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
MERLA; statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act.

HF3298—Dempsey (R)
Governmental Operations
Independent School District No. 200, Hastings, teacher provided retirement association extended leave deadline extension.

HF3299—Ness (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Prevailing wage determinations to include certain government employees.

HF3300—Finseth (R)
Transportation & Transit
Implements of husbandry trailer combinations size and weight exemption provided for dealers.

HF3301—Finseth (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Southwest Asia veterans bonus payments provided to merchant marines serving on active duty during the time of eligibility.

HF3302—Dorn (DFL)
Education
School district training and experience revenue restored, special education revenue base year adjustment modified, and school boards provided additional compensatory revenue allocation flexibility.

HF3303—Mulder (R)
Education
Child development provider registry established, and money appropriated.

HF3304—Garcia (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Telephone solicitations by use of predictive dialing devices prohibited.

HF3305—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
School district declining pupil aid created.

HF3306—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Short-barreled rifle possession or operation provided criminal penalties.

HF3307—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Minnesota learning resource center established to treat children with learning problems, and money appropriated.

HF3308—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Public accommodation access discrimination based upon clothing insignia or mode of transportation prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF3309—Garcia (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Richfield authorized to establish tax increment financing districts subject to special rules relating to the airport and noise mitigation.

HF3310—Long (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Licensed boarding care home capacity increased for Medical Assistance reimbursement.

HF3311—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations
State departments supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3312—Finseth (R)
Judiciary
Adult offender restitution grant program established.

HF3313—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Witnesses subpoenaed by the legislature provided limited liability, and legislative disclosure provided.

HF3314—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in the general fund and subject to appropriation.

HF3315—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis City Council provided appointment authority for the Civilian Police Review Authority executive director.

HF3316—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Minnesota canola production center research and production techniques demonstration funded, and appropriated money.

HF3317—Tuma (R)
Governmental Operations
State classified position noncompetitive promotion of incumbents restricted if the position has been reallocated to a different bargaining unit.

HF3318—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Southwest State University regional studies center established, and money appropriated.

HF3319—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Animal waste technician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, animal waste spill liability account created and funded, generic environmental impact statements required, and money appropriated.

HF3320—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Animal feedlot construction moratorium established.

HF3321—Peterson (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Ethanol production goals and producer payments modified.

HF3322—Dempsey (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.

HF3323—Anderson, B. (R)
Judiciary
Private property rights protection act adopted.

HF3324—Ozment (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Excavation notification system regulated, pipeline safety committee appointed, and civil penalties increased.

HF3325—Macklin (R)
Judiciary
Capital intensive public service proposals and negotiation documents provided nonpublic data classification until final offers are received.

HF3326—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home Care Bill of Rights modified relating to the Office of the Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans.

HF3327—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Reimbursement rate exemption extended for a certain nursing facility.

HF3328—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Learn and earn graduation achievement program grant award timeline modified.

HF3329—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Charter school No. 4011 New Vision's program replicated, remote-site consulting services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3330—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Little Falls conference center and retreat site developed, and money appropriated.

HF3331—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Mentally ill inmates required to be separated from other inmates.

HF3332—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Open adoption agreements modified.

HF3333—Paymar (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Tobacco manufacturers required to report hazardous substances to assist in local ordinance enforcement.

HF3334—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Firearm possession by a nonresident alien provided felony criminal penalties.

HF3335—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Guardian and conservator background checks and data access authorized, informational statements required, optional competency and training requirements established, volunteer review pilot project created, and money appropriated.

HF3336—Biernat (DFL)
Education
Alternative program and area learning center graduation standards grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF3337—Stang (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Stearns County tax-forfeited land bordering public water sale authorized.

HF3338—Mulder (R)
Education
At-Home Infant care Program eligibility provisions modified.

Monday, Feb. 9

HF3449—Wejcman (DFL)
Agriculture
Minnesota grown coupon program eligibility requirements expanded, expansion pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF3450—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Council of State Governments provided funding for meetings with the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments, and money appropriated.

HF3451—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Fillmore, Mower, Olmsted, and Dodge counties smallmouth bass regulations modified.

HF3452—Davids (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Eyota to Chatfield Blufflands Trail funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3453—Paulsen (R)
Taxes
Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amounts modified to reduce marriage penalties.

HF3454—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County authorized to sell school trust land bordering public waters.

HF3455—Delmont (DFL)
Education
School district equalization aid funded through Education Trust Fund revenue, and money appropriated.

HF3456—Davids (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Chatfield brass band music lending library funded, and money appropriated.

HF3457—Paymar (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Outdoor tobacco advertising prohibited near schools, child care centers, and playgrounds, retail exception provided, and penalties imposed.

HF3458—Sykora (R)
Education
State Board of Education eliminated and duties transferred to the department of Children, Families and Learning, Faribault Academies Board created, and racial segregation prohibited.

HF3459—Greiling (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Employers required to accommodate nursing mothers, and unpaid break time provided.

HF3460—Westfall (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Hawley sewer lagoon repair and update funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3461—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Washington County; Brown's Creek restoration and Brown's Creek watershed district flood control measures funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3462—Greiling (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax refund formula alternative based on household income provided.

HF3463—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Exempt capital equipment sales payment and refund requirements repealed.

HF3464—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Construction codes advisory council established.

HF3465—Tomassoni (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
St. Louis County; additional reemployment insurance benefits provided to Hibbing Taconite Company claimants, and requirement exemption authorized.

HF3466—Milbert (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Election conduit fund associations required to have a treasurer, register

with the Board of Campaign Finance and public disclosure, and commingling of funds prohibited.

HF3467—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Shared parenting in residence provided relating to child custody, and training program established.

HF3468—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Collaborative urban educator program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF3469—Murphy (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, teacher contract late settlement penalty reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF3470—Kubly (DFL)
Agriculture
Farmer-lender mediation director modified, and farmer-lender mediation act made permanent.

HF3471—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Northern Leopard Frog designated as the state amphibian and the Blanding's Turtle designated as the state reptile.

HF3472—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Chisago County authorized to sale tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3473—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Junior golf programs certified by the Amateur Sports Commission, and golf facilities provided partial sales tax refund for qualifying junior programs.

HF3474—Hausman (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Science Museum of Minnesota provided exhibition funding, and money appropriated.

HF3475—Smith (R)
Health & Human Services
Tobacco manufacturers required to report hazardous substances to assist in local ordinance enforcement.

HF3476—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan regular route and Greater Minnesota transit operating assistance funded, fixed local shares calculation formula modified, and money appropriated.

HF3477—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan and Greater Minnesota transit vehicle replacement funded, and money appropriated.

HF3478—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance covered home services expanded to include nurse assessments.

HF3479—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nutritional supplement program outreach study funded, and money appropriated.

HF3480—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare income limit increased for certain child care workers.

HF3481—Farrell (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Stroh Brewery area redevelopment assistance and manufacturing job creation assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3482—Knobloch (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
State lottery advertising prohibited.

HF3483—Jaros (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Welfare-to-work extended employment partnership program continued, and money appropriated.

HF3484—Jaros (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Earl C. Buck operating center in Duluth restored, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3485—Olson, E. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Red Lake County authorized to privately sell surplus land bordering public water.

HF3486—Anderson, B. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minnesota Municipal Board sunset repealed.

HF3487—Pawlenty (R)
Transportation & Transit
Drivers over age 70 required to renew license every two years, and fees modified.

HF3488—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Pedestrian right-of-way provisions modified, peace officer arrest authority expanded, and motor vehicle owner or lessee penalty imposed.

HF3489—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Parking space leasing data definition expanded to include location of the space.

HF3490—Erhardt (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Banking institution reverse stock split authorized, and retail motor vehicle installment contract complaint notice provided.

HF3491—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Homestead property exceeding \$75,000 provided reduced property class rate.

HF3492—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.

HF3493—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Student loan interest and education savings account income tax deduction provided.

HF3494—Rukavina (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Grocery item pricing regulated, and remedies provided.

HF3495—Pugh (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
West St. Paul and Dakota County housing and redevelopment authority provided exemption from tax increment financing district requirements.

HF3496—Reuter (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Owatonna authorized to impose additional excise and use taxes to fund the Owatonna economic development 2000 operating facilities.

HF3497—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Blind or visually impaired persons provided access to information technology, and nonvisual access standards established.

HF3498—Evans (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Seven-city coalition redevelopment tax increment financing district restrictions modified, and money appropriated.

HF3499—Evans (DFL)
Taxes
Homestead rehabilitation expenditure income tax credit provided for homesteads that present a health hazard to occupants.

HF3500—Evans (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Counties authorized to establish county state-aid highway minimum standards.

HF3501—Carlson (DFL)
Capital Investment
Omnibus education bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3502—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
State research grant recipients provided nonpublic data access.

HF3503—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Basic revenue pupil unit determination to include students graduating early.

HF3504—McCollum (DFL)
Education
Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3505—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Agriculture
Manure digester farm demonstration projects funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3506—Wenzel (DFL)
Judiciary
Drive-by-shooting penalties increased.

HF3507—McCollum (DFL)
Education
Metropolitan magnet school grant provision modified, capital improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3508—Carlson (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health plan companies required to notify enrollees of subrogation claims and recoveries.

HF3509—Evans (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Small minority- and women-owned businesses statewide database created, and money appropriated.

HF3510—Holsten (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Pollution control agency and departments of natural resources and agriculture lakes initiative funded, and appropriated money.

HF3511—Leppik (R)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Cigarette displays accessible to the public limited to cartons of ten units or more.

HF3512—Bakk (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Lake County Forest Highway 11 project completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3513—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services
Children ineligible for MinnesotaCare provided payments for employee share of employer-subsidized insurance under the state children's health insurance program, and funding plan required.

HF3514—Evans (DFL)
Education
Facility maintenance projects provided review and comment exemption, total operating capital revenue use, youth initiative grants, and debt service equalization expanded, maintenance levy and technology aid created, and money appropriated.

HF3515—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Ramsey County family court combined jurisdiction pilot project sunset extended.

HF3516—Wenzel (DFL)
Judiciary
Drive-by-shooting penalties increased.

HF3517—Reuter (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Owatonna Heritage Halls Museum project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3518—Reuter (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Owatonna heritage halls museum project grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3519—Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organizations required to designate a medical director, and health treatment decision and policy liability established.

HF3520—Mullery (DFL)
Education
Girls and women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, organization grant eligibility provided, and money appropriated.

HF3521—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF3522—Hilty (DFL)
Education
School district special education assessments modified.

HF3523—Biernat (DFL)
Education
School district operating capital revenue use restriction on building acquisition or construction removed.

HF3524—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.

HF3525—Skare (DFL)
Taxes
Agricultural homestead land subject to a reduced property class rate provided increased valuation.

HF3526—Kubly (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Stewart storm sewer project funded, and money appropriated.

HF3527—Hasskamp (DFL)
General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections
Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds.

HF3528—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
State lottery retailer study task force established.

HF3529—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3530—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile and personal watercraft titling and licensing required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3531—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Farm machinery definition modified to include equipment used to produce flowering or ornamental plants including nursery stock relating to sales and use tax.

HF3532—Bettermann (R)
Labor-Management Relations
Workers' compensation reporting requirements modified, certain reimbursement requirements eliminated, and Daedalus imaging project appropriation error corrected.

HF3533—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Non-gambling prize awards considered purchases for resale and exempt from sales tax.

HF3534—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Property tax abatements exempt from levy limits, and abatement bonds exempt from election requirements.

HF3535—Kinkel (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing homes owned by political subdivisions exempt from wage increases.

HF3536—McCollum (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
St. Paul flood mitigation in the Hoyt Avenue area funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3537—Gunther (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3538—Osthoff (DFL)
Education
Education income tax credit extended to include private driver's education instruction.

HF3539—Bakk (DFL)
Taxes
Taconite tax law updated.

HF3540—Boudreau (R)
Education
Faribault residential academies improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3541—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Tracheostomy suctioning reimbursed by medical assistance when performed by personal care assistants.

HF3542—Van Dellen (R)
Ways & Means
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in a special account in the general fund and used only for attorney fees and tax relief.

HF3543—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Parliamentary system of government provided, governor selected by a unicameral legislature, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3544—Rukavina (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth grant provided for boys and girls amateur and high school hockey displays, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3545—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3546—Opatz (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, and St. Joseph authorized to impose additional sales tax to fund the central Minnesota events center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3547—Hausman (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Renewable development account created and renewable energy development assistance provided.

HF3548—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Massage sales tax abolished, and massage therapists subject to the MinnesotaCare provider tax.

HF3549—Pugh (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Ephedrine provided prescription status, sale, marketing, and possession restricted, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3550—Skoglund (DFL)
Education
Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, national inner city center provided additional funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

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HF3551—Westfall (R)
Health & Human Services
Living-at-home/block nurse program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF3552—Mullery (DFL)
Education
Woman graduates in nontraditional occupations increase goals established, low-income student training provided, and money appropriated.

HF3553—Olson, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund percentage based on lottery sales allocated to a county environmental account for county projects.

HF3554—Olson, M. (R)
Education
Graduation rule contents required to ensure requirement completion, task force established to study social promotion, and money appropriated.

HF3555—Olson, M. (R)
Education
School district declining pupil unit aid for fiscal year 1998 modified.

HF3556—Hausman (DFL)
Taxes
St. Paul RiverCentre Arena construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3557—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Victims of torture provided General Assistance Medical Care coverage.

<p>HF3558—Ness (R) Education Ridgewater College, Hutchinson campus, employees provided retirement benefits protection.</p>	<p>HF3568—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services MinnesotaCare coverage of interpreter services provided.</p>	<p>HF3579—Long (DFL) Taxes Solid waste management services tax collection moratorium clarified relating to sales tax.</p>	<p>HF3589—Huntley (DFL) Health & Human Services Deaf Blind Services Minnesota, Inc. grant provided, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF3559—Otremba, M. (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Sauk River watershed district dam renovation funded, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3569—Van Dellen (R) Education School boards required to allow equal extracurricular activity participation of home school students, and equal fees charged.</p>	<p>HF3580—Greenfield (DFL) Education Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF3590—Dawkins (DFL) Judiciary Sentencing guideline commission report proposal approved.</p>
<p>HF3560—Clark, K. (DFL) Judiciary Names of elected officials registering property complaints made public.</p>	<p>HF3570—Mullery (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Job counselors for the blind trained, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3581—Solberg (DFL) Health & Human Services People with disabilities coordinated service delivery system demonstration project established in Itasca County.</p>	<p>HF3591—Tuma (R) Environment & Natural Resources Department of Natural Resources prohibited from acquiring property by prescriptive easement.</p>
<p>HF3561—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary Commissioner of corrections authorized to contract with counties for placement of juveniles in the serious/chronic program, PREPARE.</p>	<p>HF3571—Schumacher (DFL) Education School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3582—Gunther (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Martin County auditor/treasurer appointment permitted.</p>	<p>HF3592—Kraus (R) Taxes Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.</p>
<p>HF3562—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary State witness compensation and expenses to be paid from the budget of the prosecuting authority.</p>	<p>HF3572—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Timber permit extension provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF3583—Bakk (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Minnesota forest resources council provided a grant to implement timber harvesting guidelines and recommendations, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3593—Larsen (R) Economic Development & International Trade Housing finance agency meetings by telephone or electronic means sunset removed.</p>
<p>HF3563—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary District court administrator law updated relating to salary.</p>	<p>HF3573—Tunheim (DFL) Education Three additional days of student instruction mandate repealed.</p>	<p>HF3584—Erickson (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Milaca authorized tax increment financing district expenditures outside the district.</p>	<p>HF3594—Long (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Gifts to local officials prohibition extended to include school district officials.</p>
<p>HF3564—Finseth (R) Transportation & Transit Trunk highway fund expenditures restricted, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and revenue dedicated, state patrol funded, local bridge grants provided, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF3574—Tomassoni (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Giants Ridge and Ironworld discovery center on-sale liquor licenses authorized.</p>	<p>HF3585—Hasskamp (DFL) Taxes Senior citizens' property tax deferral program modified.</p>	<p>HF3595—Long (DFL) Taxes Rent constituting property taxes calculation modified.</p>
<p>HF3565—Trimble (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Housing finance agency equity take-out loans provided to assist owners of federally assisted rental property, affordable rental housing provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3575—Johnson, A. (DFL) Taxes Ready-mixed concrete trucks considered capital equipment, motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided, and sales price definition expanded.</p>	<p>HF3586—Chaudhary (DFL) Judiciary Bodybuilding and weightlifting equipment prohibited in state correctional facilities.</p>	<p>HF3596—Long (DFL) Education Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF3566—Trimble (DFL) Governmental Operations St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association closed to new members, and Teachers Retirement Association coverage provided.</p>	<p>HF3576—Hasskamp (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol grounds.</p>	<p>HF3587—Trimble (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Advocating Change Together, Inc. provided a grant to train people with disabilities, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3597—Gunther (R) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Persons under age 28 required to show proof of age prior to purchasing tobacco, and retail compliance check criteria provided.</p>
<p>HF3567—Kubly (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Renville wastewater treatment facility funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3577—Delmont (DFL) Health & Human Services Medical assistance rehabilitative and therapeutic services coverage clarified.</p>	<p>HF3588—Schumacher (DFL) Education General education formula allowance increased, operating referenda offset provided, operating referenda equalization aid increased, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3598—Kinkel (DFL) Taxes Commercial seasonal residential recreational property class requirements eliminated relating to business conducted between Memorial Day and Labor Day and bookings.</p>

<p>HF3599—Erickson (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Onamia permitted an extension for commencement of tax increment financing district activities.</p>	<p>HF3609—Long (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3619—Rest (DFL) Taxes Job training program franchise tax credit provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF3630—Farrell (DFL) Governmental Operations Office of technology biometrics utilization study required.</p>
<p>HF3600—Harder (R) Education Independent School District No. 2862, Jackson County Central, referendum authority modified.</p>	<p>HF3610—Carruthers (DFL) Education Graduation standards and graduation rule implementation funded, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3620—Pugh (DFL) Judiciary Judicial office retention provided for judges reaching age 65 six months or less after their term is to expire.</p>	<p>HF3631—Ozment (R) Taxes Political subdivision sales tax exemption provided.</p>
<p>HF3601—Solberg (DFL) Ways & Means State government operations and budget preparation provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF3611—Lieder (DFL) Taxes Wild rice watershed district levy proceed use for flood mitigation projects authorized.</p>	<p>HF3621—Wenzel (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Little Falls; Mississippi River east bank sediment cleanup state share funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3632—Seagren (R) Education Intermediate school district program student educational opportunities enhanced, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF3602—Long (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Minneapolis phased redevelopment district for the Sears project established.</p>	<p>HF3612—McGuire (DFL) General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections Army school; President and Congress memorialized to support the closure of the United States Army School of the Americas.</p>	<p>HF3622—Delmont (DFL) Education Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF3633—Wenzel (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties provided funding for state forest land repair, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF3603—Dempsey (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Red Wing levy limit adjustment for payments in lieu of taxes allowed.</p>	<p>HF3613—Mahon (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade NATO; Congress memorialized to support the admission of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to the North Atlantic Treaty.</p>	<p>HF3623—Biernat (DFL) Judiciary Cities of the first class authorized to establish city courts, jurisdiction and judge qualifications prescribed, and appeals to district court provided.</p>	<p>HF3634—Chaudhary (DFL) Health & Human Services Local social services agencies and department of human services required to collect information on United States armed forces members or veterans receiving food stamps.</p>
<p>HF3604—Schumacher (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Benton County required to apportion environmental response liability reimbursement among local units of government.</p>	<p>HF3614—Holsten (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs County official removal law expanded to include city officials</p>	<p>HF3624—Biernat (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal interim licensing ordinances authorized.</p>	<p>HF3635—Schumacher (DFL) Agriculture Manure storage requirements expanded and applicator training report required, feedlot environmental impact statements provided, voluntary rural dispute resolution procedure established, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF3605—Anderson, B. (R) Environment & Natural Resources Drainage system access easements transferred to storm sewer improvement districts.</p>	<p>HF3615—Ozment (R) Taxes Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.</p>	<p>HF3625—Jennings (DFL) Health & Human Services Day training and habilitation programs' capital improvement needs study required, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3636—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Home and community-based waiver for persons with mental retardation and related conditions amended for greater service delivery flexibility.</p>
<p>HF3606—Evans (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3616—Kubly (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Granite Falls multipurpose community recreation and education center funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3626—Koskinen (DFL) Education Anoka-Ramsey Community College ADA compliance and improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3637—Stanek (R) Judiciary Sentence to work program modified.</p>
<p>HF3607—Seifert (R) Economic Development & International Trade Southwest Minnesota regional performance center in Marshall funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3617—Leighton (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Mower County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.</p>	<p>HF3627—Harder (R) Education Southwest telecommunications cooperative Jackson to Marshall telecommunications network established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF3638—Larsen (R) Judiciary Sex offenders required to successfully complete treatment prior to release, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF3608—Biernat (DFL) Taxes Education Finance Act of 1992 repealed.</p>	<p>HF3618—Kinkel (DFL) Judiciary Hubbard County sheriff authorized additional part-time peace officers.</p>	<p>HF3628—Carlson (DFL) Education Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF3639—Anderson, B. (R) Health & Human Services Social worker licensure requirements modified.</p>
		<p>HF3629—Wagenius (DFL) Education Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF3640—Bettermann (R) Education Minnesota state college and university employees authorized to donate accrued sick time.</p>

HF3641—Trimble (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicles involved in accidents provided license plate impoundment for failure to maintain insurance, and penalties imposed.

HF3642—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Indian family preservation act primary support funded, and money appropriated.

HF3643—Schumacher (DFL)
Taxes
Vegetative filter strips assessed land value reduced.

HF3644—Sviggum (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Combined school districts extended telephone area service voting requirements modified.

HF3645—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Health professional reporting requirements expanded relating to injuries resulting from alcohol- or controlled substance-related accidents, and civil and criminal immunity expanded.

HF3646—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
School restructuring grant provided, and money appropriated.

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HF3647—Kraus (R)
Labor-Management Relations
High pressure boiler plant rules modified.

HF3648—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Browerville tax increment financing district authorized expenditures outside the district.

HF3649—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Used motor oil and filter collector income tax credit provided.

HF3650—Wenzel (DFL)
Agriculture
Farmer-lender mediation director modified, and farmer-lender mediation act made permanent.

HF3651—Larsen (R)
Health & Human Services
Minnesota family investment program statewide payment method modified.

HF3652—Entenza (DFL)
Education
School districts required to provide community outreach coordinators and guidance counselors, textbooks provided for each student, lifework and staff development plans modified, and student assessment and pre-school studies required.

HF3653—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Board of teaching membership requirements modified to include teachers currently teaching in a public school.

HF3654—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric restructuring technical advisory committee established, public utilities commission and department of public services duties specified, and reports required.

HF3655—Skare (DFL)
Education
Graduation standards and graduation rule implementation funded, and money appropriated.

HF3656—Smith (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Delano authorized to elect local contributions for a tax increment financing district.

HF3657—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Renter property tax refund increased.

HF3658—Vandevier (R)
Education
School district basic formula allowance increased, and compensatory education revenue reallocated.

HF3659—Murphy (DFL)
Taxes
Homestead and agricultural aid payments increased to certain statutory cities.

HF3660—Anderson, B. (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Incumbent designation removed from judicial ballots.

HF3661—Dawkins (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Council on Black Minnesotans Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance activities planning and coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF3662—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Criminal gang investigative data system parental notification required.

HF3663—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Bias motivated assault provided felony penalties.

HF3664—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
In-school suspension program revenue increased, and money appropriated.

HF3665—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
School districts encouraged to accept academically at-risk students under open enrollment, and money appropriated.

HF3666—Pugh (DFL)
Judiciary
Board of Inventions appropriated money.

HF3667—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Agricultural loans mortgage registry tax exemption provided.

HF3668—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Soil and water conservation districts authorized to determine mileage rate for supervisor reimbursement.

HF3669—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Education cost financing with property taxes prohibited, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3670—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Hennepin County; substance abuse intervention neighborhood program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3671—McElroy (R)
Taxes
Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3672—Kelso (DFL)
Taxes
Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3673—Trimble (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, compensatory revenue report required.

HF3674—Trimble (DFL)
Education
School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3675—Kahn (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Mississippi River urban heritage act adopted, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3676—Winter (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax simplification and reform provided, rebate specified, and money appropriated.

HF3677—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary
Hospitals required to report personnel assaults, hospital violence work group established, and increased criminal penalties provided.

HF3678—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Uniform property tax class rate provided for all residential property containing single dwelling unit.

HF3679—Davids (R)
Education
School districts authorized to levy for extracurricular activities.

HF3680—Davids (R)
Education
School district building construction down payment program modified.

HF3681—Ozment (R)
Education
Graduation rule teacher training program created, and money appropriated.

HF3682—Westfall (R)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Clay County flood hazard mitigation grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3683—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
One-time individual income tax rebate of additional revenue surplus provided.

HF3684—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

Model technology program developed by school districts, and levy authorized.

HF3685—Tompkins (R)**Education**

School districts required to provide instruction in the United States Constitution.

HF3686—Mulder (R)**Agriculture**

Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3687—Bishop (R)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage treatment system inspection criteria modified.

HF3688—Davids (R)**Health and Human Services**

Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF3689—Seifert (R)**General Legislation,
Veterans Affairs & Elections**

Out-of-state campaign contributions to candidates for governor limited.

HF3690—Wenzel (DFL)**Judiciary**

Drive-by shooting penalties increased.

HF3691—Carlson (DFL)**Education**

Years of education provided by the state extended to 13, and income tax credit allowed.

HF3692—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations**

Volunteer firefighter pension association and retirement fund created, reports required, and money appropriated.

HF3693—Kahn (DFL)**Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs**

Tobacco tax increased and hospital and provider tax reduced, tobacco advertisements prohibited in areas frequented by youth, smoking in workplaces and cigarette littering prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3694—Olson, M. (R)**Taxes**

Motor vehicle insurance income tax credit provided.

HF3695—Bishop (R)**Judiciary**

Repeat assault offense enhanced penalty application to offenders who have prior assault delinquency adjudications provided.

HF3696—Long (DFL)**Education**

Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3697—Hausman (DFL)**Transportation & Transit**

Road authority changes to roads over natural areas restricted.

HF3698—Jennings (DFL)**Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs**

Rush City easements authorized.

HF3699—Otremba, M. (DFL)**Agriculture**

Federal milk market order system reform appropriated money.

HF3700—Larsen (R)**Education**

Cimarron community county services coordination and integration funded, and money appropriated.

HF3701—Kalis (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Debt capacity forecasting, budget preparation, and reporting bond proceeds expenditures, bond sales, and capital improvements provisions modified.

HF3702—Solberg (DFL)**Taxes**

Local fiscal impact notes, local mandate cost reporting requirements, and revenue target requirements modified.

HF3703—Carruthers (DFL)**Judiciary**

Hennepin County district court administrator fees modified, and fourth judicial district fine distribution studied.

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<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Public safety commission brandished sweeping powers

It's a fact!

There were constant rumors of unpatriotic activity circulating in Minnesota during World War I, and the state took seriously the talk about one resident of the southeastern Minnesota village of Wykoff.

The Minnesota commission in charge of "public safety" during that period dispensed one of its half-dozen Pinkerton agents to uncover an alleged campaign led by one man to block draft registration.

Soon the operative reported that the alleged dissident, a hotel proprietor, "was inclined to enlarge on matters a great deal, as he uses liquor to excess." The agent found no draft resistance, and questioned whether the trip was worth the expense.

That episode aside, wasting state money was not the major criticism of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety. Of the \$1 million the 1917 Legislature appropriated for the commission, most was spent on military men and their families.

The problem with the commission was it had carte blanche to harass and intimidate Minnesota citizens and elected officials. Its 20-month reign was eventually categorized as a "blatant Minnesota example of legalized discrimination."

The Legislature was in session when World War I was declared. Shortly before adjournment in 1917, lawmakers created the safety commission.

The seven-member commission had sweeping powers and fell under the dominating influence of Judge John F. McGee, a conservative, anti-labor member.

The commission, which first

met April 2, 1917, was allowed to lease or seize property if "necessary or proper" for public safety or protection of life. The commission could call citizens to give testimony under oath. It controlled the sale of liquor. It questioned public officials. It removed public officials from office.

German-Americans were the state's largest ethnic group at the time, but anti-German sentiment still ran strong during the war, especially among commission members, who used their power to topple the mayor and city attorney of New Ulm, Minn., a town with strong German roots.

The commission's more grievous affronts include its battle against the national administration's labor policy, and its interference in the 1918 elections, which brought the reelection of commission-backed Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist.

The commission, which had its last formal meeting in December 1918, is credited with

having some positive impact. It promoted food production and conservation, and eradicated the barberry bush, the nemesis of wheat. It was responsible for farm labor and crop censuses and the recruitment of labor for farms and factories.

And the bulk of the money appropriated for the commission went for the welfare of military men and their families. Of the \$767,000 spent by the commission, roughly \$488,000 went to "soldiers' pay and sustenance." Much of the remainder financed the commission's less honorable pursuits.



Judge John F. McGee

Photo from *Men of Minnesota*, R. L. Polk & Co.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Feb. 16

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2580 (Carlson) Brooklyn Center Earle Brown Heritage Center debt assumption provided by the state, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2571 (Kelso) Scott County workforce center construction in Valley Green industrial park provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2637 (Hasskamp) Crosby provided funding for the Hallet Community Center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2385 (Lieder) Crookston; Valley Technology Park capital development funded, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2339 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.

HF2340 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project in Minneapolis provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: HF2652 (Opatz) Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving below the average, and money appropriated.

HF3251 (Pelowski) University of Minnesota law clinics program provided funding for low-income legal assistance expansion, and money appropriated.

HF3394 (Trimble) St. Paul Technical College worker information resource center funded, and money appropriated.

HF3558 (Ness) Ridgewater College, Hutchinson campus, employees provided retirement benefits protection.

HF3691 (Carlson) Years of education provided

by the state extended to 13, and income tax credit allowed.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF3302 (Dorn) School district training and experience revenue restored, special education revenue base year adjustment modified, and school boards provided additional compensatory revenue allocation flexibility.

HF3307 (Biernat) Minnesota learning resource center established to treat children with learning problems, and money appropriated.

HF3329 (Johnson, A.) Charter School No. 4011 new vision's program replicated, remote-site consulting services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3227 (Murphy) Independent School District No. 93, Carlton, district building and services coordination developed, and money appropriated.

HF3469 (Murphy) Independent School District No. 704, Proctor, teacher contract late settlement penalty reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF3305 (Tomassoni) School district declining pupil aid created.

HF3328 (Entenza) Learn and earn graduation achievement program grant award timeline modified.

HF3374 (Solberg) Retired health benefits expenses school district levy authority made permanent.

HF3425 (Anderson, I.) Independent School Districts nos. 593, Crookston, 361, International Falls, 706, Virginia, and 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, supplemental revenue modified.

8:30 a.m.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF3118 (Olson, E.) Counties provided unorganized town road maintenance funding through natural resources land payments in lieu of taxes.

HF2322 (Sviggum) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

HF2325 (Van Dellen) Income tax reserve account established, income tax and general education tax rates reduced, property tax rebate provided for taxes assessed in 1997, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF3449 (Wejcmann) Minnesota grown coupon program eligibility requirements expanded, expansion pilot project established, and money appropriated.

Overview by the Department of Agriculture of

University of Minnesota ag-related capital budget requests.

Additional bills may be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2724 (Milbert) Commercial netting provisions, minnow retailer provisions, and turtle license provisions modified, critical aquatic habitat acquisition provided, and catfish removal in certain waters authorized.

HF1883 (Kahn) Natural resources trust fund distribution provisions modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3524 (Bakk) Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.

HF3572 (Bakk) Timber permit extension provisions modified.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF1626 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.

HF3332 (Skoglund) Open adoption agreements modified.

HF2901 (Murphy) CHIPS; children in need of protective services definition expanded to include certain juvenile petty offenders.

HF2390 (Pugh) Real and personal property conveyances and transactions regulated, and technical changes provided to the uniform partnership act.

SF1006 (Junge); HF1283 (McGuire) Firefighter background investigations authorized, employment information disclosure required, employer immunity provided, and civil and criminal penalties prescribed.

HF2654 (Mahon) Personalized license plates authorized for vehicles resembling pickup trucks, juvenile age provisions clarified relating to DWI-related driver's license revocation, and license reinstatement provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Department of Employee Relations, supplemental budget request.

HF3075 (Anderson, I.) Public employee insurance trust fund appropriated money.

HF2444 (Larsen) State hiring practices studied relating to disabled individuals, and money appropriated.

HF2814 (Tomassoni) Durable medical equipment minimum definition established, and health plan companies required to disclose covered medical equipment and supplies.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Review infant development grant program.

HF2726 (Slawik) Family and community services assistance grant program authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2748 (Tomassoni) Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.

HF2962 (Clark, K.) Lead abatement program appropriated money.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: HF3459 (Greiling) Employers required to accommodate nursing mothers, and unpaid break time provided.

Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

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

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF2780 (Evans) Basic sliding fee child care self-employment exception eligibility modified.

HF2803 (Kinkel) Child care program transition year families definition clarified, employment and training assistance eligibility expanded, human services order review provisions modified, program costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2867 (McGuire) Transition year families child care assistance requirements modified, and extensions provided.

HF3396 (McGuire) Child care assistance and child care programs modified, provider rate bonus for reading programs and school-age child care program grants established, and money appropriated.

HF3422 (Sykora) Direct child care assistance payments modified.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF3601 (Solberg) State government operations and budget preparation provisions modified.

Additional bills may be added.

1/2 Hour After Session

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2633 (Jennings) Historical Society North West Company Fur Post Interpretive Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2948 (Jennings) Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse construction provided, bonds

issued, and money appropriated.

HF2974 (Huntley) Glensheen Mansion in Duluth improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3274 (Kubly) McLeod County; Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3364 (Rukavina) Three direct reduction iron processing facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

4 p.m.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF820 (Dehler) Public school guidance and counseling services provided at nonpublic schools.

HF2214 (Murphy) High school pupils enrolled in post-secondary courses allowed to participate in high school activities, and post-secondary course grades excluded from pupil's grade point average.

HF2836 (Opatz) Home school defined relating extracurricular activities, and school boards required to allow full participation of all students.

HF1678 (Biernat) Pre-K-12 governance structure task force established.

HF3170 (Larsen) School year length set at 175 days of instruction.

HF3520 (Mullery) Girls and women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, organization grant eligibility provided, and money appropriated.

HF3199 (Leighton) Charter school employment and operating provisions modified.

HF3468 (Entenza) Collaborative urban educator program funding increased, and money appropriated.

HF2874 (Kelso) Education Finance Act of 1992 repealed.

HFXXXX (Biernat) Grant for a demonstration athletic program.

HF3600 (Harder) Independent School District No. 2862, Jackson County Central, referendum authority modified.

HF3627 (Harder) Southwest telecommunications cooperative Jackson to Marshall telecommunications network established, and money appropriated.

HF3397 (Bradley) Independent School District No. 535, Rochester, special education services loan provided, and money appropriated.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17

8 a.m.

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

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2710 (Kalis) FarmAmerica visitor's center at the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3247 (Jennings) St. Croix Valley heritage center designed, prior bond proceeds canceled, and money appropriated.

HF2731 (Harder) Windom area multi-purpose center bond issuance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3424 (Molnau) Independent School District No. 112, Chaska, eastern Carver community collaborative project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2440 (Trimble) Redevelopment account created in the general fund for local development application review and grant making costs, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3446 (Trimble) St. Paul provided a grant to acquire right-of-way in the Phalen corridor, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2507 (Macklin) Limited partnership withdrawals regulated, favorable federal estate tax valuation treatment changes provided.

HF2599 (Tunheim) Fund raising event time period extended for sales tax exemption purposes.

HF2689 (Huntley) Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF2858 (Munger) Wastewater treatment facilities biosolid processing equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF2911 (Seifert) School buses exempted from motor vehicle sales tax.

HF3024 (Milbert) Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

HF3107 (Daggett) Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

Transportation & Transit

Finance Division/

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF2638 (Luther) School bus passive restraint system installation grants authorized, study required, and money appropriated.

HF2532 (Chaudhary) Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics and graduated licensing system established, driving privileges restricted for permit and provisional license holders, and violation-free period required prior to advancement to next license stage.

HF2564 (McCollum) Municipal state-aid street system mileage determination modified.

Bills that were not heard from the agenda on Feb. 13.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES &
AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Pollution Control Agency supplemental budget. Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources supplemental budgets.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF3393 (Trimble) Housing trust fund grant provided to Metro State University for a student housing pilot program, and money appropriated.

HF3565 (Trimble) Housing finance agency equity take-out loans provided to assist owners of federally assisted rental property, affordable rental housing provided, and money appropriated.

Omnibus funding discussion.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF2373 (Lieder) Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.
HFXXXX (Greenfield) Health and Human Services Finance Division bonding recommendations.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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

Agenda: HF2055 (Stanek) St. Paul and Minneapolis public employee residency requirements repealed.

HF2595 (Jennings) Municipalities authorized to provide contract bid specifications, design, and construction standards.

HF2774 (Kuisle) County referendums conducted by county auditors clarified.

HF3609 (Long) Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES
& ENERGY**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF2794 (Tunheim) Telecommunications commerce regulated, telemarketing fraud outreach advocacy network established, and money appropriated.

HF2970 (Kahn) Salary increase provided for judges, and employee and employer contribution rates for certain judges' retirement plans modified.

HF2627 (Winter) Regional Development Commission grants provided to assist local governments with land use planning preparation, and money appropriated.

Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning, supplemental budget request, generic environmental impact statement for animal feedlots.

Department of Finance, supplemental budget request, city of Cambridge loan.

HF3137 (Rukavina) Modifying the debt collections act.

Additional bills may be added.

3 p.m.

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

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2959 (Kahn) Fort Snelling international hostel improvements and hazardous material abatement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3330 (Wenzel) Little Falls conference center and retreat site developed, and money appropriated.

HF3481 (Farrell) Stroh Brewery area redevelopment assistance and manufacturing job creation assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3544 (Rukavina) United States Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth grant provided for boys and girls amateur and high school hockey displays, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3484 (Jaros) Earl C. Buck operating center in Duluth restored, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3537 (Gunther) Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3456 (Davids) Chatfield brass band music lending library funded, and money appropriated.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18

8 a.m.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

**Higher Education Finance Division/
EDUCATION**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF3632 (Seagren) Intermediate school district program student educational opportunities enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF2501 (Kraus) Independent School District No. 241, Albert Lea, year-round school/extended week or day pilot program examined, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF2252 (Olson, M.) Statewide educational testing grant program established, and money appropriated.

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

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF1912 (Hasskamp) Unimproved real estate bordering public water property tax rate reduced.

HF2516 (Pawlenty) Deferral of property taxes and special assessment provided for property dedicated to the arts.

HF2728 (Goodno) Border city development zones established, and enterprise zone incentive recapture modified.

**State Government Finance Division/
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Additional bills from Feb. 17 agenda.

HF3450 (Anderson, I.) Council of State Governments provided funding for meetings with the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments, and money appropriated.

Department of Administration, remaining budget requests, Year 2000, and governor's portrait.

HF2958 (Otremba, M.) Ottotail County; pioneer public television grant provided for construction of a noncommercial television translator tower, and money appropriated.

HF2908 (Kahn) Grants provided for noncommercial television stations, and money appropriated.

HF2705 (Kahn) Electronic state agency guidebooks and Internet availability of the State Register required, and money appropriated.

HF2643 (Farrell) Settlement division established in the office of administrative hearings, transfer of judges, small claims court, duties, and funds provided.

HF3497 (Rukavina) Blind or visually impaired persons provided access to information technology, and nonvisual access standards established.

Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF326 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing rights affirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT
& NATURAL RESOURCES**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: To be announced.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: SF349 (Hottinger) Insurance companies and agents regulated.

HF2893 (Tunheim) Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.

HF2649 (Wejcmán) Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

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

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

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

Agenda: HF2469 (Clark, K.) Clarifying liability for the crime of burglary.

HF3360 (Paymar) Recognition of domestic abuse protection orders from other states clarified, and mutual orders not entitled to full faith and credit in certain cases.

HF2993 (Paymar) Order for protection and minor respondent violations provided criminal penalties, firearm possession prohibited, and harassment restraining order service of notice clarified.

HF2433 (Stanek) Conditional release data system established by the bureau of criminal apprehension.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF2535 (Stanek) Innocent third parties whose property is damaged by law enforcement officers provided compensation responsibility clarification, state compensation and local government reimbursement process established, and money appropriated.

HF2861 (Entenza) Child support orders or maintenance enforcement administrative hearing procedures modified, and terminology modified to agree with court rules.

HF3279 (Chaudhary) Landlords prohibited from accepting earnest collateral as a condition to refuse consideration of other prospective tenants, and civil penalties provided.

Additional bills may be added.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Division report from Economic Development Finance Division on omnibus capital investment provisions.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Omnibus division bill mark up.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session

After Session

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Finalize omnibus bill.

3:30 p. m. or After DFL Caucus

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill.

THURSDAY, Feb. 19

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF1690 (Hasskamp) Personal watercraft operation requirements modified. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: To be announced.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Omnibus funding bill.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF3501 (Carlson) Article I, Pelowski, higher education bonding recommendations. (This meeting will continue after session in the same room.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF2790 (Jennings) Chisago County recorder appointment permitted.

HF2824 (Pugh) Dakota County; housing and redevelopment authority employees not deemed county employees without county board consent. HF2894 (Jennings) Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limit exemption provided.

HF2927 (McCollum) Ramsey County authorized to purchase from or through health care cooperatives on behalf of Ramsey Nursing Home. HF3080 (Wejcman) Minneapolis allowed to exceed bonding limit for water supply capital improvement projects.

HF3119 (Olson, E.) Officer of a local unit of government authorized to contract with the unit to provide construction services and materials under certain circumstances.

HF3268 (Dawkins) Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties government affirmative action plan requirements for contractors modified.

HF3315 (Orfield) Minneapolis city council provided appointment authority for the civilian police review authority executive director.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill, final action.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Mark-up omnibus bill.

Transportation & Transit

Finance Division/
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 17.

8:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: SF1480 (Cohen);

HF1668 (Entenza) Minnesota free flow of information act disclosure conditions provided. SF330 (Spear); HF1207 (Paymar) Private corrections treatment facility liability limits provided.

SF154 (Frederickson);

HF176 (Harder) Distressed food donor injury liability limited.

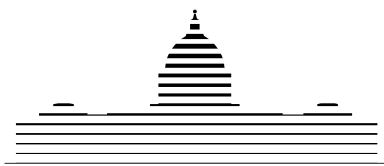
HF2779 (Chaudhary) Housing for the elderly definition modified relating to human rights. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Supplemental appropriations bill, final action.



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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota livestock and feedlots

Estimated amount of manure generated annually by pigs in Minnesota, in tons	11,000,000
Daily manure production per boar, in pounds	11.5
Estimated number of animal feedlots in Minnesota	45,000
Feedlots operated under permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)	16,000
Feedlot permits issued by the MPCA in 1990	248
in 1996 (eight-year high)	841
in 1997	694
MPCA civil and criminal enforcement cases for feedlot violations in 1997	36
in 1992	2
MPCA permits issued for beef cattle feedlots, 1990-1997	1,959
for dairy feedlots	1,484
for swine feedlots	2,434
Number of slaughter steer or heifers in one "animal unit"	1
swine over 55 pounds	2.5
chickens	100
Percent of livestock in feedlots with fewer than 300 animal units in 1997	40
in 1989	85
MPCA permits issued for feedlots with 500 to 999 animal units in 1997	42
in 1990	1
MPCA permits issued for feedlots with 1,000 to 1,999 animal units in 1997	13
in 1990	0
Minnesota's rank among states for total hog population, 1995	3
North Carolina's rank	2
Iowa's rank	1
Minnesota's rank for turkeys raised, 1995	2
North Carolina's rank	1
People necessary to produce an amount of human waste equal to the animal waste produced by Minnesota's livestock and poultry	40,000,000
Population of Minnesota, 1997	4,685,549

Sources: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; *Minnesota Agricultural Statistics 1996*, Minnesota Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture; *Manure Management: Practices for the Minnesota Pork Industry*, 1994, University of Minnesota Extension Service; Minnesota Planning.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 20, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 5



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Reflections

The State Capitol building has something for everyone. If you like art, it's a spectacular museum of some of the finest portrait paintings in the country. If you are an architecture buff or bricks and mortar aficionado, you can spend hours discovering the different types of marble, granite, and other stone used to erect architect Cass Gilbert's "great wonder" in the first five years of the 20th century.

Metallurgy, woodworking, historic preservation, agriculture, military history, design, artists' perspective, artistic license, ancient and modern history, meditation sights, places for soapbox oratory — all are integral parts of what can be found in the building. Even sociologists can find what life was like in the early 1900s through research and what diverse ethnic and economic groups left behind here "on the hill."

All of the above interests and more are a permanent part of the hallways and byways of the most successfully planned statehouse in the country.

Gilbert and the building's chief decorator, Elmer E. Garnsey, who also designed the U.S. Library of Congress, were very thorough in their quest to create a unique and sound edifice that would be a lasting tribute for generations to come.

For those so inclined to ponder, or who may want to do so while visiting the Capitol, a thought-oriented voyage of the "grand" second floor awaits. Take a seat on one of Gilbert's original oak benches on the east or west wing. Look upward and discover some 20 feet above, gold-inlaid inscriptions of well-known and little-known quotes by past leaders of government, law, and justice.

These ideas and thoughts of what government should do or how it should be for people command a nearly hidden presence below the vaulted ceilings of this noble building.

One inscription by educator, diplomat, and U.S. Secretary of State Edward Everett is worth remembering: "Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." Daniel Webster, noted American legislator and orator is quoted often. One of his messages found on the walls above eye level states, "No government is respectable which is not just."

Another memorable civic idea by national lawyer and public official, Elihu Root is engraved for posterity: "Eternal good citizenship is the price of good government."

One final quote for legislators, staff, and visitors to ponder is by William E. Gladstone, British politician and four-time prime minister: "The proper function of a government is to make it easy for people to do good and difficult for them to do evil."

The Capitol building has something for everyone. All one needs to do is take the time to find it.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Mary Wilmes, St. Paul, and Kathleen Quona, Minneapolis, get a close look at a quilt made by women whose lives have been affected by domestic violence. The quilt was displayed in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 18 as part of Battered Women's Action Day, an annual event organized by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

—Photo by Laura Phillips

First Reading

From 0.10 to 0.08 . . .

Lawmakers debate legal blood-alcohol limit for drivers

By Grant Martin

Proponents of lowering Minnesota's blood alcohol concentration standard from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent will tell you their strongest argument comes from the families of the victims.

"Every day my son looks in the mirror and sees his injuries and it reminds him of the crash," said Pat Budig, whose son was severely injured and whose husband was killed by an impaired driver who tested below the current 0.10 percent legal limit. "You don't have to be falling down drunk to kill someone."

HF2389, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would lower the standard for legal drunkenness in Minnesota from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent. Budig testified in favor of the bill at the House committee hearing on the matter.

The bill was approved Feb. 13 by the House Judiciary Committee and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. That should be the bill's last stop before it goes to the House floor.

A similar measure was passed by the House last year. However, the provision did not survive a conference committee and was not included in the final 1997 omnibus DWI law.

If Entenza's current proposal is approved, Minnesota would join 15 other states in lowering the legal blood-alcohol limit for drivers from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

Austria, Australia, Canada, Finland, Great Britain, Norway, Switzerland, and the Netherlands have a level that is at or below 0.08 percent. Sweden's level is 0.02 percent.

James Fell, a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) official, testified for Entenza's bill at a January committee hearing. He said that the 0.08 percent limit is a reasonable limit to set.

The average male would have to drink four standard drinks in an hour and the average female would have to drink three standard drinks in an hour to reach that level, Fell said.

A number of factors affect the body's ability to process alcohol, including duration of the drinking, weight, ingestion of food, and

gender. A standard drink would be a 12-ounce glass of beer, a five-ounce glass of wine, or a one-and-a-half-ounce shot of hard alcohol.

Proponents of the 0.08 percent legislation argue that 0.10 percent standards were based on compromise and not on informed scientific studies.

"When the 0.10 standard was established, it didn't reflect the knowledge that scientists now have," Entenza said. "That is that drivers at 0.08 are impaired."

The first law that established a level for which drivers were presumed impaired in Minnesota was passed in 1955. It established a level of 0.15 percent blood alcohol concentration.

In 1967, the level was changed to 0.10 percent, based on new evidence of the effect of alcohol on driving skills. Very few studies at this time examined the effect of alcohol levels lower than 0.10 percent.

Earlier versions of the law were presumptive, meaning the courts were to assume the person charged was intoxicated at that standard unless evidence was offered otherwise.

"Per se" laws — such as the current Minnesota law — mean that regardless of behavior or visible impairment, a person is legally considered intoxicated at the standard. The person is considered drunk regardless of any evidence to the contrary that may be offered. Minnesota's law was changed from presumptive to per se in 1971.

Supporters of 0.08 percent say the new scientific information shows that the limit should be lowered.

Studies done by the NHTSA show that most drivers, even experienced drivers, are significantly impaired at the 0.08 percent level. They also show that the risk of being killed in a single-vehicle crash for drivers at concentration levels between 0.05 percent and 0.09 percent is 11 times higher than drivers with no alcohol.

Fell told lawmakers that the risk of being in a crash greatly increases at each blood-alcohol concentration level, and that it rises very rapidly after a drinker reaches the 0.08 percent level.

Most importantly, proponents argue that the change to the 0.08 percent standard will send a strong message that society will not tolerate drinking and driving.

"The new law would simply send a message to the public that the state is getting tough on DWI," Fell said.



Minnesota drivers would be subject to a more strict definition of legal drunkenness, under a bill advancing in the House.

—Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid and Andrew Von Bank

But Minnesota is already a leader in DWI legislation, according to John Berglund, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association.

He testified against the bill at a House Judiciary Committee meeting. Berglund argued that the laws currently on the books should be allowed to work to catch the repeat DWI offenders and problem drinkers. And, he said, the state should not target safe, social drinkers.

Berglund and other opponents point to the fact that NHTSA studies also show that the average blood alcohol content found among drunk drivers is 0.18 percent and that 80 percent of all DWIs are over 0.14 percent.

"By shifting the focus away from the alcohol abuser to the moderate, social drinker, we are shifting resources from the real problem," he said. "Changing the legal limit to 0.08 does not get at the problem of the chronic offender, because they ignore the 0.10 limit."

Opponents of the legislation also point to the fact that eight out of the 10 states that ranked lowest in alcohol-related traffic fatalities have 0.10 percent. They argue that if the 0.10 percent standard works so well in these states, there is no need to lower the standard to 0.08 percent.

The debate in Minnesota may become purely academic. A bill supported by the president has been introduced in Congress which would withhold 5 percent of federal highway funding for states that do not set a standard of 0.08 percent.

If the federal legislation passes, Minnesota lawmakers may have to act just to save the highway funding. 🐼

Committee deadlines

Each year, the House sets deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded. At the first deadline, which was Friday, Feb. 13, bills must have been passed out of policy committees in their house of origin.

The second committee deadline is Friday, Feb. 20, and by then all bills other than those containing appropriations must be passed out of policy committees in both houses. The deadline does not apply to the finance divisions of the committees or the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, the House Taxes Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

By the third committee deadline, Friday, Feb. 27, all appropriations bills must clear their policy and finance committees and move to either the Taxes Committee or the Ways and Means Committee.



By Nicole Wood

Former Rep. Ann Wynia has found a perfect fit in her new job as president of North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park.

Being a college president wasn't something Wynia imagined she'd do when she grew up, she said in a recent interview.

"I don't fit the typical profile," she said.

But when the opportunity to lead the institution where she has taught since 1970 presented itself last year, she realized the relevance of her legislative and executive branch experience as an administrator.

Wynia was first elected to St. Paul's District 63B House seat in 1976. During her 13 years in the House, she was twice elected majority leader. She was the first DFL woman to hold a leadership position in the House.

Her public service record doesn't end there. Wynia also has been a commissioner of the Department of Human Services and a University of Minnesota regent. She was defeated by Rod Grams in a hard-fought 1994 U.S. Senate race.

In many ways, Wynia said, her new job duties are familiar territory: figuring out competing needs, reconciling available resources, establishing priorities, and working with other people to move an agenda forward.

"That's what you do in the Legislature, and that's a lot of what you do as a college president," she said. "So far it feels like a pretty good fit."

Looking back at her years in the House, Wynia said she found it most satisfying to work on human services issues, particularly on questions of health care access.

In 1987, she sponsored the Children's Health Plan, the first program in the nation to provide basic preventive care to the children of the working poor.

Wynia realizes value of past in new job as college president

"It was very satisfying to be able to say, because we were able to pass this legislation, literally thousands of Minnesota children who wouldn't have had health care now are able to go see a doctor," she said.

Wynia also recalls that the plan had overwhelming bipartisan support.

"It was an opportunity to work on a problem and to present a reasonable cost-effective solution and to see how, by golly, in this process it is possible to bring that kind of thoughtful solution before a large group of legislators and get them to agree," she said.

In addition to such powerful committees as Taxes and Ways and Means, Wynia served on the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee during her legislative career.

She said she joked with then-Speaker Martin Sabo that she was perfect for the assignment because she was typical of so many Minnesotans — she had a car insurance policy and a home insurance policy and she had never read either one.

"I was a consumer of both banking and insurance services and I brought that perspective to the committee," she said. "That's what I think in some ways is the beauty of the citizen legislature. They're really very much representative of the people of this state."

Wynia also said she is excited about her future at North Hennepin.

"At a community college, where we provide open-access, affordable education, I have this wonderful opportunity to try to create an educational institution here in the metropolitan area that is going to be of real opportunity for a lot of people to improve their lives," she said. "What a wonderful job to have. I am so lucky."



Former Rep. Ann Wynia takes time out of her busy schedule as president of North Hennepin Community College to reflect on her years in the House.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Feedlot regulation

Two bills that would place more regulation on agricultural feedlots continue to advance in House committees.

But a third bill (**HF3320**) was pulled by its sponsor, Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), during a Feb. 13 meeting of the House Agriculture Committee.

Peterson's bill would place a moratorium on any new permits for construction of feedlots for 750 animal units or more (one animal unit equals one slaughter steer or heifer) or the expansion of open-air manure storage structures. The moratorium would last until July 1, 2000, or after the Environmental Quality Board has given the Legislature a timeline and cost for doing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), which would outline the types and locations of feedlots in the state and assess their impact on air and water.

Feedlots, which are grounds or buildings or a combination of grounds and buildings used to feed, breed, raise, and hold animals, are designed as confinement areas.

Feedlots have manure basins, often made of clay or earth, to hold the waste from the livestock. There are an estimated 45,000 feedlots in Minnesota.

Peterson withdrew the moratorium legislation when it was apparent the bill did not have the support to survive the Agriculture Committee.

"There are some people who believe it is the right thing to do and the right time to do it," Peterson said. "The issues will not go away. The issues will be in front of the Legislature again. The people who have asked for the moratorium have shown the grass roots support for the moratorium."

Later, Peterson said he wouldn't rule out reviving the bill — possibly as an amendment to separate legislation — later this session.

"Never say never," he said, adding that the debate on the issue has shown the Legislature the depth of concern in rural Minnesota about feedlots and the impact of corporate farming on the environment.

Meanwhile, a bill (**HF3421**) sponsored by House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) was approved Feb. 13 by the Agriculture Committee and Feb. 16 by the House

Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. The bill next moves to House Governmental Operations Committee.

Winter's bill would forbid permits to increase or establish feedlots over certain capacities until the environmental effect of the feedlot could be examined. The original bill would have required an Environmental Impact Statement to be completed, but the bill was amended to instead require an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, which costs less.

The bill also would ban earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities after July 1, 1998. And the measure would call for a GEIS to be conducted.

Another separate bill (**HF3441**) sponsored by Peterson was approved Feb. 13 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee and awaits a hearing in the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

The so-called "Living with Livestock" bill would require that after March 1, 2000, those who manage and apply animal wastes hold a valid animal waste technician license issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempt.

The bill also would prohibit the issuance of a permit for clay, earthen, or plastic-lined animal waste lagoons. No permit would be issued for a feedlot with a design capacity of 1,000 animal units or more until the applicant received a federal permit under the Clean Water Act. The bill also would establish a statewide contingency plan to deal with animal waste spills, a county-by-county inventory of feedlots, an option for counties to establish their own feedlot ordinances. Also, the bill would require a GEIS to be conducted.

Minnesota grown coupons

A pilot project that would establish a program for low-income families to get "Minnesota grown" food supplies with state-funded coupons was approved Feb. 16 by the House Agriculture Committee.

The bill (**HF3449**), sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), calls for the Sustainable Resources Center in Minneapolis to administer the program.

"It promotes our Minnesota foods and

healthy nutrition for all families. It helps our farms," Wejcman said.

Under the bill, the Sustainable Resources Center and the Minnesota Food Association, also in Minneapolis, would work together and pick two rural and two urban communities to establish models for the system.

The organizations would work to set up pipelines between the producers and the low-income customers, work with food processors in the selected cities to hire low-income people, and help grocery stores get authorization to accept food stamps and the Minnesota grown coupons.

Coupons worth \$10 would be issued each month by the state Department of Agriculture to people in the selected communities who are eligible. Eligible people would include those now getting food stamps whose income is not higher than 120 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Department of Human Services would provide to the Department of Agriculture the names of eligible families. The coupons could be used only for products using the Minnesota grown logo. The coupons could be redeemed by food processors, community-supported farms, grocery stores, and other retailers.

"We do want to promote the Minnesota agricultural products," Wejcman said. "[The program] is a connecting point for people in agriculture and people who need the food."

Total costs for the program have not yet been determined. The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



BONDING

Bonding recommendations

Members of the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee have joked that their \$503 million bonding recommendation plan has started to look like the Titanic.

Currently, it remains to be seen which projects will finally make it to the lifeboats.

The plan, approved by the division and the full committee Feb. 18, now sets sail for the House Capital Investment Committee, where the final cut will be made for the House version of this year's bonding bill.

The largest portion of the economic development finance recommendations, a sum of \$379 million, would be given in the form of grants made to cities and other political subdivisions for a variety of projects. The remaining portion would be awarded to state agencies to distribute through agency grants.

Here are some highlights:

- Consistent with the governor's proposal, convention centers received a good deal of attention. The city of Minneapolis would receive \$87 million to help finance the completion of the Minneapolis Convention Center. St. Paul would get \$65 million for the construction of the new RiverCentre Arena which would host the new NHL hockey team.
- Duluth would receive \$28 million for the expansion of the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Other convention center funding would be provided to the cities of Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Crystal, Proctor, Rochester, St. Cloud, and Windom.
- The Department of Trade and Economic Development would receive \$60 million to finance three direct iron processing facilities in the state. These plants would produce a more pure form of iron than that produced currently, and, supporters argue, give the Iron Range an economic edge over other iron-producing regions.
- Several local governments would be provided funding for wastewater treatment projects. The city of Renville would receive \$19 million for their facility. Austin would get \$6 million for the completion of their wastewater treatment facility. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency would be given \$9 million to fund the wastewater infrastructure program which would finance projects statewide.
- The city of St. Paul would receive \$8 million to help finance the Penumbra Theater expansion. Also, the St. Paul Port Authority would be awarded \$10 million to redevelop the Stroh Brewery site. The funds would be used to attract businesses to the site and to assist in job creation for former Stroh employees.
- The Minnesota Historical Society would receive \$25 million to fund improvements statewide, including projects at Split Rock Lighthouse, the Glensheen Mansion, Fort Snelling, and St. Anthony Falls.

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

Burnsville renaissance



Burnsville City Engineer Chuck Ahl describes his city's proposed riverfront renaissance project. The proposal calls for 226 acres of trails, a park, and an amphitheater to be built along the Minnesota River. Members of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee discussed the plan Feb. 17.



CONSUMERS

Health care help for patients

When patients or their relatives have a question about a charge from their health care plan, they often don't know who to contact to get the problem solved.

A bill passed by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Feb. 17 (**HF2649**) might give those people someone to call.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), would establish an office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information.

The bill comes from a working group convened by the commissioners of the state health and commerce departments to offer options to the Legislature on developing a health care complaint resolution process for consumers.

Wejcman termed the bill "a further effort for the consumer of health care to get the care that they want in a timely manner."

Susan Stoudt, of the Minnesota Nurses Association, said her organization favors the bill.

"The [working] group was formed with the idea that we want to make our health care system work better for consumers," she said. "It became clear that each health plan has a fairly complex system for solving problems.

"If a bill isn't real high, most people just pay it rather than spent a lot of time."

She also said that what people need is someone to help them figure out what the plan offers and what it doesn't.

"[People need] someone who, as an advocate, will help them wind their way through the system," Stoudt said.

The new office would have no regulatory power and would not provide legal representation, but it could act as an advocate in a dispute resolution process. The bill also stipulates that the office would be run by an executive director, who could hire nine advocates to work in the office.

The office would try to help consumers understand their legal rights and get health care referrals. The office also would attempt to identify patterns of complaints and recommend possible changes to health care companies.

The committee heard some opposition to the bill, specifically from Twila Brase, a public health nurse from Citizens for Choice in Health Care, a St. Paul-based group.

"If passed, citizens would be paying twice: once in taxes, once in premiums. The cost estimates we heard are \$700,000, and as we know, real costs exceed estimates," Brase said.

The bill calls for a still-unspecified appropriation to fund the new office.

"It's a bad policy and will not help protect people and may increase healthcare costs," Brase said.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who is a doctor, said he opposes the bill because it is

adding a level of bureaucracy. Health care companies should be answering their consumers' questions and helping solve their problems on their own, he said.

The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.



CRIME

Repeat violent offenders

The House Judiciary Committee approved two bills Feb. 13 that would crack down on repeat violent offenders.

HF24, sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), would require life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes.

Responding to the concerns of the members of the committee, Weaver amended his bill to exempt some felony offenses from the list of applicable crimes. Weaver also added provisions that would give judges discretion in applying the life prison term under certain circumstances.

Scott Swanson, an attorney with the state public defender's office, testified in opposition to the bill. He told the committee that the penalties would not always be proportional.

"It doesn't matter if my third offense is selling a line [of cocaine] or murder, I still get life in prison," he said.

Deb Dailey, of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, said that it is difficult to estimate the increase in prison population that could come from Weaver's bill because of the many factors involved. She told the committee that it could mean as many as 2,300 additional prison beds over the next 30 years.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said that people who come from violent backgrounds often turn their lives around and become productive members of society. He said that he thinks the three strikes approach is simplistic.

"We're using baseball analogies to apply to the violent problems that exist in our nation," he said.

Weaver said that a strong message must be sent. "I don't mind that this is simplistic," Weaver said. "We need to lay down a clear line to what is acceptable."

Weaver's bill was approved by the committee on a 17-2 vote.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a separate bill that also would address repeat violent offenders. **HF2286** would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for "career criminals" and would reduce the number of violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Both bills are set to be included in the omnibus crime prevention bill.

Searching adults, juveniles

Officer Mark Klukow, of the Minneapolis Police Department, told members of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 13 that he found it difficult to understand why adults and juveniles are treated differently when it comes to search law.

He said that he was surprised to see cases against juveniles thrown out of court because, under current law, pat down searches can be performed only on adult offenders.

Klukow, who frequently is forced to detain truant juveniles in his squad car, said he always does a pat down search before putting a suspect in his car.

"It's an officer safety issue," Klukow said. "It's probably done at least once a week where a weapon is found."

Klukow testified in support of a bill (**HF2330**) sponsored by Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) which would authorize pat down searches of juveniles.

"I don't understand why a juvenile is any different from an adult," he said. "In fact, I think a juvenile is more likely to shoot someone. They don't understand the consequences."

The committee approved the bill, which is set to be included in this year's omnibus crime prevention bill.

Prostitution penalties

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill Feb. 13 that would increase penalties for engaging in the business of prostitution in a residential area or near children.

HF2375, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), borrows from current law the notion that crimes committed in school zones, park zones, and public housing zones should be sentenced more severely.

The bill also would make changes to make it easier to get juveniles who are involved in prostitution into the child protection system.

Clark said that while the harsher penalties are necessary, she is also concerned about children being used as prostitutes.

"Young children are being solicited into prostitution. The average entry age is 14 years old," she said.

Clark told the committee that the law needs to view children involved in prostitution as victims and not as criminals.

HF2375 is set to be included in this year's omnibus crime prevention bill.



EDUCATION

State Board of Education

A proposal to abolish the State Board of Education has been scaled back to call only for a task force to study the agency's effectiveness and report back to lawmakers by next year.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said he was under the influence of "freshman zeal" when he included a provision to abolish the board in **HF1678**, which was introduced last year.

The amended version of his bill is now being considered by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee for inclusion in this year's omnibus education funding bill. The board itself supports the proposal.

The plan now calls for a 15-member task force to examine alternatives for governing the state's K-12 education system. The group would be assembled by this summer and would report its findings by February 1999.

"I think a lot of people have been looking at the State Board of Education, trying to discern what its role really is," Biernat said. "Maybe this will lead to abolishing the board, but that will depend on the [results of] the study."

The bill would direct the task force to look specifically at three areas: the current role of various government agencies in shaping education policy; the effectiveness of the current structure; and how to improve collaboration between schools and social service agencies serving the same populations.

The task force would include educators, government representatives, and community members. Those members would be appointed with input from the governor's office, the speaker of the House, and the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

On-site suspension programs

Suspending students from school has little effect if they're merely sent home, but keeping them in a supervised in-school suspension program can both help them improve academically and deter future suspensions.

That's what Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said is the premise behind his bill to encourage schools to implement on-site suspension programs.

"We realize that a full reform [of Minnesota's K-12 system] is really needed, but until then, this is an important Band-Aid," he said.

His bill (**HF3664**) would give schools \$4 per day for each suspended student placed in an in-school program.

The K-12 Education Finance Division of

the House Education Committee discussed the proposal Feb. 18 and is considering including it in this year's omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

Gordon Leverets, who supervises such a program at St. Paul's J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School, told the panel that the funding would allow improvements in existing programs.

"Sometimes my room becomes a dumping ground," he said. "A lot of times there is no work sent with the students."

He said funding could help develop a solid, school-wide program involving more teachers.

But any in-school program, he said, is better than sending students home, or, more likely, onto the streets.

"There's no doubt that students who get sent home too often will begin to feel alienated from the school," he said.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), who chairs the division, said she believes many districts have moved away from the in-school suspensions common in past decades because of money shortages.

Other lawmakers agreed that keeping suspended students in school is preferable to sending them to unsupervised homes.

"But we need to look at how to make these become places of learning," Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said. "It does no good to have a dumping ground."

'No-man's-land'

Several Minnesota school districts got caught in what one superintendent called "no-man's-land" after a 1997 law required them to pay state prevailing wage labor rates for construction projects.

About 14 districts faced unexpectedly higher price tags on building projects because they had passed bond referendums for estimated costs before the law's July 1, 1997, effective date. By the time they signed contracts, the prevailing-wage law had inflated labor prices in those districts.

"I don't argue with prevailing wage. I believe people have a right to earn a living," Lake of the Woods Schools Superintendent Ralph Christofferson told a House panel Feb. 19. "But we went to the taxpayers with one set of rules, and then they changed. We were unable to deliver to our constituents what we promised."

HF2822, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would bring relief to Christofferson's district and others around the state.

The bill proposes awarding grants to dis-

tricts that can prove they either incurred extra costs or had to scale back construction plans due to the prevailing wage law. So far 14 districts — mostly in rural areas of the state where labor wages were low to begin with — have said they would qualify.

The plan calls for \$6.6 million in grants to be awarded. Districts could only use the funds to meet increased costs due to the prevailing wage requirement.

The K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee is considering the proposal for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

Extra-curricular activities

A slightly watered-down proposal aimed at assuring home-schooled students access to public school extra-curricular activities is being considered by state lawmakers.

HF2836, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would require school districts to charge home-schooled and public school stu-

dents the same fee for extra-curricular activities.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), a co-sponsor of the bill, said some districts set prohibitive fees for home-schoolers to participate in activities.

"But these parents pay property taxes like everyone else," he said.

When the House Education Committee first discussed the bill Feb. 3, the proposal called for school boards to allow all home-schooled students residing in a district to participate in extra-curricular activities.

But school board officials objected to that language and said schools could find themselves forced to allow any home-schooled child to participate in any activity, regardless of other qualifications.

The amended bill calls for home-school and public school students to be equally eligible for participation.

"It's acceptable to those who were interested in securing some changes for home-schoolers, but also addresses those concerns raised by school boards," Opatz said.

The Education Committee's K-12 Education Finance Division debated the new plan Feb. 18 and is considering the bill for inclusion in this year's K-12 omnibus funding bill.

Black history



Toinette Battle Bettis, office manager for the House Public Information Office, portrays abolitionist Sojourner Truth delivering her speech, "Ain't I a Woman?" in the House chamber. Bettis' performance, marking Black History Month, served as the invocation to open the House floor session Feb. 16.



EMPLOYMENT

Unpaid parental leave

A bill that would grant more workers the option of taking up to 12 weeks of unpaid parental leave was approved Feb. 13 by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Currently, employees of firms with more than 50 workers are entitled under federal law to 12 weeks of leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Minnesota law provides up to six weeks of unpaid leave for parents working for companies with 21 to 49 employees. **HF3444**, sponsored by Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), would extend that to 12 weeks and allow the leave to begin at any time within 12 weeks of birth or adoption.

"This is a bill which is in conformity with the history of this body," Mullery said.

Minnesota was one of the first states to grant any parental leave, but in the last decade, the federal government and several other states have passed laws allowing longer unpaid leaves.

Pat McGovern, of the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, said studies show longer leaves significantly improve both the mother's health and the baby's development.

She also cited a study showing that more than 90 percent of employers reported little or no increased costs or disruptions associated with parental leaves.

But Michael Hickey, of the National Federation of Independent Business-Minnesota, said the proposal would have "very negative implications" for small businesses.

"How do these businesses try to continue on and remain profitable with the loss of a key person for three months?" Hickey asked. "On a six-week basis, you probably haven't heard any complaints because anyone can carry on for six weeks."

Tom Hesse, of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, said requiring employers to allow unpaid leave may eliminate explorations of other options — such as flexible scheduling and job sharing — that may be more beneficial for everyone.

Mullery said his bill would not affect those employers already making acceptable arrangements for new parents.

"But if we relied solely on the goodwill of employers, we wouldn't need unions, we wouldn't need labor laws, we wouldn't have slave shops around the world," he said.

The bill, which now moves to the House floor, was approved by the committee on an 11-6 vote.

Workplace breast-feeding

New mothers may soon find it easier to continue breast-feeding their infants once they've returned to work, under a plan approved Feb. 16 by a House panel.

HF3459, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would require employers to "make reasonable efforts" to provide space and unpaid break time at work for mothers to pump breast milk that they could later feed to their babies.

"This is an attempt to put some minimal standards in place," Greiling said. "'Reasonable effort' means just that. We're not asking for anybody to build an extra room onto a workplace."

The bill does specify that the space provided should be other than a toilet stall and should be close to the work area. It would not require employers to provide break time if to do so would "unduly disrupt" the business.

With several national studies showing the benefits of breast-feeding to include healthier babies, more productive employees, and a smarter future workforce, there was no outright opposition to the bill during the hearing before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

But some lawmakers and small-business



Joanne Wesley, a lactation specialist at the Minnesota Department of Health, testifies about the benefits of breast milk for infants. She appeared in support of a bill that would require employers to provide reasonable unpaid break time and a private space for nursing mothers to pump breast milk. The bill was before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Feb. 16.

lobbyists voiced concern about vague language in the bill.

"We want lactation, not litigation," Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) said. "I don't think we're going to get very far if all we do is create more reasons for litigation."

Michael Hickey, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business-Minnesota, said he was also concerned about potential court battles over the interpretation of the bill's call for "reasonable" accommodations.

"We think the goals of the bill are very laudable," he said. "But the smaller you are, the more difficult it's going to get. We're concerned for the two-person gas station or retail shop."

He said eventually he may seek an exemption for businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

The bill now moves to the House floor. A companion Senate measure — sponsored by Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) who breast-fed her son, Jack, while serving at the Capitol last year — is headed for the Senate floor.

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

Raising the minimum wage

A proposal to raise the minimum wage by 75 cents was approved by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Feb. 13, but even some supporters of the plan say it's unlikely to get past the governor's desk.

The bill (**HF3440**), sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would set the minimum wage for large employers at \$5.90 per hour beginning Sept. 1, 1998, and for small employers at \$5.65 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 1999. But the measure would allow employers to pay workers under age 20 a wage of \$5 an hour for the first 90 days of employment.

"You know [the bill] will pass the committee, and you know it will pass the House. But if it goes to the governor and gets hammered, we've accomplished nothing," Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said, during the House Labor-Management Relations Committee meeting.

In light of the fact that federal lawmakers are considering a 50-cent minimum wage hike this year, Osskopp suggested Rukavina's bill may have a better chance at becoming law if it simply set Minnesota's minimum wage at 25 cents higher than federal minimum wage.

But Bernard Brommer, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, said that historically the federal government has increased minimum wage only after several states have led the way with increases.

The committee also rejected an amendment that would have built a so-called tip credit into the proposed increase. Rukavina said that allowing employers to pay tipped workers less than minimum wage would lead to labor exploitation and "drag everyone else's wages down."

Rukavina's bill now moves to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Transport packaging waste

A bill that aims to reduce the amount of transport packaging waste the soft drink industry creates was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 17.

"Of all the major pieces of legislation I've carried over the years, this is the first time I've had a bill with the support of the environmental people and the industry," said Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), the sponsor of the bill (**HF2696/SF2402***).

In 1995, Munger said, 22 percent of municipal solid waste consisted of transport packaging.

ing such as wood pallets and corrugated cardboard.

Dave Locey, of the Minnesota Soft Drink Association, said the industry is considering a \$15 million investment in reusable, recyclable plastic pallets.

The plastic pallets would cost about \$32 each, Locey said, compared to \$5 to \$7 each for the wood pallets the industry currently uses to transport their goods to retailers.

There is a system in place, Locey explained, where third parties collect used pallets from retail sites and then resell them to soft drink companies.

Under the bill, third party collectors would be prohibited from taking those plastic pallets which are labeled as private property.

The plastic pallet would have to clearly show the owner's name and address or telephone number, as well as a notice that the unauthorized possession of the pallet is a violation of state law.

The rightful owner of a stolen plastic pallet would be entitled to damages equal to three times the cost of the pallet, in addition to legal expenses.

Some on the panel questioned the need for special legislation to protect owners of plastic pallets, but Locey answered many of the concerns.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), a grocer, wondered whether a deposit system between manufacturers and retailers would work instead.

Locey said retailers would not accept a deposit system.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) asked why unlawful pallet possession couldn't be prosecuted under existing theft laws.

"An old system already exists that's working against us," Locey said. "We're in the position of trying to make a pro-environmental system work. What we want to do before we make this \$15 million investment in plastic pallets is make sure we can control them."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Gypsy moths

The gypsy moths are coming, and the Department of Agriculture wants \$325,000 to stop them at the border.

The leaf-eating insects have already infested Michigan and Wisconsin and are slowly marching westward at the rate of 12 miles per year, according to Daniel Stoddard of the Department of Agriculture's gypsy moth trapping and eradication program.

Armed with a jar full of moths and a brochure entitled "Gypsy Moth: Street, Yard and Forest Tree Enemy #1," Stoddard brought the

program's funding request to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 18.

The committee took no action on the matter.

Gypsy moths are transported by human activity, Stoddard explained. The metropolitan area and southeastern Minnesota are at highest risk of an invasion.

Although female gypsy moths cannot fly, they frequently deposit their eggs on objects such as grills and picnic tables that are near the trees on which they feed. Thus, gypsy moths earned their name due to their preferred mode of migration — tagging along on outdoor objects.

Wisconsin spends over \$2 million per year for gypsy moth control, Stoddard said, and Minnesota would already be infested without previous eradication efforts.

In past years, the department has sent out field workers to capture male gypsy moths in sticky traps that are baited with female moth scents.

To date, the program has discovered and exterminated 19 startup gypsy moth populations, Stoddard said.

The agriculture department's lab is developing biological control agents such as parasites that feed on gypsy moth eggs.

The money would supplement the biological control program and allow for more field personnel.

The funding request will be considered again later this session.

Personal watercraft measures

A bill that would strictly limit the use of personal watercraft on Minnesota's lakes is headed for the House floor.

HF1351, sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), was approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 19.

The bill is made up of provisions that were formerly part of **HF1690**, Hasskamp's original bill related to personal watercraft.

In order to separate the financial considerations from the policy debate, the personal watercraft legislation has been divided into two separate bills.

Among its policy provisions, **HF1351** would ban personal watercraft from lakes of 200 acres in size or less, limit the hours for full-throttle operation, and increase the no-wake zone to 200 feet from shoreline, docks, swimmers, or other watercraft.

The financial implications of the personal watercraft legislation remain in **HF1690**. Under that bill, personal watercraft operators would be required to pass a mandatory safety course and pay a \$10 fee for a certificate, and a \$30 fee for three-year personal watercraft licenses would be established. The fees would be earmarked for counties and the Department of Natural Resources for personal watercraft law enforcement costs.

HF1351 — the policy bill — now moves to the House floor.

HF1690 remains before the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Rain makers



A second grade class from Mora Fairview Elementary School makes the sound of rain with their long rattles as Peg Paulson reads "Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain" in the Capitol rotunda. The performance was one of several by students from around the state as part of Arts Education Day Feb. 17.



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing privileges

A bill that aims to amend the Minnesota Constitution to protect hunting and fishing privileges is one step closer to being placed on the ballot in the November 1998 general election.

HF326, sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), was approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 18.

The bill would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to declare a privilege of legal residents to take game and fish in accordance with law and regulations?"

The committee focused its discussion on the bill's potential financial implications rather than policy concerns.

The Department of Finance estimates that the overall administrative costs to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot would equal \$114,300.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said there would be no extra enforcement expenses if voters approved the amendment.

The DNR supports the bill in the hope that "some of the efforts to reduce hunting and fishing opportunities would cease," Holmes said. "It would send a clear message to anti-hunting groups that they should back off."

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.



GOVERNMENT

Residency requirement

Despite opposition from Minneapolis city officials and legislators from the city, a House committee approved a bill Feb. 17 that would repeal the authority of the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to require their employees to live within city limits.

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee's vote to approve the bill (**HF2055**) came after nearly 90 minutes of testimony from the opponents of the measure.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) was among those who urged committee members to reject the bill.

"We believe that if they desire to work for the city of Minneapolis, they should live with us," he said. "If they feel it's a terrible place,

perhaps they needn't work for the city of Minneapolis."

Proponents, mostly police officers, testified at an earlier meeting. They argued that the residency requirements make life difficult and sometimes dangerous for their children because the officers' families must live in the same neighborhoods as people the officers have arrested in the past or otherwise encountered on the job.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, would also repeal residency requirements for employees of the Minneapolis School District, the city's library board, and the city's park and recreation board.

Similar residency requirements for the city of St. Paul also would be wiped out.

A 1993 law established the residency requirements in Minneapolis, and St. Paul's residency requirements were added in 1994. Employees hired before the requirements took effect can live anywhere they want.

Opponents of Stanek's bill said the residency requirements are a local issue that can be negotiated by the employee bargaining units, and the state should not interfere.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) noted that one city employee had said previously, "It's bad enough I have to work in the city; I shouldn't have to live in it, too."

Skoglund said that remark offended him deeply.

"They're wrong. They're completely wrong. Think how you would feel if they said that about your city," he said.

He said it was good to see off-duty police officers in the neighborhoods and at the community functions as citizens.

Leonard Mangum, a community organizer who works with gang members, said the relationships he has established with the police since more of them started living in the city are valuable.

"I've had a chance to witness the interaction between police officers and inner-city youth. It's not about forcing [police officers] to live there; it's about trying to build relationships," he said.

Mangum said he was aware of the problems police officers had voiced about safety in an earlier meeting, and he said he understood.

"We have a great relationship now and what that allows us to do is effectively promote change," he said.

Minneapolis City Council member Jackie Cherryhomes said when city employees live in the city, it promotes "a deeper understanding of the problems facing our city, but also a deeper commitment to helping solve them."

The bill moves to the House floor.



HEALTH

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Minnesota first lady Susan Carlson said women of childbearing age need better information about the danger of drinking during pregnancy, but the word isn't getting out.

She said a birth defect caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy is "100 percent preventable," and she is supporting a bill that would raise public awareness of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

The House Health and Human Services

Minnesota screenwriters



David Grant and Jeanne Grimm, members of the nonprofit Screenwriters Workshop, perform a mini-script in front of the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee. The pair testified Feb. 12 on behalf of a bill sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman that would help develop Minnesota-made screenplays.

Committee approved a bill Feb. 18 that would provide \$5 million for a statewide campaign to expand awareness of the disease. The bill (**HF3343**) is sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior).

Carlson was co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on FAS, which conservatively estimated the disease costs Minnesota \$45 million annually in health, judicial, and social services.

"This is very costly," Carlson said. "You can't repair brain damage once it occurs."

FAS is a series of birth defects that can include mental retardation, central nervous system dysfunction, behavioral problems, and deficient growth. Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) is a less severe set of the same symptoms.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reports FAS is the leading known cause of mental retardation. It is found in all races and economic groups.

Dr. Pi-Nian Chang, a pediatric psychologist, told legislators he sees 30 children monthly who, because their mothers consumed alcohol during pregnancy, have IQs as low as 66.

Chang said those with FAS or FAE who are not mentally retarded have learning disabilities and often exhibit impulsive behavior. He said studies indicate FAS is present in 1 to 3 percent of all live births Chang called drinking for all pregnant women "Russian roulette."

Sykora said studies show at least 25 percent of death row inmates and youths in correctional facilities have FAS or FAE.

Of the \$5 million request, \$850,000 would

establish a grant program for community-based organizations to specialize in prevention and intervention of both FAS and FAE. Another \$850,000 would expand treatment services for pregnant women and women with children, and \$800,000 would be used to raise public awareness.

The bill also includes funding requests for the study of FAS and FAE, the establishment of diagnostic clinics, and training for health care providers. According to the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, less than 10 percent of medical schools require students to complete a course on the proper diagnosis and referral of individuals with alcohol addiction.

The House Governmental Operations Committee also approved the bill, which now is headed to the Health and Human Services Finance Division.

Battling AIDS

Although progress is being made in the fight against AIDS, the battleground is constantly shifting.

Dr. Timothy Schacker, medical director of the University of Minnesota Delaware Street Clinic, said there are misconceptions about new AIDS medications, and because AIDS patients are living longer, the chances of sexual contact with an HIV-infected person have risen.

Schacker testified in support of a bill (**HF3022**) sponsored by Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) that would appropriate \$550,000 from the general fund for prevention initiatives against sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS.

The House Health and Human Services Committee approved the bill Feb. 16.

Schacker said most new cases of AIDS occur in women and teens. And he said transmission of AIDS through heterosexual sex is an issue that needs amplification.

Schacker said it is important that the public not become complacent because of so-called "AIDS cocktails" and other advancements in drug treatment of the disease.

The bill requests \$250,000 for the state commissioner of health to conduct research on the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in the state, and \$125,000 to conduct laboratory screening.

The committee was told some community clinics reject people who want testing but can't pay for it. Another \$125,000 would help the commissioner of health prepare a plan aimed at reducing all sexually transmitted diseases.

The bill moves to the committee's finance division.

Ephedrine-containing products

Sale of readily available products containing a Chinese herb that acts as a stimulant would be restricted under a bill the House Health and Human Service Committee approved Feb. 16.

The targeted products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teenagers and others looking to achieve a legal high.

Health food stores, supermarkets, and pharmacies stock products containing ephedrine, the extract of a Chinese herb that has been found to stimulate the heart and central nervous system. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has tried to build a case against ephedrine-containing products, which are marketed as diet products but are used by teenagers as a stimulant.

HF3549, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), would allow products containing ephedrine to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances.

The bill would stipulate that drug products containing ephedrine could be sold without a prescription only if allowable under the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Such products could not be marketed, advertised, or labeled for weight loss, appetite control, muscle enhancement, mental alertness, or energy.

Currently, marketers need not show eph-



Minnesota first lady Susan Carlson, *left*, co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, testifies in support of a bill that would fund ongoing research on the disease. Rep. Barb Sykora, *center*, the bill's sponsor, and Dr. Pi-Nian Chang, director of pediatric psychology at the University of Minnesota, also appeared before the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 17.

drine-containing products to be safe or effective because the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 classified herbs, vitamins, and minerals as dietary supplements. The FDA cannot regulate dietary supplements unless it can prove a product is unsafe.

The FDA has tried to link about 36 deaths to the targeted supplements, which can contain widely varying degrees of the herb.

The bill moves to the House Judiciary Committee.



HIGHER EDUCATION

'Grade 13' credit proposal

Parents of college freshmen would be eligible for a new tax credit, under a bill that aims to make postsecondary education more affordable for Minnesota families.

HF3691, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would allow families of recent high school graduates to realize a state tax credit of \$500. The Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee took no action on the bill Feb. 16.

Coupled with a newly established \$1,500 federal income tax credit — called the Hope Scholarship Credit — the bill would make the first year of postsecondary education more affordable for many Minnesotans.

Starting in 1998, most Minnesota students who enroll in a postsecondary institution in the fall after their high school graduation would be eligible. The students would have to be claimed as a dependent on their parents' income tax return.

Supporters claim the bill would, in effect, establish a grade 13 in Minnesota.

Carlson said the bill would cost the state between \$7.5 million and \$8.5 million annually. The first year of college or other training would still have to be paid for, but Carlson said the annual cost of one year of technical or community college typically runs about \$2,000. With the federal and state tax credits, a family could cover most of that expense, he said.

Under the federal Taxpayer Relief Act, taxpayers became eligible Jan. 1 to claim a Hope Scholarship Credit against their federal income taxes. The Hope Credit can be claimed for the qualified tuition and related education expenses of each student in the taxpayer's family. Taxpayers will be able to claim the federal credit for the first time when they file their 1998 tax returns next year.

Minnesota's proposed "grade 13 credit" would use the same income thresholds as the federal credit. For married couples filing jointly, the upper income limit for the full credit is \$80,000. For single parents, it is

\$40,000. Benefits are phased out above those limits, with total phase out at \$100,000 and \$50,000, respectively.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) questioned the need for the state to assist families who earn \$80,000 annually.

Carlson said he believes those families could use some "tuition relief." He also distributed a fact sheet indicating students who get through one year of postsecondary education are likely to complete their college education.

Carlson also said experts suggest the demand for technical skills means most future workers will need some postsecondary training and that his bill could help respond to that.

The proposal will be considered for possible inclusion in this year's omnibus higher education bill.

Campus law firm

Lawmakers are considering a proposal that would boost the University of Minnesota's law clinic, which is essentially a law firm on campus.

According to Steve Befort, director of the clinic, more than 700 low-income Minnesotans were represented by second- and third-year U of M law students in 1997. The students represent clients under supervision of clinic instructors.

Befort told the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 16 that with \$250,000 from the state for fiscal year 1999 the school could add 80 more students to the law clinic. That would translate into an additional 6,000 hours of legal

services and another 200 clients, Befort said.

The request is part of **HF3251**, which is sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona), who chairs the finance division. The proposal will be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus higher education funding bill.

Jeffrey Brockmann, a third-year U of M law student, testified that the clinical education he acquired was crucial to his scholastic advancement in the program and better prepared him to practice law.

"It has made me aware of the diverse need of a clientele that generally goes unnoticed," Brockmann said.

Tom Sullivan, dean of the law school, added the clinic work "helps us understand the ethical obligation we have to support our community."

Sullivan said only 25 percent of law school graduates nationally have any clinical exposure, but 65 percent of U of M students have the opportunity.

Sullivan also said 50 percent of the clinic's current \$900,000 annual budget comes from tuition, with 15 to 17 percent from the state. The rest comes through private contributions and through a federal grant.



HOUSING

Substandard housing

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) told a House committee Feb. 17 that housing agencies all over the country are looking at ways to rehabilitate housing and that sometimes demolition is the only option.

Trimble is sponsoring a bill (**HF3565**) that

Brain power



Rep. Alice Johnson plays a computer game with her brain waves while hooked up to a neuro-feedback machine. New Visions School provided an opportunity at the Capitol Feb. 16 for lawmakers and the public to learn about their program designed to help students boost academic performance by helping them focus and concentrate.

would provide an appropriation to the community rehabilitation fund. The program is used by cities to purchase substandard multiple housing units for either rehabilitation or demolition.

"I just feel in some cases, in some situations, it makes more sense in the long run to get rid of substandard housing," he said during testimony before the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Often times, problem housing is removed to make green space or community parks for public housing, Trimble said.

St. Paul city councilwoman Kathy Lantry said that her city would benefit from the program. She told the committee that she has toured some of the troubled properties in St. Paul.

"The conditions of those properties made me mad. The fact that housing like this exists in St. Paul should make us truly ashamed," she said. "Sometimes the right answer is to tear down the building."

She said that in some situations housing is "affordable by accident" because the poor condition of the property drives the rent down.

Lantry said that the property owners need to be held accountable for disrepair and need to be encouraged to develop proper screening policies to keep problem tenants out of the properties.

Charles Disney, of the Minneapolis Property Rights Action Committee, said that city governments and neighborhood organizations are attempting to place the blame solely on the property owners. He said the true problem is crime and a lack of law enforcement.

"We've criminalized housing to solve our social problems because the criminal justice system is not working," he said. "I think it's adding fuel to the fire to tear down housing. It's not getting at the problem."

Karla Wiegold, of Brooklyn Park, said she is concerned about reducing the level of affordable housing. She told the committee that the housing complex where she lives is scheduled for demolition as a substandard property.

Wiegold said that there needs to be a standard set so that low income housing is not razed just to provide land for more expensive development.

The bill was laid over by the committee but could be considered again later in the session.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.



INSURANCE

Auto insurance break

The break on insurance premiums that drivers over the age of 55 get when they take an accident prevention course would be available to drivers of all ages, under a bill passed by the House Feb. 19.

HF2846, sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington), passed on a 71-59 vote.

Mahon said most people, after taking driver's education in high school, rarely get further driving instruction throughout their adult lives. Getting a refresher course in safety might make the roads safer, he said.

The courses now offered for older drivers are often called "55 Alive" courses, and drivers 55 or older get reduced auto insurance premiums by taking an accident prevention course every three years.

Drivers of any age who take the safety course would get a 10 percent discount on their automobile insurance premiums, under Mahon's bill. The Department of Public Safety would adopt rules establishing and regulating the accident prevention course. Those rules would establish curriculum requirements and hours for the course.

Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) questioned whether the bill would provide real savings for consumers.

"They might increase the rates for everybody," Swenson said. "I understand [Mahon's] intentions are well-meant, but I'm just concerned we may have the opposite impact of what we're intending."



SAFETY

'R-Bar' restraint system

School districts could apply for grants to demonstrate the effectiveness of a passive restraint system on school buses, under a bill advancing in the House.

HF2638, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), was approved Feb. 17 by the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

At least six school districts have expressed interest in the program, according to Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), a co-sponsor of the bill.

The proposal calls for a total of 20 buses used in urban and rural settings to be used to test the restraints, which are similar to the bars used on roller coasters.

The "R-Bar" passenger restraint system costs \$200 per seat, and there are 24 seats on an average school bus. Under the bill, \$200,000

would be appropriated for restraint system grants, with up to \$40,000 to be used for the evaluation of the system's effectiveness.

The R-Bar system has undergone 11 years of testing and development. Its stated advantage over seat belts on school buses is that the system contains riders but does not confine them. Because a passenger can easily slide sideways out of the bus seat, the R-Bar system reduces the likelihood a child would be trapped on a school bus.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), school bus transportation is among the safer modes of highway transportation in the country. Its figures indicate 394,000 public school buses travel 4.3 billion miles to transport 3.5 million children annually.

Since 1984, an average of 11 children have died each year in school bus crashes. In comparison, the NHTSA figures for 1995 show 8,168 children between the ages of 5 and 20 died as passengers in all other types of motor vehicles.

A 1989 National Academy of Sciences study concluded potential benefits from seat belts on large school buses did not justify a federal requirement for mandatory installation. A subsequent NHTSA study concluded the best way to provide crash protection for school bus riders was to protect the occupants without making them buckle up.

Luther sponsored a bill during the 1997 session that included a call for lap and shoulder safety belts to be installed on school buses beginning this year. But the seat belt provisions in that bill were deleted in a House committee.

The R-Bar proposal now moves to the full Transportation and Transit Committee.



TAXES

Charitable gambling

The state taxes the money raised by charitable gambling in Minnesota, and most of the remaining proceeds go to whatever charity the gambling supports.

Some lawmakers are looking to reduce the overall tax burden on organizations that conduct charitable gambling.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) and Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) are sponsoring separate bills that would reduce tax rates on lawful gambling by 25 percent.

Both bills were approved Feb. 17 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The bills are identical for except for one

thing: Daggett's bill (**HF3107**) would take effect June 30, 1998, and Milbert's bill (**HF3024**) would be retroactive to July 1, 1997.

"The money that is raised through lawful gambling is used back in communities for a variety of things," Milbert said. "The money raised by lawful gambling stays in the community. This is a good tax to reduce. This money does go back to pay for the schools."

Daggett said that charitable gambling helps nonprofit organizations in her district pay for charitable projects.

"When we need some funds, we have somewhere we could go to, to get some consideration for our project," she said.

Milbert cited one of the cities in his district, South St. Paul, which is home to the South St. Paul Educational Foundation. That organization raises money for scholarships and the South St. Paul Public Schools through charitable gambling.

"It was set up and designed specifically to promote and support education," Milbert said.

There are now more than 1,500 licensed organizations in the state, such as the Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion, that use lawful gambling to raise money for community causes, including charities.

Money is raised through the sale of pull-tabs, which account for 92.5 percent of charitable gaming, and through bingo, paddle wheels, raffles, and tipboards.

In combination, the games have raised more than \$843 million in "lawful purpose contributions," which include charitable and community causes, since 1985.

Organizations that run charitable gambling operations are taxed 2 percent of the revenue from pull-tabs and tipboards under current law. Both bills would reduce that to 1.5 percent.

The tax on revenue gathered from bingo and other games is now 10 percent, but it would drop to 7.5 percent under both bills.

The bills call for the tax on combined receipts between \$500,000 and \$700,000 to go from 2 percent to 1.5 percent. The tax on combined receipts of \$700,000 to \$900,000 would go from 4 percent to 3 percent and the tax on combined receipts of more than \$900,000 annually would go from 6 percent to 4.5 percent under both proposals.

King Wilson, executive director of Allied Charities of Minnesota, said he believes it is time to give some money back to the charitable organizations. "We believe 1998 is the year to come up with some [tax] relief," he said.

If either bill is passed, the state would lose an estimated \$15 million in gambling taxes annually.

But, Wilson said, that money would be going back to the organizations "to be spent back in the communities for a variety of projects."

Both bills now move to the full Taxes Committee.

Tax reductions, rebates

Two bills the House is considering would reduce income taxes and property taxes and provide for property tax rebates.

HF2322, sponsored by House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), and **HF2325**, sponsored by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), were debated Feb. 16 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division of the House Taxes Committee.

Both bills were referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Sviggum's bill calls for a permanent reduction in taxes for low- and middle-income people and provides a one-time rebate for property taxes paid in 1998 matching the one approved for property taxes paid in 1997.

"This bill seeks to deal with the \$1.3 billion surplus. That surplus ought to be turned back to taxpayers," Sviggum said.

The bill also would reduce property tax rates for some commercial and industrial property and apartment buildings with four or more units. And the measure would cut the statewide educational levy by \$100 million in fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

Sviggum's bill would make \$500 million available for the payment of property tax rebates.

Van Dellen's bill would set priorities for using surplus revenue in state coffers. The bill would first devote a set amount of funds to the state's budget reserve account and require additional surplus funds to go to an income tax reserve account that could be used only for income tax rate reductions.

Van Dellen's bill also would reduce property taxes for some commercial and industrial property and apartment buildings with four or more units. The bill would provide income tax reductions and property tax rebates similar to those called for in Sviggum's bill.

Each bill would cost more than \$800 million a year in tax revenue, according to state estimates.

Van Dellen said with the state looking at six straight years of a budget surplus, it's time for a permanent tax cut.

"People I speak with in the private sector, they think this is getting a little ridiculous," he said.

Motor vehicle sales tax

When school districts buy buses, they have to pay a motor vehicle sales tax, but some lawmakers are trying to change that.

"We come to government taxing government to transport children to school," said Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). "This money could have been saved for the schools, but instead that money went to St. Paul. This would [be] a small way of helping our school districts and helping our taxpayers."

Seifert is sponsoring a bill (**HF2911**) that would exempt school buses with a capacity for more than 10 people from the state's motor vehicle sales tax. The bill was approved Feb. 17 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The bill would cost the state an estimated \$3.2 million in tax revenue during fiscal year 1999 and \$6.7 million during the 2000-2001 biennium.

Smaller vehicles — such as vans, cars, and buses carrying fewer than 10 passengers — would still be taxed under the bill.

Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) said she thinks the bill is a good idea.

"The small districts that I know felt it was a great onus for them to pay motor vehicle taxes," she said.

The bill now goes to the full Taxes Committee.



TOURISM

Repairing Glensheen

A proposal to provide \$750,000 for repairs at the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth was considered by the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 16.

Glensheen Mansion was built in 1908 by mining executive Chester Congdon and his wife, Clara. The 39-room mansion sits on a 22-acre estate overlooking Lake Superior.

In 1977, Glensheen was donated to the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD), which opened the historic facility to the public. UMD took over the mansion after an infamous double murder took place involving members of the Congdon family.

The bill (**HF2974**), sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), would authorize the state to issue bonds for the amount of the repairs. The proceeds of these bonds would go to the Minnesota Historical Society, which would provide a grant to UMD.

William Miller, an official from Glensheen of UMD, testified in support of the bill. He

told the committee that the mansion averages about 100,000 visitors a year.

Miller said that the bonding proposal is about maintaining state assets.

"Glensheen is owned by an institution of the state," he said, "and we are trying to preserve it for future generations."

HF2974 was approved for inclusion in the division's 1998 bonding recommendations. The measure likely will be considered for inclusion in omnibus bonding legislation to be assembled later this session by the House Capital Investment Committee.



TRANSPORTATION

Vehicle registration evasion

Just because a motor vehicle on the highway bears an Oregon license plate doesn't mean the driver is here to explore Minnesota, said state trooper Brad Ferris.

Ferris told the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 18 that Oregon license plates cost just \$10, and some Minnesota residents know how to get them.

Many more Minnesota residents register their cars in North Dakota, South Dakota, or Wisconsin, where licensing also is cheaper than in Minnesota. He said registration evasion costs Minnesota \$4.1 million to \$21.7 million annually.

"And I believe these figures are very conservative," Ferris said.

HF2796, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), would establish a one-year task force of four state patrol members in the Department of Public Safety to investigate dealer fraud and registration evasion. The committee approved the bill.

Ferris said he counted 15 Wisconsin license plates during his drive from Mankato to the committee meeting in St. Paul.

"These people didn't look like they were on vacation, they looked like they were on their way to work," he said.

He detailed a typical traffic stop in which the driver of the vehicle had a Minnesota driver's license and Wisconsin plates.

"She told me, 'All my friends do it,'" Ferris said. And, he added, Minnesota was losing \$275 in licensing fees on just that one car.

Ferris said there were 4.7 million vehicles within Minnesota in 1996, and if just 1 percent were illegally registered, it cost Minnesota at least \$2 million dollars.

Ferris estimates that at least 5 percent of the cars sold privately never have the title properly transferred. He put a minimum price tag of \$1.2 million on that illegal practice.

It is a gross misdemeanor for vehicles owned and operated in Minnesota to be registered in another state. Violators also can be forced to pay Minnesota registration for all preceding years for which the state can prove evasion.

The bill moves to the Transportation and Transit Finance Division.

Making cars available

Welfare reform measures that became effective in recent months encourage work and set lifetime limits for receiving welfare checks. But many people moving off welfare could find it difficult to work without a car.

Legislation moving to the House floor would exempt nonprofit organizations from obtaining a motor vehicle dealer's license for the sale or lease of cars and trucks valued at \$1,000 or less. Such a move could make more vehicles available for people "with a demonstrated need for assistance," according to Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan).

Pawlenty sponsors **HF3028/SF2163***, which was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 18.

Pawlenty said certain organizations repair and recondition older cars that are donated to them. These organizations then sell the vehicles at low prices to people moving off public assistance or to those with other needs.

Expansion to four lanes

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) encouraged members of the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee to drive on up and visit the Brainerd area.

"But don't come on a Friday or a Sunday night," he said. At those times, the lake country highway is often jammed with weekend travelers.

Wenzel appeared before the panel Feb. 13 to request \$22 million in bonding revenue to expand to four lanes Trunk Highway 371 between Little Falls and Brainerd. Wenzel sponsors **HF3144**, which requests that the road construction project begin around July 1, 2000.

No action was taken on the bill.

Wenzel told the committee that there have been four fatalities on the 28-mile stretch of road in the past year.

"We've had promises from other governors to expand this to four lanes for over 30 years," he said.

According to numbers from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, traffic doubled on stretches of Highway 371 from 1977 to 1994. One section of 371 had a 4.6 fatality rate

per 100 million travelers between 1992 and 1996. The statewide fatality rate for a rural two-lane road is 1.5 per 100 million travelers.

Wenzel said construction to expand the highway has been tentatively set for 2003, but his bill requests that construction begin three years earlier.

Memorial highway

State trooper Dennis O'Brien wanted a lasting memorial to his slain partner. He moved closer to getting it Feb. 16 when the House passed **HF2612** on a 128-0 vote.

The bill calls for a stretch of Trunk Highway 95 to be designated in honor of Timothy Bowe, a Coon Rapids resident who, last year, became the first Minnesota state patrol officer to be killed in the line of duty since 1978.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), a 14-mile stretch of Highway 95 between Cambridge and North Branch would become "Timothy J. Bowe Memorial Highway."

Bowe, 36, was shot to death last summer in Chisago County while answering a call about a shooting at a rural home. Bowe, a 15-year veteran, was the seventh Minnesota trooper ever to be killed in the line of duty.

"His partner approached me about it," Jennings said. "This was something we'd never done before, but after [O'Brien] came to me it seemed like it was a good idea and probably something that we should do in the future."

Under the bill, the commissioner of transportation would adopt a suitable marking to designate the highway and erect the signs, which would be paid for by the community of Cambridge.

The bill now goes to the Senate.



There was little drama when Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) presented **HF2390/SF2031*** before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 16.

The bill would make mostly technical changes in the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, which defines the way businesses can organize for tax and liability purposes.

As the noise level in the hearing room grew, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee, gently rapped his gavel to remind attendees to keep quiet.

"These types of bills typically bring a lot of chatter in the background," Pugh said. "It's too early in the day to sleep."

Past governor creates statewide direct primary

It's a fact!

In 1912, Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart brought the legislature back in special session to create a direct primary process to nominate candidates for state-

wide office. He won re-election that year, becoming the first Minnesota governor to be nominated in a primary election.

In 1914, he became the first Minnesota governor unseated in a primary election when he lost the Republican gubernatorial primary. Two years later, he attempted a political comeback and lost the primary election for a U. S. Senate seat.

Born under the name Adolph Olson, Eberhart immigrated to the United States from Sweden at age 11. As a teen, he worked as a cowboy in Nebraska.

In 1891, he enrolled in Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. At that time, he changed his last name to Eberhart because the name Olson was too common at the school.

After graduating, Eberhart moved to Mankato to practice law. In 1902, he was elected to the Minnesota Senate representing Blue Earth County. The youngest member of the Senate at the time, Eberhart gained notoriety as an effective legislator. His track record included sponsorship of legislation aimed at curbing the power of the railroads by increasing the state's ability to regulate railway rates.

When he completed his Senate term in

1906, the Republican Party nominated him as its candidate for lieutenant governor. He won the election and served for three years under Democratic Gov. John A. Johnson. In 1909, Johnson died unexpectedly, and Eberhart was sworn in as governor on Sept. 21.

As governor, Eberhart continued many of the policies of the popular late governor, including the creation of a state government efficiency commission and the passage of a workers' compensation law. But Eberhart's most notable accomplishment was the creation of the statewide direct primary in 1912.

The goal of the direct primary was to take the nominating process out of the hands of the political party elite and place it in the hands of the people. Eberhart, however, may have preferred the direct primary for fear that his nomination at the

party convention could be jeopardized if other candidates teamed up against him. He won both the primary and general election in 1912.

While party power had earlier dominated the nomination process, it soon became clear that issue politics would be the dominate force in the era of primary elections. And in 1914, the issue was prohibition

William E. Lee, representing the "dry" Republican faction, challenged the incumbent Eberhart in the 1914 Republican primary. Lee, a former speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, advocated county option, which would allow each county to enact its own prohibition laws. Eberhart preferred to leave the prohibition question up to localities.

Republican primary voters went dry and nominated Lee over Eberhart. In the general election, however, dry voters split their votes between Lee and a Prohibitionist Party candidate, and a Democratic and former member of Congress named Winfield S. Hammond was elected governor.

Eberhart later took one more swing at elective politics. After his 1916 primary defeat to Frank B. Kellogg, who went on to win election to the U.S. Senate, Eberhart returned to private life. He later moved to Chicago and worked in the insurance and real estate businesses. He died in 1944 at the Masonic home in Savage, Minn.



Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart

Photo from *Men of Minnesota*, R. L. Polk & Co.

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How to get here

Location

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parking

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

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N (about three spaces), which is directly behind the Capitol, and in Lot F, which is directly behind the Transportation Building.

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

There are two handicapped entrances to the Capitol. One is on the north side of the build-

ing, just off Lot N; the other is a drop-off entrance under the south main steps at the front of the building.

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

What to do

Tours

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

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Mondays through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol's information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 21 foreign languages also are available there.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building or state government.

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

The society offers "Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government," a half-day session for students in grades 9-12.

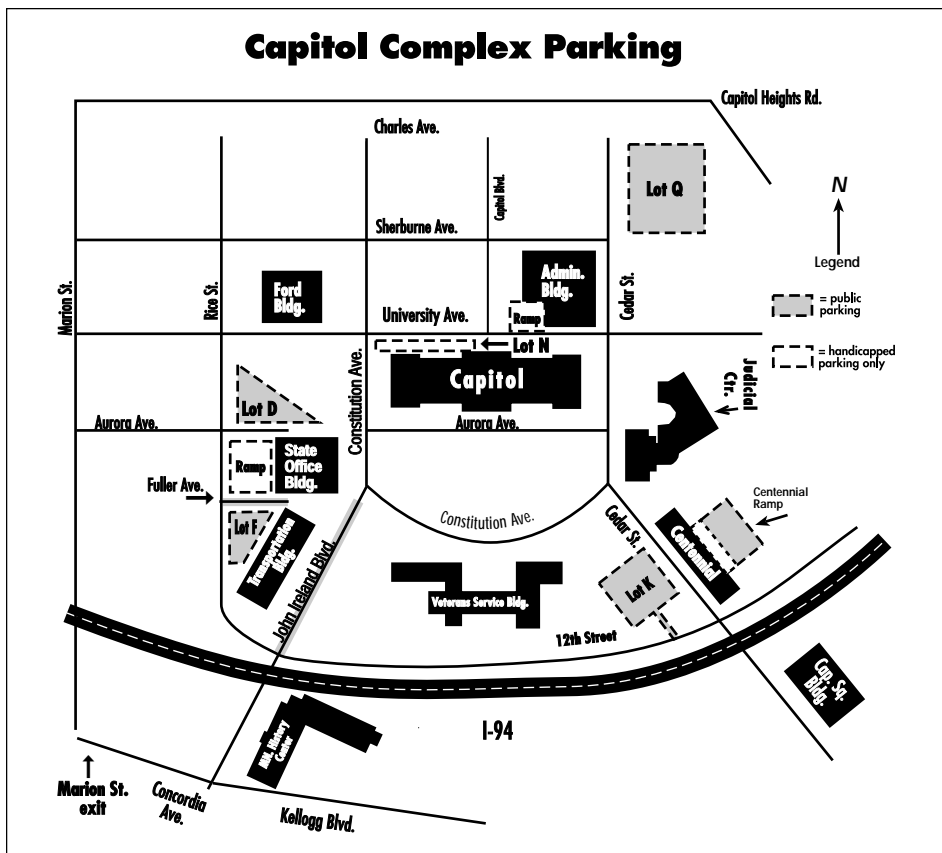
Also, special tour events are scheduled monthly throughout the year. Some of these events entail admission fees; others are free. A special events guide is available upon request.

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

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

Legislators

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



Legislative sessions

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

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

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

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

Committee meetings

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

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

To receive the House schedule, send a message to:

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

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

subscribe h-schedules

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to:

listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us

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

subscribe sen-schedules

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

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

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

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

Dining

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

Group visits

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

Rooms for special conferences or speakers can be reserved by calling Sean Rahn, (612) 296-5974, room scheduler for the State Office Building; or Nancy Bigelow, (612) 296-0866, room scheduler for the Capitol.

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

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

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

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides: committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

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

House Television Services

216C State Capitol (612) 297-1338

House Television Services is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Such coverage is aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. The House also broadcasts via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office's Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

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

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (612) 296-6646

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

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

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

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

Senate Media Services, a bipartisan office, produces television programs, multimedia production, scriptwriting, photography, and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

Bill Introductions

HF3704-HF3778

Monday, Feb. 16

HF3704—Carruthers (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade

Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3705—Milbert (DFL)

Taxes
Television commercials and production materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3706—Bakk (DFL)

Taxes
County authority to grant economic development tax abatements eliminated.

HF3707—Sviggum (R)

Taxes
Special levy authorized for new detention center staffing, and joint law enforcement center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3708—Murphy (DFL)

Taxes
Hermantown construction purchases sales tax exemption provided.

HF3709—Kahn (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Mississippi whitewater trail established in Minneapolis, and money appropriated.

HF3710—Rest (DFL)

Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3711—Greenfield (DFL)

Capital Investment
Health and human services bonding bill.

HF3712—Stanek (R)

Judiciary
Correction officers discipline procedures act adopted.

HF3713—Dawkins (DFL)

Health & Human Services
Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

HF3714—Erhardt (R)

Taxes
Non-mixed-municipal incinerated solid waste tax rate clarified.

HF3715—Workman (R)

Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide payment method modified.

HF3716—Workman (R)

Health & Human Services
Abstinence education grant requirements established.

HF3717—Kalis (DFL)

Education
Independent School District No. 2860, Blue Earth, levy reduction authorized.

HF3718—Bishop (R)

Environment & Natural Resources
Rochester; Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and Department of Agriculture consolidated office constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3719—Carruthers (DFL)

Education
Office of research and technology transfer administration provided funding for international technology acquisition and transfer system development, and money appropriated.

HF3720—Milbert (DFL)

Taxes
Property tax market value increases limited.

HF3721—Macklin (R)

Taxes
Seasonal recreational residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF3722—Daggett (R)

**Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs**
Detroit Lakes authorized to impose additional sales and use taxes.

HF3723—Skoglund (DFL)

Health & Human Services
General Assistance, General Assistance Medical Care, Group Residential Housing, and Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide ineligibility provisions modified.

HF3724—Biernat (DFL)

Education
Joint school and recreation year-round youth athletic demonstration program established at Waite Park School in Minneapolis, and money appropriated.

HF3725—Long (DFL)

Taxes
Minnesota vendor printed materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3726—Kelso (DFL)

Education
Deaf and hard of hearing teacher licensure requirements modified.

HF3727—Ness (R)

Education
Community education instructors considered teachers for contract and tenure purposes upon school board and exclusive bargaining representative approval.

HF3728—Pelowski (DFL)

Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3729—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services
Neighborhood Health Care Network and Minnesota Primary Care Association provided bridge funding for uncompensated member care distribution, and money appropriated.

HF3730—Lieder (DFL)

Education
Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, and independent school district Nos. 2854, Ada-Borup, and 595, East Grand Forks, flood-related grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3731—Carlson (DFL)

Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, grade 13 program created, higher education income tax credit allowed, and money appropriated.

HF3732—Tomassoni (DFL)

Education
School bus advertising requirements modified, and revenue to be deposited in the district general fund.

HF3733—Ozment (R)

Environment & Natural Resources
Public waters wetlands illegal activities enforcement procedures and penalties modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF3734—Mares (R)

Governmental Operations
Public employees insurance program expanded to include county and municipal hospital employees.

HF3735—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Taxes
Enterprise zone additional allocations for property tax reductions authorized.

HF3736—Juhnke (DFL)

Education
School district compensatory revenue allocation alternative established.

HF3737—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3738—Greenfield (DFL)

Transportation & Transit
Seat belt violation made a primary offense.

HF3739—Skare (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax system public education material production grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3740—Long (DFL)**Taxes**

Motor vehicle registration tax rate reduced, technical corrections provided, and money appropriated.

HF3741—Chaudhary (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Council on Black Minnesotans Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance activities planning and coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF3742—Dawkins (DFL)**Taxes**

Corrections industry manufactured products purchased by government entities sales tax exemption provided.

HF3743—Olson, M. (R)**Judiciary**

Juvenile programming grant program developed, and money appropriated.

HF3744—Finseth (R)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Red Lake Falls events center construction funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3745—Weaver (R)**Judiciary**

Gasoline theft provided criminal penalties.

HF3746—Osthoff (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Environment and natural resources bonding bill.

HF3747—Slawik (DFL)**Taxes**

School district debt service levy equalization modified.

HF3748—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance Trust companies organization, powers, and duties provided, and interstate trust offices regulated.

HF3749—Jennings (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Major League Baseball stadium construction, funding, maintenance, and governance provided, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission and Metropolitan Council powers and duties provided, taxes imposed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, Feb. 18**HF3750—Tingelstad (R)****Health & Human Services**

Chiropractor discipline prohibited for expressing a professional opinion in an independent exam for automobile insurance purposes.

HF3751—Wenzel (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Garrison wastewater infrastructure funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3752—Dempsey (R)**Education**

School district additional school day revenue provided.

HF3753—Dempsey (R)**Education**

School districts authorized to levy for crossing guards.

HF3754—Folliard (DFL)**Education**

Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3755—Stanek (R)**Judiciary**

Law enforcement background investigation data retention required for a minimum of seven years.

HF3756—Leighton (DFL)**Taxes**

Student loan interest deduction federal conformity provided.

HF3757—Chaudhary (DFL)**Education**

Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3758—Tomassoni (DFL)**Education**

Year-round school provided, and intersession staff development, and student remediation guidelines required.

HF3759—Sviggum (R)**Education**

School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3760—Otremba, M. (DFL)**Education**

School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3761—Milbert (DFL)**Regulated Industries & Energy**

Pari-mutuel pool tax abatement sunset removed.

HF3762—Johnson, A. (DFL)**Taxes**

Manufactured homes sales tax application modified.

HF3763—Rukavina (DFL)**Local Government****& Metropolitan Affairs**

Carlton and St. Louis counties authorized to establish the Jensen-Nopeming special nursing home district.

HF3764—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Taxes**

Tax study commission established to study state and local fiscal relations, and money appropriated.

HF3765—Wenzel (DFL)**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**

Morrison County; Sioux trail established from Genola to Stearns County border, and money appropriated.

HF3766—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Taxes**

Lawful gambling tax rates reduced.

Thursday, Feb. 19**HF3767—Lieder (DFL)****Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance**

East Grand Forks and Breckenridge levee construction loan provided, and money appropriated.

HF3768—Kalis (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 2135, Maple River, coordinated facilities plan and grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3769—Dorn (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Statewide caregiver mentoring network grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3770—Macklin (R)**Taxes**

Corrections industry manufactured products purchased by government entities sales tax exemption provided.

HF3771—Rifenberg (R)**Education**

Independent School District No. 300, La Crescent-Hokah, debt service equalization calculation modified.

HF3772—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services**

Health plan independent review organizations established to review adverse health care services determinations, and treatment decision liability imposed.

HF3773—Clark, K. (DFL)**Judiciary**

Same-sex marriages authorized.

HF3774—Peterson (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 62, Ortonville, graduation standards technology integration pilot project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3775—Tunheim (DFL)**Education**

Independent School District No. 390, Lake of the Woods, model distance learning program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3776—Mullery (DFL)**Economic Development & International Trade**

Minneapolis; St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone visitor center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3777—Long (DFL)**Taxes**

Federal charitable contribution corporate income tax deduction rules adopted.

HF3778—Wagenius (DFL)**Taxes**

Distressed homestead reinvestment temporary property tax exemption created.

Need a copy of a bill?
Call the Chief Clerks Office
at
(612) 296-2314

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Feb. 23

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF3084 (Ness) Meeker County economic development authority authorized.

HF3246 (Lieder) Ada disaster loan guarantee provided for damaged public health care facility operating losses, and money appropriated.

HF3252 (Clark, K.) Municipalities assisted in implementing preferred economic development practices, businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified, inducing businesses to relocate penalized, and money appropriated.

HF3378 (Westrom) Vision Loss Resources, Inc. rehabilitation and community centers funded, and money appropriated.

HF3189 (Mullery) Summer youth employment programs appropriated money.

HF3587 (Trimble) Advocating Change Together, Inc. provided a grant to train people with disabilities, and money appropriated.

HF2898 (Gunther) Economic development supplemental appropriations bill.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Supplemental higher education finance bill. Supplemental family and early childhood education finance bill.

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

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF3676 (Winter) Property tax simplification and reform provided, rebate specified, and money appropriated.

HF2954 (Wagenius) Metropolitan transit expenditures levy reduced or eliminated with property tax reform account funds.

HF3240 (Rest) Low-income housing property

tax class rules clarified, penalties modified, and fees and penalties deposited in the housing development fund.

HF3585 (Hasskamp) Legal nonlicensed family child care minimal safety standards required, and child care fund assistance receipt prohibited if standards are not met.

HF3595 (Long) Rent constituting property taxes calculation modified.

HF3462 (Greiling) Property tax refund formula alternative based on household income provided.

HF3659 (Murphy) Homestead and agricultural aid payments increased to certain statutory cities.

HF2687 (Milbert) County treasurer mortgage registry tax receipt payment obligations modified relating to multiple county mortgages.

HF3720 (Milbert) Property tax market value increases limited.

HF3041 (Johnson, A.) Local property tax levy limit growth factors modified.

HF2604 (Macklin) Property tax rebate and property tax reform provided, levy limits extended, individual alternative minimum tax calculation modified, tax receipts from certain athletic events dedicated, and money appropriated.

HF2838 (Tuma) Senior owned homestead estimated market value increase prohibited.

HF2900 (Krinkie) Income tax rates and brackets modified, property tax reform account repealed, and money appropriated.

HF2989 (Dawkins) Two and three unit nonhomestead property class rates reduced, class 4bb property target class rate eliminated, and city noncompliance provisions extended.

HF3169 (Larsen) Seniors provided an additional property tax refund.

HF3491 (Erhardt) Homestead property exceeding \$75,000 provided reduced property class rate.

HF3657 (Rest) Renter property tax refund increased.

HF3671 (McElroy) Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3672 (Kelso) Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.

HF3678 (Long) Uniform property tax class rate provided for all residential property containing single dwelling unit.

HF3735 (Anderson, I.) Enterprise zone additional allocations for property tax reductions authorized.

HF3739 (Skare) Property tax system public education material production grant provided, and money appropriated.

(This meeting will continue after session in Room 10 State Office Building.)

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF3633 (Wenzel) Morrison, Mille Lacs,

Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties provided funding for state forest land repair, and money appropriated.

HF3069 (Trimble) Small business owners with tanks located on their properties provided petroleum fund reimbursement eligibility.

HF3604 (Schumacher) Benton County required to apportion environmental response liability reimbursement among local units of government.

HF3709 (Kahn) Kayak whitewater park.

HF2713 (Westfall) Flood protection plan review provisions modified, flood hazard mitigation grant limits increased, and water use permit processing fee provisions modified.

Supplemental bill.

9 a.m.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF3359 (Hilty) Occupational regulatory oversight council established to coordinate health-related and non-health-related occupation regulation boards, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3609 (Long) Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.

HF3348 (Kahn) Twins baseball franchise community ownership provided, stadium construction conditions established, and money appropriated.

Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill.

Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

Health & Human Services

**Finance Division/
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Final budget allocations for Health and Human Services.

Additional bills may be added.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill. Other bills or issues may be considered.

12:30 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, Feb. 24

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF216 (Mariani) Employment contract provisions modified.

HF3114 (Skare) Workforce center programs school-to-work initiatives support provided, and money appropriated.

HF3157 (Winter) Luverne provided an exemption from the Minnesota Investment Fund Grant limit for job loss offset, and appropriation reallocated.

HF3545 (Winter) Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3741 (Chaudhary) Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance and money to Council on Black Minnesotans.

HF3537 (Gunther) Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3177 (Mullery) Job-training programs study requirements modified to include wage rate and group breakdown information.

HF3447 (Mullery) Women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, grant requirements and information provided, and money appropriated.

HF3200 (Munger) Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad improvement grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3153 (Huntley) On-the-job training program for skilled trades developed, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Supplemental K-12 education finance bill.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill. Other bills or issues may be considered.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF3407 (Solberg) Optional and special function school sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3705 (Milbert) Television commercials and production materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3473 (Milbert) Junior golf programs certified by the Amateur Sports Commission, and golf facilities provided partial sales tax refund for qualifying junior programs.

HF2369 (Kubly) Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF3118 (Olson, E.) Counties provided unorganized town road maintenance funding through natural resources land payments in lieu of taxes.

HF3160 (Bishop) Hospital sales tax exemption

effective date modified.

HF3492 (Erhardt) Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.

HF3493 (Erhardt) Student loan interest and education savings account income tax deduction provided.

HF3533 (Abrams) Non-gambling prize awards considered purchases for resale and exempt from sales tax.

HF2572 (Kelso) Counties with Indian casinos payment conditions modified relating to revenues under tribal tax agreements.

HF3556 (Hausman) St. Paul RiverCentre Arena construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3575 (Johnson, A.) Ready-mixed concrete trucks considered capital equipment, motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided, and sales price definition expanded.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF2515 (Bakk) Minnesota Forest Resources Council membership expanded to include a representative from the Indian Affairs Council.

HF3583 (Bakk) Minnesota Forest Resources Council provided a grant to implement timber harvesting guidelines and recommendations, and money appropriated.

HF3441 (Peterson) Animal waste technician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, cleanup fund created, ordinance update assistance provided, and generic environmental impact statements required.

Supplemental bill.

10 a.m.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF2342 (Clark, K.) Family homeless prevention and assistance program funding provided, and money appropriated.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill.

Additional bills may be added.

(This meeting will continue into the evening.)

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF3746 (Osthoff) Environment and

natural resources bonding bill.

(This meeting will continue after session in 5 State Office Building.)

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 25

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: To be announced.

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

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 23.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Supplemental bill markup.

9 a.m.

Judiciary Finance Division/ JUDICIARY

Room to be announced.

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill.

10 a.m.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill.

Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Room to be announced.

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF2502 (Rukavina) Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Giants Ridge cross-country ski event facility enhancement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: Division reports from Economic Development Finance Division and Housing and Housing Finance Division on their finance bills.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4:30 p.m.

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

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF2416 (Kubly) Renville tax-increment district parcel original local tax rate and certificate date set, and collection deadline extended.

HF3648 (Otremba, M.) Browerville tax increment financing district authorized expenditures outside the district.

HF2336 (Leppik) Golden Valley authorized to collect an additional tax from the Valley Square tax increment financing district.

HF3495 (Pugh) West St. Paul and Dakota county housing and redevelopment authority provided exemption from tax increment financing district requirements.

HF2504 (Sykora) Deephaven tax-increment financing district revenue expenditures authorized.

HF3602 (Long) Minneapolis phased redevelopment district for the Sears project established.

HF2783 (Carruthers) Brooklyn Center tax-increment financing districts class rates specified.
HF3439 (McElroy) Burnsville amphitheater admissions tax imposed and tax increment finance district established.

HF2463 (Marko) Authorizing the inclusion of certain property in tax-increment districts; extending payment of deferred taxes if certain property is removed for green acres treatment.
HF3098 (Schumacher) Foley tax increment finance district revenue expenditure authorized for a wastewater treatment facility outside the district.

THURSDAY, Feb. 26

8 a.m.

JUDICIARY

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2518 (Nornes) Fergus Falls authorized to impose an additional sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax.

HF2610 (Bishop) Rochester authorized to impose permanent sales, use, and excise taxes, proceed expenditures specified, and referendum required.

HF2675 (Pelowski) Winona bond issuance and sales and use tax authorized to finance dredging of Lake Winona.

HF3101 (Skare) Bemidji authorized to impose additional sales and excise taxes for the purpose of funding convention center construction.

HF3193 (Ness) Hutchinson authorized to impose additional taxes to fund a civic and community center, and recreational facilities.

HF3496 (Reuter) Owatonna authorized to impose additional excise and use taxes to fund the Owatonna economic development 2000 operating facilities.

HF3546 (Opatz) St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, and St. Joseph authorized to impose additional sales tax to fund the central Minnesota events center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3708 (Murphy) Hermantown construction purchases sales tax exemption provided.
HF3722 (Daggett) Detroit Lakes authorized to impose additional sales and use taxes.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Supplemental bill markup.

10 a.m.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 24.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HFXXXX (Trimble) Economic development bonding recommendations. (This meeting will continue after session in 5 State Office Building.)

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Feb. 27

No committee meetings had been scheduled at press time.

1998 House finance committee/division accounts

Departments, agencies, and programs are listed under the finance committee or division that will consider their funding this session.

Capital Investment

Capital Projects
Debt Service

Economic Development & International Trade

Economic Development Finance Division

Arts Board
Asian Pacific Americans Council
Black Minnesotans Council
Chicano Latino Affairs Council
Commerce Department
Economic Security Department
Historical Society
Humanities Commission
Indian Affairs Council
IRRRB
Labor & Industry Department
Labor Interpretive Center

Mediation Services Bureau
Minnesota Municipal Board
Minnesota Technology, Inc.
Non-Health Boards (Accountancy; Archetecture, etc.; Barber; Boxing; Electricity)
Public Service Department
Public Utilities Commission
Trade & Economic Development Department
Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals
World Trade Center

Housing & Housing Finance Division

Housing Finance Agency

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Academy of Science
Agriculture Utilization Research Institute
Agriculture Department
Animal Health Board
Ethanol Development
Environmental Assistance Office
Horticultural Society
LCMR

Minn.-Wis. Boundary Waters Commission
Minnesota Zoo
Natural Resources Department
Pollution Control Agency
Science Museum
Voyageurs National Park Council
Water Resources Board

Education

Higher Education Finance Division

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
University of Minnesota
Mayo Medical School
Higher Education Services Office
Higher Education Facilities Authority

K-12 Education Finance Division

Children, Families and Learning (CFL)
Department (except for programs listed under Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division)
CFL Administration
Education Finance
Faribault Academies

Minnesota Center for Arts Education
Permanent School Fund
Public Libraries

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division

Community Education & Adult Education
including:

- Adult Basic Education Programs
- Adults with Disabilities Programs
- Adult Graduation Aid
- Community Education Programs
- Youth Development Programs (part of community education)
- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- Extended Day Programs
- GED Test Reimbursement
- Hearing Impaired Adult Programs
- Learning Readiness
- Health Screening

Male Responsibility

Alcohol Impaired Driver Account Grants

Family Service Collaboratives

Part H

Violence Prevention Grants, Councils
& Education

Way to Grow

Youth Enrichment Grants

Child Abuse Victims' Services

Child Care - Basic Sliding Fee

Child Care - Family Assistance

Children's Trust Fund

Community Services Block Grant

Drug Policy & Violence Prevention

Energy Assistance-Oil Program

Energy Assistance-Liquefied Petroleum
Program

Energy Assistance-State Energy Assistance

Energy Assistance-Energy Assistance Program
(EAP)

Food Assistance-Food Banks/Shelf

Food Assistance-Emergency Food Assistance

Food Assistance-Community Food
& Nutrition

Head Start

Housing Assistance-Transitional Housing

Housing Assistance-Emergency Shelter Grant

Housing Assistance-Rural Housing
Assistance

Housing Assistance-Supplemental
Housing-Homeless

Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant

Weatherization-State Weatherization

Weatherization-Department of Energy
Weatherization

Governmental Operations

State Government Finance Division

Administrative Hearings Office

Administration Department

Amateur Sports Commission

Attorney General

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

Capitol Area Architectural
& Planning (CAAP) Board

Contingent Accounts

Disabled American Veterans

Employee Relations Department

Finance Department
Government Innovation
& Cooperation Board
Governor & Lt. Governor
Intergovernmental Information Systems
Advisory Council (IISAC)

Investment Board

Legislature, Legislative Commissions,
Legislative Retirement

Lawful Gambling Control Board

Lottery Board

Military Affairs Department

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Pension Issues including PERA

Public Broadcasting

Racing Commission

Revenue Department

Salary Supplement

Secretary of State

State Auditor

State Treasurer

Strategic & Long Range Planning Office

Veterans Affairs Department

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Health & Human Services

Health & Human Services

Finance Division

Alternative Care Programs

Community Social Services Act

Council on Disabilities

Emergency Medical Services Board

Families Ombudsman

Group Residential Grants

Health Department

Health Boards (13)

Human Services Department

Mental Health

& Mental Retardation Ombudsman

MinnesotaCare

State Residential Facilities

Veterans Homes Board

Judiciary

Judiciary Finance Division

Board of Judicial Standards

Corrections Department

Corrections Ombudsman

Court of Appeals

District Courts

Human Rights Department

Judges' Retirement

Peace Officer Standards & Training Board (POST)

Private Detective Board

Public Defense Board

Public Safety Department (except for
programs listed under Transportation
& Transit Finance Division)

- Crime Victims Ombudsman

- Crime Victims' Services

- Criminal Apprehension

- Emergency Management

- Fire Marshal

- Gambling Enforcement

- Liquor Control

Sentencing Guidelines Commission

Supreme Court

Tax Court

Uniform Laws Commission

Taxes

Income Taxes

Sales Taxes

Other Taxes

Property Taxes

Property Tax Aids & Credits

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Transportation & Transit

Transportation

& Transit Finance Division

Metropolitan Council Transit Operations

Minnesota Safety Council

Public Safety Department (except for programs
listed under Judiciary Finance Division)

- Administrative Services

- Driver & Vehicle Services

- Pipeline Services

- State Patrol

- Traffic Safety

Transportation Department

Transportation Regulation Board

Trunk Highway Contingent Accounts

Ways & Means

Fiscal Issues

Source: House Fiscal Analysis Department



Something was rotten in a Feb. 16 meeting of the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) proposed that a bill (HF3356) to classify white bears as protected animals in Minnesota should also protect "any other white-striped, four-legged animal."

Munger's idea confused some lawmakers.

"Is this a black animal with white stripes or a white animal with black stripes?" Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) inquired.

But Munger continued to sing the praises of the animal he sought to protect.

"They're helpful to farmers because they eat grubs," Munger said of the unidentified animal.

Again, some lawmakers were confused.

"Zebras eat grubs?" Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) asked.

The discussion stirred Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) to recall a troubling personal encounter with the creature in question.

"I've had one shot on my front porch in the rain," he said. "After the excavation, we were fine."

After all that, Munger withdrew his amendment. Skunks are "misunderstood" animals, he said.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1998 Members

List as of January 28, 1998

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
45A Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934	37B Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926
19B Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063	40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936	55A Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363
6A Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	575	2190	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
10B Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317	57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219	55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
30B Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573	36B McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212
25B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237	54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342
30A Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249	39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
53B Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153	35A Molnau, Carol L. (R)	287	8872
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255	21B Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709	58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262
52A Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331	7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
23A Clark, James (R)	211	9303	8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344
38A Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533	10A Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946
11A Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293	2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
31B Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278	19A Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612
14A Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808	60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226	29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236
29A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635	66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248	11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	545	3201
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799	37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306
42A Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363	42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449
17A Erickson, Sondra (R)	247	6746	38B Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128
52B Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141	64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918	13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228
44A Follard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964	39A Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	583	6828
63B Garcia, Edwin (DFL)	417	5375	46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176
9A Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515	28A Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173	44B Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	32B Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069
26A Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240	18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364
48A Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373	17B Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	517	5377
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333	41A Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	21A Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374
8B Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308	50A Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439
56A Holsten, Mark (R)	345	3018	4A Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228	62B Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	57A Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807
58B Jefferson, Richard (DFL)	577	8659	34A Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188
18B Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	591	0518	3B Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	445	2365
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	33B Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502
24B Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065	14B Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373
15A Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206	28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	267	2273
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	23B Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	43B Sykora, Barb (R)	389	4315
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369
20B Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534	5B Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	593	0172
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)	537	2451	36A Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506
40B Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218	67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201
16B Knobloch, Jim (R)	207	6316	25A Tuma, John (R)	301	4229
49B Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231	1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
27A Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216	34B Van Dellen, Todd (R)	291	5511
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	303	2907	51B Vandever, Ray (R)	255	4124
15B Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346	63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200
31A Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378	49A Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729
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2A Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	515	5091	13A Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929
33A Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806	22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171	41B Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751	43A Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066

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26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	124G Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind.)	G-51 SOB	5094	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	149 SOB	2084	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	7-8061
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	117 SOB	3826	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	151 SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
46 Junge, Ember Reichgott (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Tervilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	127 SOB	2159			

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MINNESOTA HOUSE INDEX

Drunken drivers and the law

Drunken driving arrests in Minnesota, 1996	38,925
Percent male	81
Drivers killed in Minnesota, 1996	359
Percent tested for blood-alcohol concentration	87
Percent with 0.01 to 0.09 percent blood-alcohol concentration	7
Percent with 0.10 percent or higher level	26
Total traffic fatalities in Minnesota, 1996	576
Percent alcohol-related	36
U.S. fatalities from alcohol-related crashes, 1996	17,126
Percent of crashes that involved alcohol	7
Percent of fatal crashes that involved alcohol	40.8
U.S. fatalities from alcohol-related crashes, 1986	24,045
Percent of U.S. automobile drivers killed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. who had a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.10 percent or higher, 1995	58
Percent during all other hours	20
Legal limit for blood-alcohol concentration in Minnesota, as percent	0.10
States with 0.08 percent blood-alcohol concentration as the legal limit for drivers	15
Legal blood-alcohol limit in Britain, as percent	0.08
in Norway	0.05
in Sweden	0.02
Estimated minimum of fatal crashes that would be prevented each year in U.S. if all states adopted a 0.08 percent limit	500
Percent decline in proportion of fatal crashes caused by drivers at 0.08 percent or higher in states that have adopted 0.08 percent	16
Traffic fatalities in North Carolina, 1995	1,448
Percent alcohol-related	33.7
Traffic fatalities in New Mexico, 1995	485
Percent alcohol-related	50.2
Legal blood-alcohol limit in North Carolina and New Mexico, percent	0.08
Traffic fatalities in Texas, 1995	3,181
Percent alcohol-related	56
Traffic fatalities in Kentucky, 1995	849
Percent alcohol-related	33.8
Legal blood-alcohol limit in Texas and Kentucky, percent	0.10

Sources: 1996 Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts, Minnesota Department of Public Safety; Setting Limits, Saving Lives, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and National Safety Council; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>).

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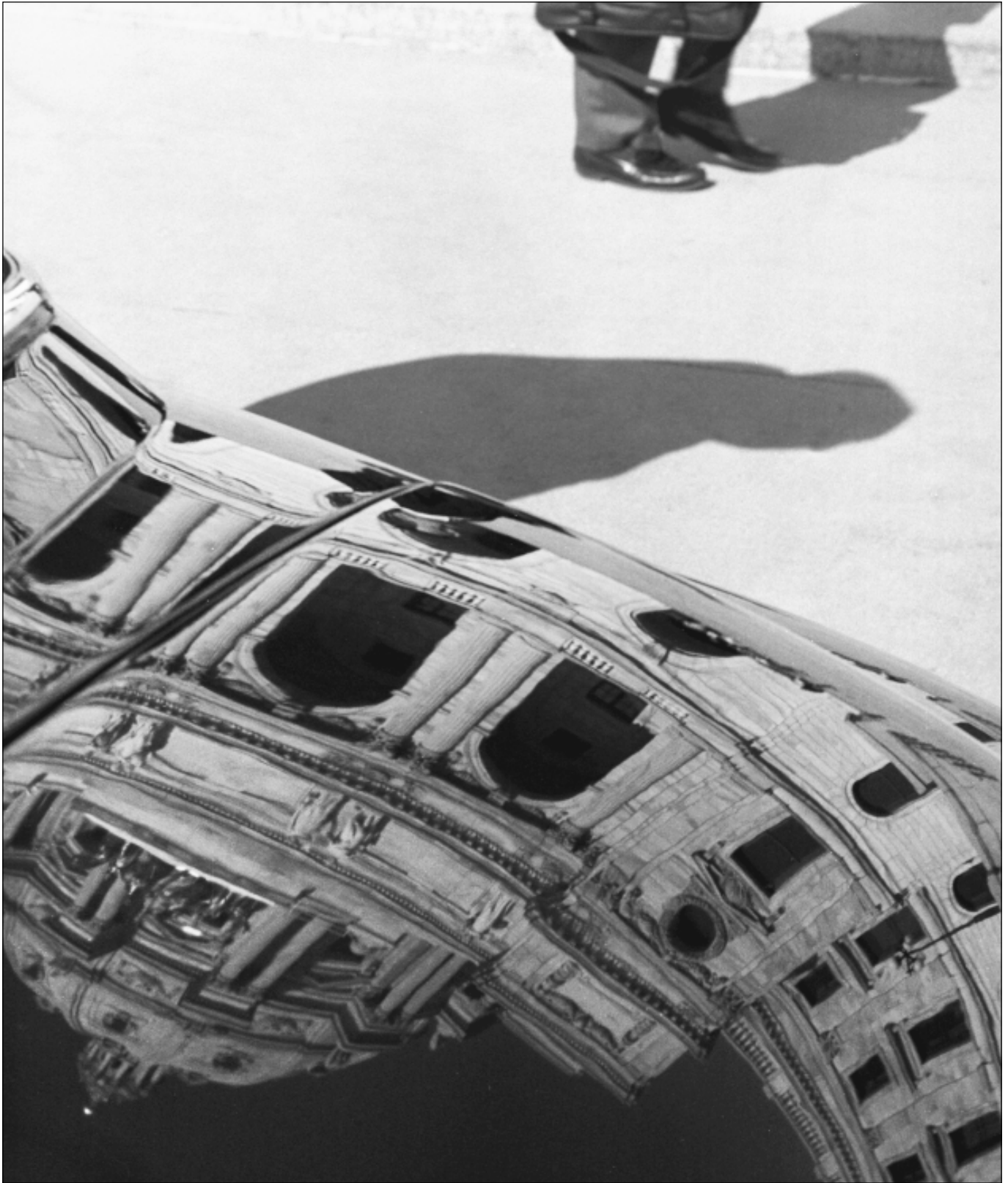
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ February 27, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 6



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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • February 27, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 6

Reflections

The general public does not usually see where much of the work gets done at the Capitol. Most of the effort is a "behind the scenes operation." By the time legislators are debating their bills or seeking information about why they should or should not vote aye or nay, the preliminary work has already been put into place.

While the partisan staff of the DFL caucus and the Republican caucus work diligently to get their specific session agendas into law, nonpartisan staff members are working equally as hard to provide non-political support for staff and members. Legislative Reference Library staff also give much needed support and research for locating information or bill tracking.

The average legislative employee's work may extend without overtime to some 50 to 60 hours per week or more. Legislative assistants, for example, work for two or three lawmakers, fielding their many phone calls, taking care of correspondence, keeping their calendars up-to-date, and other clerical duties.

Full-time pages serve as support for members and other staff from early morning to late evening when committees end or when session adjourns. They stay after session to clean up the chamber and restore it back to its more formal setting.

The sergeants in the department have supervisory and mail duties, and other sergeants are responsible for coordinating and supervising activities for some 50 interns or 12 different high school juniors per week for 9 weeks.

The Chief Clerk's Office staff continue to work for over two hours after session, even if adjournment is 8 p.m. or 2 a.m. When the House is not in session, visitors to the chamber will notice that at least one clerk is always on duty at the main desk.

Some Revisor's Office, House Research Department, and Fiscal Analysis Department staff members actually remain at work for over 24 hours at a time when committee bill deadlines are pending or there is "number crunching" to be completed for some finance bill.

Caucus research, constituent services, media staff, and committee administrators all put in more than a 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. work day. Other staff departments like bill duplicating, supply, administrative services, and television services also put in very long hours.

House staff members are very dedicated and committed employees. They match the effort of lawmakers in making good government work. Staff members adhere strongly to the last line noted on each of their job descriptions:

"Performs other duties and assumes other responsibilities as the need is apparent or delegated."

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: The image of the Capitol reflects off the rear of Jerry and Sandy Felde's 1950 Mercury. Chrome glared in the sun on the 54-degree day as classic hot rods were on display. The array was sponsored by the Minnesota Street Rod Association Feb. 24 to promote the hobby of street rodding.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid.

First Reading

K-12 education finance bill . . .

Graduation rule implementation becomes top priority

By Sandy Donovan

Helping schools successfully implement the state's new graduation standards is the main thrust of a \$70 million education spending proposal advancing in the House.

"We're in year seven of our effort to develop statewide tests and standards," said Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), chair of the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee. "I believe this year is a critical year. If we want this major effort to go ahead, we have to put some money out there."

HF2874, sponsored by Kelso, would give schools about \$55 million in new funds next year to help implement the new standards. The House Education Committee approved the bill Feb. 24, and the legislation likely will be debated on the House floor next week.

Of the \$63 per pupil targeted in the bill for

districts for improving gifted and talented programs that are integrated with the new standards.

The remaining dollars could be used by districts either for increasing technology related to the new rule or for class-size reductions.

"We realize this \$27 per pupil will not be enough for big reductions, but we're recognizing that districts have differing needs," Kelso said. "Some districts need staff development and need it immediately, and some do not. Some need new technology right away."

The plan also calls for targeting \$36 per student in future years for graduation standards development. That money would go directly to schools and could be used for staff training or class-size reduction.

Graduation standards funding was not included in Gov. Arne Carlson's recommended

school districts who win in court against parents suing for special-education services.

That provision comes in response to a 1997 report of the legislative auditor showing that special education costs are spiraling and that a large portion of those costs are court and attorney fees resulting from increased litigation.

"We're not looking at cutting services that schools already have, but it's undeniable that the cost of special education is increasing at a rate that's unacceptable," Kelso said. "I personally think it's irresponsible not to deal with those costs."

But some lawmakers were concerned that having the state foot part of the districts' legal bills would send two negative messages: that court is the appropriate venue for settling problems, and that the state does not support parents who seek adequate services for their children.

In front of an audience spotted with "Mediation, not Litigation" buttons, more than 25 amendments were offered to the original proposal that called for the state to pay 70 percent of districts' court fees.

The prevailing plan, from an amendment offered by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), emphasizes mediation and says the state will contribute to legal fees only for districts that have made a good-faith offer to parents and then won in court.

Another sticking point in that portion of the bill is a provision that prohibits state special education requirements from exceeding federal standards as of 1999. Exceptions would be considered by the State Board of Education.

That plan remained in the approved bill after a call to remove it by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) failed.

The bill also contains plans for maximizing Medical Assistance reimbursements for special education purposes, as well as \$375,000 for American Indian scholarships and other education-incentive programs.

A comprehensive special education bill (**HF2875**), sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), was the source for the bulk of almost 40 pages of special education provisions in Kelso's bill. Greiling's bill grew out of

Continued on page 4



Some legislators believe this is a critical year in the effort to implement graduation standards for Minnesota's students. A \$70 million K-12 education bill currently advancing in the House would mark funds for teacher training and other expenses related to implementation of the new standards.

graduation rule implementation, more than half — \$36 per student — would go directly to schools for teacher training.

Teachers must begin teaching the new standards — which incorporate more workaday skills and hands-on projects into traditional academic subjects — next fall, and many have testified before lawmakers this session that they haven't had time or resources to prepare.

Another \$5 per student would go to dis-

\$2 million K-12 education spending plan.

Special education

Although Kelso's bill targets only about \$2.7 million for funding special education programs, a pair of controversial policy provisions makes this area a big component of the omnibus proposal.

The most hotly debated item would require the state to pay 50 percent of the legal costs of

Continued from page 3

a joint House and Senate task force which met over the past year.

The governor's recommended education spending plan included no special education funding for 1999.

All-day kindergarten

Kelso's bill also proposes spending an additional \$500,000 for certain schools to begin or continue all-day kindergarten programs.

The new funds would bring next year's allowance for the first-grade preparedness program up to \$5.5 million.

Lawmakers on the K-12 Education Finance Division heard testimony citing several national reports showing that attending all-day kindergarten dramatically increases students' academic and social skills.

The provision comes from a bill (**HF2763**) sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) that originally aimed to implement all-day kindergarten statewide by 2004. Under that plan, schools with the greatest number of students receiving free or reduced-price lunch would have been eligible for funding first.

Under the latest plan in **HF2874**, any district that previously offered a full-day program can apply for funding.

In-school suspension

Lawmakers also included a plan in the omnibus education bill to fund in-school suspension programs.

The provision would give schools \$4 per day for each suspended student placed in an in-school or alternative program.

The idea was originally proposed in a separate bill (**HF3664**) sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul). Dawkins said he was concerned that at-risk students become further disenfranchised when they are temporarily barred from school, but that funding problems deter schools from setting up in-school alternatives.

The extra money could be used to upgrade existing programs by adding licensed teachers and incorporating academic instruction.

Boarding schools

Although Kelso's bill doesn't financially support the governor's proposal for boarding schools for at-risk teens, an 11th-hour amendment by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) was approved, asserting support for the plan.

Carlson's plan was reflected in a separate bill (**HF2321**) sponsored by Seagren. The plan calls for \$12 million to build three year-round residential academies. That money is currently being considered for inclusion in an omnibus

Continued on page 19



Hugoson compares lawmaking with being MDA commissioner

By Matt Wetzel

He's been a soldier, a teacher, a farmer, a legislator, and now, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) — a job with responsibilities as diverse and varied as the career that's taken Gene Hugoson to where he is now.

"A lot comes under the job criteria, [including] speaking out to the different agriculture groups, going to Washington to testify on different agriculture issues," he said. "Being in the Legislature is like driving a car by committee. You get there at the end of the session. The system works, but it's a committee process. In this job, it's much easier for one person to have an influence."

Besides overseeing more than 500 employees, Hugoson promotes Minnesota-grown products and Minnesota farmers as actively as he can — on both the national and international levels. He also has the regulatory responsibility of any state administrative job.

With the Department of Agriculture, that includes inspection and monitoring of fertilizer plants, chemical warehouses, grain elevators, dairies, and grocery stores to make sure the department is protecting public health and safety.

While serving the House in 1995, Hugoson was approached by members of Gov. Arne Carlson's staff, who asked if the fifth-term lawmaker would be interested in taking the job as commissioner.

"Having been at the Legislature, having worked in the Agriculture Committee for the whole time, it seemed like a unique opportunity to make a difference," he said.

Hugoson, 52, is a native of Martin County in southwestern Minnesota. He still operates the family farm, a 750-acre corn and soybean operation near East Chain.

He joins his wife, Patricia, and 18-year-old son, Jon, on weekends, but Hugoson lives in the Twin Cities during the week.

He is a 1967 graduate of Augsburg College in Minneapolis with a degree in social science education, and he served in the U.S. Army for a two-year hitch, including a tour in Vietnam.

Hugoson did graduate work at Mankato

State University, and he was a school teacher in Lakefield, Minn., and St. James, Minn. Running as a Republican, he won election to the House in 1986 and was re-elected four times.

Besides the Agriculture Committee, he worked on the House Taxes Committee and House Transportation and Transit Committee. He also served four years as assistant minority leader.

A major difference between being a commissioner and a legislator is the variety, he said.

"As a legislator, you're expected to know a little about everything. You may be speaking to a veterans' group, senior citizens, or local government," he said. "Here, it's virtually all agriculture, but there's a lot of diversity [in agriculture] in Minnesota. Suddenly, you learn about wheat and barley, dairy, sugar beets, wild rice, canola.

"When I was a legislator, my constitu-



Gene Hugoson, state commissioner of agriculture, has been a teacher, a farmer, and a legislator. He said his latest job presents a new set of challenges and opportunities.

ents consisted of 33,000 people. Now I work for the governor, and beyond that, everybody in the state of Minnesota."

Hugoson does miss being in the Legislature, if only a little.

"There's a camaraderie that develops in the Legislature," he said. "There's a lot of interaction that you expect when you're in session. The camaraderie is similar to what you've got in the military — being away from your family during the week, not being around them during the session."



Highlights



BANKING

Women and credit history

A bill that would address the credit concerns of divorced women and widows who are denied loans or credit cards because they don't have an individual credit history was passed by the House Feb. 23. The vote was 128-0.

HF2309, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), would attempt to rectify the credit problems experienced by many women by requiring that creditors report a credit history in the name of both spouses.

The requirement would include joint accounts and individual accounts under the name of the applicant's spouse or former spouse. The bill makes clear that lenders can deny credit cards to applicants who are deemed a bad risk.

The bill goes to the Senate.



BUDGET

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Lester Collins, executive director of the Minnesota Council on Black Minnesotans, told a House committee events that happened during this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day show the need for education on racial tolerance.

He was referring to two racially motivated attacks that occurred in Minnesota Jan. 19, one in St. Paul and one in Brooklyn Center.

Nonetheless, the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday should remind all of us of King's important message of racial equality, Collins said.

"We believe that the King celebration should be an everyday event, culminating on the Jan. 19 holiday," he said.

Collins testified before the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 24 in support of a bill to fund the commission which plans statewide Martin Luther King Day events.

HF3741, sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), would allocate \$195,000 over a two-year period to fund events and publicity.

The committee approved a one-year appropriation of \$75,000 for the King Day commission in its omnibus economic development

funding recommendations. Those recommendations have been approved by the full committee and are headed to the House Ways and Means Committee.



Lester Collins, executive director of the Council on Black Minnesotans, testifies before the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 24. He supported a bill to fund the council, which plans statewide Martin Luther King Day events.



BUSINESS

Business on Sundays

Sunday snowmobile sales are a logistical nightmare for Minnesota dealers.

It's perfectly legal to sell boats, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles on Sunday. But boat, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle *trailers* are considered "motor vehicles," and the sale of motor vehicles on Sunday is prohibited by state law.

The House passed a bill Feb. 23 that aims to fix this glitch in the law. The vote was 132-0.

Sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), the bill would exempt boat, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle trailers from the Sunday sales ban.

"This is something we should have done a long time ago," Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said during a Feb. 17 House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee hearing on the matter.

A separate provision in the bill also aims to make life easier for trailer dealers.

Under current law, an individual must have a franchise license to sell a motor vehicle. The bill would exempt trailers from the franchise requirement.

Anderson was first alerted to the problems with trailer sales by a small marine dealer in his district. Originally, Anderson said, he considered doing away with the Sunday motor vehicle sales ban entirely.

That idea opened a "hornet's nest," he said. Some dealers support Sunday sales; many do not.

At the Feb. 17 hearing, Scott Lambert of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, said that his organization has no problem with exempting trailers from the Sunday sales ban, however, the automobile dealers Lambert represents are not interested in doing regular business on Sundays.

The bill (**HF2425/SF2170***) now goes to the governor.



CRIME

Omnibus crime prevention bill

Discussion on the 1998 omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance bill has revolved around one issue: the cost of getting tough on crime.

The bill (**SF3345**), sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), represents a good deal of the work done this session by the House Judiciary Committee and its finance division. The bill was approved by both panels Feb. 25 and now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The final debate in the full Judiciary Committee centered on reports received from the Department of Corrections and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission on the potential effects on prison bed counts.

The Department of Corrections predicts that with the policy decisions contained in the omnibus crime bill the state could have to pay as much as \$19.4 million over the next three years for additional prison beds.

The department's figures are based on the fact that toughening penalties for certain crimes means that prisoners will stay in prison for longer periods of time, costing the state more money.



A bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 25 would provide increased penalties for a number of crimes, including prostitution, repeat violent offenses, and drive-by shootings. The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Much of the debate focused on one of the more controversial provisions in the bill, the so-called "three strikes" provision.

The provision, backed by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), would require life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes. The provision also includes language for judicial discretion in applying the new sentence requirements.

The Sentencing Guidelines Commission predicts that this provision alone could mean an additional 664 prison beds would be needed over the next 34 years.

The members of the committee debated the need for tougher penalties versus the need for fiscal considerations. After the debate, the committee approved the omnibus bill without any substantial changes.

Here are some of the highlights of the omnibus crime prevention bill.

Getting tough

The omnibus crime prevention bill includes several provisions aimed at lengthening penalties for certain crimes.

In addition to the "three strikes" provision, the bill also has a provision that also would address repeat violent offenders.

The provision, which comes from a separate bill sponsored by Skoglund, would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for "career criminals" and would reduce the number of violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Another provision in the bill increases the penalties for engaging in prostitution in a school zone or in a residential area. The provisions apply to all involved in the illegal transaction.

Penalties also would be increased for the crime of witness tampering, for failure to appear in court if charged with a felony-level crime, and for felons who are found illegally in possession of a firearm.

Fighting drugs

The omnibus bill would increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine. Law enforcement officials said that this drug is seeing a dramatic increase in use in Minnesota.

The bill would raise the drug to the same status as cocaine and heroin and would make the manufacture of any amount methamphetamine a first-degree controlled substance offense.

The bill also makes the drug ephedrine a controlled substance, to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances. The targeted over-the-counter products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teenagers and others looking to achieve a legal high.

Drive-by shootings

A provision in the omnibus bill makes murder committed during a drive-by shooting a first-degree murder crime, increasing the prison sentence for the offense.

The crime bill would also raise the maximum penalty from a five-year prison term to a 20-year term for firing into an occupied vehicle.

Conditional release

The omnibus bill would make several changes to the state's probation and conditional release law. Most notably, the bill would require that each convicted felon released on

probation carry a card that would have the terms of the individual's release.

The person on conditional release would be required to produce the card when requested by a police or probation officer, which would allow the officer to know if the parolee is violating the terms of his or her parole.

Juvenile criminals

The omnibus crime bill would also open some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public.

For juveniles under 14 years old, the bill would make court records available to the public if the juvenile is found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense.

For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would open all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense. The records would be closed to the public when the juvenile turns 21.

The bill also would make it easier to get juveniles who are participating in prostitution into the state's child protection system.

Financing justice

The bill contains \$7.3 million in supplemental appropriations, a majority of which go to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the state courts.

The Department of Corrections would receive \$2.8 million, much of which would go to reducing the caseload for probation officers. Grant programs which fund community corrections would also be funded through these dollars.

The Department of Public Safety would be appropriated \$1.8 million. Of these funds, the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman would receive \$125,000 to fund its services; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension would receive \$133,000 to add forensic scientists to its crime lab; and the department would get \$300,000 for law enforcement and community crime prevention grants.

The bill would appropriate \$1.3 million to the state courts for law clerk salaries. The state public defender would receive \$451,000 for defense attorney salaries. Another \$500,000 would be given to Legal Aid to provide legal service to low-income individuals.

'Burglary' definition expanded

Minneapolis resident Loretta Chosa's house has been broken into three times. And although she can identify the people involved, police have told her that they cannot prosecute.

"The house was just trashed," she said. "Everything I own was stolen, including my kids' clothes and toys."

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said that such

cases occur frequently in her district and that police are telling the victims they cannot do anything about it. The victims are often told that it is difficult to prove whether or not a person found in the home actually broke into the home.

"They are told, 'Well, too bad. Maybe we could charge on a misdemeanor trespass, maybe not,'" Clark said. "In each case, there were thousands of dollars in damage. People were thrown out of their homes. These places were trashed."

Clark backed a provision in the bill that would make it easier to prosecute people who illegally enter a property by expanding the definition of burglary to include accomplices.

She told the committee that prosecutors believe the new language would make the law more explicit and allow them to bring charges against anyone who illegally enters a dwelling, even if they don't actually break in or steal something.



DEVELOPMENT

Economic development funding

The omnibus economic development finance bill cleared its first two hurdles Feb. 25, gaining approval from two House panels.

HF3806 was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, which should be the bill's last stop before going to the House floor.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), the bill combines many of the economic development initiatives heard in the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee. The division and the full committee approved the bill.

The \$15 million appropriations package, containing supplemental budget additions for several state agencies, would fund new projects and existing programs statewide. The bill also contains some policy provisions.

The largest appropriation contained in the bill would go to the Minnesota Film Board to provide support for the state's \$250 million film and video industry. The \$5 million appropriation, which was part of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations, would create a revolving loan film fund to be administered by the film board and the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

The fund would provide loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 to film and television producers for Minnesota projects. The state loan funds could account for up to 50 percent of the production budget. The loan agreement

would require the producer to spend 120 percent of the loan amount in the state.

The film board expects that 20 projects will be initiated in the state during the first few years of the program. Currently, eight national cable television series are produced in the state, and 55 feature films have been made in Minnesota since 1990, according to the board.

Here are some other highlights of the omnibus bill.

Economic development

Including the aforementioned film board appropriation, funding for the Department of Trade and Economic Development — a total of \$7.7 million — makes up half of the spending called for in the entire bill.

The department would receive \$1 million in additional funding for the Office of Tourism. Part of the governor's request, the money would be used to supplement advertising to attract tourists to Minnesota. Of this amount, the bill would earmark \$50,000 for marketing the Heritage Halls Museum and Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame in Owatonna, Minn., and \$50,000 for a feasibility study of a proposed "great rivers of the world aquarium" in St. Paul.

The bill would provide \$300,000 to fund a taconite mining grant program through the department. The grants are awarded to taconite mining companies to research and develop ways to improve mining and processing techniques.

The city of St. Paul would receive a \$350,000 grant to make improvements on the University of Minnesota Centennial Showboat docked at Harriet Island. The grant also would be used to study options for relocation and expansion of the St. Paul Farmers' Market.

The bill also would allocate \$285,000 for the development of a trolley service which would connect the Minneapolis Convention Center and downtown Minneapolis with cultural tourist attractions in south Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Other statewide development initiatives include \$200,000 to provide improvements to the Fairmont Opera House and \$200,000 to the Duluth Technology Center.

Boosting employment

Under the omnibus bill, the Department of Economic Security would receive \$5 million to fund job training and re-employment programs.

The department would acquire \$250,000 to develop programs that encourage women to hold nontraditional occupations. The agency would develop programs to educate and train

women for technical careers that, historically, have not been open to them.

The Department of Economic Security would receive \$1.4 million targeted at job training for youth. Of these funds, \$600,000 would go to summer youth employment programs, and \$250,000 would be used to develop a pilot project aimed at linking workforce training centers with four secondary schools.

The department also would receive \$1 million for their rehabilitative services, which provide job training to people with disabilities.

The bill also would appropriate \$1.4 million to the State Services for the Blind to develop a digital communication center for its Radio Talking Book program. The program broadcasts literature over special radio frequencies that can be accessed by special receivers.

The Centers for Independent Living would receive \$523,000 to assist a current grant program that provides support facilities designed and operated by persons with disabilities.

The bill also would provide \$126,000 to the organization Advocating Change Together Inc. for employment training for people with developmental and other mental health disabilities.

History and tourism

The omnibus bill would appropriate \$1 million to the Minnesota Historical Society and \$735,000 to the Department of Administration to fund a wide range of projects statewide.

Of these funds, \$300,000 would go to finance the development of a conference center in Little Falls, \$185,000 would fund improvements to Montevideo's historic railroad depot, and \$100,000 would finance rehabilitation on the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad outside of Duluth.

Healthy homes

The most controversial policy provision of the bill was removed by the full Economic Development and International Trade Committee before the panel approved the legislation.

Part of what was originally termed the "healthy homes bill," the provision called for all new homes built after March 1, 1999, to have a mechanical ventilation system.

Opponents of the provision argued that it put undue burden on the building industry, which is already responding to consumer concerns regarding home safety.

Other provisions of the original "healthy homes bill" remain in the omnibus bill, including a proposal to increase new home war-

ranty periods that give homeowners time to find out about defective conditions and to seek legal action.

Employment contracts

The omnibus bill also includes compromise language from a bill that initially called for all employers to disclose the terms of employment in writing in each employee's first language.

The current bill would require only that the Department of Labor and Industry develop a brochure stating employee rights and listing employee resource phone numbers.

The provision also would require employers to provide the brochure when an employee is first offered a job, and the bill would provide penalties for employers who fail to do so.



FAMILY

Family and early education

Minnesota's families would receive \$2.2 million in state dollars under the family and early childhood education spending bill passed by the House Feb. 26.

The \$2.2 million bill (**HF2803/SF2532***) was produced by the Family and Early Childhood Education Division of the House Education Committee. Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) is sponsoring the funding package.

"The purpose of this bill is to expand the supply of child care in our state and improve its quality," Kinkel said.

The bill passed on a 91-42 vote. It now goes to the governor.

Here's a look at major provisions of the legislation.

Investing in families

A proposal that would allow low-income families to contribute money to a "family asset account" and receive matching dollars from the state or a private organization would receive \$875,000.

The aim of the program would be to help low-income families move out of poverty by attaining certain important economic goals.

State or private matching funds would be kept in a separate account, and the family would not get the money until they have finished an economic literacy course and achieved their goals for one of three approved purposes — buying a home, paying for an education, or starting a business.

Other states are considering such programs, and similar legislation is pending in Congress.

The program would be administered by the Department of Children, Families, and Learning.

Helping the homeless

The Department of Children, Families, and Learning estimates that there are 21,000 homeless children in Minnesota. A recent University of Minnesota study found that 25 percent of homeless children are at least three years behind in school. In Minneapolis, 10 percent of the elementary-aged students are homeless each year.

Sue Watlov-Phillips, of Elim Transitional

Housing, brought these figures on homelessness to the Family and Early Childhood Education Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 9.

"The greatest predictor of homelessness as an adult is unstable housing as a child," Watlov-Phillips said. "If we invest now, we can make a significant difference."

The spending bill would appropriate \$626,000 for emergency services and shelters and transitional housing for the homeless.

Under federal Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines, housing is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30 percent of a household's income.

In Minnesota, 350,000 households are paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing, Watlov-Phillips said. "That means they're one paycheck away from homelessness."

Gang prevention

The bill would appropriate \$225,000 for gang prevention and intervention.

The funding would be available for local organizations to reach children and young adults who are either at risk for criminal gang involvement or who have expressed interest in terminating their gang affiliation.

After-school activities, job skill training, and counseling are among the services that would be offered to the young people.

Child guides

Students in Willmar, Minn., who have exhibited low self-esteem or anti-social behavior have a network of people watching out for them.

One fine day



House pages Kelly Jo Tungland, *left*, Nancy Tracy, *center*, and Dianne Lee take a break to enjoy the unseasonably warm Capitol Hill weather, compliments of El Niño Feb. 24. The mercury rose to a near-record 54 degrees, making the snowless landscape look like spring.

The Child Guide Program serves as a link between at-risk students in kindergarten through eighth grade and adult volunteer mentors.

The bill would appropriate \$225,000 to expand the successful program to other sites around the state.

The Willmar program receives students referred by watchful teachers, parents, or community volunteers and matches the youths with mentors who take on the task of redirecting the child's focus toward positive activities such as music lessons, sports, or scouts.

Nearly 200 volunteers and close to 80 local businesses, organizations, and agencies in the Willmar area are currently active in the Child Guide Program.

Lead contamination

Lead poisoning is the top environmental health problem for children, Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) told the Family and Early Childhood Education Division Feb. 16.

The bill would appropriate \$150,000 for nonprofit organizations to clean up lead-contaminated residential sites around the state.

Calling for help

People in need of emergency shelter, legal aid, or medical care often have no idea how to get in touch with service providers.

"If you can't find a service, it's as if it never existed," Krista Boston, of First Call for Help, told the Family and Early Childhood Education Division during a Feb. 16 hearing.

First Call For Help is a social services information and referral telephone hotline that was developed 50 years ago by the United Way of Minneapolis.

In 1997, the program received 350,000 calls — a 20 percent increase over 1996.

The bill would appropriate \$100,000 to expand First Call for Help into "First Call Minnesota," a statewide computer system database of health services, social services, educational programs, housing information, and employment services.

Child care

The bill also would transfer \$5 million in federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds to the Department of Children, Families, and Learning for several child care projects.

Among the provisions is a plan to make available more nonstandard hour child care. The number of parents seeking child care during evening and overnight shifts is projected to increase dramatically with new welfare reforms.

Under the bill, \$1 million would be appro-

priated to establish a nonstandard-hours child care pilot project.

The department would set up a grant program for child care operations that provide care during these nonstandard working hours for start-up assistance, training, and business support.

New providers of nonstandard-hour child care would be eligible to receive a guaranteed subsidy for up to one year.

Funds also would be targeted to improve the quality of child care. Many child care centers struggle with high employee turnover rates. The child care industry considers low wages to be the biggest reason for high turnover in the field.

The bill would include \$1.1 million for child care quality improvement grants to providers for training and staff retention incentives.

Loan Forgiveness

The TANF money also would be used for a loan forgiveness program for child care workers.

Child care aides in Minnesota earn an average wage of \$5 to \$5.99 an hour, Nancy Johnson, of Child Care Works, told the Family and Early Childhood Education Division during a Feb. 4 hearing.

It is nearly impossible for child care workers to afford continuing education or pay back student loans.

The bill would direct \$300,000 to the education loan forgiveness grant program.



GOVERNMENT

State government finance bill

The Office of the Attorney General would receive the bulk of funds in a \$30 million state government finance bill approved Feb. 26 by the House Governmental Operations Committee.

The state's top legal and law enforcement agency would receive \$24 million for 1999 operating expenses under **HF3137**, sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

That's \$400,000 less than the attorney general would have received had Gov. Arne Carlson not used his line-item veto authority in 1997 to strike the office's proposed funding for this year.

And although Carlson reinstated \$22.5 million in his proposed supplemental budget this year, the office requested the original \$24.4 million from lawmakers, citing increased workloads and expenses.

The office is responsible for asserting and defending the state's legal interests, settling

claims involving the public and private sectors, and aiding other law enforcement agencies in prosecuting and solving cases.

At the time of his veto, Carlson cited "unnecessary, imprudent, and unacceptable growth" in the department.

But Lee Sheehy, chief deputy attorney general, told lawmakers this year that not only does the office pay its own way through legal damages and other recovered funds returned to the state, but lawyers in the office earn substantially less than their private-sector counterparts.

Also, Deputy Attorney General Margaret Chutich said, the office increasingly has to turn down requests for help from county attorneys because of staff shortages.

The department's 1999 proposed budget was divided into three categories: \$13.6 for law enforcement, \$2.2 for agency representation, and \$8.7 million for defense and prosecution of civil claims.

The bill includes a call for a task force to evaluate, by 1999, the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the office.

State administration

After the allowance to the Office of the Attorney General, most of the remaining funds in the omnibus bill would go to finance various Department of Administration programs.

The largest chunk, \$3.85 million, would be used to help update state computer systems to address problems associated with the advent of the year 2000.

Several technology grants also would originate from this department, under the bill.

Public television stations would be eligible to share \$500,000 in grants to help them convert to a digital broadcasting signal, as mandated by the federal government.

Also, \$315,000 would be earmarked for a grant to Pioneer Public Television to build a tower in Otter Tail County. That area is currently the only part of the state that cannot receive a public television signal.

Another provision would allow Minneapolis and St. Paul to share a grant of \$100,000 to develop computer facilities in public parks.

That provision grew out of a proposal by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), who said that because of unique busing situations in her city, parks have replaced schools as community centerpieces and would be the appropriate place to provide low-income residents with Internet access.

An amendment by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) secured his city's right to share the grant.

Community-based planning

A controversial plan to expand a state advisory council on community-based planning has, so far, withstood several attempts to remove it from the omnibus bill.

The plan was originally proposed in a separate bill (**HF3609**) sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls). It would expand membership on an existing advisory council as well as extend the life of the council for a year and a half, until December 1999. It would not provide additional funding for the council.

The council's purpose is to set up voluntary land-use planning projects between state and local government units.

But many Greater Minnesota lawmakers say that idea scares them for one reason: They don't believe land-use planning will remain voluntary for long.

"Sure, now it's voluntary, but we've heard that with every other project that soon became mandatory," said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City). "[Voting against this bill] is the opportunity to kill this monster while it's young, before it grows horns."

And although opponents numbered too few to strike the proposal, Long told them she would support language, if brought up when the bill is heard before the full House, to sunset the council if the projects ever cease to be voluntary.

Governor's portrait

Last year the governor used his line-item veto authority to strike a project that would have included installing his portrait in the Capitol, but lawmakers reinserted the portrait plan in this year's finance bill.

The bill calls for \$20,000 to be included in the Department of Administration's 1999 budget for the project.

When Carlson vetoed the project last year, it was included in an appropriation to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board. At the time, Carlson rejected the entire appropriation, saying some other proposed projects did not meet guidelines adopted by the board in 1991.

Canadian diplomacy

Rukavina's bill also would provide money for Minnesota lawmakers to meet with Canadian officials and attempt to resolve some ongoing border disputes.

The disputes center mostly on border waters and involve such fishing issues as how many walleyes Minnesotans are allowed to catch in and bring home from Canadian waters.

The bill calls for a \$25,000 grant to the Council of State Governments to set up meet-

ings between Minnesota legislators and members of the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments.

The plan was originally proposed in another bill (**HF3450**), sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls).

No more baseball

Saying they were sick and tired of baseball-related issues, lawmakers struck a six-line section from the omnibus bill that would have prohibited the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission from signing any future lease with a professional baseball team for less than seven years.

Kahn supported the proposal, saying it would send a message to Major League Baseball.

"When the Twins canceled their lease early, they threw a hardball into the process," she said. "We're picking up that hardball and sending it back to them."

But a successful amendment by Osthoff removed any mention of baseball from the omnibus bill.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Omnibus higher education bill

A seemingly small provision in the House's omnibus higher education funding bill might be noticed the most by Minnesota parents with postsecondary education plans for their children.

This year's \$82 million bill omnibus bill (**SF3297**) includes a measure that would allow parents of 1998 high school graduates to claim an income tax credit of up to \$500 toward the cost of the student's first year of college tuition.

The House approved the bill Feb. 26 on a 104-26 vote. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona), now goes to the Senate.

Coupled with a new \$1,500 federal income tax credit, the House proposal — originally proposed by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) and dubbed the "grade 13" proposal — would make postsecondary education more affordable for most Minnesotans.

It is estimated that the tax credit would result in a revenue loss of about \$7 million to the state.

The omnibus bill also calls for \$39 million in spending for the Minnesota State College and University (MnSCU) system and \$38.5 for the University of Minnesota.

Another \$3 million would be appropriated to increase by \$500 the private college tuition cap. Every other year the Legislature sets the money allocated to calculate state grants. The

allocation in the bill would raise the cap for each grant to \$8,550.

Grade 13

Families of 1998 high school graduates headed immediately to college and with an annual income with certain limits would be able to deduct \$500 when they file their state income 1998 tax return, under the bill.

The federal government recently established the Hope Scholarship Credit, which calls for a \$1,500 credit for those who come under the same income guidelines.

The total of \$2,000 in state and federal tax credits would cover the first-year tuition for many state universities and colleges, which bill supporters say would make an additional year of school — or grade 13 — available to most Minnesotans.

Single parents could earn up to \$40,000 for the full state credit, with total phase out at \$50,000 for single filers. Married couples could earn up to \$80,000 per year for the full amount, with the credit phased out at \$100,000 in annual income.

The bill was amended to include independent students who file income tax returns, but there is a catch. Student taxpayers would need to earn about \$7,000 annually before they would begin to realize a tax liability.

To be eligible for the tax credit, students would have to attend a Minnesota two- or four-year college, a technical college, or another in-state trade training program.

Under the legislation, the one-time credit could be claimed for the tuition and related education expenses of each student in a taxpayer's family.

MnSCU money

Earlier this session, Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud) told the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee that Minnesota spends more per student at some two-year higher education facilities than it does at four-year universities.

Opatz also indicated significant disparities exist in the amount of money the state's institutions receive per full-time equivalent student.

He noted, for example, the state, in effect, provides Southwest State University with about \$2,000 more per student than Mankato State University.

He said the variance between the highest and lowest funded state universities for fiscal year 1998 is 54 percent, and disparity among two-year schools is 90 percent.

The omnibus legislation would provide \$21.5 million for fiscal year 1999 in funding equalization, which is \$9.5 million more than

MnSCU or the governor requested. This funding would be to reduce the variations in per-student funding among the MnSCU institutions.

MnSCU was created in the 1995 merger of Minnesota's technical and community colleges and state universities. MnSCU has 36 campuses in the state.

As part of that appropriation, the Legislature would ask MnSCU to develop an allocation model beginning in fiscal year 2000.

Pelowski, the finance division chair, told the House Ways and Means Committee on Feb. 25 the bill is framed to keep the Legislature from writing the system's model.

It was 1997 legislation that resulted in funding at two-year campuses exceeding that of state universities.

"We have tried to create a balance, but we also created some problems," Pelowski said. "This is to give direction, but not to write their formula for them. They will come back to us with a formula."

The governor and MnSCU requested no money for the acquisition of library materials and equipment, but the House bill includes \$3 million for such items.

Pelowski said legislators thought MnSCU "grossly underestimated and underfunded" this area. Pelowski also said these libraries have become resource centers for the regions they serve, and not just the students, and the funds would help the libraries meet these needs.

University of Minnesota

U of M President Mark Yudof has focused on investing in the school's molecular and cellular biology initiatives. The school intends to create an institute for molecular and cellular biology with the aim of pushing the school into the top five public universities in biological sciences.

About 70 percent of all research expenditures at the U of M are for biology, including medicine and agriculture. The biggest part of Yudof's capital budget request a month ago was \$70 million for a molecular and cellular biology institute.

In his supplemental budget request, Yudof asked for funding to recruit 11 blue-chip faculty members during the next three years, and to provide them with the expensive equipment needed for their research. The bill provides some funds for that equipment fund and to hire research assistants.

Yudof also intends to hire another 15 junior faculty by redirecting current university funds.

Both the university and the governor requested \$22 million to fund the ongoing initiatives. The House bill would set funding for

such items at \$24.5 million for fiscal year 1999.

The university and the governor also asked for \$19.5 million in one-time projects. The bill includes \$13.75 million for this area.

Regent elections

The bill stipulates a change in the University of Minnesota regent election process by setting a residency requirement. The change is the result of a joint House and Senate committee to have the board reflect various parts of the state.

At least five regents would have to live in the seven-county metropolitan area and at least five would live outside that metropolitan area, under the bill. Candidates currently are selected from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts.

The bill would also change the Regent Candidate Advisory Council from 24 to 15 members. The council recruits, interviews, and recommends to the Legislature candidates for the U of M Board of Regents.

Under the current law, the speaker of the House selects 12 members and a Senate subcommittee selects the other 12. The legislation would have the speaker and Senate subcommittee pick four each. The House and Senate minority leaders would each pick two, and the governor would pick three.

Currently, the advisory council can recommend between two and four candidates for each vacancy. That would change to two candidates under the legislation.

Legal helpers

Second- and third-year law students at the University of Minnesota represent roughly 700 low-income Minnesotans annually in campus law clinics. There are 16 divisions in the clinic concentrating in areas such as civil cases, bankruptcy, and domestic issues.

The U of M would receive an additional \$250,000 to supplement its current funding for the legal program, which is now funded from tuition, private contributions, and federal and state grants.

The legislation would allow the clinic to increase the number of students and faculty who participate and allow them to service another 200 clients.



HOUSING

Omnibus housing bill

A provision that would provide \$10 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to assist in maintaining existing low-income housing is the centerpiece of the omnibus housing bill approved Feb. 25 by two House panels.

HF2342, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), was approved by Housing and Housing Finance Division and the full House Economic Development and International Trade Committee on the same day. The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Schoolhouse Rock



Left to right: Elliot Dash, Tonilyn Hornung, Amy Silverman, Scott Duff, and Mark Hefti as Mr. Bill play the cartoon characters of the television series, *Schoolhouse Rock*. Legislators were invited to the Feb. 20 Capitol performance, which combined history, grammar, math, and science.

The omnibus bill contains many of the housing bills that were heard by the Housing and Housing Finance Division this session and \$15 million in total appropriations for programs administered by the MHFA.

The proposed \$10 million appropriation to protect existing affordable housing was worked on by legislators during the interim and was incorporated into the governor's budget recommendations. The provision comes in response to a situation occurring statewide.

In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program through which developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of many such complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mortgage and to begin charging market-rate rent.

Housing advocates say that this scenario could happen at the more than 300 apartment complexes throughout the state that were financed through the federal program.

The owners of 215 Oak Grove in Minneapolis, Hopkins Village in Hopkins, Knox Landing in Bloomington, and Grand Pre By the Park and Selby-Dayton in St. Paul have all announced that they plan to take advantage of the prepayment option.

The \$10 million in Clark's bill would fund the equity takeout loan program administered by the MHFA. The fund is used to provide financial incentives to maintain existing subsidized housing. The incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

Here are some other highlights of the omnibus housing bill.

- The bill would allocate \$1.6 million to the MHFA to be used for current programs that finance the construction of new multifamily rental housing. The funds would be used in collaboration with federal dollars to build affordable rental housing.
- The omnibus bill would appropriate \$1.1 million to homelessness prevention programs administered by the MHFA. Of this, \$365,000 would go to the Bridges Program, which provides rental assistance to people with disabilities.
- Programs that assist home ownership would receive \$2.2 million, under the omnibus bill. That sum would include \$1.6 million to the Community Rehabilitation fund for the production of affordable single-family housing and \$500,000 for home ownership zones to encourage ownership in distressed areas.
- The bill would provide \$200,000 to fund

programs seeking to make Minnesota homes healthier. Of that amount, \$125,000 would go to fund a healthy home pilot project to train builders and inspectors. Another \$75,000 would fund a program that would provide grants to people who suffer from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. The grants would be used to finance improvements to make the homes chemical free.



HUMAN SERVICES

Treatment program facilities

The expansion of two private facilities for the treatment of addictions would occur under separate bills approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 23.

HF2793, sponsored by Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson), calls for the Minnesota Indian Primary Residential Treatment Center to receive \$400,000 from the state to build a youth alcohol treatment wing at the Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center located on the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation near Cloquet, Minn.

The second piece of legislation (**HF2883**), which is sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), calls for \$750,000 for construction of a building in Granite Falls, Minn., where treatment would be provided for people addicted to gambling.

Under Hilty's bill, the \$400,000 in state money would be available only if matched by a \$1.5 million federal grant and \$100,000 from the state American Indian bands.

According to Hilty, the Minnesota Department of Human Services indicated that 319 American Indians took treatment at the Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center in 1996. But, Hilty said, the existing facility was designed to handle only half that number.

And he said that even though the center is on American Indian reservation land, "most referrals to the clinic come from Hennepin County."

He said the national success rate in alcohol treatment programs is 20 percent for American Indians, but the success rate is 40 percent in the Mash-Ka-Wisen Center.

"One reason is because it's culturally specific," he said.

He said the center currently is not able to treat as many youths as it prefers, and treatment is more successful if the youths are kept separate from adults.

Kubly's proposal to mark general fund dollars for a gambling addiction program called Project Turnabout also would require a local match of the same amount.

The original proposal requested \$900,000, but the provision was amended by the com-

mittee to \$200,000. Kubly subsequently received a promise from the Minnesota State Lottery to transfer \$750,000 in lottery prize money into the general fund to be used for the project.

The funds would go for construction of a facility to house recovering gamblers during a two- to four-week treatment program. The program typically treats 20 people at a time and operates under a state grant.

Kubly said most insurance companies don't cover gambling recovery, "so there is a bit of a gap there."

Both pieces of legislation are part of the division's omnibus funding bill.

MFIP-S emphasis questioned

Several Minnesota welfare recipients told legislators they are being forced to take low-paying jobs rather than continue pursuit of a degree that is within their grasp.

The situation has concerned some legislators, who believe the intent of the state's new welfare law is not to just shift citizens from welfare to work of any kind, but to provide them with tools that lead to a quality job.

"The goal should be a livable wage, rather than a minimum-wage job," Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) said.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) is sponsoring legislation that would require the Department of Human Services to provide those moving into the workforce with a clear outline of the education and training opportunities available under the state's new welfare law.

"This legislation basically tells people to do what's in the law," Huntley said.

The Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide (MFIP-S) emphasizes a quick shift into the workforce, but testimony before the finance division of the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 23 depicted similar stories of welfare recipients who were within a year of a postsecondary degree but were told they had to find a job.

For those so close to completing a training program or college, immediate employment would delay or prevent completion of the educational courses, legislators were told.

Huntley said **HF2990** seeks to assist mainly women moving off welfare, many of whom are single mothers. He emphasized that MFIP-S calls for job counselors to approve an education or training program and to allow individuals to postpone a job search if the education program can be completed within 12 months and is likely to lead to employment without additional training.

But anecdotal evidence indicates the ap-

proach to outlining the education alternatives varies among the state's 87 counties. Testimony heard by the House panel indicated some counties are not providing information on the training options and are pushing people into the job market.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said, "Maybe the message isn't getting out to the counties that they have to do a better job screening." He said that if the program were five years old, there might be a big cause for concern. But MFIP-S, which sets a five-year lifetime limit on receiving welfare checks, became effective July 1, 1997.

Huntley's bill was approved and is to be included in the omnibus health and human services bill.



SPORTS

Baseball bill fails

A House panel Feb. 26 voted down the only baseball-related bill to be taken up by a House committee this session.

HF3348, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), would have provided the framework for community-based ownership of the Minnesota Twins.

The plan originally called for state money from a potential November 1998 budget surplus to be loaned to a charitable foundation to buy the team. That group could have then sold stock to private investors interested in keeping the team in Minnesota.

"This bill would send a message that the Legislature of Minnesota is interested in working this out, in keeping the Twins here," Kahn said. "It gives a market test of fan and community support for the team."

But opponents objected to using what they said was money garnered from overtaxation to make a loan to professional baseball.

And even after the bill was stripped of provisions allowing for any public money to be used, lawmakers on the House Government Operations Committee voted against approving what remained, which was essentially a blueprint for setting up a community-owned team without state involvement.

"To vote for this would be to open up the House floor to another whole debate about baseball and money and stadiums," said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul).

A few days earlier, the State Government Finance Division of the Governmental Operations Committee had heard testimony from members of the public opposed to any state involvement in professional sports.

"You guys will not take no for an answer,"

Session song



The Unity Baptist Adult Choir of St. Paul sings "God is a Good God" as part of the invocation before the Feb. 25 House floor session.

said Charles Test, chair of Minnesota's Libertarian Party. "The people have spoken and they've said they do not want the state involved."



TAXES

Property tax breaks for seniors

Senior citizens would get a break on property taxes under three separate bills advancing in the House.

HF3169, sponsored by Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), would provide a property tax refund for people 65 and older who have lived in a home they own for at least 10 years.

HF2838, sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), would prohibit market value increases for seniors' homes, unless the homeowners have made improvements to the property.

HF3585, sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), would loosen the participation requirements in a program passed last year aimed at preventing senior citizens who live on fixed incomes from being driven out of their homes by rising property values and taxes.

All three bills were debated Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

In Larsen's bill, the rebate would be above and beyond any other refund eligible seniors may receive. The refund would be the amount of property taxes, not of existing refunds, that exceed 6 percent of the taxpayer's household

income or 1.25 percent of their home's estimated market value, whichever is higher. According to an analysis from the Department of Revenue, refunds would be paid to approximately 60,000 homeowners, and the cost to the state would be \$28.7 million in fiscal 1999, \$29.2 million in fiscal 2000, and \$29.6 million in fiscal 2001.

Under Tuma's bill, market value increases on homes owned by those 65 and older would be forbidden as long as the owner has lived in the home for at least five years. There would be no income limitations. Married couples would both have to be at least 65 to qualify. Homeowners would have to apply for the valuation freeze.

Tuma termed it "an idea that has been floating around the Capitol for a long time."

Hasskamp's bill would alter a portion of the 1997 omnibus tax law, which created a senior citizens' property tax deferral program scheduled to begin for taxes payable in 1999.

The 1997 law calls for the program to allow homeowners over age 65 who have lived in their homes for at least 15 years and have a household income less than \$30,000 to defer property taxes that exceed 5 percent of their income.

Interest not to exceed 5 percent would accrue on the deferred amount. The deferral and interest would be payable within 90 days of the date when the property is sold, ceases to be a homestead, the homeowner dies, or the homeowner chooses to no longer participate.

Hasskamp's bill would modify the senior citizens' property tax deferral program by increasing the maximum household income for

program participation to \$40,000. It also would set the annual deferral amount at property taxes in excess of 5 percent of the homeowner's income in the year of application. The maximum interest rate would be lowered to the lesser of 5 percent or the change in the consumer price index.

And the bill would allow one year for payment of the deferral and interest when termination occurs because the property ceases to be a homestead or because the homeowner chooses to no longer participate.

All three bills were referred without recommendation to the full Taxes Committee.

Property tax reform

Homeowners and renters would have a choice in the way they calculate their property tax refunds that could bring them larger returns, under a bill advancing in the House.

HF3462, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), was discussed Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee. The goal of her bill is to remove the unlimited nature of the present property tax system.

"There ought to be a limit to people's property taxes. Tie it to what their income is," Greiling said.

The present property tax refund system has a cap of \$480 for homeowners and \$1,120 for renters.

Greiling's bill would eliminate those caps and place a limit on the percentage of one's income that can be collected in property taxes.

Under Greiling's bill, taxpayers could use either a new method of computation or the current formula, whichever would give them the higher refund.

Greiling's alternative formula would refund the full amount of tax over a percentage of income ranging from 2 percent to 6 percent. The formula would be the same for homeowners and renters. And there would be an adjustment for inflation in the year 2000.

A representative of the Minnesota Senior Federation's Tax Committee said that more than 264,000 Minnesota homeowners would benefit from the bill.

According to an estimate from the Department of Revenue, Greiling's bill could cost the state approximately \$123 million in fiscal year 2000 and approximately \$134 million in fiscal year 2001.

The bill moves to the full committee without recommendation.

Tax message



Bev Decker, *left*, Shoreview, and Jon Weber, Minneapolis, have a message for state legislators. They brought their signs and feelings to a Feb. 23 rally on the steps of the Capitol in support of permanent tax cuts.

Tax breaks, rebates, reform

The governor's tax initiative for this session includes property tax rebates and reform, and a break for commercial and industrial property and apartment buildings.

HF2604 would "continue to decrease the state's dependence on property taxes," said bill sponsor Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville) during a Feb. 25 hearing of the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The bill would give a rebate to homeowners and renters equal to 20 percent of their property taxes paid in 1998. The rebate would be allowed as a refundable income tax credit to be claimed on the 1998 income tax return, filed in 1999. There would be no maximum rebate.

The bill would transfer \$500 million to the property tax reform account for payment of the rebates.

Macklin's bill also would decrease the property tax rate on houses valued at more than \$75,000 from 1.85 percent to 1.75 percent in payable 1999, then to 1.7 percent thereafter.

The tax rate for commercial/industrial and utility property worth up to \$150,000 would be reduced to from 2.7 percent to 2.6 percent in 1999, then to 2.5 percent thereafter.

The tax rate for apartment buildings with

four units or more would decrease from 2.9 percent to 2.65 percent in 1999, then 2.5 percent thereafter.

The tax rate on a single-unit rental property worth less than \$75,000 would go from 1.9 to 1.5 percent in 1999, then to 1.25 percent thereafter. The tax rate on properties worth more than \$75,000 would go from 2.1 percent to 1.75 percent for 1999, then to 1.7 percent thereafter.

The bill was referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Property tax reduction

A reduction in property taxes for homes valued at more than \$75,000 has been proposed in the House Taxes Committee.

HF3491, sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would reduce the tax on a property worth \$75,000 or more to 1.75 percent from 1.85 percent. Property valued up to \$75,000 will still be taxed at 1 percent.

The bill, which was discussed Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the Taxes Committee, was referred to the full committee without recommendation.

Soaring market values

When inflation or other factors push up the value of a home faster than the homeowner's salary rises, it can be very difficult for the homeowner to pay the higher property taxes.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsors a bill (**HF3720**) that would try to address that problem.

"This is real property tax reform," he said, during a Feb. 23 meeting of the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

Under the bill, the market value for property tax purposes for taxes payable in 1999 could not be greater than the home's taxable market value, plus the amount determined by multiplying the taxable market value by the rate of inflation for the 12-month period ending Oct. 31, 1996.

After the year 2000, market value increase in determining property taxes would be limited to the lesser of 5 percent of the market value in the previous year or the rate of inflation.

"As market values continue to soar, the burden this places on all property owners is tough," Milbert said. "What can you do to make this a fair tax again? It is something that you can do this year."

Changes or improvements to the property made by the owner would be exempted.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the Taxes Committee, said she has concerns that Milbert's bill might freeze property taxes inequities in place.

The bill was referred to the full committee without recommendation.

Duplex, triplex owners' taxes

With a projected \$1.3 billion surplus in state coffers and proposals to give new property tax rebates to homeowners and renters, there has been little talk about the specific concerns of duplex or triplex owners — until now.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) is sponsoring **HF2989**, which would have the effect of reducing the property taxes paid by owners of duplexes and triplexes that are rented to others.

The bill was discussed Feb. 24 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The proposal would move two- and three-unit non-homestead residential properties (duplexes and triplexes that are not owner-occupied) to a different class in tax codes.

Under the bill, the properties would be taxed at 1.9 percent of the first \$75,000 in market value and 2.1 percent on the excess over \$75,000. Currently, owners of those properties pay 2.1 percent regardless of the market value.

Cities would still have the option of denying the lower class designation if the property was not in compliance with the existing housing codes.

According to an analysis from the Department of Revenue, the bill would cost the state \$200,000 in the first year.

The bill was referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Reducing property tax rates

Two bills considered by a House panel would reduce property tax rates for apartment properties and some businesses, as well as reducing the general education levy.

HF3671, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), and **HF3672**, sponsored by Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), were heard Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The major provisions of the two bills are identical.

During the tax division hearing, McElroy said that at a time of a budget surplus, the state should take a proactive stance on business- and education-related tax issues.

The bills would decrease the tax rate for apartment properties with four or more units from 2.9 to 2.5 percent and reduce the tax rate on single-unit residential properties valued at more than \$75,000 from 1.9 percent to 1.25 percent. Duplexes and triplexes would receive similar reductions.

The tax rates for commercial and industrial property valued at more than \$150,000 would go from 4 percent to 3.5 percent, McElroy said.

The bills call for a total of \$100 million to be appropriated to reduce the general educational tax rate and to increase the maximum education homestead credit from \$225 to \$400.

According to an analysis from the Department of Revenue, the bills would cost the state approximately \$400 million over the next two years.

The bills were referred to the full committee without recommendation.

Incentive to rehabilitate

Central city areas often contain dilapidated residential properties, and there is little incentive for someone to buy the properties and fix them up.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) is trying to provide that incentive with **HF3778**, a bill that would provide a 10-year property tax exemption for "marginal homes in marginal neighborhoods" that are refurbished by the owner.

The bill was heard Feb. 25 in the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

"What you're appealing to is the urban pioneer," Wagenius said.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) supported the bill. He said there are a lot of homes in his district priced at below \$20,000, and that \$40,000 would fix them up.

To qualify, a home would have to be in need repairs of at least \$20,000 and be an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling in a neighborhood where the median value of the home is less than the median value of the entire city. Only homes in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth would be eligible.

The bill was referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Raising renter's credit

Some have called the Minnesota property tax system regressive and burdensome for homeowners. If that's true, the system must also be a burden on renters, who pay property taxes indirectly through their rent and generally earn less than homeowners.

That's the philosophy of Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul). Dawkins is sponsoring **HF3657**, which would raise the renter's property tax refund, or "renter's credit," from 18 to 20 percent of gross rent paid.

His bill and another similar proposal were discussed Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

"The renter's credit is the only method we have to provide a credit to tenants," Dawkins said. "As we move down the road and reform property taxes, we can't leave renters behind. This is a credibility issue."

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) also supported the bill.

"I would say 18 percent is very much on the low side and should be raised," he said.

If passed, the bill would cost the state an estimated \$15.8 million in fiscal year 2000 and \$16.2 million in fiscal year 2001.

HF3595, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would similarly increase the tax refund to 20 percent of rent paid.

Both bills were referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Videos on property tax

Elected officials, administrators, journalists, and many taxpayers often struggle to understand the state's property tax system, sometimes without success.

So officials of the Association of Minnesota Counties think it might be a good idea to have some training programs for the public, and that's what they have suggested.

The organization is backing a bill (**HF3739**), sponsored by Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji), that asks for \$50,000 from the state to produce videos to educate the public about the property tax system and how it works.

The Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee discussed the bill Feb. 23.

"We hear how difficult it is to understand property tax and how it is calculated. I think we legislators don't understand it the way we should," Skare said.

There were some suggestions from the committee that the counties association should pay for the production itself, but Jim Mulder, speaking for the organization, said property taxes are a statewide concern.

Under the bill, the educational materials would be made available to the Department of Revenue and to each county government at no cost for distribution to local media and elsewhere.

The bill moves to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Property tax reform account

A bill awaiting consideration by the House Taxes Committee would call for funds from the state's property tax reform account to be used to reduce the levy for the Twin Cities' public transit system.

Current law lists several allowed uses for funds from the property tax reform account, including reducing property tax class rates, increasing the property tax refund, and increasing the state's share of education funding to cut reliance on local property taxes.

HF2954, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), would stipulate that the top priority for use of property tax reform account funds would be to reduce the reliance on property taxes of the metropolitan transit system.

The bill was discussed Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The bill would require that the levy for the Twin Cities transit provide a percentage of the overall budget for the system equal to the average property tax reliance for other transit systems around the state.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), a co-sponsor of the bill, urged lawmakers to support the plan.

"If we don't figure out some other way to pay for this, we may end up with a small [property] tax increase in many parts of the metro area," he said.

The bill was referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Income tax reduction

A bill that would decrease income taxes for those making up to \$98,000 per year is headed to the House Taxes Committee.

HF2900, sponsored by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), would create new income tax brackets and cut the rates paid by people in those brackets.

The bill was considered Feb. 23 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the Taxes Committee. The panel voted to send the bill to the full committee without recommendation.

The bill would decrease the tax rate paid by low- to moderate-income earners, including those making up to \$24,800 per year who now pay a rate of 6 percent. Krinkie's bill would create a new bracket for people earning up to \$40,000 and set a 5.5 percent rate for such people.

Income taxes in a new middle bracket (\$40,001 to \$98,000 per year) would be 7 percent. Most people in that range currently pay 8 percent.

Those with an annual income of more than \$98,000 would continue to be taxed at 8.5 percent.

"That money does not belong to the government, it belongs to the citizens," said David Strom, legislative director for the Taxpayers League of Minnesota. "It's obvious Minnesota taxpayers are overtaxed. I think it [the bill] provides relief for citizens."

The bill also would put any surplus in state coffers beyond the \$522 million budget reserve into the general fund. Currently, 60 percent of the remaining surplus goes to a property tax reform account and 40 percent goes to the general fund.

Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), who chairs the tax division, urged caution when considering a permanent tax cut.

"If the economy goes in the dumper, how long will it be before we are back at the doorstep?" Olson asked.

New hockey arena

St. Paul will build a new downtown hockey arena with or without state help, but the city would not have to pay sales tax on the construction materials for the project, under a bill advancing in the House.

HF3556, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), asks for a waiver on sales tax in building the new arena at the city-owned RiverCentre complex that will house the Minnesota Wild, the new National Hockey League franchise in Minnesota.

The bill was discussed Feb. 24 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

With the waiver, the state would lose close to \$3 million in tax funds, according to an analysis from the Department of Revenue.

The arena will cost \$130 million, said Joe Reid, director of finance for the city of St. Paul. The city has asked for \$65 million in state bonds to help pay for the new arena, Reid said.

The proposal for state construction funds is now being considered by the House Capital Investment Committee. If no state help is forthcoming, the city has committed to building the arena itself with city-backed bonds. The Wild is to begin play in September 2000.

The waiver of sales tax proposal was referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

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

TV commercials and sales tax

The production of television commercials is the backbone of Minnesota's film industry, yet that industry is subject to a 6.5 percent sales tax, said Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul).

Milbert is sponsoring a bill (**HF3705**) that would exempt those associated with making television commercials, including the advertising agency, the film production company, the edit house, and other vendors, from paying sales tax on their cost of materials and on the sale of the product.

The bill was heard Feb. 24 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

Advertising agencies must pay sales or use tax on materials incorporated into the production of a piece of advertising. When the agency uses a film production company, an edit house, or other vendor, the product the vendor sells to the agency is taxable.

"The bill before you will help Minnesota compete," said Ruth Johnston, executive producer for James Productions. "We feel this legislation is vital."

"We're at the top end [on sales taxes]," Milbert said, so producers would be likely to go to another state to make their commercial. "Unless we do something, the problem is likely to get worse."

The bill, which was referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation, is supported by the Minnesota Film Board, he said.

Help for employee housing

Employers who help provide financial help for their employees' housing could get a tax break, under a bill being considered in the House.

HF2369, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would give employers a 50 percent tax credit for their cash contributions to employee housing. The bill was heard Feb. 24 in the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

"There is a serious shortage of housing . . . where I live, and any affordable housing is rare and an obstacle to future economic development," Kubly said.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) had a few reservations because those businesses that get the tax credit might have to pay more on their federal taxes.

"If we can generate \$10 million in tax credits, we are making a charitable contribution to the federal government of about three-and-a-half million dollars," she said.

The bill was referred to the full committee without recommendation.



TRANSPORTATION

Transportation funding

Legislators hope to have more state troopers on the road — and more dollars than the governor requested for state road construction — under the \$52.5 million transportation funding bill passed Feb. 26 by the House. The vote was 121-7.

The House Transportation and Transit Committee's bill would accelerate the governor's request of \$60 million over the next three fiscal years for state road construction.

HF3057, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), would appropriate \$40 million from the trunk highway fund for road construction in fiscal year 1999. Legislators project that money will be available to adequately fund at or above the governor's proposed level of \$20 million in both 2000 and 2001. Lawmakers are basing that assumption on the current trunk highway balance, plus anticipated surpluses in federal funds and state gas and registration tax dollars.

The bill also would appropriate \$6.8 million from the trunk highway fund in fiscal year 1999 for road design and construction engineering. That is twice the governor's request. The engineering appropriation is calculated by a formula; doubling the construction appropriation in the bill forced legislators to double the engineering request.

More troopers

The governor has requested that 47 new state patrol officers and support staff be added at a cost of \$5.25 million. The House bill calls for 40 additional troopers and support staff at a cost of \$4.55 million.

Currently, there are 488 state troopers on the road in Minnesota, and another 39 in training. The current allowable full-funded complement is 535.

In 1996, the governor sought funds to hire 46 additional state troopers to be included in the Department of Public Safety budget. But the 1996 law that provided \$60.1 million in transportation spending had only enough money to hire four state patrol dispatchers.

An amendment removed a provision from this year's bill that called for funding for the state patrol to come from the general fund, rather than from the state trunk highway fund, which is used for most highway expansion, construction and repair. The shift of the highway patrol to the general fund would have left an additional \$41 million available in the trunk highway fund for fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

Some legislators had hoped shifting the state patrol to the general fund would help lay the groundwork for a new transportation fund that could be used for highways, bridges, and other public transit, such as commuter rail or light rail.

Lieder said the only effect this change would have had on the state patrol would be its source of funding. All appropriations for the state patrol, with the exception of motor vehicle inspection and enforcement activities, would have come from the general fund, under the original bill.

In line with the governor's request, the bill also would appropriate \$694,000 from the trunk highway fund to replace and maintain equipment in the statewide emergency communications system of the state patrol.

The bill also includes \$294,000 for additional Capitol complex security staff, but unlike the governor's plan, the language provides the state patrol with the option of using some of the funds for increased helicopter patrols.

Retiring revisor



Revisor of Statutes Harry Walsh holds a House resolution in his honor as members acknowledge his long career during retirement ceremonies on the House floor Feb. 26. Walsh started his career 32 years ago as a special assistant to the revisor and then spent 19 years as deputy revisor before becoming revisor of statutes in 1992.

Registration task force

Under the bill, \$50,000 would be appropriated from the highway user tax distribution fund to the commissioner of public safety, who would designate four members of the state highway patrol to investigate the incidence of vehicle registration evasion and dealer fraud.

It is believed countless Minnesota residents register their motor vehicles in neighboring states, which have lower licensing fees. Estimates indicate this costs the state millions annually, even though it is a gross misdemeanor for vehicles owned and operated in Minnesota to be registered in another state.

Vehicle registration revenue goes into the highway user tax distribution fund, from where it is distributed to the trunk highway fund, county state-aid highway fund, and municipal state-aid street fund.

The study, to be conducted by the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety, would evaluate the cost-effectiveness and benefit of exchanging tax, vehicle registration, and driver's license information with other states. It would also study any advantages for the state to use a private vendor database to track vehicle registration.

It has been proposed that a database could be designed in cooperation with the automobile insurance industry or other vendors, which could also help enforce Minnesota's mandatory auto insurance laws.

The final report of the task force would be presented to the governor and the Legislature by Feb. 15, 1999.

Blue lights

The commissioner of public safety would be required to study the desirability of allowing certain emergency vehicles to display flashing blue lights in both the front and back of the vehicles, under the bill.

The study would be done within the current Department of Public Safety budget.

Minnesota is one of two states that does not allow blue lights in the front of its emergency vehicles. Currently, all transportation department sanding and plowing vehicles use blue lights.

The state highway patrol has expressed a desire to study the use of blue lights in the front of only emergency vehicles, such as law enforcement, fire safety vehicles, and ambulances. The study would investigate the feasibility and cost of switching lights on road equipment vehicles to another color, such as amber or orange.

Results would be presented to the governor and the Legislature no later than Jan. 15, 1999.

Spending goals

The bill would set spending goals for transportation and transit, areas that many lawmakers believe have traditionally been underfunded. The spending goals would not be binding, but they would set a direction for state policy.

The bill proposes that \$500 million ought to be spent annually from the trunk highway fund for construction and reconstruction of state highways.

Public transit is also heavily considered. The bill would set a goal of not less than \$15 million for capital improvements and \$17 million for operating assistance on public transit outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

The total state spending goal per year on public transit in the seven-county metropolitan area would be set at not less than \$32 million for capital improvements and \$60 million for operating assistance.

The bill also proposes that the commissioner of transportation submit in the department's biennial budget a plan of recommended expenditures from the general fund for trunk highway and public transit purposes. The plan would be developed through existing area transportation partnerships.

A new way to pay for roads?

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Newport) believes the system in place for building, maintaining, and improving roads and for providing public transit in Minnesota is not working and needs to be replaced.

She has introduced a bill (**HF3265**) that would put a constitutional amendment on the ballot, asking voters if they want to provide a new way to pay for roads.

The bill was tabled Feb. 26 by the House Taxes Committee, but it is expected to come up for consideration later this session.

"Right now we have a transportation funding system that simply is not working for the metro area or the rest of the state. There are clearly needs around the state that are not being met," Marko said.

That system takes money from gas taxes and license fees and puts it into a dedicated transportation fund. A total of 62 percent of that money goes to the state and 29 percent goes to counties. Of that money spent on transportation, approximately 35 percent goes to the Twin Cities metropolitan area and the rest goes to Greater Minnesota projects.

"Consequently the system is unbalanced because rural highways are competing with metro-area highways," Marko said.

One prediction is that the metropolitan area will need \$6 billion in new roads in the

next 25 years. And there are also concerns about funding public transit projects.

Marko's bill would propose the constitutional amendment to go on the ballot this November. If approved, a new transportation fund would be established using money from motor vehicle license and 20 percent of the money from the motor vehicle sales tax.

Money from the new fund would be spent to match federal aid to state and local government for highways and transit.

That might allow the state to get more money under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, which ties federal money to state funds. The goal of the federal program is to preserve current transportation systems and encourage innovative ones. That could include light rail transit.

Sirens and flashing red lights

A bill headed for the governor's desk would require all medical emergency vehicles to sound an audible signal and activate red emergency lights while responding to emergencies.

Last session, legislation to exempt law enforcement officers from the requirement to sound audible signals while responding to emergency calls included language that also exempted emergency medical vehicles. Law enforcement officers wanted an exemption from sounding their sirens in response situations that would telegraph their arrival, such as when responding to silent burglar alarms, and jeopardize police investigations.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), sponsor of the current House bill, said that after the 1997 law was approved, insurance carriers began telling owners of emergency medical vehicles that rates for coverage would rise if both audible and visible signals were not used while responding to emergencies.

The bill (**HF2576/SF2028***) passed in the House Feb. 23 on a vote of 132-0.

Juhnke said legislators want to reinstate language in statute that would require emergency medical vehicles to sound alarms while responding to emergencies because it is safer for ambulance drivers, other motorists, and pedestrians to have the audible warning in addition to flashing red lights.

Medical vehicles that are transporting patients in non-emergency situations would not be required to sound their alarms.

'Vanity' plates for pickups

Drivers of one-ton capacity pickup trucks would be able to get personalized license plates under a bill moving to the Senate.

HF2654 passed the House Feb. 23 on a vote

of 130-0. The measure would allow pickup trucks with a manufacturer's rating of one-ton capacity or less to bear "vanity" plates.

Under present law, the maximum for pickup trucks to be eligible for these plates is 9,000 pounds gross weight. Pickup trucks of up to three-quarter ton capacity qualify.

Purchasers would have to pay a one-time fee of \$100 in addition to the registration tax on the vehicle, under the legislation sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington).

The bill also would expand eligibility for special license plates for firefighters. The plates carry no special privileges, but they designate the driver as a firefighter. The bill would simply allow retired firefighters to have the special plates.

Minnesota State Agencies

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Children, Families and Learning	296-6104
Economic Security	296-3644
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming	
Gambling Control Division ...	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
MN Racing Commission	341-7555
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal	643-3080
Liquor Control	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control Agency	296-6300
Public Service	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
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Trade and	
Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
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bonding bill being assembled by the House Capital Investment Committee.

The proposed academies would be geared to high school students who are unsuccessfully bounced between foster families or those whose parents feel a residential environment could help get their child on the right track.

Policy changes

Kelso's bill also contains several education policy changes that have no costs or require only minimal funding. Most of those plans reflect lawmakers' stated desire to return more control to the districts.

One such provision would repeal the current cap on school superintendents' salaries by removing school districts from the list of groups that are prohibited from paying employees more than 95 percent of the governor's salary.

Several metropolitan-area districts have had difficulty recruiting and retaining top-notch superintendents because of the state's relatively low pay scale for those positions.

Another plan would allow districts to start school before Labor Day. The tourism industry has been opposed to that change because of potential lost revenue from a shortened summer travel season.

Also, the bill would allow districts to require certain students to attend summer school. Districts that elect to do so would set their own criteria.

The omnibus bill also would prohibit schools from charging home-schooled students more than public school students to participate in extra-curricular activities.

That provision was originally proposed in another bill (HF2836), sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), that was offered in response to complaints from home-schooling parents who said high price tags kept their children effectively out of many school district activities. 🐼

Sanford statue finds place at U.S. Capitol

It's a fact!

You could say that 19th-century Minnesota educator Maria L. Sanford is one of the six most honored women in America.

A statue commemorating the education and human rights pioneer is one of 96 bronze and marble works that adorn Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. All 50 states were invited to donate two memorials of notable citizens for the collection, but only six states—including Minnesota—chose to honor women.

In fact, Sanford was not even a native of Minnesota, but when she died in 1920 after almost 30 years as a professor of rhetoric at the University of Minnesota, she was remembered as "the best loved woman of the North Star State." She had spent the years since 1880 in Minnesota crusading for the rights of women and racial minorities.

Although her peers had long recognized her contributions, it wasn't until 22 years after her death that the Maria L. Sanford statue was proposed to the Minnesota Legislature. It then took another 16 years before the statue was approved, funded, commissioned, completed, and unveiled in Washington, D.C.

It wasn't entirely due to lawmakers' procrastination that the process dragged out so long—state officials in the 1940s stipulated that the Washington dedication should take place in 1958, the

year Minnesota marked one hundred years of statehood.

The first bill dealing with Sanford's statue was passed during the 1943 legislative session.

Spearheaded by the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, the legislation reserved the remaining Minnesota-designated spot at Washington's Statuary Hall for a statue of Sanford. Minnesota had previously donated a statue of Henry Rice, one of the state's first two U.S. senators.

But the 1943 law merely reserved the space for the Sanford statue; the measure didn't provide any funding for the project. So for the next four years, a Maria L. Sanford Memorial Council tried unsuccessfully to gather funds.

A decade later, Sen. Elmer L. Anderson (a future Minnesota governor) and Rep. Leo Mosier sponsored a bill to include \$25,000 for the statue in the budget for the state's centennial celebration. Once the money was secured, a Maria L. Sanford committee, working under the state's Centennial Commission, had just over a year to select a sculptor, commission the statue, and organize the unveiling ceremony.

In November 1958, the bronze statue, sculpted by Evelyn Raymond of Minneapolis, was dedicated in Statuary Hall in front of an audience of 350.



Minnesota educator
Maria L. Sanford

Photo from: *Acceptance of the Statue of Maria L. Sanford Presented by the State of Minnesota.*

Frequently called numbers

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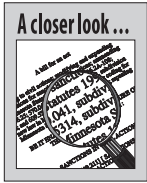
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Environmental spending . . .

Bill addresses feedlot, personal watercraft issues



By Nicole Wood

Two controversial issues — feedlots and personal watercraft — remain alive in the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee's omnibus spending bill.

The \$9.4 million bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), was approved by the committee Feb. 25. The bill now moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Here's a look at some of the major provisions of the bill.

Living with livestock

An amended version of Rep. Doug Peterson's (DFL-Madison) so-called "living with livestock" bill (**HF3441**) has been rolled into the omnibus bill.

"Basically, during this whole debate, I've been trying to move toward the middle ground," Peterson said. "I think the position is one of common sense."

Most notably, the bill would impose a moratorium on new construction or expansion of feedlots at the level of 750 animal units. (An animal unit is an indication of waste produced by certain species. One animal unit is equal to one steer or heifer, 2.5 hogs over 55 pounds, or 100 chickens.)

The bill would prohibit the issuance of permits to construct or expand clay, earthen, or flexible membrane (plastic-lined) waste lagoons. Dairy operations under 750 units would be exempt from this provision.

After March 1, 2000, those who commercially manage and apply animal wastes would have to hold valid animal waste technician licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempt from the provision.

The bill would clarify the power of a county to adopt feedlot ordinances that are more stringent than those of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA).

Under the bill, the PCA would be authorized to deny permits to feedlot operators who have bad environmental records in other states.

The bill also would mandate a generic environmental impact statement to examine the long-term effects of the livestock industry on the economy and environment in Minnesota.

Personal watercraft

Portions of the proposed "personal watercraft courtesy and safety act" backed by Rep.



The dairy industry in Minnesota generates \$3.5 billion in annual gross revenues and employs about 39,000 people. Under the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance omnibus bill, Minnesota dairy farmers would receive \$100,000 to assist with the costs of litigation against the federal government to reform the "discriminatory" milk pricing system.

Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) also have been folded into the environment finance omnibus bill.

In order to track with the Senate, the policy part of Hasskamp's plan (**HF1351**) was separated from the financial considerations (**HF1690**).

Hasskamp's policy bill that includes a personal watercraft ban on lakes of 200 acres or less awaits a debate on the House floor, but the Senate companion policy bill is languishing in committee.

The personal watercraft language that has been included in Osthoff's finance bill would require that personal watercraft operators pass a mandatory safety course and pay a \$10 fee for a certificate. The bill also would establish a \$30 fee for three-year personal watercraft licenses. The fees would be earmarked for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for personal watercraft law enforcement costs.

The bill would mandate a DNR study on the impact of personal watercraft on loons and loon nesting areas.

Snowmobile studs

Under another provision of the bill, no snowmobile with a track equipped with metal studs could be operated on public lands, roads, or trails.

Although many claim that studs make for safer riding, proponents of the measure say paved snowmobile trails are being destroyed

by studs.

During a Feb. 25 hearing, Ron Nargang, deputy commissioner of the DNR, said the department supports the ban.

There are 275,000 registered snowmobiles in Minnesota, Nargang said. Of those sleds, 25 percent to 30 percent have studs.

Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) objected to the proposed ban.

"It's punitive to those responsible riders who have spent \$500 [for the studs]," he said. "They use studs for safety."

Osthoff, who chairs the finance committee, disagreed.

"You know who this is punitive to — those jerks who are tearing up our trails," he said.

Mississippi whitewater

The city of Minneapolis was born on the banks of the Mississippi River at St. Anthony Falls. Early citizens of the city harnessed the falls' tremendous water power for industrial purposes.

A provision of the omnibus bill would explore the possibility of harnessing the falls' water power for recreational pursuits.

Under the bill, the DNR would receive \$100,000 to conduct engineering and hydraulic research into the possible development of a whitewater park for kayaking, rafting, and canoeing at St. Anthony Falls.

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The research also would be required to address economic and environmental impacts and public safety concerns.

The Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee heard testimony on the plan Feb. 23.

The site would be on the east bank of the Mississippi River, just upstream from the Interstate 35W bridge near the Stone Arch Bridge.

The park would consist of a man-made channel with controllable water flow for amateur enthusiasts and international competitors alike.

It would be designed to connect with existing bike and walking paths along the Mississippi.

"The view from the Stone Arch Bridge would be excellent," Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said. "It's the one place we can get close to the river."

Similar water parks exist in Indiana and overseas in France, Spain, Germany, and Czechoslovakia, Bill Tilton, of the Mississippi Whitewater Park Development Corporation, told the panel.

"People are realizing the rivers aren't just for hydroelectric power," Tilton said. "Our rallying cry is 'Bring back St. Anthony Falls.'"

Tornado damage

Five funnel clouds tore through 5,300 acres of sparsely populated forests in Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties on Sept. 18, 1997, leaving a path of destruction 25 miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide.

Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) described the ravaged forests to the committee Feb. 23.

One life and more than \$1 million in timber were lost, Wenzel said.

"I, in my lifetime, have never seen such calamity and damage," he said. "It's absolutely astounding that something this damaging could get so little attention."

The DNR would receive \$75,000 for grants to assist landowners with reforestation efforts, under the bill.

Gypsy moths

The bill calls for the Department of Agriculture's gypsy moth trapping and eradication program to be allocated \$265,000.

The leaf-eating insects have already infested Michigan and Wisconsin and are slowly marching westward.

In past years, the department has dispatched field workers to capture male gypsy moths in sticky traps that are baited with female moth scents.

The department's lab is developing biological



Research into the cause of deformities found in frogs like these would receive an infusion of fresh cash under the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance omnibus bill.

cal control agents such as parasites that feed on gypsy moth eggs.

The money would supplement the biological control program and allow for more field personnel.

Helping hog farmers

Market Champ Inc., a nonprofit corporation that transfers high-quality genetic material from the University of Minnesota to family farmers around the state, would receive \$250,000.

Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) introduced the program to the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 25.

"Some of the technology of genetics is not readily available to family farmers," Winter said.

As for the meat from genetically advanced hogs, "people say it tastes better," Winter said.

Helping dairy farmers

Minnesota dairy farmers are currently engaged in a lawsuit against the federal government (*Minnesota Milk Producers Association v. Glickman*) to bring about reform of the federal milk market pricing system.

The bill would give the farmers another \$100,000 in state money for the legal battle.

Low prices paid to farmers are driving them out of the dairy business. Minnesota loses an average of three dairy farms per day. "Our congressional delegation has not done its job and taken an interest in this issue," Wenzel said during a Feb. 23 hearing. "This is what I refer to as 'the quiet crisis.'"

Wenzel sponsored a House resolution last year that called for an end to a pricing system that is "profoundly unfair and discriminatory against Minnesota and Upper Midwest dairy producers."

Lee Johnston, of the Minnesota Milk Producers Association, said the lawsuit is an attempt to "level the playing field" so that Minnesota's dairy farmers can compete with other dairy regions in the country.

Deformed frogs

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency would receive \$375,000 for research into the cause of deformities found in frogs across the state.

Currently, researchers are speculating that groundwater contamination or possible ultraviolet radiation may be the cause of the deformities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has begun to examine the issue.

"We had better find out what's causing this environmental degradation," Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) said Jan. 26 during an Environment and Natural Resources Committee hearing. "Or else, we're next."

Minnesota Zoo shortfall

The Minnesota Zoological Gardens would receive \$500,000 for operating costs to make up for a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer.


The Apple Valley zoo was forced to ask the Legislature for help after a string of bad luck, bad weather, and bad press, Kathryn Roberts, the zoo's director, said during a Jan. 28 hearing.

The bill would require the zoo to address its attendance forecasting methods to avoid similar budget problems in the future.

Living snow fences

The Board of Water and Soil Resources would receive \$100,000 to fund a voluntary program for landowners to plant and maintain trees, shrubs, and grass strips alongside roads in an effort to control drifting and blowing snow.

The money would be available through grants to soil and water conservation districts to enter into cost-sharing contracts with landowners.

The contracts could provide for annual payments to the landowners to cover land and maintenance costs. 

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Bill Introductions

HF3779-HF3806

Monday, Feb. 23

HF3779—Jennings (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Public cemetery law clarified and reorganized.

HF3780—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Cross-country ski pass fees increased.

HF3781—Orfield (DFL)
Taxes
Mortgage and deed registration taxes apportioned for property tax relief and other county purposes.

HF3782—Kubly (DFL)
Education
Independent school districts Nos. 648, Danube; 654, Renville; 655, Sacred Heart; and 631, Belview, enhanced pairing cooperation and combination grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3783—Seifert (R)
Taxes
Personal and dependent exemptions income tax subtraction provided.

HF3784—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Estate taxes updated to conform with federal changes.

HF3785—Kinkel (DFL)
Taxes
Municipal-owned potato processing plant wastewater treatment facility property tax exemption provided.

HF3786—Davids (R)
Taxes
Postsecondary education tuition income tax deduction provided.

HF3787—Stanek (R)
Transportation and Transit
I-94 from Hemlock Lane to Highway No. 81 expanded.

HF3788—Bettermann (R)
Health & Human Services
Health-related licensing boards prohibited from investigating or disciplining regulated persons for professional opinions.

HF3789—Winter (DFL)
Taxes
Wind energy conversion systems sales tax exemption effective date extended.

HF3790—Rukavina (DFL)
Taxes
Carlton and St. Louis counties authorized to establish the Jensen-Nopeming special nursing home district, and levy provided.

HF3791—Jennings (DFL)
Taxes
Electric utility generation attached machinery tax exemption provided, temporary in-lieu tax and replacement surcharge established, local bonds guaranteed by the state, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, Feb. 25

HF3792—Trimble (DFL)
Capital Investment
Trade and economic development bonding bill.

HF3793—Mulder (R)
Transportation and Transit
Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc. area II road retention construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3794—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Low-income housing built by offenders construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3795—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Individual retirement account provisions updated to conform with federal net income tax changes.

HF3796—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Todd County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF3797—Carruthers (DFL)
Taxes
Brooklyn Center, Richfield, and St. Louis Park apartment valuation exclusion qualifications and time extended.

Thursday, Feb. 26

HF3798—Carlson (DFL)
Taxes
Earle Brown Heritage Center restoration materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3799—Osthoff (DFL)
Ways & Means
Omnibus environment and natural resources, and agriculture supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3800—Westfall (R)
Education
Pelican Rapids Library upgrade funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3801—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Minneapolis authorized to impose a tax on transit zone property.

HF3802—Skare (DFL)
Taxes
New farm machinery sales tax exemption provided.

HF3803—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3804—Peterson (DFL)
Taxes
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3805—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Omnibus tax bill and money appropriated.

HF3806—Trimble (DFL)
Ways & Means
Omnibus economic development supplemental appropriations bill.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office
211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's 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.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, March 2

8 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: K-12 education supplemental
appropriation bills.
Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: HF3701 (Kalis) Debt capacity
forecasting, budget preparation, and reporting
bond proceeds expenditures, bond sales, and
capital improvements provisions modified.
Discussion of "must do" bonding list.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

TUESDAY, March 3

**Precinct Caucuses. No House committee
hearings or session.**

9 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMISSION

318 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener

Agenda: Review of the program evaluation report
on school trust lands.

WEDNESDAY, March 4

10 a.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Staff presentation of draft of omnibus
tax bill.
(This meeting will continue after session in
200 State Office Building if necessary.)

12 noon

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 5

8 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Public testimony on omnibus tax bill.
(This meeting will continue after session in
200 State Office Building if necessary.)

10 a.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, March 6

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: Assemble committee bill.

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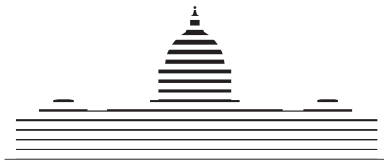
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MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
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ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

The state of state buildings

Buildings owned by state agencies and higher education institutions	4,800
Total square feet of space, in millions	73
Buildings' replacement value, in billions	\$7
Maximum estimated cost of deferred maintenance to state-owned buildings, in millions	\$600
On a 100-point scale (0 = poor, 50 = fair, 100 = good), average rating	
of buildings 0 to 10 years old	95
41 to 50 years old	80
Over 90 years old	66
Square feet of space in University of Minnesota buildings, in millions	26.0
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) buildings	22.4
Department of Corrections buildings	4.8
U of M maintenance and renovation spending per square foot, 1997	\$3.56
Department of Corrections	\$2.69
MnSCU	\$1.85
Average age of Department of Corrections buildings, in years	53
U of M buildings	38
MnSCU buildings	24
Department of Transportation buildings	22
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board buildings	13
Percent of state-owned buildings rated in good overall condition	42
Percent of buildings rated poor for at least one of five primary building components (exteriors, roofs, mechanical systems, electrical systems, and interiors)	18
Percent of buildings with roofs rated poor	10
Percent of buildings with electrical systems rated poor	2
Estimated cost to bring state buildings to modern standards for accessibility, air conditioning, ventilation, and other factors, in billions	\$2
Square feet of space in buildings leased by the state, in millions	3.5
Number of commercial leases	629
Annual rent paid, in millions	\$48
Percent of leased space located within St. Paul	70

Source: *State Building Maintenance*, February 1998, Office of the Legislative Auditor.

For more information



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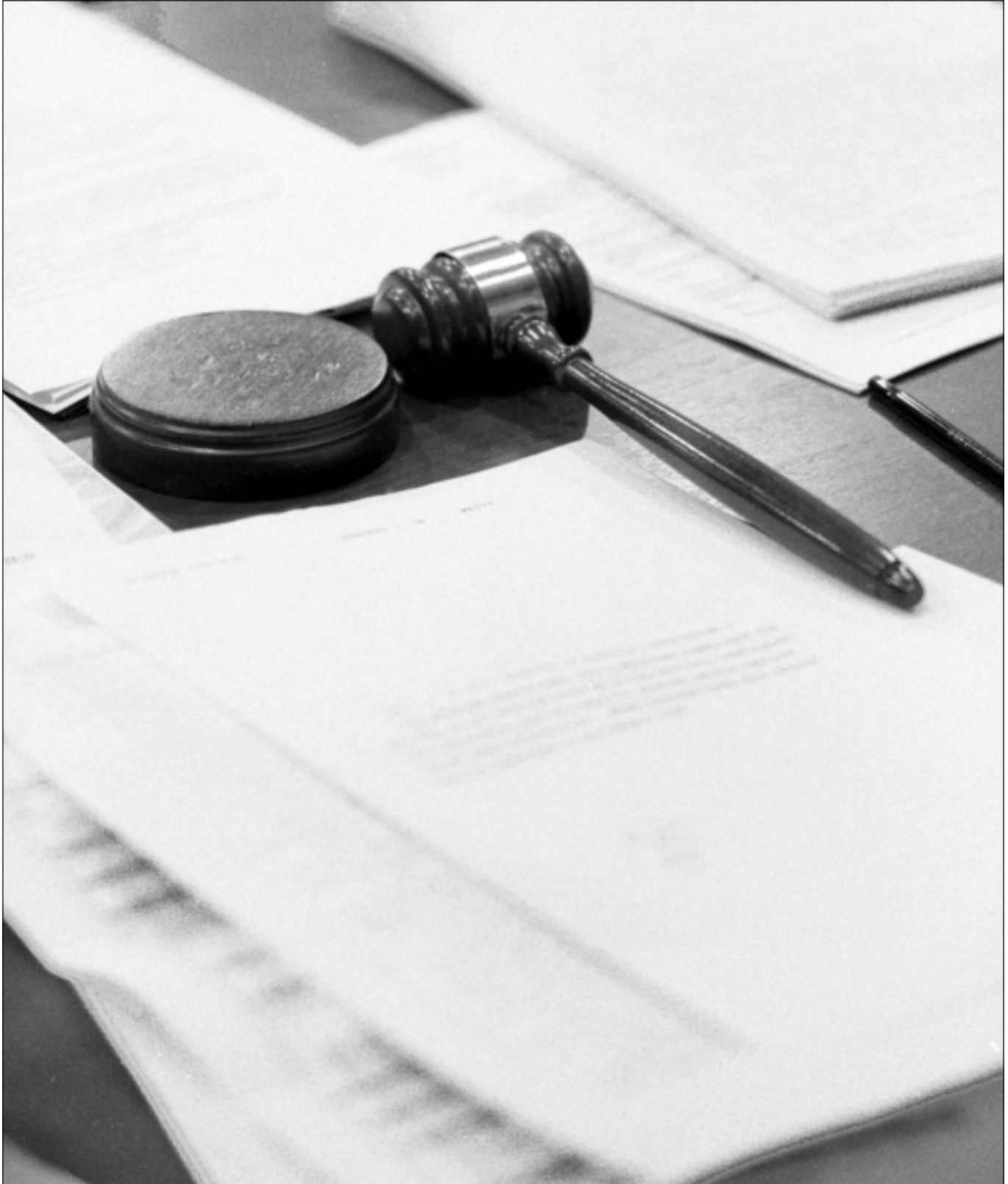
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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 6, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 7



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.

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 6, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 7

Reflections

Women in Minnesota voted for the first time in 1920. They helped to elect the 20th governor of Minnesota, Jacob Aall Ottesen Preus, by a plurality of the largest majority of votes cast for governor (783,627) in the state's history until that time.

When thousands of women exercised their rights across the state, most demonstrated their preference for the issues that J.A.O. Preus advocated—endorsement of farm cooperative agencies, a fair and equitable tax on iron ore, and “. . . a constructive platform . . . answered by fair and reasonable discussion.”

A long-time civil servant, Preus' first job with the state was executive clerk to Gov. Adolph Eberhart in 1909. Two years later, he was appointed by the governor to be insurance commissioner, serving in that post for the next four years. He was elected to state auditor in 1915, and served two terms in the position until he became governor in 1921.

By 1922, the Farmer-Labor candidate, Magnus Johnson, “an actual tiller of the soil,” was pitted against the incumbent governor. Preus won his re-election, but his voter margin of victory was cut down to 14,277 from his 1920 election win of 47,986 votes.

A progressive movement supported by women's suffrage gained momentum in the state, finally making inroads into how the electorate would vote. The Farmer-Labor voters, for example, deposed Republican U.S. Sen. Frank B. Kellogg by supporting Henrik Shipstead in 1923.

In July 1923, after the death of U.S. Sen. Knute Nelson, Johnson was endorsed again and won to serve out Nelson's term. This ended a 22-year monopoly by Republicans in the U.S. Senate. Previously, Charles A. Towne, a Democrat, served for one year beginning in 1900, and before he was elected, only two other Democrats became U.S. senators: James Shields (1858-1859) and Henry M. Rice (1858-1863).

Preus realized that if he stepped down as governor to be appointed by the new governor to Nelson's vacant seat, it would be a very unpopular political move. Preus called a special election, but although regarded as the heir apparent to the national office, he did not succeed.

Preus was viewed as one of “great industry, intelligence, and efficiency.” One of Preus' close associates was a Lutheran minister. The governor became the guardian of the minister's daughter after the death of his friend. The minister's daughter, Agnes Jensen, later became the first secretary to chief clerk Oscar Arneson in the early 1920s (See story, page 16). She went on to serve under six other chief clerks.

Thanks to those like Preus who supported women's victories in the first quarter of the 20th century, women rights continued to grow and become even more victorious.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: As House committees finish up their business, much of the action shifts to the House floor, where several major finance bills have passed in recent days.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Judiciary finance and crime prevention bill . . .

Penalties increased for repeat violent offenders

By Grant Martin

The 1998 omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention bill (SF3345) passed the full House relatively unscathed March 2. The vote was 74-56.

This year's omnibus crime bill, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), saw few amendments offered on the House floor compared to the action on similar crime bills in recent years.

The Senate passed its version of the bill Feb. 23. The bill now goes to conference committee, where lawmakers will hash out the differences in the two proposals.

The most substantial amendment offered on the House floor was sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls). The amend-

Getting tough

The omnibus crime prevention bill includes several provisions aimed at lengthening penalties for certain crimes.

One of the more controversial provisions, backed by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), would require life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes. The provision also includes language for judicial discretion in applying the new sentence requirements.

In addition to the "three strikes" provision, the bill has another provision that would also address repeat violent offenders. The provision, which comes from a separate bill sponsored by Skoglund, would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for "career criminals" and would reduce the number of

tence is 18 months; the bill would increase the mandatory minimum to five years.

Another provision in the bill increases penalties generally for soliciting a prostitute or receiving profit from prostitution. This provision also increases the penalties for engaging in prostitution in a school zone or in a residential area.

Charging burglars

A provision of the omnibus crime bill will make it easier to prosecute people who illegally enter a property by expanding the definition of burglary to include accomplices.

Prosecutors said the new language would make the law more explicit and allow them to bring charges against anyone who illegally enters a dwelling, even if they don't actually break in or steal something.

Prosecuting gangs

Prosecutors also told legislators that they have difficulties bringing gang members to trial and making the penalties stick. Several provisions in the omnibus crime bill seek to address such concerns.

One provision would expand a current law that provides increased penalties for crimes done for the benefit of a gang to include crimes motivated by "involvement with" a gang. This provision also increases these enhanced penalties.

The bill would increase penalties for witness tampering, and would add witness tampering to the list of crimes that can receive enhanced penalties if done for the benefit of a gang.

The bill also seeks to get people to show up for court, both offenders and witnesses. One provision would increase the penalty for failure to appear in court if charged with a felony level crime.

Another provision would increase penalties for individuals who knowingly and willingly defy a court subpoena to appear in relation to a violent crime.

Fighting drugs

The omnibus bill would increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine. Law enforcement officials said that Minnesota is seeing a dramatic increase in use of the drug.



A provision in the omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention bill would authorize police officers to perform pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody. Officers said that they were surprised to see cases against juveniles thrown out of court because, under current law, pat-down searches can be performed only on adult offenders.

ment would classify murder committed in the course of a kidnapping a heinous crime. A person convicted of such a crime could be sentenced to life without parole, Minnesota's toughest sentence.

Wenzel told the body that his amendment is in response to the 1996 murder-kidnapping of Paul Antonich, the Two Harbors teenager taken from his car in Duluth after a minor traffic accident.

Here are some other highlights of the omnibus crime prevention bill.

violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Skoglund's plan also addresses credits an offender can receive against a term of incarceration. The provision makes general changes to these laws to keep repeat violent offenders behind bars for longer periods of time.

The bill also would increase penalties for felons convicted of violent offenses who are found illegally in possession of a firearm. Currently, the mandatory minimum prison sen-

The bill would raise the drug to the same status as cocaine and heroin and would make the manufacture of any amount of methamphetamine a first-degree controlled substance offense.

The bill also makes the drug ephedrine a controlled substance, to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances. The targeted over-the-counter products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teenagers and others looking to achieve a legal high.

Drive-by shootings

A provision in the omnibus bill makes murder committed during a drive-by shooting a first-degree murder crime, increasing the prison sentence for the offense.

The crime bill would also raise the maximum penalty from a five-year prison term to a 20-year term for firing into an occupied vehicle.

Conditional release

The omnibus bill would make several changes to the state's probation and conditional release law. Most notably, the bill would require that each convicted felon released on probation carry a card that would state the terms of the individual's release.

The person on conditional release would be required to produce the card when requested by a police or probation officer, which would allow the officer to know if the parolee is violating the terms of his or her parole.

The bill also would allow peace officers to detain for 36 hours a person on conditional release if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has violated the terms of his or her release.

The bill also prohibits courts from releasing individuals on bail who have been found guilty of a crime where the Sentencing Guidelines Commission requires a prison sentence. Currently, offenders can be released on bail before sentencing in these situations.

Juvenile criminals

The omnibus crime bill would also open some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public.

For juveniles under 14 years old, the bill would make court records available to the public if the juvenile is found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense.

For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would open all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense. The records would be closed to the public when the juvenile turns 21.

The omnibus bill also would increase pen-

continued on page 15



By Sandy Donovan

There was only one other woman in the Legislature when Joan Anderson Growe was elected to the House in 1972.

Still, when Growe and four fellow female freshmen brought that number up to six, one newspaper warned: "The women are taking over."

However tongue-in-cheek that headline may have been, in Growe's case it was an apt description: In the 25 years since then, she has taken over the state's voting and election procedures, improving voter turnout and pushing for reforms in the election process.

"It's been a wonderful experience for someone who once never thought of making a life in public service," the six-term secretary of state said.

"And I've enjoyed every minute of it."

Growe spent only one term in the House before moving on to the secretary of state's office, but Minnesota's current open meeting laws are a testament to her time as a DFL lawmaker from Minnetonka.

"It was a long and interesting debate on open meetings," she said. "I hadn't realized the force of opposition."

In fact, she said, there was much to learn when she made the transition from full-time homemaker to legislator in January 1973. She made an almost snap decision to run for the DFL endorsement after her friend, the local Independent-Republican chair of the League of Women Voters, was not endorsed by that party.

"I ended up reading her speech at the DFL endorsement convention with the word Republican crossed out and DFL penciled in," she recalled. "Then I called another friend who had been on vacation and said, 'Guess what I decided to do while you were away?'"

And although Growe went on to win the House seat in a district that was 70 percent Republican, it was her gender that grabbed attention.

"The attention was unmistakable," she said. "And it could be to your advantage because the minute a woman started to speak in the chamber, it would grow quiet and the cameras would focus. But of course if you failed, you were that much more visible."

Growe steps from one House term to six terms as secretary of state

She ran for secretary of state during her second year in the House, and took office in January 1975 as Minnesota's first woman to be elected to statewide office without having been appointed first.

She found her new office to be a different world from the Legislature.

"I missed some of that camaraderie at first," she said. "And to a degree, I missed the wide range of issues that you deal with as a legislator."

She got right to work as secretary of state, implementing the election-day voter registration law, passed by the Legislature while Growe was a member.

"I also came in with some things I wanted to see changed," she said.



Joan Anderson Growe, Minnesota's longtime secretary of state, got her start in the House in the early 1970s. She will retire at the end of this year after six terms in her current job.

She pushed for simplified absentee voting procedures and helped secure mail-in balloting for many areas of the state.

She also oversaw Minnesota's pioneering motor-voter law — allowing people to register to vote while licensing their vehicle — and testified before Congress when the federal equivalent was being put together.

And she has lent her expertise internationally as well, serving as an election observer twice in Romania and, through the United Nations, once in South Africa during that country's first democratic election, in 1994.

Growe will step down as secretary of state at the end of this year, and she intends to focus on two things once she leaves office: stepping up her involvement in promoting democracy internationally and spending more time with her grandchildren.

She has three granddaughters and predicts that her fourth grandchild, due in May, will also be a girl because "we don't do boys." 🐾

Highlights



BANKING

Lost or stolen debit cards

A bill that would limit customer liability to \$50 on lost or stolen debit cards passed the House March 2. The vote was 132-0.

HF2500, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), covers the debit cards that financial institutions issue to holders of checking accounts.

Besides getting cash out of automatic teller machines, consumers can use debit cards to make purchases that are directly deducted from their checking account, as long as the merchant has a terminal that can handle debit card transactions.

Rest's bill would limit customer liability to \$50 if the card is lost or stolen. The limit would apply to unauthorized transactions made before the bank receives notice that the card has been lost or stolen. (There is no liability for transactions made after the financial institution has been notified.)

A similar liability limit for credit card holders exists in current law.

The bill now goes to the Senate.



BONDING

Mechanism for coordination

A proposal to create a commission which would coordinate statewide convention and civic centers was debated by the House Capital Investment Committee March 4.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), the proposal was laid over and could be included as an amendment to this year's bonding bill.

Trimble told the committee that with the proliferation of convention center bonding requests this year, there should be some mechanism for coordination.

"I want to maximize the amount of planning to get people competing with those facilities out of state, not with facilities in state," Trimble said. "It kind of makes sense that we don't want our facilities undercutting each other."

Currently, the House Capital Investment Committee is reviewing several bonding requests for convention and civic centers, including the Minneapolis Convention Center, the St. Paul RiverCentre, and facilities in Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, Lake Crystal, Rochester, St. Cloud, and Windom.

Trimble's proposal would call for a commission made up of two state representatives, two state senators, representatives from each of the facilities, and a chair selected by the governor. The commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development also would serve in an advisory role on the commission.

The commission would be responsible for development, marketing, and coordinated planning for the state's public convention facilities.

All facilities receiving state funding would be required to work with the commission. Other facilities would be encouraged to participate.



BUDGET

Projected budget surplus

Gov. Arne Carlson and the House DFL leadership agree that much of the projected \$1.9 billion budget surplus announced Feb. 27 should go back to taxpayers — they just differ on how much should go back and how and when it should be done.

"The economic growth in Minnesota continues to be strong," Carlson said during a press conference in his Capitol office. "It is my prayer that we can return the vast majority of these dollars to the people of Minnesota."

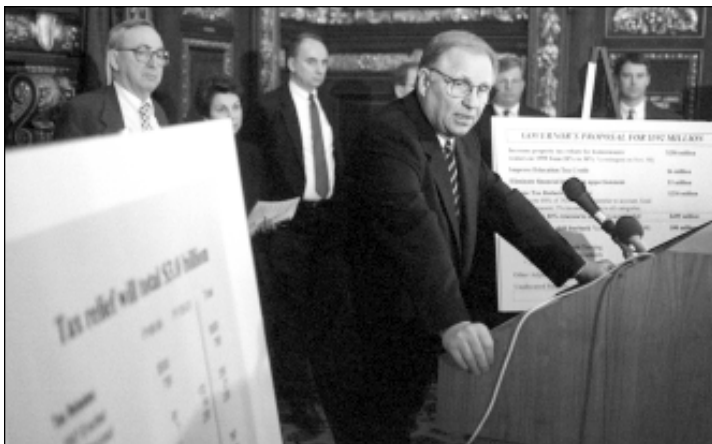
The latest economic release by the finance department shows an additional \$592 million in surplus state money, thus bringing the entire state budget surplus for this biennium to \$1.9 billion. The projected surplus is due mainly to higher-than-expected tax receipts and lower spending, according to the governor.

Carlson wants \$250 million of that budget surplus to go to increase the property tax rebate for homeowners and renters, \$230 million to an income tax reduction account, and \$6 million to tax credits for education expenses.

The governor's plan would contribute 60 percent of any surplus shown in the November 1998 economic forecast to the income tax reduction account.

Carlson also wants to increase the size of his proposed Asian market reserve account from \$207 million to \$400 million.

"No one can say with any certainty what



Gov. Arne Carlson announces Feb. 27 that the most recent revenue forecast shows an additional \$592 million in projected surplus funds, pushing the total forecast surplus to \$1.9 billion.



Speaker Phil Carruthers and Majority Leader Ted Winter, left, announce a proposal to use part of the state's projected billion surplus to fund another property tax rebate that could go to homeowners and renters this fall.

impact the Asian crisis will have on the economy in Minnesota," he said.

If the November 1998 forecast shows sustained growth, the Asian reserve account would be dissolved, with \$90 million to go to schools, \$250 million to complete that property tax rebate, and \$60 million to the reserve account.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) agreed with much of what the governor said, but Carruthers said during a Feb. 27 press conference that his caucus hopes to go beyond the governor's plans.

Carruthers described a proposal to provide a "no wait rebate," an extra property tax rebate that homeowners and renters would get in October 1998.

"We want the families of Minnesota to get the checks as soon as possible," Carruthers said.

The October rebate would be in addition to the August refund checks normally paid to homeowners and renters. Taxpayers who get the August check would automatically get the October check, so no further paperwork would be needed.

Of the \$592 million in additional projected surplus funds, Carruthers and others in the House majority caucus leadership want \$345 million to go for property tax relief (\$250 million for the October rebate and \$95 million in permanent tax reductions), \$60 million for K-12 education, and \$100 million for transportation infrastructure, which would include roads and bridges and light or commuter rail. The DFL leaders are also calling for \$13 million for nursing homes, \$5 million for housing, and \$17 million for the reserve account.

Carruthers said the DFL plans are based on priorities described by constituents: property tax cuts, education, and transportation.

"In many areas we agree with the governor. We like the property tax rebate; we think it should be speeded up," he said.



DEVELOPMENT

Economic development, housing

The omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development bill survived an onslaught of proposed amendments related to the "healthy homes" provisions and was approved by the full House March 4. The vote was 74-57.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), the bill (**HF3806/SF3367***) combines most of the initiatives heard by the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee's Economic Development Finance Division and the Housing and Housing Finance Division.

The bill includes \$15 million in appropriations going to state agencies to promote statewide economic development and job training and \$15 million in funding for housing programs.

The "healthy homes" sections of the bill received the most scrutiny on the floor. Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), the original sponsor of the provisions, offered one of the two amendments finally adopted.

Evans' amendment removed some of the proposed increases to new home warranty periods, which give homeowners time to find out about defective conditions, and added provisions requiring builders to notify home buyers of current warranty periods.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who works as a construction consultant, amended the bill to reduce the number of continuing education hours required for builders in the initial proposal.

Other provisions of the original "healthy homes" bill remain in the omnibus bill, including training requirements for builders and inspectors and the extension of some of the warranty periods for new homes.

The most controversial policy provision of the original bill was removed by the full Economic Development and International Trade Committee before the omnibus bill went to the floor. The provision called for all new homes built after March 1, 1999, to have mechanical ventilation systems.

Opponents of the "healthy homes" provisions argued that these new requirements put undue burden on the building industry, which is already responding to consumer concerns regarding home safety and quality.

Here are some other highlights of the omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development bill.

Hollywood, Minn.

The largest appropriation contained in the bill would go to the Minnesota Film Board to provide support for the state's \$250 million film and video industry.

The \$5 million appropriation, which was part of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations, would create a revolving loan fund to be administered by the film board and the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

The fund would provide loans ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 to film and television producers for Minnesota projects. The state loan funds could account for up to 50 percent of the production budget. The loan agreement would require the producer to spend 120 percent of the loan amount in the state.

The film board expects that 20 projects will be initiated in the state during the first few

years of the program. Currently, eight national cable television series are produced in the state, and 55 feature films have been made in Minnesota since 1990, according to the board.

Economic development

Including the aforementioned film board appropriation, funding for the Department of Trade and Economic Development — a total of \$7.5 million — makes up a quarter of the spending called for in the entire bill.

The department would receive \$1 million in additional funding for the Office of Tourism. Part of the governor's request, the money would be used to supplement advertising to attract tourists to Minnesota.

The remaining portion would fund economic development projects throughout the state.

One provision did not survive the house floor. A \$285,000 proposal for a trolley service connecting the Minneapolis Convention Center with cultural tourist attractions in south Minneapolis neighborhoods was removed from the bill.

Boosting employment

Under the omnibus bill, the Department of Economic Security would receive \$5 million to fund job training and re-employment programs.

The department would acquire \$250,000 to develop programs that encourage women to hold nontraditional occupations. The agency would develop programs to educate and train women for technical careers that, historically, have not been open to them.

The Department of Economic Security would receive \$1.4 million targeted at job training for youth. The department also would receive \$1 million for their rehabilitative services, which provides job training to people with disabilities.

The department would also receive \$1.4 million for the State Services for the Blind. The funds would be used to develop a digital communication center for its Radio Talking Book program. The program broadcasts literature over special radio frequencies that can be accessed by special receivers.

History and tourism

The omnibus bill would appropriate \$1 million to the Minnesota Historical Society and \$735,000 to the Department of Administration to fund a wide range of projects statewide.

Of these funds, \$300,000 would go to finance the development of a conference center in Little Falls, \$185,000 would fund improvements to Montevideo's historic railroad de-

pot, and \$100,000 would finance rehabilitation on the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad outside of Duluth.

Employment contracts

The omnibus bill also includes compromise language from a bill that initially called for all employers to disclose the terms of employment in writing in each employee's first language.

The current bill would require only that the Department of Labor and Industry develop a brochure stating employee rights and listing employee resource phone numbers.

The provision also would require employers to provide the brochure when an employee is first offered a job, and the bill would provide penalties for employers who fail to do so.

Saving subsidized housing

A provision that would provide \$10 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to assist in maintaining existing low-income housing is the centerpiece of the \$15 million housing portion of the bill.

The proposed \$10 million appropriation to protect existing affordable housing was worked on by legislators during the interim and was incorporated into the governor's budget recommendations. The provision comes in response to a situation occurring statewide.

In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program where developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of many such complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mortgage and to begin charging market-rate rent.

Housing advocates say that this scenario could happen at the over 300 apartment complexes throughout the state that were financed through the federal program.

The \$10 million in the bill would fund the equity takeout loan program administered by the MHFA. The fund is used to provide financial incentives to maintain existing subsidized housing. The incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

Other housing help

The bill would allocate \$1.6 million to the MHFA to be used for current programs that finance the construction of new multifamily rental housing. The funds would be used in collaboration with federal dollars to build affordable rental housing.

Another provision would appropriate \$1.1 million to homelessness prevention programs administered by the MHFA. Of this, \$365,000 would go to the Bridges Program, which provides rental assistance to people with disabilities.

Programs that assist home ownership would receive \$2.2 million, under the bill. That sum would include \$1.6 million to the Community Rehabilitation Fund for the production of affordable single-family housing and \$500,000 for home ownership zones to encourage ownership in distressed areas.

The bill would also provide \$200,000 to fund programs seeking to make Minnesota homes healthier. Of that amount, \$75,000 would fund a program that would provide grants to people who suffer from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. The grants would be used to finance improvements to make the homes chemically free.



GOVERNMENT

State government finance bill

The budget of the Office of the Attorney General and its role in the state's tobacco lawsuit remained intact after the House passed an omnibus state government finance bill March 4.

Other controversial provisions including a stepped-up community-based planning advisory council and a directive to the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission concerning stadium leases also remained in the bill (**HF3137/SF3354***), which is sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia). The bill passed 70-61.

But a provision that would have increased advertising for the state lottery got the thumbs down from lawmakers.

Here's a look at the \$32.8 million House version of the state government spending bill, which now goes to a conference committee.

Funding the attorney general

The bill provides \$24 million in operating expenses for the attorney general's fiscal year 1999, which begins July 1.

That's \$441,000 less than the office requested, but \$1.5 million more than Gov. Arne Carlson recommended. Last year, Carlson used his line-item veto authority to strike the office's proposed 1999 funding, citing "unnecessary, imprudent, and unacceptable growth" in the office.

The attorney general is responsible for asserting and defending the state's legal interests, settling claims involving the public and private sectors, and aiding other law-enforce-

ment agencies in prosecuting and solving cases.

A Republican-backed amendment that would have cut another \$1.5 million from the budget failed on the House floor. Supporters of the amendment said that amount was slipped into the office's base budget after being approved in 1996 as a one-time appropriation to upgrade information systems.

Also failing was an amendment offered by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) that would have directed all profits from a potential settlement or jury award in the state's court battle with tobacco companies to a special account for tax relief.

The bill also includes a call for a task force to evaluate the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the office.

Lottery advertising

House members voted against expanding lottery advertising as part of the government finance bill.

A separate bill (**HF3104**) sponsored by Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) had been rolled into in the omnibus bill by the House Ways and Means Committee, but the plan was deleted on the House floor.

The proposal would have increased the amount of revenue the lottery is allowed to spend on advertising and permitted holiday-themed ads.

But another amendment, which would have all but eliminated lottery advertising, failed to garner enough support from lawmakers.

Community-based planning

A controversial plan to expand a state advisory council on community-based planning has withstood several attempts to remove it from the omnibus bill.

The plan was originally proposed in a separate bill (**HF3609**), sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls). It would expand membership on an existing advisory council as well as extend the life of the council for six months until Dec. 31, 1998. It would not provide additional funding for the council.

The council's purpose is to set up voluntary land-use planning projects between state and local government units.

But many Greater Minnesota lawmakers say that idea scares them for one reason: They don't believe it will remain voluntary for long.

"Sure, now it's voluntary, but we've heard that with every other project that soon became mandatory," said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City).

Osskopp introduced an amendment on the House floor that would have asserted that private-property rights would be respected by the advisory council.

But that amendment failed, as did one by

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) that would have eliminated the six-month extension of the council.

Baseball leases

A contested baseball provision is back in the omnibus bill approved by the House.

Saying they were sick and tired of baseball-related issues, members of the House Governmental Operations Committee had earlier struck a six-line section that would have prohibited the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission from signing any future lease with a professional baseball team for less than seven years.

But the section was re-instated by the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 27, and an amendment to remove it failed on the House floor.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) spoke in favor of the proposal, saying it would send a message to major-league baseball.

"When the Twins canceled their lease early, they threw a hardball into the process," she said. "We're picking up that hardball and sending it back to them."

State spending

Several other funding provisions remained intact when the House passed **SF3354**, including:

- \$3.85 million to help update state computer systems to address problems associated with the advent of the year 2000;
- \$1.2 million for the first year of a two-year study on large animal feedlots;
- \$500,000 in grants to public television stations to help them convert to a digital broadcasting signal, as mandated by the federal government;
- \$315,000 to Pioneer Public Television to build a tower in Otter Tail County. That area is currently the only part of the state that cannot receive a public television signal;
- \$100,000 for Minneapolis and St. Paul to develop computer facilities in public parks for low-income residents;
- \$44,000 to make the state register and guidebook to state agencies available on the Internet free of charge;
- \$25,000 for the Council of State Governments to set up meetings between Minnesota legislators and members of the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments to discuss boundary disputes; and
- \$20,000 to install a portrait of Gov. Arne Carlson in the Capitol.

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



HEALTH

'Critical access' hospitals



Closures and financial problems at rural hospitals nationwide have created concern in Minnesota, where up to 60 percent of the rural hospital patient population is on Medicare.

Effective Feb. 26, 1998, a new state law allows state designation of rural nonprofit or public hospitals and facilities as "critical to access." Such facilities can be certified by the state as necessary providers of health care services to residents in the area.

Necessary providers can be those 20 miles from the nearest hospital, those that are the sole hospital in a county, or those that meet certain federal criteria.

There is the potential for 39 such hospitals in the state to receive the special designation.

Under federal law, critical access hospitals receive enhanced reimbursement and regulatory flexibility in exchange for limiting their inpatient services while maintaining emergency medical services.

A study by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, indicates traumatic injuries are more common in rural areas. Rural areas also have a larger percentage of elderly people than urban areas and higher poverty rates, according to the agency.

The small, rural hospitals designated as "critical access" facilities will retain patients only for a limited time, but the hospitals will be able to arrange for transfers and referrals when longer hospital stays are required.

The bill was the first introduced by Rep. Mary Ellen Ottremba (DFL-Long Prairie), who won a special election last fall to replace her late husband, Ken.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

The new law also calls for the development of a rural health plan within the current level of funding.

HF2550*/SF2261/CH257



HOUSING

Tenant security deposits



A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1998, would extend the current interest rate paid by property owners on tenant security deposits.

Current law sets the rate at 3 percent until 1999, and after that time the rate was to be increased to 4 percent. The rate increase was supposed to parallel an increase in interest rates generally; however, interest rates have remained low.

Property owners said that after 1999 they would be paying a higher rate to hold deposit funds than most financial institutions would pay.

The new law would change the date of the increase to 4 percent from May 1, 1999, to May 1, 2001.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul), was signed by the governor March 4.

HF2590*/SF2122/CH266

Floor visit



Eleven-month-old Tommy Workman takes a break from playing with his toy trucks during a visit to the House chamber with his father, Rep. Tom Workman.



HUMAN SERVICES

Health, human services bill

Salaries for employees at nursing homes in Minnesota would rise 4.25 percent as part of a \$59.7 million health and human services omnibus bill advancing in the House.

The price tag on the wage increase would be \$12.6 million dollars, and it was not part of the governor's budget proposal.

The bill (**HF2868/SF3346***) also includes food assistance for legal immigrants, funds for a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome public awareness program, and measures related to partial birth abortions.

The bill, sponsored by Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), is on its way to the House floor.

The nursing home spending is part of an effort to stabilize the workforce at nursing facilities. Low wages among most nursing home employees, coupled with bountiful job opportunities in other fields in the current booming economy, have made it difficult for nursing homes to attract and keep workers.

The omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 1999 reflects reduced caseloads and expenses that resulted in \$129 million returned to the general fund from the Department of Human Services. The caseload for long-term care is down 5 percent, for example. Cost and caseloads for the elderly and disabled and those on Medical Assistance are also down.

Another crucial element of the spending portion of the bill that cleared the House Ways and Means Committee March 2 includes \$10 million that would create statewide uniformity in child protective services. Minnesota is one of 10 states in which child protective services are provided by the county rather than the state.

It has been determined that these services currently vary widely among the counties.

Another element of the bill would address legal immigrants who were eliminated from the federal food stamp program in September 1997.

Nearly \$9 million would establish a state-funded program for these noncitizens who would otherwise no longer be eligible for food stamp benefits and the Minnesota Food Assistance program. This was also not part of the governor's recommendation.

Also in the funding bill is \$3.5 million that would be allocated to establish Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention, intervention, and education initiatives, an issue that has been deeply supported by Minnesota first lady Susan Carlson.

The governor's total spending proposal for health and human services was just under \$31.7 million for fiscal 1999, but Carlson's

plan did not include the nursing home wage increase. Another \$13.7 million not in the governor's budget would cover the funding of battered women's shelters.

In fiscal year 1999, the authority to pay per diem costs for the shelters was to transfer from the General Assistance program to the Department of Corrections, under the governor's recommendations. But under the House bill, the expense would not transfer. (General Assistance is a state program that offers help to those in poverty who do not qualify for other state or federal welfare programs.)

Nursing homes

The state pays nursing homes a per diem for each resident based on location, property costs and taxes, case mix, and other operating costs. Case mix is determined by the extent of care needed for each patient.

Under the bill, the per diem for salaries would rise 4.25 percent, with the appropriated money to pay nursing home workers who provide direct care to patients, perform house-keeping, and handle other nonadministrative duties.

Greenfield, chair of the Health and Human Services Finance Division, told the Ways and Means Committee March 2 that nursing homes "are having a great deal of difficulty attracting and keeping qualified staff, and part of our job as state representatives is to help with that problem."

Nursing home workers have testified to legislators this session that their work is emotionally stressful and often leads to occupation-related injuries such as back problems, the result of lifting patients.

Legislators were also told that understaffing leads to distress for patients and problems that include malnutrition, which can result from insufficient staff to handle all patients at meal times.

The increase in the per diem rate would take effect July 1, 1998.

The bill also would direct the commissioner of human services, in discussions with nursing homes and other affected parties, to implement a performance-based system by July 1, 2000, to replace the current method of setting the per diem operating cost payments. It would also direct the commissioner to implement a performance-based system at intermediate care facilities for mental retardation.

Help for legal noncitizens

At the beginning of the session, Greenfield said during a committee hearing, "I think it always was the legislative intent to address the food stamp issue." The omnibus bill does just that.

Nearly \$5 million would be used to create the Minnesota Food Assistance Program. As of July 1, 1998, the program would provide food assistance to legal noncitizens not on Minnesota Family Investment Plan-Statewide (MFIP-S), which allows families to accept lower-paying jobs and receive some state aid while working toward the goal of getting off public assistance.

Those entering the one-year food assistance program would have to meet all other eligibility requirements for the federal food stamp program.

The federal Welfare Reform Act of 1996 made noncitizens ineligible for the federal food stamp program, but the federal 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act gives states the option to purchase food stamp benefits for those who are ineligible because they are not citizens.

That option requires states to pay for the value of the food stamp benefits, plus the federal government's cost for providing the option.

Counties would use the same income, budgeting, and benefit allotment regulations for the state program as for the federal food stamp program.

Twelve other states currently provide similar assistance.

Another nearly \$3.8 million would help extend the food supplement to legal noncitizen families on MFIP-S, the state's main welfare reform initiative.

A cash benefit equal to \$63 a month, which was designated to replace the value of the food stamps lost when noncitizens became ineligible for the federal food stamp program, was scheduled to end June 30, 1998. This bill would extend the benefit and also make eligible legal noncitizen families who are on MFIP-S, regardless of whether they became state residents as of July 1, 1997, as current law stipulates.

It is estimated about 4,700 legal noncitizens are eligible for this program, and another 500 noncitizens annually would lose eligibility for federal food stamps and shift onto this plan.

A third food program provision included in the bill would set aside a little over \$4 million for fiscal year 1999 to include food stamp cost of living increases in the food portion of the MFIP-S grants and to fund other modifications to MFIP-S.

The 1997 Legislature reduced the food portion of the MFIP-S grant by \$30 for households receiving public housing subsidies. The full \$30 reduction does not comply with the federal food stamp regulations. Food stamp regulations would permit only a \$10 monthly reduction.

The omnibus bill would authorize \$2.3 million to buy back this \$10 of the \$30 reduction

per household. About \$1.75 million would go toward the cost of living increase.

Partial birth abortions

The bill would make a person who knowingly performs a partial-birth abortion guilty of a felony that carries a sentence of not more than 15 years or payment of a fine of not more than \$50,000.

A partial-birth abortion is one in which the fetus is killed after being partially delivered.

The prohibition would not apply to a partial-birth abortion that is performed as a last resort to save the life of the mother because her life was endangered by a health condition, including a life-threatening condition arising from the pregnancy.

Fetal alcohol syndrome

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a series of birth defects that can result from alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The Journal of the American Medical Association reports Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the leading known cause of mental retardation.

Susan Carlson was co-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which estimated the disease costs Minnesota taxpayers at least \$45 million annually in health, judicial, and social services costs.

The \$3.5 million included the House funding bill is \$1.5 million less than the governor's request for this program.

A total of \$500,000 would help the commissioner of human services expand the maternal and child health social services program, and \$600,000 would help to implement a public awareness campaign.

Another \$300,000 would be used to develop a statewide network of regional Fetal Alcohol Syndrome diagnostic clinics. The legislation designates \$150,000 to help train health care providers. According to the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, less than 10 percent of medical schools require completion of a course on diagnosis.

The launching of a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome coordinating board would use another \$200,000. The board would review and coordinate existing state programs and integrate state and local prevention and intervention programs. It would report to the governor biennially.

A total of \$700,000 of the remaining funds is for a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome community grant program. The commissioner of health would administer the program to fund work by community organizations on prevention and intervention of the syndrome.

Child protective services

In January 1998, the legislative auditor found that child protective services varied widely among Minnesota's 87 counties and that no external evaluation of cases exists. The auditor suggested the system be reformed.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored a bill (**HF2985**) that would work to create consistency in child protection investigations statewide, focus on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and implement several other auditor's recommendations.

Earlier this session, the House Health and Human Services Committee approved the policy part of the bill, which awaits action on the House floor. Greenfield's finance division approved a \$10 million appropriation for the child protection initiatives, and that amount is now in the omnibus bill.

The governor also called for \$10 million for child welfare services in his budget.

The money for child protection would be transferred from the state's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to the state's Federal Title XX block grant, which provides grants to states for social services. The state, in turn, passes the money to the counties for community social services.

Federal law permits states to transfer specified percentages of their TANF block grant to Title XX, and to the state's childhood development fund.

The TANF block grant replaced the Aid to Families with the Dependent Children (AFDC), Emergency Assistance, and Job Opportunities and Basis Skills (JOBS) programs.

Each state is guaranteed a share of TANF funds, which may be used for any purpose authorized under AFDC or JOBS programs. Specified purposes include cash assistance, child care, educational activities designed to increase self-sufficiency, job training, and work activities.

Consumer health assistance

If you can't get referred to a chiropractor under your current health plan, where do you turn? Minnesota health plan companies and health care professionals are governed by more than 20 boards and oversight bodies.

People confused or unhappy about their health plan would have a one-stop place to call, under a \$200,000 provision in the bill that would go to establish an office of health care consumer assistance.

The office would have no regulatory power, but it would have a broad range of duties. It would assist consumers who have complaints or questions about their health plan or health care provider. It would also help them understand their legal rights and get appropriate health care referrals.

The governor would appoint an executive director, and the office would have at least nine consumer advocates to perform the duties of the office.

The original bill (**HF2649**), sponsored by Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls), requested \$700,000 for the program. There was no budget recommendation on this from the governor.

Preceding this legislation was a 1997 state law, the Patient Protection Act, which aimed

Rotunda read-a-thon



Kay Smith, principal at Parkview Center School in Roseville, reads a Dr. Seuss book to some of her first and second graders in the Capitol rotunda March 2 to celebrate reading and to recognize the 94th anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birth. More than 260 schools around the state participated in the daylong event to promote reading with children.

to prevent health plan companies from interfering with the medical professional-patient relationship, and to provide patients with accurate information about their health plan and health plan companies.

Welfare to work

Under Minnesota's traditional welfare program, a family left welfare when its income reached 85 percent of the poverty level. Some state officials said that too often discouraged people on welfare from getting a job, because families who worked had the income deducted from their welfare check.

Under the new MFIP-S employment and training program, welfare recipients are to be evaluated and put into a job search or provided with education and training, if necessary, and moved into the workforce quickly.

But the argument was made before and among legislators this year that pushing some MFIP-S recipients toward low-paying jobs was in the long run hurting the state and some individuals.

Testimony heard this session depicted numerous situations in which people nearing completion of postsecondary degrees that would lead to jobs paying a livable wage were told to quit school and find employment or lose state benefits.

Part of the omnibus bill would allow those within 12 months of attaining a degree, or 18 months if remedial education is needed, to retain benefits while continuing their education.

Job counselors would emphasize the education and training opportunities available — an emphasis determined to be inconsistent statewide — and decide if a lack of proficiency in English is an employment barrier. If it is, an English as a second language program would have to be in the participant's employment plan as long as the participant makes satisfactory progress and the lack of proficiency is a continued employment barrier.

The cost of the change would be just under \$1.1 million, with another \$400,000 requested for child care services.

Another change would require that each participant's language and math skills be assessed. If a participant has basic math skills at or below the eighth-grade level, the person would be allowed to enroll in adult basic education as part of the job search.

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INDUSTRY

Industrial hygiene, safety

People hired to make work environments safer would need to meet certain requirements if they wish to use titles such as "industrial hygienist," under a bill that passed the House March 2. The vote was 110-21.

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), the bill would provide legal recognition to the industrial hygiene and safety profession, and would prevent individuals who have not met certain requirements from using specific titles.

Organizations for industrial hygienists — who work to control workplace environmental factors that may cause illness — have been around for at least 60 years. But it is a field that has received increasing attention in recent years.

The bill (**HF668**) would prescribe the conditions under which a person can use the titles of industrial hygienist, industrial hygienist in training, certified industrial hygienist, certified safety professional, associate safety professional, or construction health and safety technologist.

Two states have adopted similar legislation, and it is being considered in four others, according to the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE).

Anyone practicing industrial hygiene would not be allowed to use the professional titles listed above unless he or she attended an accredited college or university and received the proper certification, under Seagren's bill. A certified industrial hygienist, for instance, would have to pass a test by the nonprofit American Board of Industrial Hygiene and maintain that license in order to use the title.

Individuals would also have to meet certain work experience conditions.

The ASSE, founded in 1911, claims as little as \$225 can buy a lifetime certification containing the titles the legislation would protect. The ASSE also argues there are other groups who supply documentation and photo identification containing these titles, but the groups require no experience or education.

More stringent accrediting organizations, such as the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, require testing and scheduled recertification. This board has found instances of individuals falsely using their title designations.

The restrictions would not apply to properly supervised apprentices, or those employed by the state of Minnesota. It was argued that employees of the state are already subject to stringent standards, and it would be onerous

to place another stipulation upon them. The bill now moves to the Senate.



MILITARY

NATO expansion resolution



Signed
by the
governor

A new law requires the state to send a resolution asking President Clinton and Congress to support the admission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary to NATO. The measure became law without the governor's signature March 5.

A NATO expansion to include the three countries is anticipated in April 1999, pending U.S. approval. President Clinton supports the expansion and the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved a measure March 3 calling for admitting the three former Soviet-bloc nations to the international peace-keeping organization.

Within the next few weeks, the issue is expected to come before the full U.S. Senate, where a three-quarters majority is needed to approve the resolution.

The Minnesota proposal was originally sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), who spent about two months translating for NATO troops in northeastern Bosnia last summer.

"My idea is that every country should join NATO, and then once everybody is joined in support of peace, we won't need any more armies," he said.

Sen. Larry Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2417*/SF2055/Res.5



TAXES

Omnibus tax bill

A plan to provide a new property tax rebate in October 1998 is included in the early version of the omnibus tax bill, discussed March 4 by the House Taxes Committee.

The Taxes Committee is expected to approve the omnibus bill in time for the legislation to go to the House floor before mid-March.

With the state's projected budget surplus of \$1.9 billion, the current incarnation of the bill includes several provisions for either tax cuts or tax rebates.

Other provisions in the bill would provide an expanded senior citizens' property tax deferral program, cuts in sales, and additional funds for the state's budget reserve.

Most provisions in the 200-page bill have

had hearings in the committee's Property Tax and Tax Increment Division or Sales and Income Tax Division this session, and most proposals were forwarded to the full committee without recommendation.

Under the bill, homeowners and renters would get a rebate next year equal to 20 percent of their property taxes paid in 1998, up to a maximum of \$1,500. Current law provides such a rebate on property taxes paid in 1997, except there is no maximum on the amount of the rebate.

The bill also calls for homeowners and renters to get an additional rebate in October 1998 equaling 50 percent of the rebate they received on property taxes paid in 1997, up to a maximum of \$750.

The bill also includes some permanent property tax reform measures. The bill would increase the top value of homes in the first property tax tier — taxed at the lowest rate — from \$75,000 to \$78,000 by 2001. Also, the tax rate the second tier of residential property would fall from 1.85 percent to 1.7 percent by 2001.

Property taxes on farms also would be decreased. The tax on the first \$115,000 of such property would go from 0.4 percent to 0.35 percent by 2001. The rate on the value in excess of \$115,000 would go from the current 0.9 percent to 0.8 percent by 2001.

Property tax rates also would be cut for commercial and industrial property and apartment buildings.

Under the bill, senior citizens with an annual income of up to \$40,000 would qualify for the senior property tax deferral program. Current law allows only those with an income up to \$30,000.

Some sales taxes also would be reduced. The sales tax on farm machinery, logging equipment, and "aqua culture" production equipment would go from 2.5 percent to 1.5 percent in 1998. Sales tax on these items would be eliminated in 1999.

Public libraries would see sales taxes eliminated on all their purchases.

Finally, the bill would increase the state's budget reserve to \$582 million. It's now at \$522 million.

The Taxes Committee heard testimony on the bill March 5, and was to begin taking amendments from members March 6. The bill is expected get to the House floor sometime during the week of March 9.



TRANSPORTATION

Sirens and flashing red lights



A new law signed by the governor March 4 will reinstate a safety requirement for ambulances.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will require all medical emergency vehicles to both sound an audible signal and activate red emergency lights while responding to emergencies. Medical vehicles that are transporting patients in non-emergency situations will not be required to sound their alarms.

Last session, legislation to exempt law enforcement officers from the requirement to sound audible signals while responding to emergency calls included language that also exempted emergency medical vehicles.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), House sponsor of the new measure, said that after the 1997 law was approved, insurance carriers began telling owners of emergency medical vehicles that rates for coverage would rise if both audible and visible signals were not used while responding to emergencies.

Proponents argued that it is safer for ambulance drivers, other motorists, and pedestrians to have the audible warning in addition to flashing red lights.

That's more like it



A week after near record high temperatures were reached, winter returned to the Capitol with snow and temperatures more appropriate for early March.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2576/SF2028*/CH263



VETERANS

Gulf War veterans' bonuses



A new law effective Feb. 26 allows the state's Department of Veterans Affairs to consider documents other than a veteran's military discharge form in determining an applicant's eligibility for a state bonus program for Persian Gulf War veterans.

In 1997, the Legislature passed a law setting aside \$17 million to give Minnesota's approximately 44,000 Persian Gulf War veterans a bonus for their military service in Desert Storm. Veterans receive bonuses at three levels: Approximately 13,000 who served within a war zone are eligible to get \$600. Another 30,500 who were preparing to be shipped overseas can get \$300, and the families of the nine Minnesota soldiers killed in the war each are eligible for \$2,000.

Problems arose when the process used by the veterans affairs department to determine eligibility was causing benefit delays of up to six months.

Under the new law, the department can use — in the place of military discharge forms — other reliable documentation proving military service. The documents must be approved by the department.

Minnesota veterans who served in the military between Aug. 2, 1990, and July 31, 1991, are eligible. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 1999, and are available through groups such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Chief sponsors of the legislation were Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

HF2338*/SF2167/CH258

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Rep. Kevin Knight . . .

Three-term legislator eyes office of state treasurer

By Matt Wetzel



When Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) first ran for the House, he spoke in favor of term limits and vowed he would serve no more than four terms.

Now, as he eyes an opportunity to run for state treasurer, Knight has announced he will step down after just three terms. And he's already talking about what kind of state treasurer he would be.

"I'd like to take my own approach to investment issues and make that standard," Knight said. "I have a strong interest in the pension system."

The state treasurer receives and issues receipts for all payments to the treasury and controls money held in state bank accounts. The office maintains records, provides accounting services, and directs principal and interest payments on bond accounts and certificates of indebtedness.

The thing that the 40-year-old Chicago native is most proud of from his legislative career is his work to protect the state's financial well-being.

"Myself and others have brought a perspective on things relating to spending and brought a firm hand to the bottom line," he said.

In 1995, he and some other legislators, known as the "fiscal conservative caucus," worked to suggest reductions in state spending. The result was a report published in January 1996 that laid out specific recommendations for spending cuts.

"We found that \$1 billion of the spending [during that biennium] was classified as wasteful spending," he said. However, few of the group's suggestions were adopted.

Notable legislation that Knight helped sponsor includes a 1997 "corporate welfare" measure calling for the formation of a commission to study incentives given to corporations by cities to attract them and their jobs.

Knight said he was struck by the irony that in every year since 1988, the Legislature had done something to help reform welfare. But nothing had been done about "corporate welfare," which Knight defines as "the unequal distribution of money and benefits to one corporation at the expense of another corpo-



Rep. Kevin Knight, a third-term lawmaker known for his fiscal conservatism, is leaving the House to run for state treasurer.

ration, for no meaningful social purpose."

Knight made news recently by traveling to North Carolina after the failure of proposals to build a new baseball stadium here for the Minnesota Twins.

Team owner Carl Pohlad earlier signed a statement of intent to sell the team to North Carolina businessman Don Beaver, who said he intended to move the team there after the 1998 season. A vote to build a stadium here would have nullified the Beaver deal. The failure of the stadium legislation left an uncertain future for professional baseball in Minnesota.

But Knight said there didn't seem to be an enthusiastic sense of welcome for a new baseball team in North Carolina, and there was not clear support for building a new baseball stadium there. Knight concluded the Twins would not be moving there any time soon.

"There is not strong political support in Charlotte".

He added that the Twins are back where they started and that the only thing that will fix things is new ownership.

Knight, who lives in Bloomington with his

wife, Bonnie, and their three children, grew up on Chicago's south side, then the heart of the late Richard J. Daley's Democratic machine, run by the longtime mayor of that city.


Friends and acquaintances of Knight's family worked for the Daley administration, and Knight said he learned some important lessons from observing them.

"[Politics] was a people business. It was fixing potholes; it was patrolling certain blocks. It gives you an appreciation for public service," he said.

So how did a youngster who grew up in a heavily Democratic area become an outspoken Republican?

"As I got older, I wanted to make my own decision on what political affiliation I'd follow," he said.

As he prepares to campaign for state treasurer, Knight said he'll miss the people in the Legislature.

"But if I'm fortunate enough to win in November, I'll still get to see them," he said. "I was fortunate being able to represent people in Bloomington." 

A people without a government . . .

Border battles precede birth of Minnesota Territory

On May 29, 1848, Wisconsin became a state and the settlers who lived in the area between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers became a people without a government.

The region had formerly been St. Croix County, the westernmost county of the Wisconsin Territory. And with the Wisconsin state government forming with somewhat smaller boundaries, the territorial government ceased to exist.

Two years earlier in 1846, Morgan L. Martin, a Wisconsin territorial delegate in the U. S. House of Representatives, introduced a bill to create the separate territory of "Minasota" in the area between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. Illinois Congressman Stephen A. Douglas of the House Committee on Territories amended the proposed name to the "Itaska Territory." Members of Congress also suggested the names Jackson, Washington, and Chippewa for the proposed territory.

On March 3, 1847, after the name "Minnesota" was selected, the legislation to create a new territory stalled. The measure was tabled after a senator suggested that the region was just too sparsely populated to be a territory, especially if that meant an appropriation for a territorial government.

Later that year, Congress passed enabling legislation that allowed Wisconsin to begin organizing as a state. The legislation included prescribed borders that followed Wisconsin's current state boundaries.

When the Wisconsin constitutional convention met in December 1847, a small minority of the delegates convinced fellow Wisconsinites that they should extend the western boundary further than was allowed by the enabling federal legislation. They decided the western border ought to run from the mouth of the Rum River northeast to the rapids of the St. Louis River. Had that been allowed to remain, much of what is now the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area would be in Wisconsin.

Leaders from St. Croix County were opposed to any change to the borders that Congress prescribed. Joseph R. Brown, Franklin Steele, and William R. Marshall, foreseeing a future Minnesota, lobbied Congress to leave the borders where they were in the enabling legislation.

Brown and others argued that the new border set by the Wisconsin convention would be unfair to any new territory created in the region. The border proposed by the Wisconsin



Map courtesy *Minnesota History*, by Theodore C. Blegen and Theodore L. Nydahl

inites had been placed up river from St. Anthony Falls, and no river traffic could proceed past that point. Under such conditions, the territory of Minnesota, if it was created, wouldn't have had a single Mississippi River landing suitable for commercial use.

Brown and his cohorts were counting on the fact that Congress would side with them on the border issue, effectively leaving St. Croix County without a government. Congress would be forced to designate the region as the Minnesota Territory.

Congress reinstated the boundaries that had been in the initial enabling act and granted Wisconsin statehood. However, Congress failed to act on the issue of St. Croix County, leaving the area an unorganized region.

In other situations where reorganization created a "no-man's-land," such as was once the case for northeastern Iowa, an adjacent territory was given jurisdiction over the region. States, however, cannot extend authority beyond their state lines. Neither Iowa to the south nor Wisconsin to the east could extend legal jurisdiction into the former St. Croix County.

Residents of the area were confronted with the lack of a civil authority to bind business transactions, civil marriages, and other official proceedings.

Civic leaders met in Stillwater on May 29, 1848, to discuss their plan of action. An interesting legal argument emerged from their discussions. Since portions of the Wisconsin Territory were not included in the organization of the state of Wisconsin, the area left over remained a territory, they believed. The state of Wisconsin and the territory of Wisconsin could exist side by side, each a distinct political entity.

Henry H. Sibley was elected by the convention and later by a general election "to proceed to Washington City to best tend to effect the early organization of the Territory of Minnesota." He was to go to Washington to be seated in Congress as a territorial delegate from the Wisconsin Territory. If for some reason Congress didn't buy the territorial argument and refused to seat Sibley, he was to remain in Washington to lobby for the new territory.

On Dec. 4, 1848, Sibley's certificate of election as a delegate of the territory of Wisconsin was moved before the U.S. House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on Elections.

Sibley, who had studied law but made his living in the trading business, argued before the committee that the residents of the new territory of Wisconsin were accorded the rights of the Ordinance of 1787, which created the

Northwest Territory. These rights could not be arbitrarily withdrawn, he claimed.


Sibley won the recommendation that he be seated; however, Congress did not officially recognize a territorial government.

In the early part of 1849, political pressure mounted to create territorial governments in California, Nebraska, and New Mexico, as well as Minnesota. Democrats, Sibley among them, argued for increased expansion into the West, especially considering the development of a transcontinental railroad, which would provide even greater access to these lands. Whigs sought to delay the process so their newly elected president, Zachary Taylor, could

appoint the executives of these new territorial governments.

Having recently been elected to the Senate, Stephen Douglas was able to get a Minnesota bill through the Whig-controlled House by linking it to the creation of the Department of the Interior, a measure the Whig Party greatly desired.

On March 3, 1849, the last day of his term, President James Polk signed the law creating the territory of Minnesota; however, President Taylor would make all the territorial appointments. The territory included the present state of Minnesota and the portions of North Dakota and South Dakota east of the Missouri River.

Throughout the territorial debate in Washington, population estimates of the region were exaggerated by Douglas and Sibley to emphasize the point that the area needed to have its own territorial government. Douglas claimed that Minnesota had between 8,000 and 10,000 occupants. He argued that Iowa and Oregon had been made territories under similar conditions. When the 1850 census was completed, records showed that the Minnesota Territory contained only six thousand residents, the smallest number of any state or organized territory at the time. 

continued from page 4

alties for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. Another provision would create a civil penalty for this crime requiring a person found liable for the delinquency of a juvenile to provide restitution to victims.

The bill also would make it easier to get juveniles who are participating in prostitution into the state's child protection system.

Protecting police officers

Several provisions in the bill seek to make it easier and safer for police officers to do their job.

One such provision comes as a result of an incident where two Richfield police officers were accused of sexual assault. Although the allegations were proven false, the incident greatly disrupted the criminal justice process, not to mention the lives of the two officers involved.

The provision would make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties. This provision would also add police officers to a list of judicial officials who are protected from retaliatory harassment under current law.

Another provision would authorize officers to conduct pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.

Under current law, pat-down searches can be performed only on adult offenders. Proponents of the change argued that police officers need to be protected from juveniles, as well as adults, carrying concealed weapons.

In addition, the omnibus bill would make it easier to prosecute people who interfere with officers making an arrest by expanding the legal definition of obstruction of justice.

Reporting crime

Several provisions within the bill require reports to the Legislature regarding crime in Minnesota.

One provision would direct the legislative auditor to study the cost of crime in the state, including direct costs to state and local governments for criminal justice and indirect costs placed on individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods.

The bill also would require cities of the first class to provide data on criminal justice by neighborhood, and proposals for an integrated criminal justice information system which would report occurrence and prosecution of crime within each city.

Another provision seeks more accurate information on prostitution in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The bill would mandate that city attorneys in the two cities and county attorneys in Hennepin and Ramsey counties report on investigation and prosecution of prostitution within these jurisdictions.

Financing justice

The bill contains \$7.3 million in supplemental appropriations, a majority of which would go to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the state courts.

Of the total amount, \$3.3 million would be recouped in revenue from increased criminal justice fees and criminal fines.

The Department of Corrections would receive \$2.8 million, much of which would go to reducing the caseload for probation officers. Grant programs which fund community corrections would also be funded through these dollars.

The Department of Public Safety would be appropriated \$1.8 million. Of these funds, the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman would receive \$125,000 to fund its services; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension would receive \$133,000 to add forensic scientists to its crime lab; and the department would get \$300,000 for law enforcement and community crime prevention grants.

The state fire marshal would receive \$170,000 of public safety money for the creation of an arson data system. The database would contain only basic information at the state level but would provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases of arson.

The bill would appropriate \$1.3 million to the state courts for law clerk salaries. The state public defender would receive \$451,000 for defense attorney salaries. Another \$500,000 would be given to Legal Aid to provide legal service to low-income individuals.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

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

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

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

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

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

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

'I wonder how I did it' . . .

Mrs. Agnes Jensen's career spanned seven chief clerks

By LeClair G. Lambert and Nicole Wood

Back in 1941, when the current chief clerk of the House, Edward A. Burdick, began his lengthy career, the only other employee in the chief clerk's front office was his immediate supervisor, Mrs. Agnes Jensen.

In a recent interview in her New Hope apartment, Jensen, who turned 100 in July 1997, reflected on her many years as the head bookkeeper under seven different chief clerks.

"It's funny about that Legislature," Jensen said. "You just love it."

Jensen, who has five grandchildren and one great-grandchild, is quick to share her stories about the Legislature and her delicately crafted scrapbooks with visitors, particularly the largest book, which holds cards and snapshots from her 100th birthday party.

"I have had three main things in my life: working at the state banking department where I met my husband, the church where I belonged for 60 years, and the Legislature," Jensen said.

Jensen's career in state government began in the early 1920s. When her guardian, former Gov. J.A.O. Preus (*See Reflections, page 2*), took office in 1921, Jensen joined him at the Capitol as secretary to the commissioner of banking. It was here that she met her late husband, Guy, who was a vice president of the Produce Bank.

Next, Jensen joined the temporary staff of the House of Representatives. At first, she commuted to St. Paul by train and trolley from Mound, she said. When she married and moved to south Minneapolis, she rode the streetcar to work.

"Mrs. Jensen's job was very important," Burdick said recently. "There were no other offices or departments such as administrative services like the House has today."

An inscription in one of Jensen's scrapbooks reads: "I loved every minute of that job. I started in December to get the office organized and paid all the bills, all the salaries for



100-year-old Agnes Jensen, a former House staffer, holds a portrait of herself taken when she was 24.

both employees and House members, etc., etc., etc. Then stayed a month after the session to clean up everything."

She also supervised the stenographers and the typing pool, decades before the arrival of computers and duplicating machines.

"When I look back at those days, I wonder how I did it," Jensen said. "But I was young."

Jensen recalled the one time she was put in a bind. The chief clerk had instructed her to hold all copies of a new directory. A woman from the governor's office called to request 20 copies moments later. Jensen is still able to mimic the voice on the other line scolding her when she refused the request: "Mrs. Jensen, this is the *governor's* office calling."

"It's the only time I ever cried [at work]," Jensen said. "That girl was so horrid to me."

Jensen's starting wage was \$5 per day, she said. When she retired in 1955, she was earning \$22.50 per day.

"They were awfully good to me — they

should have been because I worked awfully hard," she said.

Jensen also shared her memories of Burdick as a young man.

"Ed came to my office when he was in his 20s," she said. "But I'm telling you, he was the smartest kid you ever saw. He loved the Legislature."

In 1943, Hazel Johnson, the first female page in the Minnesota Legislature came to work for Jensen.

Johnson retired in 1989, after serving many years as Burdick's desk clerk.

"Ed and Hazel still come to see me," Jensen said. "He is an awfully nice boy and he worked his way up, too!"

The admiration is mutual.

"I learned a lot from her," Burdick said. "She instilled in her employees the importance of working hard and holding down state expenses." 🐾

Legislative Addresses

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St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

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(Room number) State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Minority senators and staff:

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Minnesota Senate
(Room number) State Office Building
100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

Rep. Mark Mahon . . .

Trip to Ireland tops legislator's retirement agenda

By Jim Thielman



The clover leaf pressed into a picture frame on Rep. Mark Mahon's desk was picked by his son at the Mahon homestead in Ireland. Now that Mahon is retiring after six years in the House, a trip to Ireland is high on his agenda — an agenda that's been fairly full for nearly 50 years.

Mahon spent four years in the Air Force, another 35 years at Case International Harvester, 17 years as a local union officer, and 17 in city government. Add to that six years as a state representative.

"You add all those up and I should be 100 years old," Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) said.

Well, maybe 75. Of course, some of those experiences were concurrent, but to stuff all that experience into Mahon's 67 years seemingly would require a shoehorn.

Mahon plans to stay active in a public role he hasn't yet defined, but he does not deny feeling a twinge of melancholy about leaving state government.

"I think anybody we send out of here who says they don't miss it is not being true to themselves. This has been a real rewarding experience. I made a lot of good friends," Mahon said. "I know what people have often thought of politicians, but along with my days at Case, I can't say that I ever worked with a group of more dedicated people."

His margin of victory has increased in each of his three elections, and some urged him to chase a fourth term, but Mahon said, "Sooner or later you have to let go, and it just seemed like it was the right time."

Mahon considered waiting until the end of the session to announce his retirement, but decided that was unfair to voters and candidates. At least three Republicans have announced candidacy for his District 40A seat, and word is as many Democrats will be part of the mix.

Another consideration for Mahon is his wife, Florence, who is recovering from surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. She coordinated all his political campaigns. While the recovery seems smooth, the incident suggests it might be time to focus more on his family, Mahon said.

Mahon serves on the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs, Financial Institutions and Insurance, and Transportation and Transit committees. He's vice chair of the Transportation and Transit Finance Division.

It was during a transportation finance meet-



After a long career of public service, Rep. Mark Mahon is leaving the House after this term, but the Bloomington resident plans to stay active in public affairs.

ing this session that Mahon introduced a bill pertaining to a new category of collector license plates for cars from the mid-70s that left the hearing room resonating with laughter. Legislators were inclined to think the plates would end up on cars more rusty than collectible, and the bill failed to get a hearing the previous session.

"I never thought it would get a hearing this year, either," Mahon said later.

The grilling of Mahon, and his responses, took a comic turn. At least three legislators were in tears before discussion concluded, setting up the payoff line from Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), who chairs the division and who co-sponsored the bill.

"Representative Mahon, is this your re-election bill?" Lieder asked.

When the final round of laughter ebbed, Mahon admitted it was perhaps the first piece of legislation ever laughed to death. Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) was among the culprits.

"Mark came to the Legislature with a lot of experience," Juhnke said. "I think he realized politics is a funny game, and if you take yourself too seriously, you'll drive yourself nuts. He was a good sport about carrying that bill, and I've never seen a committee recess to dry their eyes. That was a lot of fun, and I think that's how we'll all remember him."

While self-deprecating, Mahon has the

knack for trimming to the essence of complicated transportation issues. He's dealt so long with civic issues that his demeanor suggests the competent, workmanlike approach of the local, small-town barber pulling up the window shade and lighting the barber pole for another day's work.

He's balanced that with a knack for long-range planning.

Mahon has championed light rail transit in the metropolitan area for years. He said in committee hearings this year that 20 years ago was the best time to do it.

"This is the second-best time," Mahon said. "If we don't do it with the budget surplus we have now, it will be another 20 years. Frankly, I think if you get a segment of light rail in and operating somewhere, everyone else will be lining up and asking 'when is it going to be our turn?'"

Mahon is also proud of his work during his first term to pass a bill that helped Bloomington get bonding for highway improvements around the Mall of America. The project has contributed to the mall's raging success.

Because Mahon thinks everyone should be involved in public service, he says he has no plans to "go and hide. I'm 67. Not young; not that old. But I've spent 23 years in elective office, and it's hard to remember when I wasn't running for something." 🐾

A partial listing . . .

House Files incorporated into 1998 omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. The section includes unofficial listings, as of a certain date, of the House files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House files due to amendments that happen along the way. In addition, the House files that are listed may have been included either entirely or partially.

The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, and legislative analysts. In some cases, the Senate companion file number and author are listed along with the House file number and author. Each bill is accompanied by a brief description of its content.

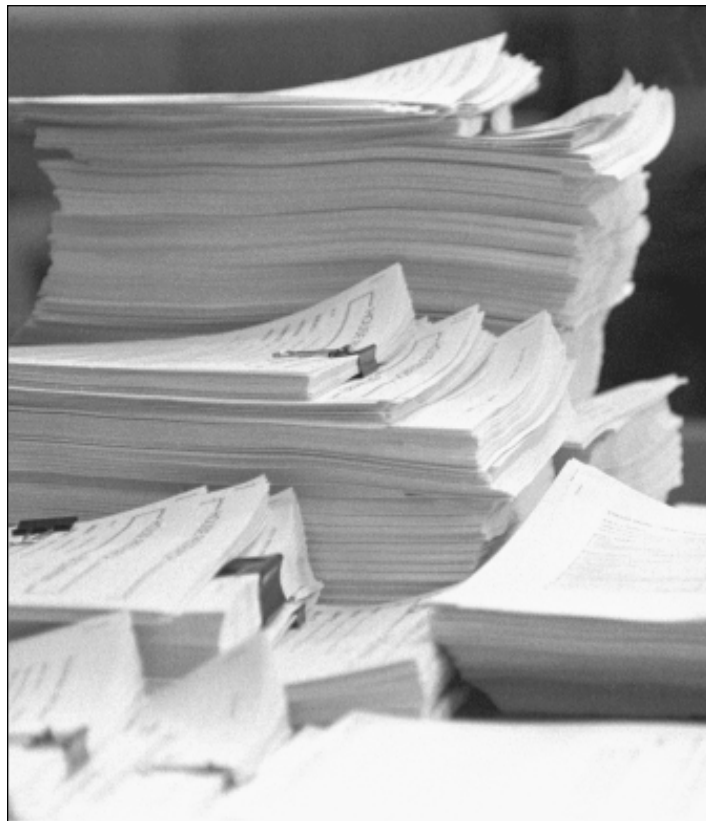
An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.

If you're interested in following conference committee action (and have access to the World Wide Web), point your Web browser to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

You also can stop by the office and pick up a "Today" sheet which provides the daily meeting schedule.

If you have questions, call the House Public Information Office, (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112.

More bill listings will appear in the next issue of the *Session Weekly*.



A total of 1,579 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives so far during the 1998 Legislative session. The governor has already signed a few of these. Some will follow, some will not, and many others have been rolled into large omnibus bills that are awaiting their fates.

Commerce

Omnibus Liquor Bill HF 2695 (Tunheim) As of March 2, 1998

- HF 2691 (Huntley) Canosia permitted the off-sale of intoxicating liquor until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- HF 2799 (Juhnke) Canosia permitted the off-sale of intoxicating liquor until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
- HF 2926 (Tunheim) State universities temporary on-sale liquor licenses authorized.
- HF 2977 (Dawkins) Temporary on-sale liquor license restrictions modified.
- HF 2999 (Molnau) Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less exempt from certain temporary liquor license restrictions.
- HF 3060 (Rukavina) Virginia authorized to issue an additional on-sale liquor license.
- HF 3105 (Pawlenty) Eagan authorized on-sale liquor licenses increased.
- HF 3139 (Tunheim) Beer brewer and wholesaler agreements regulated, and obligations of successors provided.
- HF 3293 (Kraus) Albert Lea authorized to issue additional on-sale liquor licenses.
- HF 3406 (Boudreau) Local alcoholic beverage sale and possession restriction provisions clarified.

Crime

Omnibus Judiciary Finance and Crime Prevention Bill SF3345 (Murphy, Skoglund)

Content as of March 2, 1998, when the bill passed the House on a 74-56 vote. (Note: The bill descriptions appear as they did when bills were introduced. Changes likely have occurred during the legislative process.)

- HF24 (Weaver)/SF300 (Neuville) Three strikes; mandatory life sentence imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.
- HF64 (Pawlenty)/SF395 (Robling) Biological specimens required from persons convicted of causing the death of a person while committing criminal sexual conduct.
- HF644 (Skoglund)/SF537 (Junge) Court defendant guilt adjudication refusal provisions clarified.
- HF1002 (Farrell)/SF914 (Wiger) Fire protection industry regulation modified related to apprentice sprinkler fitters, and civil penalty provided.
- HF2285 (Skoglund)/SF2078 (Junge) Firearms offenses provided increased minimum sentences.
- HF2286 (Skoglund)/SF2168 (Johnson, D.H.) Violent crime offense penalty provisions modified, and mandatory sentence provisions recodified.

- HF2288 (Mullery)/SF2809 (Junge) Consecutive sentences allowed when offender commits additional crimes prior to sentencing, and guidelines modified.
- HF2297 (Mullery)/SF2495 (Kleis) Correctional institution autopsies conducted in all unattended inmate deaths, Red Wing juvenile correctional facility bed limitation exemption provided, and at-risk youth and girls included in the Camp Ripley weekend camp.
- HF2305 (Mullery)/SF2097 (Kelly, R.C.) Gang-related felony crime penalties increased, mandatory minimum sentences provided for witness tampering, and witness and victim protection fund appropriated money.
- HF2306 (Mullery)/SF2692 (Anderson) Direct and indirect costs of crime studied by the legislative auditor.
- HF2312 (Skoglund)/SF2356 (Johnson, D.H.) Methamphetamine manufacturing provided criminal penalties, and sale, possession, and attempt to sell penalties modified.
- HF2313 (Skoglund)/SF2103 (Novak) Arson investigative data system created, state fire marshal authorized to license private fire investigators, making it a crime to engage in fire investigation activities without a license, and money appropriated.
- HF2329 (Mullery) Individuals on conditional release required to carry a verification card, and criminal penalties imposed.
- HF2330 (Mullery) Peace officers authorized to perform protective pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.
- HF2332 (Mullery)/SF2743 (Ranum) Covenant not to allow stolen property in premises required as part of a residential lease.
- HF2352 (Clark, K.)/SF2090 (Berglin) Restorative justice programs authorized, existing program funding provided, and money appropriated.
- HF2375 (Clark, K.)/SF2104 (Berglin) Prostitution offenses committed in a school, park, or public housing zone provided increased penalties.
- HF2376 (Evans)/SF2944 (Anderson) State correctional facilities performance report required to include programming and inmate job placement information.
- HF2381 (Chaudhary)/SF2724 (Betzold) DWI; driver's license reinstatement fee increased to fund the remote electronic alcohol monitoring pilot program, and money appropriated.
- HF2386 (Skoglund)/SF2723 (Betzold) Special registration plate and regular reissue plate fees increased for repeat DWI violators following an impoundment order, and remote electronic alcohol monitoring program funded.
- HF2391 (Jefgerson)/SF1699 (Junge) Persons using children to import controlled substances into the state provided increased criminal penalties.
- HF2395 (Mullery)/SF3236 (Foley) Felony-level offenders failing to appear in court provided increased criminal penalties.
- HF2411 (Mullery) Judges authorized to set release conditions in cases of crimes against the person.
- HF2431 (Paymar)/SF2066 (Anderson) Fair housing initiative established, grants provided for enforcement, education, and outreach, and money appropriated.
- HF2433 (Stanek)/SF2259 (Johnson, D.H.) Conditional release data system established by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.
- HF2452 (Mullery) Peace officers authorized to briefly detain persons on conditional release for just cause.
- HF2457 (Mullery) Corrections agencies order issuance authority clarified for persons on conditional release who are in violation or escape, and peace and probation officer authority to detain and release conditional releasees clarified.
- HF2469 (Clark, K.)/SF2089 (Berglin) Burglary accomplice liability clarified.
- HF2471 (Mullery)/SF3234 (Foley) Defendant release following conviction or guilty plea prohibited under certain circumstances, and guilty plea waiver of bail required.
- HF2472 (Mullery) Probation violators community work service authorized, and community work service imposition review by district court provided.
- HF2505 (Delmont)/SF2161 (Krentz) Drive-by shooting at an occupied motor vehicle maximum sentence and severity level increased.
- HF2535 (Stanek)/SF2317 (Higgins) Law enforcement officer property damage compensation responsibility clarified, state compensation and local government reimbursement process established, and money appropriated.
- HF2597 (Skoglund)/SF2238 (Betzold) Indecent exposure while confining or restraining another person deemed a felony, and sex offender registration required.
- HF2606 (Wagenius)/SF 2095 (Ranum) Community right to know act; cities required to collect and maintain information on neighborhood crime statistics, and reports required.
- HF2626 (Boudreau)/SF2273 (Neuville) Faribault state land conveyance authorized.
- HF2679 (Biernat)/SF2587 (Kelly, R.C.) Crimes motivated by involvement with a criminal gang provided expanded enhancement penalties.
- HF2702 (Weaver)/SF3006 (Knutson) Crime of obstructing legal process, arrest or firefighting penalties scope expansion.
- HF2734 (Bishop)/SF2498 (Kelly, R.C.) Sex offender registration law expanded.
- HF2749 (Broecker)/SF2486 (Neuville) Judiciary finance and Department of Corrections supplemental appropriations bill.
- HF2782 (Evans)/SF2438 (Junge) Domestic abuse definition expanded, and order for protection violation penalties clarified.
- HF2806 (Slawik)/SF2545 (Junge) Indecent exposure felons subject to the sex offender registration law.
- HF2853 (Weaver) Concurrent incarceration provisions clarified for separate crimes or behavioral incidents, and concurrent and consecutive sentences specification requirements modified.
- HF2901 (Murphy)/SF2572 (Betzold) CHIPS; child in need of protection or services definition expanded to include certain juvenile petty offenders.
- HF2943 (Murphy)/SF2596 (Ranum) Juvenile dispositional residential treatment facility temporary bed moratorium imposed, and out-of-home placements studied.
- HF2993 (Paymar)/SF2684 (Ranum) Order for protection/minor respondent violations provided criminal penalties, firearm possession prohibited, and harassment restraining order service of notice clarified.
- HF3014 (Pugh)/SF2594 (Foley) Contributing to a child's delinquency, juvenile petty offender status, and need for protection services laws clarified, and penalties imposed.
- HF3023 (Stanek)/SF2695 (Johnson, D.H.) Repeat theft crime penalties clarified.
- HF3035 (Skoglund)/SF2663 (Johnson, D.H.) Harassment and stalking crime expanded to include injury of a peace officer's reputation, and enhanced penalties provided.
- HF3039 (Pawlenty)/SF3022 (Knutson) Subsequent controlled substance conviction provisions expanded to include dispositions under the controlled substance prescription law.
- HF3051 (Biernat)/SF2595 (Foley) Failure to obey certain subpoenas provided felony penalties, and felony offender failure to appear

for criminal proceedings provided increased penalties.

HF3053 (Larsen)/SF3021 (Knutson) Interference with privacy and making obscene or harassing telephone calls exempt from juvenile petty offenses.

HF3059 (Juhnke)/SF2758 (Junge) Juvenile court records made public in certain cases, and annual delinquency disposition reports required.

HF3061 (Chaudhary)/SF2869 (Betzold) Driver's license revocation judicial review petition and judicial expungement order petition content requirements modified.

HF3085 (Peterson)/SF2548 (Betzold) Emergency management division volunteer resources coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF3163 (Pugh)/SF2836 (Ten Eyck) Public defender law corrections, updates, and clarifications provided.

HF3204 (Pugh)/SF2846 (Kelly, R.C.) Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled substance listing effective date delayed.

HF3357 (Murphy)/SF3246 (Foley) Court surcharge and fine assessment provisions revised and consolidated.

HF3360 (Paymar)/SF2737 (Junge) Recognition of domestic abuse protection orders from other jurisdictions clarified.

HF3506 (Wenzel) Drive-by shooting penalties increased.

HF3515 (McGuire)/SF3033 (Cohen) Ramsey County family court combined jurisdiction pilot project sunset extended.

HF3549 (Pugh)/SF3092 (Metzen) Ephedrine provided prescription status, sale, marketing, and possession restricted, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3561 (Murphy)/SF3140 (Kelly, R.C.) Commissioner of corrections authorized to contract with counties for placement of juveniles in the serious/chronic program, PREPARE, at Red Wing.

HF3590 (Dawkins)/SF2368 (Spear) Sentencing Guidelines Commission report proposal approved.

HF3703 (Carruthers)/SF3267 (Johnson, D.H.) Hennepin County district court administrator fees modified, and Fourth Judicial District fine distribution studied.

Education

Omnibus Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Bill HF2803/SF2532* (Kinkel)

Content as of Feb. 26, 1998, when the bill passed the House on a 91-42 vote. (Note: The bills listed are included either entirely or partially.)

HF2283 (Delmont) Nonstandard hour child care development grants established, incentives provided, and money appropriated.

HF2406 (Entenza) Nonprofit organization grants for statewide literacy support services provided funding through adult basic education.

HF2459 (Slawik) Start-up and expanding child care provider licensing, assistance, outreach, and training provided, employer licensing requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF2581 (Delmont) Emergency assistance and transitional housing programs appropriated money.

HF2593 (Juhnke) Child guide prevention program appropriated money.

HF2709 (Sykora) Early childhood and family education programs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2726 (Slawik) Family and community services assistance grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF2748 (Tomassoni) Minnesota family assets for independence ini-

tiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.

HF2780 (Evans) Basic sliding fee child care self-employment exception eligibility for caregivers provided.

HF2803 (Kinkel) Child care program transition year families definition clarified, employment and training assistance eligibility expanded, human services order review provisions modified, program costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2936 (Wolf) Energy conservation account and liquefied petroleum gas account funds transferred to the commissioner of children, families, and learning for low-income energy programs.

HF2962 (Clark, K.) Lead abatement program appropriated money.

HF3066 (Winter) Delivered fuel account established, and money appropriated.

HF3125 (McGuire) Gang prevention and intervention program appropriated money.

HF3338 (Mulder) At-home infant care program eligibility provisions modified.

HF3344 (Mariani) Incentives for child care services for children with disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

HF3396 (McGuire) Child care assistance and child care programs modified, provider rate bonus for reading programs and school-age child care program grants established, and money appropriated.

HF3422 (Sykora) Direct child care assistance payments modified.

Omnibus Higher Education Supplemental Appropriations Bill SF3297 (Pelowski)

Content as of Feb. 26, 1998, when the House passed the bill on a 104-26 vote.

HF895 (Kinkel) Higher education governing boards.

HF2324 (Carlson) Financial aid modifications.

HF2652 (Opatz) Providing supplemental funding for certain campuses.

HF2741 (Leighton) Regent changes.

HF2955 (Mares) Increasing student funding for certain campuses average.

HF2984 (Tomassoni) Subcommittee initiatives on planning and transitions.

HF3251 (Pelowski) U of M - expand legal assistance program.

HF3691 (Carlson) Grade 13 bill.

Omnibus K-12 Education Finance Bill HF2874 (Kelso)

Content as of March 2, 1998, when the bill was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee. (Note: The bills listed are included either entirely or partially.)

HF820 (Dehler) Guidance/counseling in nonpublic schools.

HF1678 (Biernat) Task Force on K-12 governance/abolish state board.

HF2214 (Murphy) PSEO students allowed to participate in school activities.

HF2276 (Biernat) Mandatory summer school attendance.

HF2318 (Leppik) Accelerated instruction for high achievers.

HF2319 (Greiling) Remove Local Match from Gifted & Talented.

HF2321 (Seagren) Residential academy.

HF2345 (Entenza) School lunch and food storage aid.

HF2348 (Ness) ITV deficiency funding.

HF2349 (Ness) Basic skills summer school.

HF2350 (Ness) Secondary vocational deficiency funding.

HF2359 (Sekhon) Compensatory revenue — equity adjustment factor.

HF2412 (Lieder) Extend flood loss appropriation.

HF2445 (Leppik) Parking fees contingent on bus ridership.

HF2446 (Sviggum) Bus purchase levy for districts with negative balances.

HF2464 (Johnson, A.) Compensatory revenue — equity adjustment factor.

HF2474 (Opatz) St. Cloud (742) Community education site.

HF2501 (Kraus) Albert Lea (241) year-round school/extended week or day Pilot.

HF2522 (Greiling) K-12 policy changes.

HF2611 (Kelso) American Indian language and culture programs.

HF2613 (Luther) At-risk student levy for Osseo (279).

HF2660 (Johnson, A.) Library data access grant.

HF2759 (Mares) Remove local match from gifted and talented.

HF2763 (Wagenius) First grade preparedness.

HF2788 (Dawkins) Remove YouthWorks sunset.

HF2792 (Johnson, R.) Library on-line catalog software.

HF2836 (Opatz) Define home school for extracurricular activities.

HF2839 (Seagren) Minnesota Council on Economic Education.

HF2860 (Erickson) Residential academy.

HF2874 (Kelso) Repeal Education Finance Act of 1992.

HF2875 (Greiling) Special ed reform.

HF2882 (Entenza) Expand all-day kindergarten.

HF2903 (Tomassoni) Regional Public Library System.

HF2915 (Evans) Mounds View (621) Health and safety for new construction.

HF2967 (Rifenberg) Caledonia (299) planning grant.

HF3003 (Wolf) Repeal pre-Labor Day start prohibition.

HF3004 (Wolf) Remove superintendent salary cap.

HF3017 (Entenza) Class size reduction funding.

HF3025 (Entenza) St. Paul bonding authority (element taken from larger bill).

HF3043 (Trimble) Metronet - Minnesota Authors Video Series.

HF3052 (Seagren) Governor's supplemental budget recommendations.

HF3062 (Carlson) Ongoing funding for technology.

HF3090 (Schumacher) Unlimited possibilities grants.

HF3109 (Ness) Crow River, Meeker and Wright facility grant.

HF3127 (Luther) Phase in full day kindergarten.

HF3128 (Siefert) Lynd (415) Fund Transfer (Re-employment and Bus to General).

HF3130 (Koskinen) Compensatory revenue — equity adjustment factor.

HF3154 (Chaudhary) Elementary class size reduction.

HF3197 (Folliard) Model policy on pupil transportation efficiency.

HF3199 (Leighton) Modifying charter school employment and operating provisions.

HF3206 (Lieder) Expand uses of health and safety for Ada-Borup (2854).

HF3212 (Mares) Residential academy.

HF3217 (Kelso) Murphy's Landing and IronWorld historical education programs.

HF3223 (Slawik) Graduation standards implementation revenue.

HF3227 (Murphy) Carlton (93) planning grant.

HF3257 (Larsen) Residential correctional facilities.

HF3263 (Schumacher) Funding for graduation standards/teacher training.

HF3266 (Kelso) Charter school contractual arrangements.

HF3271 (Pugh) South St. Paul (6) and Mankato (77) admin. space

lease levy.

HF3307 (Biernat) Minnesota Learning Resource Center grant.

HF3328 (Entenza) Learn and Earn changes.

HF3329 (Johnson, A.) New Visions remote-site consulting services grant.

HF3374 (Solberg) Permanent levy authority for retired employee health benefits.

HF3397 (Bradley) Rochester special ed services (as amended).

HF3410 (Slawik) Site-based funding for all-day kindergarten.

HF3425 (Anderson I) Modify supplemental revenue.

HF3431 (Kelso) U of M - Office of Educational Accountability.

HF3468 (Entenza) Collaborative urban educator.

HF3520 (Mullery) Nontraditional careers for girls and women.

HF3522 (Hilty) Special education assessments to comply with federal law.

HF3600 (Harder) Jackson County Central Referendum Authority.

HF3608 (Biernat) Repeal of the Education Funding Act of 1992.

HF3610 (Carruthers) Standards-based staff development.

HF3646 (Johnson, A.) School restructuring grant.

HF3655 (Skare) Funding for graduation standards implementation.

HF3664 (Dawkins) In-school suspension revenue.

HF3665 (Dawkins) At-risk student open enrollment incentives study.

HF3681 (Ozment) Teacher training to enhance the graduation rule.

HF3684 (Carlson) Model technology program.

HF3724 (Biernat) Youth athletics demonstration program grant.

HF3736 (Juhnke) Alternative calculation for compensatory revenue.

HF3753 (Dempsey) Hastings (200) School Crossing Guard levy.

HF3768 (Kalis) Maple River (2135) coordinated facilities plan.

HF3774 (Peterson) Ortonville (62) model technology integration grant.

HF3775 (Tunheim) Lake of the Woods (390) model distance learning grant.

HF3782 (Kubly) Enhanced pairing cooperation and combination aid.

Environment

Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Bill HF3799/SF3353* (Osthoff)

Content as of March 5, 1998, when the House passed the bill on a 68-62 vote.

HF663 (Rukavina) Mineral coordinating committee.

HF1332 (Rukavina) Lakeshore lease.

HF1561 (Finseth) Living snow fences.

HF1690 (Hasskamp) Personal watercraft.

HF2361 (Sekhon) Linwood surface water.

HF2427 (Munger) Frog research.

HF2515 (Bakk) Modifying membership in the Forest Resources Council.

HF2515 (Osthoff) Metro Greenways.

HF2538 (Wagenius) PCA annual report requirements.

HF2668 (Kubly) Passing the farm.

HF2713 (Westfall) Modifying flood control grants.

HF2997 (Knoblach) Task force on cost benefit water quality standards.

HF3018 (Munger) White pine.

HF3076 (Kalis) Quad lakes restoration.

HF3276 (Skare) Beaver damage grants.

HF3321 (Peterson) Ethanol producer payment modifications.

HF3421 (Winter) Market Champ Inc.

HF3441 (Peterson) Feedlots.
 HF3559 (Otremba) Sauk dam.
 HF3572 (Bakk) Timber permits extensions.
 HF3583 (Bakk) Forest Resources Council funds.
 HF3604 (Schumacher) Benton County landfill.
 HF3621 (Wenzel) Mississippi River sediment.
 HF3633 (Wenzel) Repair of state forests.
 HF3687 (Bishop) Individual septic systems.
 HF3699 (Otremba) Milk marketing orders.
 HF3709 (Kahn) Mississippi whitewater trail.

Government

Supplemental State Government Finance Appropriations Bill HF3137/SF3354* (Rukavina)

Content as of March 4, 1998, when the House passed the bill on a 70-61 vote.

HF2444 (Larson) DOER - Study of disabled, temporary workers.
 HF2627 (Winter) Regional development commissions.
 HF2643 (Farrell) Workers' Compensation settlement judges.
 HF2705 (Kahn) Electronic Guidebook/State Register.
 HF2794 (Tunheim) Consumer protection against fraud/AGs Office.
 HF2908 (Kahn) High Definition Television.
 HF2814 (Tomassoni) Health plan companies/durable medical equipment.
 HF2958 (Otremba) Public TV translator tower in Otter Tail County.
 HF3075 (Anderson, I.) Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP).
 HF3104 (Delmont) Minnesota State Lottery.
 HF3137 (Rukavina) Changes in debt collection act.
 HF3241 (Pelowski) Voter registration/Secretary of State's Office.
 HF3450 (Anderson, I.) Meetings with Manitoba and Ontario parliaments.
 HF3464 (Hilty) Construction Codes Advisory Council.
 HF3497 (Rukavina) Access to technology for the blind.
 HF3601 (Solberg) Budget and finance reporting changes (Supplemental bill contains language, but HF3601 is actually on House floor).
 HF3609 (Long) Community-based planning changes.

Health

Omnibus Health and Human Services Supplemental Finance Bill HF2868 (Greenfield)

Content as of March 2, 1998, when the bill was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee.

HF885 (Greenfield)/SF303 (Lourey) Physical therapy board established, and license requirement provided.
 HF2233 (Pugh)/SF1984 (Wiener) Kidney transplants; post kidney transplant maintenance drug payment provided, and money appropriated.
 HF2334 (Clark, K.)/SF2108 (Berglin) Blood lead analysis reports and data requirements.
 HF2398 (Goodno)/SF2589 (Hottinger) Personal care services termination standards set, transition plans required, recipients provided appeal rights, and temporary stays of termination allowed.
 HF2413 (Lieder)/SF2058 (Moe) FEMA; Federal Emergency Management Agency mental health care grants extended, and money appropriated.

HF2447 (Chaudhary)/SF2720 (Novak) Columbia Heights nursing facility special property payment rate setting procedure established.
 HF2503 (Bradley)/SF2653 (Morse) Region 10 quality assurance commission appropriation carryover authorized.
 HF2517 (Murphy)/SF2189 (Lourey) Carlton County tax-forfeited land sale terms modified.
 HF2531 (Murphy)/SF2188 (Lourey) Carlton County nursing home licensure and certification moratorium exception approval extended.
 HF2573 (Huntley)/SF2027 (Sams) Emergency medical services. communications needs assessment conducted outside the seven-county metropolitan area.
 HF2607 (Rukavina)/SF2184 (Janezich) Spend-up limit exemption and additional reimbursement for real estate taxes provided to a certain nursing facility completing a moratorium exception project.
 HF2649 (Wejcman)/SF2146 (Morse) Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, HMO enrollee complaint system modified.
 HF2651 (Greenfield)/SF2093 (Berglin) Housing with services establishments licensing requirements modified.
 HF2662 (Bradley)/SF2391 (Kiscaden) Medical assistance and general assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.
 HF2664 (Delmont)/SF2194 (Sams) Study. Health plan company equal access requirements clarified, and direct access to chiropractors, optometrists, and advanced practice nurses provided.
 HF2677 (Entenza)/SF240 (Anderson) Home visiting program grant requirements specified, and money appropriated.
 HF2684 (Koskinen)/SF2425 (Hottinger) Nursing home staffing ratios and facilities reimbursement modified, nursing facility salary adjustments per diem provided, and unionization cost use for setting payment rates prohibited.
 HF2723 (Entenza)/SF2277 (Kiscaden) Child welfare reform.
 HF2737 (Goodno)/SF2340 (Stevens) Welfare reform; work first and other programs modified, and nonresidential child care program licensure modified.
 HF2778 (Huntley)/SF2605 (Piper) Governor authorized to enter into agreement with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
 HF2781 (Jennings)/SF2509 (Hottinger) County crisis nursery technical assistance program established, and money appropriated.
 HF2793 (Hilty)/SF2190 (Lourey) Mash-Ka-Wisen treatment center youth alcohol treatment wing construction provided, and money appropriated.
 HF2843 (Rifenberg)/SF2452 (Kiscaden) Southeastern Minnesota crisis intervention project provided funding for developmentally disabled persons in home and community-based services.
 HF2859 (Huntley)/SF2157 (Sams) Medical assistance and general assistance medical care ambulance services payments increased.
 HF2868 (Greenfield)/SF2633 (Berglin) Omnibus HHS Supplementary Appropriations Bill.
 HF2870 (Greenfield)/SF2634 (Berglin) Health care cost information system provisions modified, filing fee established, and money appropriated.
 HF2883 (Kubly)/SF2467 (Johnson, D.E.) Granite Falls project turn-about appropriated money.
 HF2913 (Koskinen)/SF2673 (Hottinger) Human services home-sharing program appropriated money.
 HF2917 (Weaver)/SF2601 (Foley) Anoka County land conveyance authorized.

HF2943 (Murphy)/SF2596 (Ranum) Juvenile dispositional residential treatment facility temporary bed moratorium imposed, and out-of-home placements studied.

HF2953 (Otremba, M.)/SF2547(Dille) County grants provided for children's mental health services, and money appropriated.

HF2990 (Huntley)/SF2567 (Berglin) Welfare programs providing an education choice provisions modified.

HF3006 (Carlson)/SF2400 (Berglin) Rule 80 nursing facilities rate setting formula modified.

HF3022 (Johnson, R.)/SF2639 (Ten Eyck) Sexually transmitted disease prevention initiatives appropriated money.

HF3047 (Knoblach) Nursing home bed certification moratorium exception provided.

HF3049 (Greenfield)/SF2620 (Terwilliger) Reimbursements modified for certain nursing facilities in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Brown counties.

HF3072 (Greenfield)/SF2628 (Berglin) Health maintenance organizations, community integrated service networks, and non-profit health service plan corporations one-time premium tax adjustment.

HF3175 (Rest) Residential hospice advisory task force established to study facility licensure.

HF3221 (Skare) Breast and cervical cancer control program funding for screening of low-income women provided, and money appropriated.

HF3231 (Bradley)/SF2772 (Kiscaden) Prepaid medical assistance program expansion and county-based purchasing provisions modified.

HF3246 (Lieder) Ada disaster loan guarantee provided for damaged public health care facility operating losses.

HF3259 (Greenfield)/SF2521 (Samuelson) Food stamp benefits extended for noncitizens, public housing residents' MFIP-S grant reductions delayed, alcohol and drug dependent persons' benefits continued, TANF funds transferred to federal title XX allocation, and money appropriated.

HF3326 (Greenfield) Home care bill of rights modified relating to the office of the ombudsman for older Minnesotans.

HF3327 (Anderson, I.) Reimbursement rate exemption extended for a certain nursing facility.

HF3343 (Sykora)/SF3004 (Berglin) Fetal alcohol syndrome campaign implemented, statewide network of FAS diagnostic clinics and grant programs established.

HF3409 (Knoblach)/SF3219 (Fischbach) Stearns and Sherburne county ICFs/MRs provided reimbursement for field audit disallowances, spend-up limit exemptions provided, and money appropriated.

HF3513 (Haas)/SF3200 (Kiscaden) Children ineligible for MinnesotaCare provided payments for employee share of employer-subsidized insurance under the state children's health insurance program, and funding plan required.

HF3642 (Entenza)/SF3153 (Berglin) Indian family preservation act primary support funded, and money appropriated.

Law

Omnibus Data Practices Bill

HF1626 (McGuire)

As of Feb. 16, 1998

HF2271 (Mullery) Motor vehicles; allowing requester of certain motor vehicle registration information, sought on behalf of community-based organization, to have access to certain private data on individuals.

HF2371 (Mullery) Data practices; attorney general data; modifying certain access to certain consumer complaint data.

HF2534 (Stanek) Data practices; authorizing release of pawn shop data to members of criminal justice agencies for specified law enforcement purposes.

HF2688 (Macklin) Tax disclosure.

HF2767 (Entenza)/SF2275 (Kiscaden) Human services; modifying the Data Practices Act.

HF2815 (McGuire)/SF2554 (Betzold) Providing for data privacy for certain audit information.

HF2886 (Biernat)/SF2583 (Betzold) Economic security; modifying provisions on collection of data.

HF3067 (Paymar)/SF2795 (Ranum) Data practices; clarifying certain law enforcement data.

HF3313 (Skoglund) Legislative subpoena; providing certain immunity for a witness who responds to a legislative subpoena; permitting a legislative committee to make certain disclosures.

HF3489 (McGuire) Modifying the definition of parking space leasing data.

Transportation

Omnibus Transportation Finance Bill

HF3057/SF3298* (Lieder)

Content as of Feb. 26, 1998, when the bill passed the House on a 121-7 vote.

(Note: The bills listed are included either entirely or partially.)

HF2265 (Marko) Motor vehicle registration law compliance pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF2270 (Winter) Air ambulance registration exemption provided.

HF2557 (Juhnke) Truck tractor wheel flaps required, vehicle axle weight restrictions regulated, and technical changes provided.

HF2720 (Mares) Emergency and road maintenance vehicles blue light use studied, and money appropriated.

HF2796 (Lieder) Dealer licensing and motor vehicle registration enforcement task force established.

HF2873 (Molnau) Transportation and public safety supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2960 (Stanek) Minnesota state patrol additional helicopter flight time provided, and money appropriated.

HF3057 (Lieder) Omnibus transportation supplemental appropriations bill.

Wangberg report reflects on lieutenant governorship

It's a fact!

It could have been idealism or vision that drove young Lt. Gov. Lou Wangberg to write a 10-page report on the significance of his office as he prepared to move into the Capitol in 1978.

Wangberg and Gov. Al Quie barely knew each other as they began their term in office. But Wangberg, the former Bemidji school superintendent, had done his homework.

Then 37 years old, Wangberg assessed his new office in a report to Quie entitled "Reflections on the Lieutenant Governorship." It was perhaps an ideal time to do so because there was a new path to ponder.

Quie and Wangberg made up the third pairing under Minnesota's new governor-lieutenant governor model. A constitutional amendment in 1972 permitted the Senate to choose its own presiding officer. That made the lieutenant governor a full-time official of the executive branch.

So Wangberg reviewed the functions of the office, compared the duties of the officerholder before and after the change, and described an expansion of duties for the lieutenant governor.

"There seems to have been an attempt to 'manufacture' assignments for the office in order to justify expansion to full time," Wangberg wrote.

In preparing the report, Wangberg con-



Lou Wangberg, *left*, barely knew Al Quie when Quie chose the then-37-year-old as his running mate roughly 20 years ago.

tacted some of the boards of which the lieutenant governor was supposed to be a member under the official duties of the office. He discovered officials for some of the boards could not even name the previous two lieutenant governors.

With diplomacy, Wangberg deemed many of the listed activities "important," but added that some "lack the substance that helps the governor make stronger decisions, nor do they offer deep or broad training to prepare the lieutenant governor for a future role of substance."

The goal Wangberg illuminated in his "reflections" was to meld "symbolism and substance." He wanted to couple "ceremonial responsibilities" with "something more substantive."

Wangberg said recently that he does not

recall his 20-year-old report, or what prompted him to write it. Perhaps it was because he and Quie were nearly strangers. Quie had not chosen a running mate. He left the decision open to the convention.

"We had met maybe twice," Wangberg said from his Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., home, "but Al was always searching for the best answer, and I thought we had a great working relationship. I even served as his chief of staff for a time."

Despite Wangberg's hope to perhaps redefine the office, he couldn't overcome the universal stigma attached to being No. 2.

A 1979 newspaper article claimed Wangberg was given more responsibility by Quie than any lieutenant governor under the new model. But by 1980, Wangberg was considered by some newspaper columnists to have "drifted into obscurity."

Even Wangberg voiced frustration with the office.

He called it "the strangest government office ever invented."

Quie, made vulnerable by a fiscal crisis, did not run again. Wangberg took up the task, but he was soundly defeated by Wheelock Whitney in a GOP primary.

Wangberg moved into the private sector to work for Jostens, and later became owner of a group of for-profit colleges in Florida. He currently chairs the colleges, which offer two-year associate degrees in respiratory therapy.

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1998 Legislative Members by District

Dist.	Mem.	Phone 296-	Room*	Dist.	Mem.	Phone 296-	Room*	Dist.	Mem.	Phone 296-	Room*
1A	Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL)	9635	509	24A	Rep. John Dorn (DFL)	3248	571	47A	Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL)	3751	581
1B	Rep. Tim Finseth (R)	9918	377	24B	Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL)	7065	567	47B	Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL)	3709	463
1	Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf (DFL)	8660	G-24 Cap.	24	Sen. John C. Hottinger (DFL)	6153	120 Cap.	47	Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL)	8869	317
2A	Rep. Bernie L. Lieder (DFL)	5091	515	25A	Rep. John Tuma (R)	4229	301	48A	Rep. Bill Haas (R)	5513	201
2B	Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL)	4265	565	25B	Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R)	8237	327	48B	Rep. Alice M. Johnson (DFL)	5510	539
2	Sen. Roger D. Moe (DFL)	2577	208 Cap.	25	Sen. Thomas M. Neuville (R)	1279	123	48	Sen. Don Betzold (DFL)	2556	306 Cap.
3A	Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL)	4936	563	26A	Rep. Bob Gunther (R)	3240	337	49A	Rep. Charlie Weaver (R)	1729	261
3B	Rep. Loren A. Solberg (DFL)	2365	445	26B	Rep. Henry J. Kalis (DFL)	4240	543	49B	Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL)	4231	411
3	Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL)	4136	111 Cap.	26	Sen. Tracy L. Beckman (DFL)	5713	124G Cap.	49	Sen. Leo Foley (DFL)	4154	G-9 Cap.
4A	Rep. Gail Skare (DFL)	5516	431	27A	Rep. Ron Kraus (R)	8216	279	50A	Rep. Kathleen Sekhon (DFL)	2439	451
4B	Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL)	2451	537	27B	Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL)	4193	527	50B	Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R)	5369	295
4	Sen. David J. Ten Eyck (DFL)	4913	G-24F Cap.	27	Sen. Pat Piper (DFL)	9248	G-9 Cap.	50	Sen. Paula E. Hanson (DFL)	3219	328 Cap.
5A	Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL)	0170	471	28A	Rep. Doug Reuter (R)	5368	241	51A	Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL)	4226	433
5B	Rep. David J. Tomassoni (DFL)	0172	593	28B	Rep. Steve Sviggum (R)	2273	267	51B	Rep. Ray Vandever (R)	4124	255
5	Sen. Jerry R. Janesich (DFL)	8017	328 Cap.	28	Sen. Dick Day (R)	9457	117	51	Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL)	7061	235 Cap.
6A	Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk (DFL)	2190	575	29A	Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R)	8635	251	52A	Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL)	4331	507
6B	Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL)	2228	533	29B	Rep. Mike Osskopp (R)	9236	329	52B	Rep. Geri Evans (DFL)	0141	413
6	Sen. Douglas J. Johnson (DFL)	8881	205 Cap.	29	Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL)	4264	301 Cap.	52	Sen. Steven G. Novak (DFL)	4334	322 Cap.
7A	Rep. Willard Munger (DFL)	4282	479	30A	Rep. Fran Bradley (R)	9249	233	53A	Rep. Philip Krinkie (R)	2907	303
7B	Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL)	4246	559	30B	Rep. Dave Bishop (R)	0573	343	53B	Rep. Sherry Broecker (R)	7153	321
7	Sen. Sam G. Solon (DFL)	4188	303 Cap.	30	Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden (R)	4848	135	53	Sen. Linda Runbeck (R)	1253	107
8A	Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL)	2676	557	31A	Rep. William Kuisle (R)	4378	375	54A	Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL)	4342	379
8B	Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL)	4308	525	31B	Rep. Gregory M. Davids (R)	9278	371	54B	Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL)	5387	553
8	Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL)	0293	G-9 Cap.	31	Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel (R)	3903	129	54	Sen. John Marty (DFL)	5645	326 Cap.
9A	Rep. Kevin Goodno (R)	5515	369	32A	Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL)	8637	549	55A	Rep. Harry Mares (R)	5363	239
9B	Rep. Robert L. (Bob) Westfall (R)	6829	225	32B	Rep. Michelle Rifenberg (R)	1069	215	55B	Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL)	1188	501
9	Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL)	3205	122 Cap.	32	Sen. Steven Morse (DFL)	5649	G-24 Cap.	55	Sen. Charles W. Wiger (DFL)	6820	325 Cap.
10A	Rep. Bud Nornes (R)	4946	357	33A	Rep. Arlon Lindner (R)	7806	227	56A	Rep. Mark William Holsten (R)	3018	345
10B	Rep. Hilda Bettermann (R)	4317	243	33B	Rep. Rich Stanek (R)	5502	351	56B	Rep. Peg Larsen (R)	4244	307
10	Sen. Cal Larson (R)	5655	153	33	Sen. Warren Limmer (R)	2159	127	56	Sen. Gary W. Laidig (R)	4351	141
11A	Rep. Roxann Daggett (R)	4293	253	34A	Rep. Steve Smith (R)	9188	353	57A	Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL)	7807	551
11B	Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL)	3201	545	34B	Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R)	5511	291	57B	Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL)	3135	439
11	Sen. Dallas C. Sams (DFL)	297-8063	328 Cap.	34	Sen. Gen Olson (R)	1282	119	57	Sen. Leonard R. Price (DFL)	297-8060	235 Cap.
12A	Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL)	4333	453	35A	Rep. Carol L. Molnau (R)	8872	287	58A	Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL)	4262	359
12B	Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel (DFL)	4247	487	35B	Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL)	1072	415	58B	Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL)	8659	577
12	Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL)	4875	124 Cap.	35	Sen. Claire A. Robling (R)	4123	132D	58	Sen. Linda I. Higgins (DFL)	9246	227 Cap.
13A	Rep. Torrey Westrom (R)	4929	273	36A	Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R)	5506	245	59A	Rep. Len Biernat (DFL)	4219	429
13B	Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL)	4228	569	36B	Rep. Dan McElroy (R)	4212	259	59B	Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL)	4257	367
13	Sen. Charles A. Berg (IND.)	5094	G-95	36	Sen. David L. Knutson (R)	4120	133	59	Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller (DFL)	7809	235 Cap.
14A	Rep. Steve Dehler (R)	7808	203	37A	Rep. Dennis Ozment (R)	4306	317	60A	Rep. Dee Long (DFL)	0171	443
14B	Rep. Doug Stang (R)	4373	223	37B	Rep. Bill Macklin (R)	6926	349	60B	Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL)	9281	521
14	Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach (R)	2084	151	37	Sen. Pat Parisseau (R)	5252	109	60	Sen. Allan H. Spear (DFL)	4191	120 Cap.
15A	Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL)	6206	531	38A	Rep. Tim Commers (R)	3533	217	61A	Rep. Karen Clark (DFL)	0294	503
15B	Rep. Gary W. Kubly (DFL)	4346	423	38B	Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R)	4128	231	61B	Rep. Linda Wejman (DFL)	7152	407
15	Sen. Dean E. Johnson (R)	3826	147	38	Sen. Deanna L. Wiener (DFL)	297-8073	303 Cap.	61	Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL)	4261	309 Cap.
16A	Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL)	6612	473	39A	Rep. Thomas W. Pugh (DFL)	6828	583	62A	Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL)	0173	381
16B	Rep. Jim Knoblach (R)	6316	207	39B	Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL)	4192	579	62B	Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL)	4330	477
16	Sen. Dave Kleis (R)	6455	143	39	Sen. James P. Metzner (DFL)	4370	303 Cap.	62	Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL)	4274	120 Cap.
17A	Rep. Sondra Erickson (R)	6746	247	40A	Rep. Mark P. Mahon (DFL)	7158	401	63A	Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL)	4200	437
17B	Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher (DFL)	5377	517	40B	Rep. Kevin Knight (R)	4218	229	63B	Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL)	5375	417
17	Sen. Dan Stevens (R)	8075	105	40	Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL)	9261	111 Cap.	63	Sen. Jane B. Ranum (DFL)	297-8061	306 Cap.
18A	Rep. Jim Rostberg (R)	5364	311	41A	Rep. Alice Seagren (R)	7803	315	64A	Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL)	8799	421
18B	Rep. Loren Geo Jennings (DFL)	0518	591	41B	Rep. Ken Wolf (R)	5185	387	64B	Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL)	4199	529
18	Sen. Janet B. Johnson (DFL)	5419	G-9 Cap.	41	Sen. William V. Belanger Jr. (R)	5975	113	64	Sen. Richard J. Cohen (DFL)	5931	317 Cap.
19A	Rep. Mark Olson (R)	4237	323	42A	Rep. Ron Erhardt (R)	4363	237	65A	Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL)	5158	409
19B	Rep. Bruce Anderson (R)	5063	281	42B	Rep. Erik Paulsen (R)	7449	221	65B	Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL)	9714	403
19	Sen. Mark Ourada (R)	5981	145	42	Sen. Roy Terwilliger (R)	6238	115	65	Sen. Sandra L. Pappas (DFL)	1802	120 Cap.
20A	Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness (R)	4344	289	43A	Rep. Tom Workman (R)	5066	335	66A	Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL)	4224	585
20B	Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R)	1534	313	43B	Rep. Barb Sykora (R)	4315	389	66B	Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL)	3824	449
20	Sen. Steve Dille (R)	4131	103	43	Sen. Edward C. Oliver (R)	4837	121	66	Sen. Ellen R. Anderson (DFL)	5537	G-24 Cap.
21A	Rep. Marty Seifert (R)	5374	213	44A	Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL)	3964	523	67A	Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL)	4277	491
21B	Rep. Richard Mulder (R)	4336	283	44B	Rep. Jim Rhodes (R)	9889	309	67B	Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL)	4201	597
21	Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski (R)	4125	131	44	Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL)	297-8065	321 Cap.	67	Sen. Randy C. Kelly (DFL)	5285	323 Cap.
22A	Rep. Ted Winter (DFL)	5505	459	45A	Rep. Ron Abrams (R)	9934	209				
22B	Rep. Elaine Harder (R)	5373	277	45B	Rep. Peggy Leppik (R)	7026	393				
22	Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL)	5650	226 Cap.	45	Sen. Martha R. Robertson (R)	4314	125				
23A	Rep. James T. Clark (R)	9303	211	46A	Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL)	4176	485				
23B	Rep. Howard Swenson (R)	8634	331	46B	Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson (DFL)	4255	365				
23	Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson (R)	8138	139	46	Sen. Ember R. Junge (DFL)	2889	205 Cap.				

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155 except where noted; Minnesota Capitol, St. Paul MN 55155

Bill Introductions

HF3807-HF3834

Thursday, Feb. 26,

HF3807—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes
Coon Rapids authorized to impose an additional sales and use tax.

Friday, Feb. 27

HF3808—Milbert (DFL)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3809—Leighton (DFL)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3810—Solberg (DFL)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3811—Winter (DFL)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3812—Kinkel (DFL)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3813—Finseth (R)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3814—Knight (R)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Two-thirds legislative majority required to establish or raise a tax or license fee, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3815—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
1997 flood loss replacement aid provided to counties, and money appropriated.

HF3816—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Omnibus tax bill and money appropriated.

HF3817—Delmont (DFL)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

Monday, March 2

HF3818—Olson, M. (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Seat belt use automobile insurance premium reduction provided.

HF3819—Paulsen (R)
Ways & Means
Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in a special account in the general fund and used only for attorney fees and tax relief.

HF3820—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Electric utility personal property tax exemption provided, utility replacement aid provided to local governments, regulated utilities rate reduction required, local bond obligation state guarantee provided, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, March 4

HF3821—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
Individual income tax rates, general education levy, and property tax class rates reduced, property tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

HF3822—Mares (R)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3823—Mulder (R)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3824—Stang (R)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3825—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rate reduced.

HF3826—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Debtor and creditor mediation regulated, nondisclosure privilege provided, and mediator testimony regulated.

HF3827—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Underwater video camera use for the purpose of taking fish moratorium imposed.

HF3828—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax rebate allowed for taxes payable in 1998.

Thursday, March 5

HF3829—Carlson (DFL)
Capital Investment
Capitol Square Building tenants immediate relocation provided, and money appropriated.

HF3830—Olson, E. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Agriculture, bureau of criminal apprehension, corrections, human services, labor and industry, natural resources, and revenue departments appropriated money for payment of claims against the state.

HF3831—Haas (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health care plans required to cover care provided by any licensed provider willing to serve the insurer's enrollees.

HF3832—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Health club membership sales tax repealed.

HF3833—Boudreau (R)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3834—Erickson (R)
Judiciary
Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.

Where to find information

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MONDAY, March 9

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

3 p.m. or After Session

Civil & Family Law Division/JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF326 (Holsten) Hunting and fishing
rights affirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3808 (Milbert) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3809 (Leighton) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3810 (Solberg) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3811 (Winter) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3812 (Kinkel) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3813 (Finseth) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3817 (Delmont) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3822 (Mares) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3823 (Mulder) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HF3824 (Stang) Hunting and fishing rights
confirmed and constitutional amendment
proposed.

Additional bills may be added.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: Omnibus tax bill.

Additional bills may be added.

TUESDAY, March 10

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF2589 (Wagenius) Snowfence
easements, highway closures, and signs regulated,
state transportation plan revised, private carriers
regulated, flexible highway account created, town
highways and bridges funded, and conveyances
to public bodies permitted.

HF2983 (Tunheim) Minnesota residential
mortgage originator and servicer licensing act
adopted.

HF2970 (Kahn) Salary increase provided for
judges, and employee and employer contribution
rates for certain judges retirement plans
modified.

HF3830 (Olson, E.) Claims.

HF2532 (Chaudhary) Youth-oriented driver
improvement clinics and graduated licensing
system established, driving privileges restricted
for permit and provisional license holders, and
violation-free period required prior to
advancement to next license stage.

HF2389 (Entenza) DWI; maximum allowable
blood alcohol level lowered for operation of
motor vehicles and while hunting.

Additional bills may be added.

WEDNESDAY, March 11

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF3314 (Anderson, I.) Tobacco
litigation proceeds deposited in the general fund
and subject to appropriation.
Additional bills may be added.

THURSDAY, March 12

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, March 13

8:30 a.m.

Subcommittee on Topic Selection/ Legislative Audit Commission

125 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener

Agenda: Review and begin narrowing down list
of suggested topics for study.

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: To be announced.

Where to find information

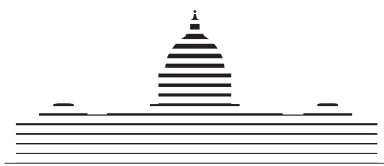
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MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Help for at-risk students

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Percent of Minnesota's K-12 enrollment that received remedial education at some time during the 1996-1997 school year	24
Percent of elementary school enrollment	33
Percent of middle school enrollment	26
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Percent of K-12 enrollment in 1996-1997 that needed remedial services but did not get them	2
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State and federal funds for fiscal year 1997 remedial education programs in Minnesota, in millions	\$255
State compensatory funding — distributed on the basis of subsidized lunch program counts — approved for 1998-1999, in millions	\$360
Increase over previous biennium, in millions	\$100
States that — unlike Minnesota — mandate remedial help for students not meeting state standards	18

Sources: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning; *Remedial Education*, January 1998, Office of the Legislative Auditor; and *Laws of Minnesota*, 1997.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 13, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, 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.

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • March 13, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 8

Reflections

After committee work is completed, legislators meet in session on a daily basis as bills are debated in the House chamber. By law, amendments may be introduced, which opens the possibility of the introduction of additions or deletions to policy changes. Thus, the number of bills and the number of attempted changes make for longer working hours in the chamber, from 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. (24 hours) as a full session day.

Session debate may get quite "testy" or vocal as advocates and critics discuss issues they strongly believe in or strongly oppose.

History teaches us that such battles of will are not a 20th century invention. In Roman times, the statesman Cicero utilized the spoken word as an ideal for universal discourse; he expertly used his oratorical qualities to address the testiness of his peers as he called for unity.

Sometimes, House debate seems to break down to a battle of "Them" vs. "Us." Although the members/debaters may be friends, their banter has, on occasion, dissolved into disagreements viewed as a discourse on what is good or bad for humanity.

Interestingly, lessons or parables that newly elected legislators hear from leadership consultant Dr. Robert Terry during a new members' orientation are lessons about unity, authenticity, ethics, and responsibility as related to political discourse.

As a reminder, it is worth sharing some excerpts from Terry's lecture. In "The Story of Strangers," Terry teaches a parable about Us and Them.

When large numbers of Them moved next to Us, "... a few of Us convened a council. What to do was paramount on the agenda. ... [A]fter serious, intensive and often fear-filled debate ... a few of Us, selected for our insight and strength, would attempt to meet Them. Warnings accompanied the investigative party: 'Be careful.' 'Be always on guard.' 'Return immediately if in danger.'"

After some time had passed, and Us and Them maintained their separateness, "a new strategy to deal with Them emerged from a community dialogue. 'Why don't we,' said one of Us, 'make agreements with Them ... to recognize each others' existence.'"

"Finally, after much debate, the only common ground and the basis for the initial agreement was that the community of Us and Them were equal in their claim to supremacy. Once it became necessary to share power, "a new word entered into the vocabulary of discourse. Us and Them was replaced by We ... [and] self-righteousness found no home in this dialogue."

As session begins to wind down and stress may build up to testiness, it is well to be mindful that laws are for the good of all people. Thus, what Terry calls a "deepest level of responsibility" may lie in striving to be aware that Us and Them are We.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

INSIDE

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On the cover: High school students from the metropolitan area rally at the Capitol for increased K-12 education funding. The March 9 event was organized by members of the Concerned Advocates for Reforming Education (CARE), a program founded and run by students from Cooper High School in New Hope, Minn.

—Photo by Laura Phillips

First Reading

Omnibus tax bill . . .

House bill features property tax rebates and reforms

By Matt Wetzel

It took about 11 hours of painstaking debate, but the House passed its 1998 omnibus tax bill in the early morning hours of March 12. The bill includes some \$740 million in property tax rebates and reforms and other tax cuts.

The bill now goes to the Senate, which has already passed a tax bill that includes only \$400 million in rate reductions and no rebates. Differences likely will be worked out in a conference committee.

The House bill (**HF3840**) passed on a 93-40 vote. Republicans introduced numerous amendments calling for deeper, more permanent cuts in income and property taxes, but those amendments were rejected.

The omnibus bill emerged from the House Taxes Committee March 6 and was approved by the House Ways and Means Committee March 9.

forms and one-time rebates. They urge caution on the idea of permanent tax cuts, saying that if the booming economy goes sour, the projected surplus could become a shortfall.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) submitted a minority report of the tax bill on the floor Tuesday, one that called for reducing income tax rates by half a percentage point and the elimination of the "marriage penalty," which requires married couples filing jointly to pay more tax than unmarried couples filing single returns. That minority report was tabled by the House on a 65-63 vote.

"You've got a five-second sound bite, but it's not responsible government," said Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey).

The omnibus bill is sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the Taxes Committee.

In accordance with 1997 legislation, the bill

and they've been greater and greater and greater," Van Dellen said. "State government needs to go on a diet. Minnesotans can make better use of their money than government."

Long defended the effort to provide property tax rebates while being cautious about permanent tax cuts.

"This is one area where I think the governor is right on," Long said. "The governor learned from the experiences of the Legislature in the early 1980s."

After a variety of tax cuts were enacted in the late 1970s, the state was hit with a budget crisis in the early 1980s, and the Legislature was forced to pass surtaxes and a series of new taxes.

Here are some highlights of the bill:

Property tax rebates

The bill would provide a rebate for homeowners and renters equal to 20 percent of the property taxes they pay in 1998, which is similar to the rebate in effect for property taxes paid in 1997.

Under the bill, the maximum rebate would be \$1,500. It would be allowed as a refundable income tax credit claimed on the 1998 tax return, filed in 1999.

The bill also calls for a so-called "no-wait rebate." The proposal would provide an extra 1997 property tax rebate, which would be 50 percent of the regular 1997 rebate. The maximum would be \$750. That payment would go out as soon as possible after July 1, but no later than Oct. 15, 1998.

Property tax reform

Several provisions in the bill aim to reduce the property tax burden on homeowners, businesses, and others.

Under the House proposal, the general education homestead credit — which provides savings to homeowners — would increase from 32 percent to 52 percent — to a maximum \$290 — of property taxes paid, beginning with taxes payable in 1999.

The bill also would decrease the property classification rate on homes valued at up to \$75,000 from 1 percent to .875 percent, and the classification rate of houses valued higher would go from 1.85 percent to 1.619 percent.

A total of \$55 million would go to the Department of Children, Families and Learning beginning in the year 2000, and every year



The omnibus tax bill approved by the House calls for a "no-wait rebate" to go to homeowners and renters before Oct. 15, 1998.

Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid

The struggle to decide how much money to return to taxpayers and when to do it is a product of economic forecasts that show a \$1.9 billion surplus in the state's budget.

House Republicans have said Minnesotans have been overtaxed and that six consecutive budget surpluses prove it. The minority caucus leadership has sought permanent tax cuts and reform in property and income taxes.

DFLers, who are in the majority, and the governor, have agreed to more modest re-

would put \$873 million in the state's property tax reform account and would return \$1.2 billion to taxpayers in the form of rebates this year and next.

"This bill is in balance," Long said.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) submitted several amendments on the floor during debate on the tax bill. All were rejected, including one that would have cut income taxes.

"Six years ago we started having surpluses

after, to decrease the education property tax levy.

Farmers also would get a break. Class rates on their land valued up to \$115,000 would decrease from .4 percent to 0.33 percent. The rest of the property that doesn't exceed 320 acres would go from .9 percent to 0.78 percent.

There also would be decreases in commercial and industrial property class rates. The lower tier of market value (the first \$150,000) would go from 2.7 percent to 2.36 percent, and the remainder would go from 4 percent to 3.5 percent.

Owners of apartment buildings with four or more units would see their class rate go from 2.9 percent to 2.5 percent. Those with buildings with two or three units would see their class rate go from 2.1 percent to 1.7 percent, and owners of buildings with just one rental unit would see that class rate go from 1.9 percent to 1.25 percent on the first \$75,000 of market value, and from 2.1 percent to 1.7 percent on the rest.

The bill also includes a provision that would exempt "distressed homesteads," in which dilapidated homes in marginal neighborhoods are being rehabilitated by the owner. Those homeowners would get a maximum five-year exemption from property taxes if their homes need at least \$20,000 in repairs. The measure would include only owner-occupied, single-family homes in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

An amendment offered by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) would exempt all property owners from having their property value for tax purposes increase by more than the rate of inflation, as determined by the Consumer Price Index, or 5 percent, whichever is less.

The limit would not include improvements in the property. The provision would end in 2002.

Savings, seniors, and studies

Under the bill, senior citizens with an annual income of \$40,000 would qualify for the senior property tax deferral program, increasing the maximum from \$30,000.

Also, the bill calls for the state's budget reserve to increase from \$522 million to \$582 million.

Finally, the bill calls for creation of a tax study commission. The commission — made up of state, county, and local officials and members of the public — would study the financial relationships between state and local governments in Minnesota. 🐾



By Grant Martin

Ray O. Pleasant compares his experiences in the Minnesota House of Representatives to an advanced education.

"It's like getting a master's degree," Pleasant said. "When you're an elected official you're force-fed information and you learn very quickly. You have to — you're going to vote on it later that day."

Pleasant was the second African-American to be elected to the House. The first, J. Francis Wheaton, was elected in 1898. Pleasant was elected in 1972. Both served districts in the Bloomington area, and both served as Republicans.

Pleasant, who worked as an engineer for 31 years, first got involved in local politics when he was appointed to a Bloomington city advisory council working with environmental issues.

"The city was developing rapidly at that time and there were certain areas we wanted to maintain in their natural state," he said.

Pleasant was elected to the Bloomington City Council in 1969. He was successful in securing federal grants to preserve park areas in the city.

After serving three years on the city council, Pleasant decided to run for the House seat. He was successful in his first bid for the House and served eight years until 1980. He chaired the House Local and Urban Affairs Committee in 1979.

"It was a good experience, but I wouldn't want to go through it again," he said. "It was sort of like the Army in that way."

Pleasant readily admits that his thoughts on the Legislature are influenced by the last session he served. After the 1978 elections, the party division in the House was a tie, 67-67. The two parties were forced to negotiate a bipartisan leadership, with a Republican speaker and a DFL majority leader.

Pleasant says that it was an unproductive and contentious period for the House.

"You had to raise your hand three times just to get a pencil," he said.

Pleasant says that after that experience he decided leave politics up to his wife, Gene, who is currently serving on the

Pleasant likens House service to Army; continues active community life

governor's judicial selection board. The board is responsible for interviewing potential judges for appointment.

Since his time in the Legislature, Pleasant has continued his active community involvement. Most recently, he has been donating his talents to a Normandale Community College advisory board. Six years ago, he helped start an annual golf tournament that raises \$17,000 each year for student scholarships.

Pleasant, who has worked for the Richfield Bank and Trust Company since he left the Legislature, says that he plans to retire at the end of this year. But retirement does not mean inactivity.

"I stay active. I'm not one to just stay home and watch TV," he said.

Pleasant said he will continue to do the things he loves: fishing, traveling, golf, and most important, community involvement.

Pleasant has recently been appointed to serve on a voluntary advisory board for a



Former Rep. Ray O. Pleasant was the second African-American elected to the House. He served from 1973 to 1980.

residential group home in Eden Prairie. The home, operated by a Baptist church organization, provides services to boys ages 12 to 18 who are experiencing emotional or behavioral problems.

"We've had quite a success," Pleasant said. "One of our students is now the manager of a KFC [restaurant]."

The group home seeks to provide a safe and supportive environment for the boys so they can eventually return to their families.

Pleasant says that he is very excited about the opportunity to serve the organization.

"That's my new agenda," Pleasant said. "That's my next thing to be educated on."



Highlights



BONDING

Bonding bill passes House

The much-anticipated bonding bill — complete with \$65 million in funds for the St. Paul RiverCentre hockey arena — was approved by the House March 12. The vote was 96-37.

The bill (HF3843), sponsored by Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), was approved by the House Capital Investment Committee March 10 and by the House Ways and Means Committee March 12.

This year's House bonding bill focuses on transportation, higher education, environment, and economic development projects statewide.

If passed in its current form, the \$945 million proposal would be the largest bonding appropriation in state history. The bonding bill passed in 1994 holds the current record at \$711 million.

The St. Paul RiverCentre project has become the most talked-about provision of the House bonding bill, mainly because the Senate's version of the bonding bill would not fund the widely publicized project.

The House bill would provide \$65 million to the city of St. Paul to build the hockey arena to be incorporated into the civic center complex in downtown.

Included in the governor's capital recommendations to the Legislature, the facility would be used mainly by the Minnesota Wild, the new NHL franchise granted to the city.

The RiverCentre may not even be the biggest point of contention between the two bonding plans. The Senate bonding bill, passed by the full Senate March 5, would pay for most of the projects with cash from the general fund. The House version would issue general obligation bonds for most of these projects, borrowing money to finance the improvements.

The differences between the House and Senate proposals will have to be reconciled in conference committee.

Here are some other highlights of the House capital improvement bill.

Light rail transit

The prospect of a light rail transit (LRT) system in the Twin Cities moves closer to reality with the House proposal. The bonding bill would provide \$56 million toward transit way development.

The bill would provide \$49 million of this amount to build a transportation line from downtown Minneapolis to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. The line is being called the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor.

The state's contribution would be matched with federal transit capital funds that should be made available by Congress.

The remaining \$7 million for LRT in the bonding proposal would be used to study expansion of the LRT into St. Paul and other corridors and to study commuter rail development.

LRT typically serves urban-suburban markets with short distances between stations. Commuter rail primarily serves the suburban market, typically providing links from outlying areas to the LRT. Commuter rail uses existing rail lines and is characterized by longer station-to-station distances of approximately 2.5 miles.

The bill calls for \$24 million to be available in fiscal year 1999 for the Hiawatha Corridor project and \$25 million for the project in each of the subsequent three fiscal years.

Higher education spending

The largest portion of the bonding bill — \$238.5 million — would go to improvements to the state's higher education facilities. Of that amount, the University of Minnesota would receive \$115 million for projects across the state.

The Twin Cities campus would receive funding for several improvements, including \$35 million for the Walter Library, \$2.5 million for renovations to Amundson Hall, Murphy Hall, and Ford Hall, and \$6.4 million for improvements to Peters Hall.

Other projects in the university system include \$22.3 million for improvements to the science and mathematics facility at the Morris campus, \$21.2 million for the construction of a new library at the Duluth campus, and \$4.4 million for university-operated agriculture stations statewide.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system would receive \$124 million for statewide improvements, including \$13.6 million at the North Hennepin Community College, \$9 million at the St. Paul Technical College, and \$14 million at Hibbing Community and Technical College.

K-12 education projects

The Department of Children, Families and Learning would receive \$49 million for projects, under the bill.

Of that amount, \$10 million would go to Youth Enrichment Grants. Communities could apply for the funds to develop after-school community facilities.

The department would also receive \$3.5 million for the development of state residential academies. The governor had requested \$12 million for the creation of three academies for at-risk students; the House bill provides a grant to a state agency or political subdivision for the development of one facility.

The bill would also provide \$8.5 million for the renovation of facilities at the state academies for the deaf and blind in Faribault.

Recreation and conservation

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would receive nearly \$110 million for a myriad of projects, including \$12 million to acquire and maintain state trails and \$3 million for improvements to the state park system.

Other projects overseen by the DNR would include \$15 million for grants to local governments to prevent or control flood damage, \$9 million to improve trails in the metropolitan area park system and to connect them with existing state and regional trails, \$8 million to establish and maintain metropolitan-area green space and natural areas, and \$1.8 million for safe harbors on Lake Superior.

The Board of Soil and Water Resources would receive \$12.8 million. Of that figure, \$10 million would target wetlands for protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota program. Under the program, landowners are paid to retire certain lands from agricultural production or place wetlands into conservation.

Convention centers

Consistent with the governor's proposal, convention centers also receive a good deal of attention in the House bill. Along with the St. Paul RiverCentre, the city of Minneapolis would receive \$87 million to help finance the completion of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Duluth would receive \$10 million for the expansion of the Duluth Entertainment and

Convention Center. Other convention center funding would be provided to the cities of Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, and St. Cloud.



BUSINESS

Omnibus liquor bill

Drinking among college students is a high-profile issue, so it wasn't surprising when House floor debate on the omnibus liquor bill March 11 centered on a provision that would grant temporary liquor licenses for events on state university campuses.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), passed on a 115-13 vote.

The bill would allow the issuance of temporary on-sale liquor licenses to state universities, but not for fraternity or sorority parties or other functions aimed at students. Legislators also were told the bill would not pertain to sporting events.

The temporary licenses would allow on-sales for up to four consecutive days in conjunction with a social event. Approval of a temporary license would also have to come from the university president.

Tunheim said during floor debate the sales were not to be directed at students, but were for social functions such as plays held on campus, for example, where wine sales were requested.

Tunheim also said that because the campuses belong to communities sometimes community functions are held on these sites. Some of the organizations sponsoring such events have requested the ability to sell liquor.

"But this still doesn't prohibit use by students," said Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights). She expressed concerns that there is too much drinking on campuses and that the bill would send a signal to younger people that alcohol is a vital part of social functions.

The bill also would allow temporary licenses to be issued for liquor sales within 1,500 feet of state universities. A current law generally prohibits such sales.

Another provision of the bill would allow cities to issue up to 12 one-day temporary intoxicating liquor licenses during a 12-month period. The current limit is set at three four-day licenses, four three-day licenses, or two six-day permits.

The bill (**HF2695/SF2274***) now goes to the governor.

Need a copy of a bill?
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Business on Sundays

A new law will make it easier for Minnesota's boat, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle dealers to do business on Sundays.

Previously, boat, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle trailers were considered "motor vehicles" under state law, which prohibits the sale of motor vehicles on Sundays. That meant customers without their own trailer had no way to transport their purchases on Sundays.

Effective March 6, the new law fixed the impractical glitch in state law by exempting certain trailers from the Sunday sales ban.

A second provision in the new law also aims to make life easier for trailer dealers.

Prior to the passage of the law, it was necessary for an individual to hold a franchise license in order to sell a motor vehicle. The new law exempts trailers from the franchise requirement.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), sponsor of the measure, was alerted to the problems with trailer sales by a small marine dealer in his district. Originally, Anderson said, he considered doing away with the Sunday motor vehicle sales ban entirely.

But that idea opened a "hornet's nest," he said. Some dealers support Sunday sales; many do not.

During a Feb. 17 committee hearing, Scott Lambert of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, said that his organization has no problem with exempting trailers from the Sunday sales ban, but the automobile dealers Lambert represents are not interested in doing regular business on Sundays.

Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2425/SF2170*/CH267



CONSUMERS

Getting extended area service

A telephone call to a child's school can mean a long distance charge for some rural Minnesota parents.

A 1997 law eased the process for phone customers within a school district to petition for extended area service, which would ensure calls made within school district boundaries would be local calls.

The House passed a bill March 9 that would alter that law to make it even easier to petition the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for extended area service. The vote was 121-8.

Under the 1997 law, a majority of all telephone company customers in each exchange

must vote in favor of extended area service, which could mean an increase in monthly telephone charges.

Under **HF3644**, only a majority of customers who cast a vote would be needed to extend the service.

The legislation would make the voting criteria for extended area service within a school district the same as when a community wants to extend its phone service, such as the possible move by Northfield to petition to become part of the metropolitan area for local-call service.

The original language of this year's bill, sponsored by House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), would have made the change in voting criteria retroactive to April 27, 1997, the original effective date of the 1997 law. This could have had an effect on elections held since that date.

But an amendment offered on the House floor by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) changed the proposed effective date to the day following enactment.

Some legislators argued that extended area service can lead to doubling or tripling of a private phone bill.

A spokesperson for the PUC said a significant monthly increase per line can happen when a comparatively tiny exchange, such as Northfield, petitions to join an exchange with an enormous customer base, such as the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

But circumstances would be different when a petition seeks only to waive long-distance charges within a school district.

The PUC spokesperson said the commission has not yet seen any of the proposed rate increases that resulted since enactment of the 1997 law. But the spokesperson said the cost per residential line would be mitigated because the additional expense is distributed evenly among the new exchanges and school district extended area service does not have to meet a minimum call traffic requirement.

According to the PUC, the anticipated residential increase for extended area service within school districts would probably be only a few dollars monthly per residential line.

The bill now heads to the Senate.



EDUCATION

Omnibus K-12 education bill

Schools would receive an extra \$61 per student for new computers and they would also be allowed to take up to three years to phase in the state's new graduation standards, under the omnibus K-12 education bill approved by the House March 6.

HF2874 passed on a vote of 102-26 after hours of debate over whether to delay implementing the new "Profiles in Learning" portion of the state's graduation standards or to stick to the current schedule, which calls for having the new program in place next fall.

The standards aim to incorporate more workaday skills and projects into traditional academic areas. Some critics say they would undermine rigorous scholarship and some teachers say they haven't had enough time to prepare for the change.

But Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), chair of the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee and the omnibus bill's sponsor, said she doesn't want to see the state back away from its commitment to tough new standards.

"If we don't stick with these standards we might as well never use the words 'education reform' in this state," she said.

The compromise approved by the House would allow districts to stick to the current schedule or choose a gradual, three-year implementation plan. Districts would have to report to the state by July 1, 1998, regarding their choice.

More technology funding

The omnibus bill also includes \$59 million targeted for putting a computer in every classroom in the state. That funding was added to the bill March 2, after Gov. Arne Carlson announced an increase in the state's forecast budget surplus.

Districts could use the \$61 per student to buy computer hardware, software, or related equipment. Schools that already have full computer access could use the money for textbooks.

Kelso said the state was recognizing that technology is going to continue to play an increasing role in education, and it's going to require an increasing amount of money.

"It's going to be an incredibly cruel, hard world for kids who graduate without computer skills," she said. "In this year of surplus, if we can ensure that there's a computer in every classroom, that's a big step."

The one-time technology funding would be in addition to \$63 per student targeted in the bill for graduation-standard implementation.

The bulk of that money would go directly to schools for staff training, with the rest earmarked for districts to reduce class-size and improve gifted and talented programs.

Special education

The bill also contains provisions designed to limit what some lawmakers say are spiraling increases in the state's special education costs.

Under the bill, the state would pay a percentage of the legal costs incurred by districts who win in court against parents suing for increased special education services for their children. That plan also includes incentives for working out problems through mediation instead of litigation.

A controversial provision that would prohibit state special education requirements from exceeding federal standards also remains in the House-approved bill.

Other key provisions

Other provisions included in **HF2874** include:

- exempting school districts from the current law which caps school superintendent salaries at 95 percent of the governor's salary;
- allowing school districts to establish criteria and compel students in danger of failing to attend summer school;
- adding \$500,000 to expand existing all-day kindergarten programs to certain schools;
- giving schools \$4 per day for each suspended student placed in an in-school or alternative suspension program instead of being sent home; and

Frosty gaze



Chris Lechner, a sixth-grader at Discovery School in St. Cloud, peers through a frosted school bus window to get a glimpse of the Capitol as his class arrives for a tour March 11.

- allowing public groups to receive grants to help build state-run boarding schools for at-risk teens. About \$12 million to build three such schools is currently being considered for inclusion in the House omnibus bonding bill.

The education omnibus bill now moves to conference committee. The Senate-approved version would provide \$18 million less in overall education funding and would not allow for the three-year phase-in of graduation standards. The Senate bill also does not call for removing the superintendent salary cap, but does call for eliminating the State Board of Education.



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental spending

Several controversial issues — a moratorium on feedlots, personal watercraft restrictions, a ban on snowmobile studs, and lakeshore lease lot sales — remain alive in the House omnibus environment, natural resources, and agriculture spending bill.

The \$9.4 million bill (**HF3799/SF3353***), sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), passed the House after a lengthy debate March 5. The vote was 68-62.

"For some reason, the opposition would like to consider this bill anti-agriculture and anti-tourism," Osthoff said. "The fact of the matter is, [this bill] could be categorized as pro-Minnesota."

The bill now heads to conference committee, where the House and Senate will attempt to reconcile the differences in their environment, natural resources, and agriculture spending proposals.

Here's a look at some of the key provisions of the House bill.

Living with livestock

An amended version of Rep. Doug Peterson's (DFL-Madison) so-called "living with livestock" bill (**HF3441**) was rolled into the omnibus bill.

Most notably, the bill would impose a moratorium on new construction or expansion of feedlots at the level of 750 animal units. (An animal unit is a measurement of waste produced by certain species. One animal unit is equal to one steer or heifer, 2.5 hogs over 55 pounds, or 100 chickens.) The moratorium would expire June 30, 2001.

Many representatives vehemently opposed the moratorium provision.

"It only stops rural economic development and growth for three years," Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said.

The bill also would prohibit the issuance of permits to construct or expand clay, earthen, or flexible membrane (plastic-lined) waste lagoons. Dairy operations under 750 units would be exempt from this provision.

After March 1, 2000, those who commercially manage and apply animal wastes would have to hold valid animal waste technician licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempt from the provision.

The bill would clarify the power of counties to adopt feedlot ordinances that are more stringent than those of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The agency would be authorized to deny permits to feedlot operators who have bad environmental records in other states.

Personal watercraft

Portions of the proposed "personal watercraft courtesy and safety act" backed by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) also have been folded into the environment finance bill.

The personal watercraft language in the omnibus bill would require that personal watercraft operators pass a mandatory safety course and pay a \$10 fee for a certificate.

Also, a \$30 fee for a three-year personal watercraft license would be established. The fees would be earmarked for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for personal watercraft law enforcement costs.

A nuisance clause in the bill would prohibit the operation of a personal watercraft in one specific area for more than 30 consecutive minutes.

Hasskamp said she was encouraged to include the nuisance provision after receiving numerous complaints from "people who say they have been emotionally pushed over the edge at times by individuals wanting to show off and ride around in the same spot for hours."

The bill also would mandate a DNR study on the impact of personal watercraft on loons and loon nesting areas.

Hasskamp is sponsoring a separate bill (**HF1351**) that calls for a personal watercraft ban on lakes of 200 acres. That bill awaits a vote on the House floor.

Snowmobile studs

Under another provision of the omnibus bill, no snowmobile with a track equipped with metal studs could be operated on public lands, roads, or trails after July 1, 2000.

Although many claim that studs make for safer riding, proponents of the measure say paved snowmobile trails are being destroyed by studs.

"Of the 212 miles of state paved trails, 103 [miles] have been damaged," Osthoff said.

Originally, the proposed ban would have taken effect immediately, but Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) offered a successful amendment that would give the snowmobile industry two years to develop a product to replace metal studs.

Approximately 80,000 snowmobilers in Minnesota have invested \$400 to \$500 for the studs, Bakk said.

"Snowmobiling is very important to the winter tourism economy in Minnesota," he said. "They're going to take their snowmobiles to Wisconsin and Michigan because they feel that strongly about the safety factor."

Bakk's amendment received bipartisan support.

"How is a snowmobiler from Wisconsin who happens to have studs on his or her machine and who has no intention of riding on our paved trails supposed to come here and spend money in our hotels and restaurants?" asked Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus). "The answer is they won't."

Lakeshore lease lots

A provision of the omnibus bill that would authorize the DNR to sell 546 lakeshore lease lots that are part of the Permanent School Trust Fund was unsuccessfully challenged by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth).

The trust fund consists of approximately 2.5 million acres of land owned by the state and managed by the DNR. The money that the DNR receives from five-year leases on the land is earmarked for educational spending.

Over the next 20 years, Munger said, the state would earn an additional \$3 million from leasing the land rather than selling it.

"Why should we sell the land and allow private owners to reap these profits?" he said.

Some people who lease the trust fund properties have complained of erratic appraisals and sharp increases in the amount they are charged for the use of the land, Bakk said.

"Even if all the land was sold, we're talking 426 acres," he said. "These are tiny pieces of land that people have been on for decades."

Whitewater rafting on the Mississippi

One provision included in the bill would explore the possibility of harnessing the water power of St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis for recreational pursuits.

The DNR would receive \$100,000 to conduct engineering and hydraulic research into the possible development of a whitewater park for kayaking, rafting, and canoeing at the falls.

Deformed frogs

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency would receive \$375,000 for research into the cause of deformities found in frogs across the state.

Currently researchers are speculating that groundwater contamination or possible ultraviolet radiation may be the cause of the deformities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has begun to examine the issue.

Minnesota Zoo shortfall

The Minnesota Zoological Gardens would receive \$500,000 for operating costs to make up for a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer.

The Apple Valley zoo was forced to ask the Legislature for help after a string of bad luck, bad weather, and bad press, Kathryn Roberts, the zoo's director, said during a Jan. 28 hearing.

The bill would require the zoo to address its attendance forecasting methods to avoid a problem in the future.

Less transport packaging waste

A bill that aims to reduce the amount of transport packaging waste created by the soft drink industry is headed for the governor's desk.

HF2696/SF2402*, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), passed the House March 9 on a 105-23 vote.

The soft drink industry in Minnesota is considering a \$15 million investment in reusable, recyclable plastic merchandise pallets. During a Feb. 17 committee hearing, Dave Locey, of the Minnesota Soft Drink Association, said the plastic pallets would cost about \$32 each, compared to \$5 to \$7 each for the wood pallets the industry currently uses.

Currently, there is a system in place, Locey explained, where third parties collect used pallets from retail sites and then resell them to soft drink companies.

Under the bill, third party collectors would be prohibited from taking plastic pallets that are labeled as private property. The pallets would belong to the soft drink companies, and the companies' investment in the plastic pallets would be protected.

Some House members questioned the need for special legislation to protect plastic pallet owners and wondered where the responsibility would lie if pallets were accidentally lost in the course of doing business.

"If Pepsi wants to use plastic pallets, it's a good idea, but I don't think a grocer should get

in trouble if one of them is missing." Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) said. "This is a good concept, but I don't believe it should be a law."

In 1995, 22 percent of municipal solid waste consisted of transport packaging such as wood pallets and corrugated cardboard, Munger said.

Underground petroleum tanks

Eleven years after the establishment of the Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund, a bill that aims to help the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) finally bring all underground petroleum storage tanks into compliance passed the House March 9. The vote was 122-8.

HF2722*/SF2756, sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), would allow the MPCA to "red tag" underground petroleum tanks that are in violation of current regulations.

A red tag on the cap of a tank would prohibit delivery of petroleum until the violations have been corrected.

"The purpose of this bill is to address the problems of underground storage tanks," McCollum said.

Petroleum from leaking tanks can seep into the groundwater supply and lead to extensive soil and groundwater cleanup work and costly litigation.

"The petrofund in this state has cleaned up thousands of leaky underground tanks since 1987," McCollum said. "This bill attempts to reduce the number of future leaky tanks."

Gas station owners and other petroleum-dispensing facility operators would have until Dec. 31, 1998, before the red tag provisions take effect.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

privilege will be managed by law and regulation."

While previous hearings on the matter had focused on the reasoning behind the constitutional amendment and its potential financial implications, much of the March 11 discussion revolved around the specific wording of the amendment.

HF3808 would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to declare that the taking of game and fish is a valued part of our heritage, which shall be forever preserved, and that this privilege shall be managed by law and regulation for the common good?"

Milbert assured committee members that it

0.08 Test



Kerri Anderson takes a sip of wine as State Patrol Lt. David J. Graham keeps an eye on her and five other female volunteers who participated in a controlled test March 6. The test demonstrated that petite women could have two 6-ounce glasses of wine in two hours without exceeding a blood-alcohol level of 0.08 percent. Opponents of a bill that would reduce the legal blood-alcohol limit for drivers from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent claim the legislation would target casual drinkers and negatively affect alcohol sales at bars and restaurants.

is not his intention to interfere with American Indian treaty rights, current gun control laws, or the ability of the Department of Natural Resources to impose license fees or protect game and fish by placing limitations on harvest seasons.

"There is nothing in here that would allow an individual to take game and fish under any method other than those prescribed by law," he added.

Professor Howard Vogel, of the Hamline University School of Law, voiced concerns over the phrase "shall be forever preserved."

"That language is stated in what we call affirmative terms," Vogel said. "When stated in those terms, courts tend to expand the understanding of the right, and it creates the possibility, contrary to what was said here, that there may be a duty upon the part of Minnesota to ensure and guarantee the supply of fish and game."

"I can imagine, for example, big litigation involving environmental groups on one side, animal rights people on the other, hunters and fishers in the middle of that, and the Legislature wondering what happened."

A similar bill (**HF326**) sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) was heard earlier this session by two House committees. Holsten is a co-sponsor of **HF3808**.

The bill now moves to the full Judiciary Committee.



HEALTH

Prenatal alcohol abuse

A bill that would authorize the voluntary reporting of prenatal alcohol abuse passed the full House March 10 without provisions requiring mandatory treatment.

The bill (**HF3184**) would permit health care workers, counselors, and others working with pregnant women who may be abusing alcohol to report such instances of abuse to the local welfare agency.

The bill would require that the local welfare agency then conduct an assessment and offer necessary services to the pregnant woman.

An earlier version of the bill would have made prenatal abuse of alcohol grounds for civil commitment and required local welfare agencies to petition for commitment in cases where the woman fails to follow treatment recommendations.

The civil commitment process is used to require individuals to accept health care when, because of mental illness or other reasons, they do not realize the need for treatment. Civil commitment usually prompts hospital-



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing privileges

A bill that aims to amend the Minnesota Constitution to protect hunting and fishing privileges was approved March 11 by the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee.

"I think that there are organized groups throughout the country who are attempting to extinguish lawful taking of game and fish," said Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), the bill's sponsor. "I think, in Minnesota, many people place a very high value on their ability to take game and fish, and this is an attempt to make sure that ability is preserved and that the

ization, which allows the individual to be monitored and effectively treated.

Provisions requiring commitment in these cases were removed from the bill by the House Judiciary Committee before the legislation reached the House floor.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill, said that he wanted to get tough responses to prenatal alcohol abuse on the table.

"The bill as introduced was a commitment bill," Skoglund said. "I wanted to get the idea before the Judiciary Committee. It's now a reporting bill, and it's voluntary reporting, not mandatory."

The bill was passed on a 130-0 vote and now goes to the Senate.

Hepatitis B vaccinations

All children who enroll in kindergarten would need to be vaccinated against hepatitis B beginning in the 2000-2001 school year, under a bill headed for the governor's desk.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), passed the House March 12. The vote was 107-15.

Children in kindergarten through seventh grade also would have to be vaccinated beginning in the 2007-2008 school term, under the bill (**HF2681/SF2372***).

The legislation would exempt families who object to the vaccination for religious or other reasons.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus and spread by contact with an infected person's blood or other body fluids. It can also be spread by sharing washcloths, razors, or needles and by the process of tattooing.

The disease causes liver inflammation and can lead to liver failure or cancer.

Approximately 80 percent of infants are already vaccinated for the disease. Immunizing the remaining children with a series of three shots would come at no cost to the state. Slawik told legislators on the House floor the vaccinations are covered under a federal program.

From 1990 to 1995, there were 591 known cases of hepatitis B in Minnesota, with 30 of those cases occurring in children 17 or younger. But the disease can be symptom-free for years, and the exact number of carriers is unknown. Some carrying the virus do not learn they are infected until they give blood or have a physical examination.

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

'Off-label' drug use

Health plans would be required to cover "off-label" use of drugs prescribed for cancer patients, under legislation that is headed for the governor's desk.

The House passed the bill (**HF1306/SF1076***) March 10 on a 132-0 vote. The amended language cleared the Senate March 11.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), would require health maintenance organizations and other health plans to pay for off-label use of drugs for cancer patients, as long as the drug is recognized as a treatment for cancer in standard medical literature.

Cancer specialists have reported that about 10 percent of their patients do not receive prescribed treatment even if the patient responds to that treatment. The problem occurs when the prescribed drug is not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for certain forms of cancer.

Drugs often are approved by the FDA for specific treatments, and further research and clinical trials reveal the drugs are also beneficial for a broader scope of ailments than originally believed. But drug companies do not resubmit these medications for FDA approval because of the time and cost commitment.

The legislation would not cover experimental drugs used in cancer treatment, but it would prohibit all health plans, including Medicare supplemental coverage, from refusing to pay for cancer treatments involving drugs that are already on a plan's formulary.

There are 27 other states with similar laws.



HOUSING

Selling abandoned homes

A bill that aims to help Minnesota's manufactured home park owners rid their properties of abandoned homes is headed for the governor's desk.

HF3148/SF2047*, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), passed the House March 9 on a 121-2 vote.

The bill would authorize the owner of a manufactured home park to sell up to five used homes per year that are within the park's boundaries.

Currently, only real estate agents and licensed dealers are permitted to sell manufactured homes in Minnesota.

"The problem in the past has been that some homes have such low value that real estate agents are not interested in listing them,"

Kubly said. "Nobody likes to have a low-grade piece of property sitting in their park."

The bill would be particularly helpful to those manufactured home park owners in rural areas, Kubly said.

During a Feb. 17 hearing before the House Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee, Mark Brunner, of the Minnesota Manufactured Housing Association, said his organization supports the bill because it would enable park owners to more easily upgrade their facilities.

Brunner assured the committee that park owners would still be subject to current restrictions on selling substandard housing.

Housing options for seniors

More housing facilities could be designated as elderly housing under a proposal that passed the House March 10. The vote was 132-0.

HF2779/SF2230* would expand the statutory definition of elderly housing as it applies to the human rights law, bringing state law into compliance with federal statutes. The effect would be that more facilities could classify as elderly housing exclusively.

The bill would remove the requirement that elderly housing must provide facilities designed to meet social and physical needs, such as recreation and meeting rooms.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), sponsor of the bill, said that the additional services provided to tenants mean additional cost in rent.

"These types of facilities often cause rent to be \$100 to \$300 higher than other facilities," he said.

Chaudhary said that his bill would create more affordable housing options for seniors.

The Senate passed the bill Feb. 12. The measure now goes to the governor.



HUMAN SERVICES

Health & human services bill

A controversial ban on late-term abortions is included in the health and human services omnibus bill that passed the House March 9 carrying a heftier price tag than it came in with. The vote was 115-14.

Thirty-five amendments attached to the bill (**HF2868/SF3346***) on the House floor added millions of dollars to the bottom line of a piece of legislation that carried a \$59.7 million price tag when it emerged from the House Ways and Means Committee.

Of the 134 House members, 75 signed a petition March 11 indicating they would reject the

bill if the abortion language is missing when the legislation returns from conference committee. The petition was given to House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) and the bill sponsor, Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls).

The most controversial policy portion of the bill centers on late-term or "partial birth" abortions and the abortion reporting procedures in the state.

The bill includes language that would require the commissioner of human services to report the total number of abortions paid for with state funds. The bill also would require doctors to report to the commissioner of health the gestational age of each fetus at the time of abortion.

The reporting provisions were part of last year's omnibus health and human services bill originally approved by the House but were not included in the Senate version. The final version of the bill that came out of conference committee did not include the requirements.

This year, the Senate has again passed an omnibus health and human services spending bill without the abortion-related provisions.

This year's House bill would go further than the proposed reporting requirements. The bill would make it a felony to perform late-term abortions. The penalty would be a maximum two-year sentence and \$15,000 fine.

The bill would allow late-term abortions only if the procedure is required to save the mother's life.

An amendment offered by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a practicing family doctor, reduced the maximum penalty from the 15-year sentence and \$50,000 fine originally included in the bill.

A separate amendment offered by Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) and included in the bill would prohibit medical clinics that counsel, refer, or perform abortions from receiving family planning grants from the state's health care access fund.

At the end of floor debate on the omnibus bill, some legislators urged Greenfield to protect the abortion language included in the measure.

"Don't bring a bill back from conference committee without this language in it," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake).

Greenfield responded that conference committee work is "about compromise" and he offered no guarantees.

"I generally have won more for the House than I've lost," Greenfield said.

Another amendment that would have a large fiscal impact was approved by House members during floor debate. The provision would exempt dentists from a provider tax that funds state health programs.

It is estimated that more than \$12 million in

state revenue would be lost by excluding dentists from the MinnesotaCare provider tax, which is a 1.5 percent tax on hospitals and health care providers that is used to fund the state-subsidized insurance plan.

Some estimates suggest the bill will carry a \$100 million price tag if all current provisions in the proposal survive. The bill now moves to conference committee.

Here are some other highlights of the legislation.

Any willing provider

A somewhat less controversial amendment introduced by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) would allow any doctor or clinic to contract with a health plan if the medical provider is willing to accept the terms and conditions of the plan.

Some rural area residents have argued they can no longer see their family medical practitioners because these doctors and dentists are not included in their health plan's provider network.

Social workers rally



Santino Jenkins and Tara Peterson, intern social workers from St. Paul's Galtier Elementary School and Cherokee Heights Elementary School, respectively, join a rally in the rotunda March 12. The annual rally, sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, is an opportunity to talk with legislators about social programs.

Tunheim's "any willing provider" plan aims to remedy such problems. However, some argue the additional administration involved would increase health care costs, and others contend it would ultimately mean fewer people will have health care because premium costs will rise.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) argued there is no need for the new language because most health plans allow enrollees to extend their options within a provider network by paying more, but few people do so.

Greenfield argued that health care costs would rise under Tunheim's plan and the change would not mean better health care.

Food safety

There is also \$3 million in the bill for a food safety initiative. This was part of the governor's budget request. The money is targeted toward state efforts to improve food safety. Some funds also would be used to study and protect against food-borne illness.

Increasingly, fruits and vegetable are imported, and roughly half of food dollars are spent in restaurants, where food can be improperly handled or stored.

Dr. Michael Osterholm, state epidemiologist for the Minnesota Department of Health, has told legislators this year that the supposed 6,000 to 8,000 annual deaths connected with contaminated food are underestimated.

Osterholm also has said that at certain times of the year nearly 100 percent of fresh fruits and vegetables available are grown in developing nations. He has said if that produce were purchased by Americans abroad, they would be advised to boil and peel it before eating.

Small town doctors

House members approved an amendment by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) that would reward medical schools that keep their graduates in the state to practice medicine.

During committee hearings earlier this session, Huntley described the difficulty of attracting doctors to rural areas. His amendment seeks a study to determine which state medical schools tend to place their graduates in Minnesota. The study would evaluate this placement over the previous 10 years.

That information would then become part of the criteria used to determine the level of state funding for the medical school.

Fighting cancer in women

An amendment by Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) added nearly \$400,000 to the amount in the original bill to pay for more cancer screening and diagnostic services for women, particularly women who are typically

underserved by the medical profession. The bill now requests a total of nearly \$1.4 million for that expense.

Removing employment barriers

The House passed a bill March 11 calling for a resolution to be sent asking the U.S. Congress to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities. The vote was 118-9.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), states that current government policies, particularly those relating to Medicaid, discourage people with disabilities from working.

The resolution would urge the U.S. Congress to adopt Medicaid buy-in legislation that would allow people with permanent disabilities to retain Medicaid coverage to address unmet health needs when they become employed.

Employee-based health care and government programs such as Medicare and MinnesotaCare do not typically cover long-term support needed by disabled people.

The resolution also would ask that any Medicaid buy-in legislation require individuals to take advantage of any affordable employer-based health coverage and require individuals to purchase any needed Medicaid coverage on a sliding fee scale, which would be based on their ability to pay.

A 1995 poll indicated two-thirds of disabled, unemployed people are eager to work, and technology is making that more possible. But 74 percent of working-age adults with severe disabilities are unemployed.

The resolution seeks congressional action to remove any policy barriers to employment so more people with disabilities can reduce their dependence on government programs and become taxpayers.

The bill (**HF3258/SF2699***) now goes to the governor's desk.

sponsored by Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), which also failed to find approval on the House floor.

Jennings' bill would have required telephone service providers who are allowed to begin serving a telephone exchange with fewer than 50,000 subscribers to offer services to everyone in that exchange within a year after serving the first customer. The proposal was an effort to keep companies from entering small service areas and plucking the choice, mainly commercial telecommunications accounts while ignoring most residential customers.

Paymar argued that the new area code for St. Paul will create difficulties and possible financial hardships for businesses, which, for instance, would have to change their phone numbers on all their published information, letterheads, and business cards.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said, "One reason we have this problem is not just a proliferation of phones but phone companies."

She said unused telephone numbers were assigned to each of these companies in blocks numbering in the thousands. She said if the numbers were not assigned in blocks, there would be enough numbers for the near future, which could buy time to further study the issue.

Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) argued the area code issue is the job of the PUC, which he described as a politically balanced, quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative body. He argued the PUC held numerous hearings on the subject and that it is not the job of legislators to review the work of the PUC.

As for **HF2980**, Jennings argued the legislation offered "what is good for the residential payer." He said there is concern residential rates will rise if companies can enter an exchange area and offer competitive rates to the area's larger accounts. And he said bigger companies such as U.S. West opposed the legislation, "but they are big enough to find a way to protect themselves and to be competitive."

Those companies also would have to provide coverage information to members, and upon request, prospective members.

Under the bill, companies that cover durable medical equipment would have to disclose general descriptions of their coverage, level available, prior authorizations, and a name and phone number of a staff member an enrollee can call to get proper information about things like prior authorization.

The bill goes to the Senate.



LAW

Special guardians, conservators

The House passed a bill March 9 that would make changes to the special guardian and conservator hearing process. The vote was 127-0.

Guardians and conservators are appointed by the state courts to make decisions for adults who are incapable of making decisions for themselves, oftentimes individuals in nursing homes.

Special guardianships and conservatorships differ in that they are temporary arrangements designed to respond to short-term situations.

The bill (**HF1414/SF1151***) would lengthen the time required to post notices for such hearings and would require that the hearing be held within two weeks of the notice. The bill would also require that petitioners show a clear need for the appointment. The bill would also limit these appointments to 30 days.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said he is sponsoring the bill to address concerns brought to him by families who wished to challenge such appointments.

Leighton said that members of a family in his legislative district sought to contest the appointment of a third party to make decisions for their father, who was living in a nursing home.

Leighton said that the family had to wait a month and a half for the court to hear their case. During that time, the father did not receive important pain relieving medication, and the family was powerless to do anything about it.

The bill, which the Senate approved Feb. 23, now goes to the governor.

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



INDUSTRY

New area code for St. Paul

An effort to stop the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from assigning a new area code to St. Paul failed as an amendment offered on the House floor March 9.

The amendment by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) aimed to halt the PUC from proceeding to institute a new 651 area code for St. Paul as of July 1, 1998. House members voted 75-54 against the amendment.

The amendment was offered to **HF2980**,



INSURANCE

Medical equipment, supplies

A bill that would require health plans to tell clients what medical equipment and supplies are covered by insurance passed the House March 10. The vote was 130-0.

HF2814, sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), would specify that health plans covering durable medical equipment cannot limit that coverage to equipment used in the home.



METRO AFFAIRS

Innovative bike racks

It seems bicycle riders are no different than automobile drivers when it comes to parking: They want convenience.

Legislation sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) is designed to promote both convenience for bicycle riders and an outlet for creativity.

HF3296/SF2729* passed the House March 11 on a 122-8 vote. It would allow advertising, public art, and information signage on bicycle racks, if the placement does not create an unsafe situation.

The legislation aims to address a situation in the Uptown neighborhood of Minneapolis, where five bicycle racks have been installed and as many as four more are expected to be installed this year.

Minneapolis City Councilwoman Lisa McDonald said the city is trying to promote bicycle riding but has found bicycle riders prefer to chain their bikes close to the businesses they frequent. She said the riders feel this allows them to keep an eye on their bikes while shopping.

So the city has a goal to install innovative bike racks on each block, where riders can chain their bikes but remain close to them. However, enabling legislation was needed to allow artwork and advertising on the racks.

The Uptown area is known as a location for art house theaters, popular restaurants and

bars, and shops that cater to a young clientele. McDonald said the city wants art and advertising on the bike racks that would help the racks blend with the area's atmosphere and store fronts.

The bill now moves to the Senate.



TRANSPORTATION

Aircraft safety resolution

Some aviation experts are concerned that airplane repair facilities in foreign countries use defective parts or do substandard repair work on U.S. airplanes.

An act before the U.S. Congress aims to tighten controls on these repair facilities.

The Minnesota House passed a bill March 11 that calls for the state to send a resolution memorializing President Clinton and Congress to enact that federal legislation, called the Aircraft Repair Station Safety Act of 1997.

HF3250, sponsored by Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield), passed on a 130-0 vote.

The resolution would support a congressional effort to force foreign repair facilities to use the same standards that apply to domestic aircraft repair procedures and parts.

The federal legislation would apply to repair stations that service aircraft that operate in the U.S. The act would revoke certification of any repair facility that purposely uses uncertified or substandard parts.

Opponents of the federal legislation fear it

could induce aviation authorities in foreign countries to quit certifying U.S. repair stations.

HF3250 now moves to the Senate.



NOTES

"Testosterone and alcohol" are the real problems, said Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul).

Osthoff was responding to a motion made by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) during discussion of the omnibus environment, natural resources and agriculture finance bill (**HF3799/SF3353***) before the House Ways and Means Committee Feb. 27.

Finseth offered an amendment that would remove language making snowmobiles with metal studs illegal.

Osthoff told the committee that the language was necessary because state trails and roads are being destroyed by the metal studs. He said it was unfortunate that a few snowmobilers ruin it for the rest of them. And he characterized these violators as young men who use alcohol and ride their snowmobiles in illegal areas.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) didn't miss a beat.

"Would it shorten it to just say the problem is 'studs'?" Bishop said.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) sponsors a bill that calls for "youth-oriented driver improvement clinics" for traffic violators who are 25 years old and under. The bill (**HF2532**) provides for graduated driver's licenses for Minnesotans who are 15 to 18 years old.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) said, during a House Transportation and Transit Committee hearing, that he didn't think drivers in their 20s need to attend clinics that would be part of a program aimed at teen drivers.

If the bill passed as written and Stang were involved in a traffic violation, it would mean Stang would have to attend one of the clinics. He's 23.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

This way



Three-year-old Jaley tugs her mother, Mary Beth Balzart, into the rotunda as the rest of their early childhood family education group from Stillwater arrives March 10 for the "Early Childhood Parent Rally Day" at the Capitol.

State's first lieutenant governor led balanced life

By Jim Thielman

It seems William Holcombe could slip quite comfortably into 1998 — and probably write an advice column for Americans struggling to balance their lives.

Minnesota's first lieutenant governor was a bit of an entrepreneur who didn't compromise cherished personal beliefs, or his family, for work. And much like present-day, resilient financier Donald Trump, Holcombe rose from the ashes, almost literally, to remake himself.

A sturdy Dutchman with gray eyes and chestnut hair that thinned in later years, Holcombe was born in Lambertville, N.J., in 1804. In the tradition of the times, Holcombe was bred to a profession; his was that of a carriage maker. But he didn't stay in the profession — or in New Jersey — for long.

He was married in Utica, N.Y., in 1826 and moved to Columbus, Ohio, in 1829, where he continued the carriage trade. But fire reduced his Columbus wheelwright shop to embers. He rallied from that disaster only after relocating to St. Louis, a town of about 5,000 at the time.

As a member of a firm — Strother, Holcombe & Co. — he began to make various investments, including a steamboat. Holcombe captained the boat — dubbed "Olive Branch" — and did the job his way.

He had become a devout Presbyterian, and accordingly, he refused to work from sundown on Saturday until sundown on Sunday. So when Saturday evening rolled around on his first 300-mile trip upstream from St. Louis to Galena, Ill., Holcombe stopped the boat and tied up.

The delay irritated some passengers and prompted several to switch to another steamer. When the Sabbath ended, Holcombe resumed his excursion with the remaining clients.

Eventually, the Olive Branch passed the other steamer, which had become stuck on a sandbar. Those who had abandoned Holcombe were stranded, while the Olive Branch steamed toward Galena.

Holcombe said despite his refusal to travel on Sunday, he made one more round trip to Galena than any of his rivals that first year and earned nearly enough in one season to pay for his boat.

Widowed by 1839, he moved to Stillwater, which was then a portion of the Wisconsin Territory. He became proprietor of the St. Croix Falls Lumber Company, and he dabbled in steamboats and other commercial interests. He also began to follow his ancestors into politics.



William Holcombe, Minnesota's first lieutenant governor, was a steamboat captain in the days before he entered politics.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Holcombe came from a long line of assemblymen, representatives to the Continental Congress, and soldiers in the Continental Army.

In 1846, after remarriage, he was a member of the First Constitutional Convention of Wisconsin. It was his first political role. He was reputed to be a sound political economist and a radical Democrat with a keen interest in education. His plan for territorial boundaries was the one adopted by the convention.


In 1848, Holcombe was Secretary of the First Convention in Stillwater, the purpose of which was to organize a new territory. He was one of five who petitioned Congress to create the Territory of Minnesota from land that had been part of the Wisconsin Territory but was not included in the state of Wisconsin.

Holcombe was a member of the 1857 convention which formed the Constitution of Minnesota, and he took an active part in deliberations. His two-year stint as lieutenant governor under fellow Democrat Henry Sibley began in 1858, but perhaps was not the hallmark of his political career.

The lieutenant governor's office existed to provide a successor to the governor should the position become vacant. It was a part-time job that also involved presiding over the upper house of the Legislature. State records show that after the first legislative session adjourned in 1858, Holcombe received \$200 for presiding over the Senate.

Holcombe's role as receiver of the U.S. Land Office at Stillwater in 1849 could be argued to have been more prestigious. The receiver's job was considered to be very important. Holcombe and his son Edwin, a clerk, recorded the original plats of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Holcombe held the receiver's job twice as long as he did the office of lieutenant governor.

Holcombe made other contributions to the public good. He helped locate the first two roads in the St. Croix Valley, and built a mission on a six-acre tract of land near Stillwater. He was largely instrumental in creating the First Church of Stillwater, where he was an elder. When he left the post of lieutenant governor, he became an active member of the State Normal School Board.

It was said Holcombe always made plenty of time for friends and family, and his home was the gathering place for them. It was at home — while mayor of Stillwater — that he died of apoplexy in 1870. He was 66. 

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides: committee meetings schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

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

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (612) 296-0504

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

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (612) 296-0264

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

Rep. Jim Farrell . . .

Legislator exits speaking of family, friends, mentors

By Sandy Donovan



Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) says eight years in the Legislature have not dimmed his East Side sensibilities.

"But that's something my mother has always worried about," he said. "She worried when I went to college, she worried when I went to law school, and she worried when I came here that I'd stop going to church every week."

He hasn't disappointed her, but he says his Irish Catholic mother is happy that her son is stepping down as a legislator this year.

"She's excited that I won't have to vote on any more abortion questions," he said. Farrell's pro-choice votes have been less than popular in his mother's neighborhood.

But while she's pleased to see him leaving the Capitol, his mother was partially responsible for his decision to first run for the House, in 1990, at age 30.

After his father died in 1989, Farrell said his mother had an incredibly difficult time securing both health insurance and her late husband's railroad pension.

Farrell came to the House hoping to make changes that would spare other families such difficult situations, and he has concentrated on advocating for working people during his four terms.

He has sponsored bills aimed at improving the state's child-protection system, at reducing violence in schools, and at increasing victims' rights.

"I am who I am," he said. "I'm a third generation East Sider."

He's also a juvenile prosecutor for Hennepin County and a former assistant public defender for Ramsey County — and the only legislator to have tried a felony trial before a jury as both a prosecutor and a public defender.

"I represent hardworking folks who, if they came down here [to the Capitol], would be angered by the lack of backbone that's shown," he said.

Backbones, or lack thereof, serve as a yard-



Rep. Jim Farrell will leave the House after four terms to run for the office of Ramsey County attorney.

stick for Farrell in assessing his colleagues.

"The saddest thing is to watch people get their arm twisted, and to see them vote against something they passionately believe in," he said.

He's quick to point out the strong characters of the many legislators he counts as mentors and friends.

"[Rep.] Mary Murphy has been a good mentor," he said. "She taught me the importance of trusting people. And if you want real change, you've got to build consensus and trust."

Along with Murphy (DFL-Hermantown), Farrell lists Reps. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), and Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) as mentors.

"And there are members that I don't think I've ever voted with but that I respect because I've watched them stand up and say what they think," Farrell said.

He says he's built friendships across both party and regional lines during his time in the House.

"But the best thing about being here has been getting to know Steve Trimble," he said. "For the last two years he's played Santa Claus at Christmas at our house, and although my two daughters don't know it's him, they've really developed a bond."

Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) represents a House district bordering Farrell's.

Farrell says he'll miss his colleagues when he leaves the House but he won't miss the lack of control over his schedule.

"Sadly, I know there are some people here that I probably won't see again," he said. "But I have a six-year-old daughter in dance who I love to watch, and I know I'll have fun just watching my four-year-old twisting dad around her little finger."

Still, it's unlikely that Farrell's schedule will measurably lighten when the 1998 Legislative Session ends. He's running for Ramsey County attorney this year, seeking the DFL endorsement in May. He has said that he will abide by the party's endorsement. 

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

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Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

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175 State Office Building 296-2146

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Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY*, House 296-9896

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Rep. Edgar Olson . . .

Retiring member to head ag utility research institute

By Matt Wetzel



Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) has been in the House since 1985, and he now believes it's time to move on.

"I've learned about the process," he said. "You begin to think maybe you need somebody with a fresh sense of things, even though you're probably more knowledgeable than you were when you started."

Olson, 60, was born and raised in Fosston, in the Red River Valley, where he owns a 1,000-acre farm, raising potatoes, barley, wheat, and livestock.

He has announced he will not run for re-election this fall and that he will become executive director for the Agricultural Utility Research Institute in Crookston.

"I came here in the middle of the farm crisis [of the mid-1980s] and we did a good job with the interest buy-down and mediation programs. Those were things that were priorities then," he said.

Olson cited the lack of time for his children and his own pursuits as factors in his decision not to run again.

Besides, he said, it wasn't necessarily his idea to run for state Legislature in the first place.

"People came to me and wanted me to run," he said. "I was probably the last of eight candidates that entered."

Olson had farmed and worked for the agricultural industry as president of the American Sheep Council before he was elected in November 1984.

Over the years, Olson has worked on House committees focusing on taxes, education, transportation, and local government concerns.

He currently chairs the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division of the House



Rep. Edgar Olson was first elected to the House in 1984. He will not seek re-election this fall.

Taxes Committee, which has carried a heavy workload in the days of budget surpluses and tax-cut proposals.

He also served as chair of the House Ethics Committee earlier in his legislative career.

Olson's wife, Phyllis, died seven years ago. He has two grown children, one living in New York and the other in Eden Prairie. He said he wants to see more of them in his post-legislative life.

"I'm like all the goal-dedicated people that we've had here. It seems that you're carving a big chunk of your life in here and it gets to the point where it's all-consuming," he said. "Between the sessions and everything that goes on, every time you try to plan things you've got a conflict."

Olson said he is going to miss the Legislature and the friends he has made in the House.


"I look forward to visiting them and seeing them on a personal basis," he said, adding that he counts all legislators as friends.

"If there's anything that deals with agricultural issues I'll remain in close contact," he said.

Still, Olson acknowledged that he will miss some aspects of life as a legislator.

"There are a lot of people that you have a common bond with, especially people in the agricultural areas," he said.

And that's his first love, farming. He said he has tried to devote his legislative career to serving his constituents and other rural Minnesotans and to helping farmers and farm communities.

"I've been able to support the people and their interests," Olson said. 

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St. Paul 55103 296-2551

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More bill listings . . .

House Files incorporated into 1998 omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. This is the second installment of an unofficial listing, as of certain dates, of House files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House files due to amendments that happen along the way. In addition, the House files that are listed may have been included either entirely or partially.

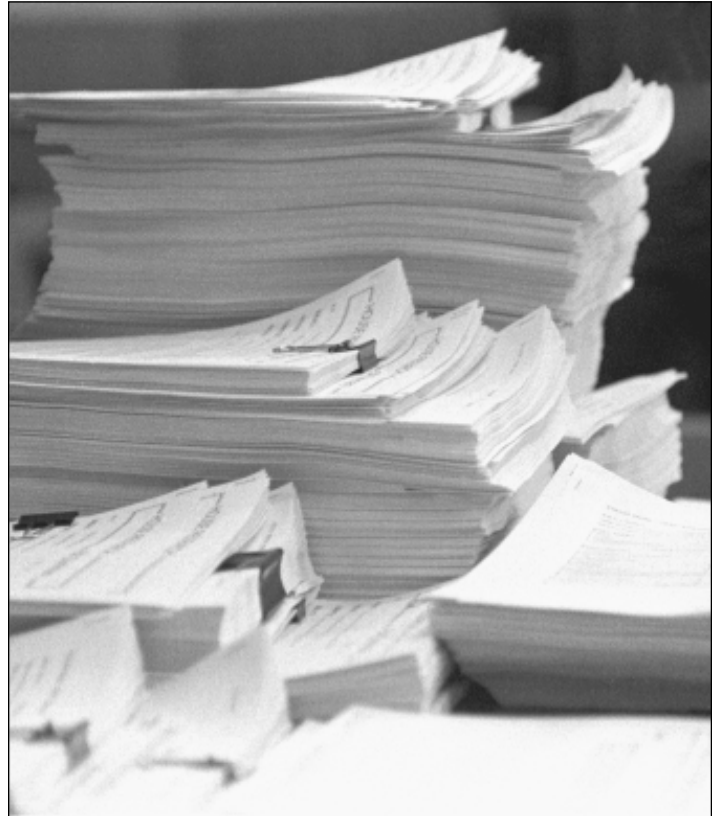
The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, and legislative analysts. Each bill is accompanied by a brief description of its content.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.

If you're interested in following conference committee action (and have access to the World Wide Web), point your Web browser to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

You also can stop by the office and pick up a "Today" sheet which provides the daily meeting schedule.

If you have questions, call the House Public Information Office, (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112.



A total of 1,588 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives so far during the 1998 Legislative session. The governor has already signed a few of these. Some will follow, some will not, and many others have been rolled into large omnibus bills that are awaiting their fates.

Bonding

Bonding Bill

HF3843 (Kalis)

Content as of March 12, 1998, when the House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill. (Note: The bills listed are included either entirely or partially.)

- HF2373 (Lieder) Transportation capital improvements provided, light and commuter rail funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF2502 (Rukavina) State government finance bonding bill.
- HF3281 (Murphy) Corrections and public safety departments capital improvement finance bill.
- HF3501 (Carlson) Omnibus education bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF3701 (Kalis) Debt capacity forecasting, budget preparation, and reporting bond proceeds expenditures, bond sales, and capital improvements provisions modified.
- HF3711 (Greenfield) Health and human services bonding bill.
- HF3746 (Osthoff) Environment and natural resources bonding bill.
- HF3792 (Trimble) Economic development supplemental bonding bill providing improvements of a capital nature, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

Development

Omnibus Economic Development and Housing Finance Bill HF3806/SF3367* (Trimble)

Content as of March 4, 1998, when the House passed the bill on a 74-57 vote.

Economic Development Finance Division

- HF216 (Mariani) Employment contract provisions modified.
- HF2194 (Chaudhary) Employment contract provisions modified.
- HF2257 (Chaudhary) Columbia Heights appropriated money for capital improvements, and bonds issued.
- HF2287 (Mullery) Youth intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.
- HF2339 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.
- HF2340 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project in Minneapolis provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF2430 (Evans) Building contractor continuing education requirements and recovery fund fees increased, statutory housing warranties modified, statute of limitations extension provided for real property improvement actions.
- HF2454 (Trimble) Indian Affairs Council director provided funding

for the 50th annual conference of the Interstate Indian Council, and money appropriated.

HF2456 (Clark, K.) Youthbuild program funded, and money appropriated.

HF2466 (Winter) Walnut Grove; Laura Ingalls Wilder pageant facilities provided capital improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2580 (Carlson/Carruthers) Brooklyn Center Earle Brown Heritage Center debt assumption provided by the state, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2605 (Dawkins) St. Paul transit zone property designated as an enterprise zone.

HF2648 (Tomassoni) Taconite mining program appropriated money.

HF2747 (Peterson) Montevideo historic railroad depot, related parking, and facilities capital improvement grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2973 (Evans) Corridor planning pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF3019 (Hausman) Millennium screen writing festival planning funded, local screenwriter grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3036 (Jaros) Independent living centers appropriated money.

HF3043 (Trimble) Metronet; libraries throughout the state appropriated money for a Minnesota authors video series.

HF3054 (Paymar) Public arts St. Paul appropriated money for art projects throughout the city.

HF3069 (Trimble) Small business owners with tanks located on their properties provided petroleum fund reimbursement eligibility, and small gasoline retailer reimbursement modified.

HF3189 (Mullery) Summer youth employment programs appropriated money.

HF3190 (Mullery) Neighborhood Development Center, Inc. grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3200 (Munger) Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad improvement grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3247 (Jennings) St. Croix Valley heritage center designed, prior bond proceeds canceled, and money appropriated.

HF3274 (Kubly) McLeod County; Stewart storm sewer project design funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3330 (Wenzel) Little Falls conference center and retreat site developed, and money appropriated.

HF3447 (Mullery) Women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, grant requirements and information provided, and money appropriated.

HF3456 (Davids) Chatfield brass band music lending library funded, and money appropriated.

HF3517 (Reuter) Owatonna Heritage Halls Museum project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3537 (Gunther) Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3741 (Chaudhary) Council on Black Minnesotans Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance activities planning and coordination provided, and money appropriated.

Housing and Housing Finance Division

HF2342 (Clark, K.) Family homeless prevention and assistance program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2344 (Clark, K.) Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF2528 (Kubly) Community rehabilitation program funding pro-

vided for home ownership counseling services for persons with mental retardation, and money appropriated.

HF2555 (Rostberg) Low-income persons with chemical sensitivities provided housing assistance, and money appropriated.

HF2745 (Evans) Housing Finance Agency's bridges program appropriated money.

HF2963 (Clark, K.) Homeownership zones program established, and money appropriated.

HF2991 (Long) Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3115 (Evans) Health homes pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF3183 (Mariani) Housing Finance Agency nonprofit capacity building grants provided for VISTA volunteer placement support, and money appropriated.

HF3393 (Trimble) Housing trust fund grant provided to Metropolitan State University for a student housing pilot program, and money appropriated. (Amended to be a study and incorporated into bill.)

Industry

Omnibus Regulated Industries and Energy Bill

HF3042/SF2797 (Jennings)

As of Feb. 18, 1998

HF3037 (Kubly) Biomass fuel exemptions and power purchase contract provisions modified.

HF3042 (Jennings) Long-distance telephone provider antislammng disclosure requirements expanded, price increase notification clarified, international toll blocking required, and power purchase contracts and biomass fuel exemptions modified.

Taxes

Omnibus Tax Bill

HF3840 (Long)

Content as of March 12, 1998, when the House passed the bill on a 93-40 vote.

Miscellaneous Subjects

HF3702 (Solberg) Amends local mandates process and local government fiscal notes. AMENDED.

HF3608 (Biernat) Repeals the repealer of education finance laws.

HF2270 (Winter) Exempts air ambulances from registration tax. Airports Fund impact.

HF2481 (Chaudhary) Reopens eligibility for "urban homesteading" income tax subtraction for homeowners who, for technical reasons, missed the June 30, 1998, deadline.

Committee amendment. Sets 12/31/98 as the final date for accepting applications for the airport noise zone home ownership income tax subtraction.

HF3619 (Rest) Makes certain technical changes in jobs training corporate tax credit. AMENDED.

HF2687 (Milbert) Provides for division among counties of tax pro-

ceeds of multi-county mortgages only when principal debt exceeds \$1million.

HF2930 (Daggett) Allows small lessors of motor vehicles to opt out of the fee in lieu of registration tax. AMENDED.

HF3714 (Erhardt) Changes the definition of taxable mixed municipal solid waste regarding industrial waste being combined with mixed waste just before incineration under a PCA-approved waste management plan.

Committee amendment. Clarifies that medical supplies purchased by health care facilities or professionals to treat residents or patients are exempt from sales tax. (NO COST)

Property Tax Policy Bills

HF3041 (Johnson, A.) Changes the growth factors for municipal levy limits.

HF3342 (Kinkel) Provides for dissolution of town subordinate service districts.

HF3485 (Olson, E.) Authorizes sale of tax forfeited land in Red Lake County.

HF3534 (Abrams) Exempts abatements from levy limits, and clarifies that abatement bonds are not subject to election requirements.

HF3240 (Rest) Amends criteria for low-income housing classification; application fees to be deposited in the housing development fund, not the General Fund. AMENDED.

HF3118 (Olson, E.) Allows PILT to be used for road maintenance in unorganized territories.

HF3081 (Paymar) Increases the amount of St. Paul's general obligation capital improvement bond authority.

HF3603 (Dempsey) Allows a \$477,677 levy limit base adjustment for city of Red Wing.

HF3435 (Macklin) Allows information about transit levies to be included in Truth in Taxation notices.

HF2608 (Johnson, A.) Authorizes Anoka County to issue \$1.25 million in bonds, backed by a levy up to 0.01 percent of taxable market value for libraries; levy is outside the levy limits. Repeals current \$5 million debt ceiling.

HF2436 (Tunheim) Eliminates for pay 1999 and later years the requirement that relocated owners of homesteads abandoned due to '97 flood notify and submit information to assessor to receive class 2a treatment. AMENDED.

HF2360 (Sekhon) Increases city aid base by \$200,000 for Oak Grove.

HF1912 (Hasskamp) Establishes new class rate at 0.5 percent for certain unimproved land near water. AMENDED to require conservation easement and other conditions.

HF2284 (Kubly) Changes distance from two to four townships that noncontiguous land can be from homestead and still have homestead class.

HF3611 (Lieder) Authorizes use of the Wild Rice Watershed levy for flood mitigation projects.

HF2549 (Winter) Increases the levy limits of regional development commissions.

HF2509 (Johnson, A.) Changes Truth in Taxation hearing date for Metro special taxing districts and county dates.

HF2516 (Pawlenty) Classification of a parcel (e.g., Capone Art Park). AMENDED.

HF3283 (Tunheim) Gives all counties Economic Development Authority powers (local option).

HF3436 (McElroy) Amends definition of "transit zone"; requires new transit zone maps; removes certain prohibitions against property tax levy for transit.

HF3598 (Kinkel) Eliminates the seasonal occupancy criteria for seasonal resort property class.

HF3603 (Dempsey) Allows a levy limit base adjustment for city of Red Wing.

HF3778 (Wagenius) Exempts substandard homes in 1st class cities in below-median value neighborhoods from property tax for up to five years if restored to sound operating condition at cost of at least \$20,000, and occupied by same person. AMENDED.

HF3785 (Kinkel) Provides property tax-exempt status for certain municipally owned wastewater treatment facility that serves a privately owned potato processing facility.

HF3797 (Carruthers) Extends 1997 property tax exclusion for certain Brooklyn Center, Richfield, and St. Louis Park apartments.

HF3801 (Long) Authorizes city property tax on certain transit zone property in Minneapolis. AMENDED.

Amendment, full committee. Elderly assisted living facilities: extend moratorium; adopt rules for new properties.

Amendment, full committee. Several local governments: corrects levy limit base and/or aid base computation errors.

HF2482 (Rest) Extends 1998 property tax rebate to cabin owners.

HF3720 (Milbert) Limits increases in market value for property taxation.

HF3438 (Bettermann) Farwell-Kensington sanitary district established and levies authorized.

Local Sales Tax Authority

As amended by Sales and Income Tax Division

HF2518 (Nornes) Fergus Falls local sales tax 1/2-cent and \$20/vehicle tax for regional conference center.

HF2610 (Bishop) Rochester 1/2-cent extension of local sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax.

HF2675 (Pelowski) Winona 1/2-cent local sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax to dredge Lake Winona.

HF3101 (Skare) Bemidji 1/2-cent local sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax for regional convention center and related facilities.

HF3193 (Ness) Hutchinson 1/2-cent local sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax for civic/community center and recreational facilities for youth and seniors.

HF3496 (Reuter) Owatonna 1/2-cent local sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax for improvements to local airport and infrastructure for tourism project.

HF3546 (Opatz) St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, and St. Joseph 1/2-cent sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax to fund the central Minnesota events center.

HF3722 (Daggett) Detroit Lakes 1/2-cent local sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax for constructing a community center (amended to HF 3496, above).

HF3807 (Johnson, A.) Coon Rapids 1/2-cent sales tax and \$20/vehicle tax for infrastructure supporting the Riverdale regional economic development project.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

HF2821 (McElroy) State Auditor's TIF bill. AMENDED.

HF1330 (Koskinen) Coon Rapids. Allows use of increment for infrastructure for the Riverdale economic development project.

As amended by the Property Tax Division

HF2336 (Leppik) Golden Valley. Allows extension of pre-1979 district through 2010 for housing (using TIF language for income limits).

HF2416 (Kubly) City of Renville TIF.

HF2463 (Marko) Exception for property that is in green acres and within a TIF district.
 HF2504 (Sykora) Deephaven. Allows use of increment outside the district for infrastructure.
 HF2783 (Carruthers) Brooklyn Center. Establishes minimum class rates and market values.
 HF3098 (Schumacher) Foley. Allows use of increment outside the district for infrastructure.
 HF3439 (McElroy) Burnsville. Authorizes a TIF district for an amphitheatre and local admissions tax.
 HF3495 (Pugh) West St. Paul. Exemptions for housing and redevelopment districts.
 HF3602 (Long) Minneapolis Sears site. Authorizes a phased-development TIF district.
 HF3648 (Otremba) Browerville. Allows use of increment outside of the district.

Bills With Impacts on Revenues

Property Tax Rebates

Governor's Second Supplemental Budget Recommendations (Long/House) \$250 million Property Tax Rebate FY 1999 (House provisions differ).
 HF2294 (Long) Extends the 1997 property tax rebate (and subsequent rebates) to persons who pre-paid property taxes. Also clarifies eligibility of certain farm homestead land.

Federal Update, Property Tax Initiatives, Income and Corporate Taxes

HF2604 (Macklin) Governor's first supplemental recommendations, numerous provisions.
 HF2694 (Long) Governor's and departmental recommendations, numerous provisions.
 HF3777 (Long) Conform to federal treatment of corporate contributions.
 HF2492 (Daggett) Accelerate (to TY 1998) effective date for long-term care insurance income tax credit.
 HF2482 (Rest) HF2482 contains an identical provision.
 HF2542 (Rest) Charitable contributions income tax deduction for non-itemizers.
 HF2369 (Kubly) Housing assistance income tax credit.
 HF2344 (Clark) (SAME.)
 HF2804 (Slawik) Expands income eligibility for child and dependent care credit, modifies phaseout. AMENDED.
 HF2513 (Tompkins) (SAME, as introduced.)
 Floor amendment. Prohibits use of Social Security numbers on materials mailed by the Department of Revenue.

Sales and Use Taxes

HF2482 (Rest) Accelerates to 7/1/98 effective date of exemption for non-aspirin pain relievers.
 HF2494 (Long) Exempt sale of FEMA trailers — flood area (Department of Revenue request— Policy Bill amendment)
 HF3575 (Johnson, A.) Ready-mix concrete trucks sales and use tax and STMV changes.

HF2599 (Tunheim) County Fairs, exempt five days of sales.
 HF3192 (Juhnke) Phase out and exempt new farm, aquaculture, logging machinery and equipment. AMENDED: Reduce rate to 1.5 percent 7/1/98; 0 percent on 7/1/99.
 HF3273 (Seifert) (SAME, as introduced.)
 HF3802 (Skare) (SAME, as introduced.)
 HF2303 (Dawkins) Exempt library purchases.
 HF2682 (Johnson, A.) Use tax voluntary compliance line in income tax form, effective TY 1999.
 HF2644 (Carruthers) Extend de minimis use tax exemption to businesses.
 HF3160 (Bishop) Hospital sales tax exemption effective date correction.
 HF3789 (Winter) Wind energy conversion systems, exemption date.
 HF2575 (Hasskamp) Township gravel and road equipment exemption.
 HF3407 (Solberg) Exempts Long Lake Environmental Learning Center.
 HF3533 (Abrams) Clarify goods for re-sale exemption.
 HF3762 (Johnson, A.) Changes the base for sales tax (currently 65 percent of sales price) of a manufactured home to 65 percent of dealers' price. AMENDED.

Excise Taxes

HF3579 (Long) Extend SCORE moratorium.
 HF2942 (Jennings) Reduce excise tax on cider.
 HF3761 (Milbert) Parimutuel tax, extend sunset (taxes only).
 HF3024 (Milbert) Lawful Gambling — AMENDED. Cut by 5 percent: pulltabs/tipboards and combined receipts taxes effective 7/1/98. (Note: numerous additional bills were same as introduced.)

Appropriations/Property Tax Refund (PTR) Impacts

HF3595 (Long) Renters Credit — AMENDED: Increase to 19 percent of rent.
 HF3657 (Rest) (SAME, as introduced.)
 HF3790 (Rukavina) St. Louis County nursing home levy (PTR).
 HF3585 (Hasskamp) Senior deferral income increase, and technical and administrative corrections.
 HF3739 (Skare) Grant to counties for Property Tax education video: appropriation.
 HF3369 (Rest) Volunteer assistance to low income taxpayers: appropriation.
 HF3735 (Anderson, I.) Authorizes \$500,000 for enterprise zone allocation.
 HF3764 (Anderson, I.) Legislative Tax Study Commission appropriation.
 HF3815 (Olson, E.) Flood Loss Replacement Aid (at \$1.7 million, FY00; \$1.5 million, FY01)

Committee amendment. Business Activities Tax Study appropriation.
 HF2728 (Goodno) Border city enterprise zones authorized.

Source: House Fiscal Staff

Governor's Desk

CH252-CH273

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills

and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either

14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at: <http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 5	2417*	2055	Congress memorialized to support the admission of Poland, Czech Republic and Republic of Hungary to NATO.	Filed without signature	
252	2492	2111*	Fish house restrictions and license periods modified.	2/12/98	
253	661*	663	Landlord and tenant law recodified, clarified and relocated.	2/18/98	
254	2524*	2134	Revisor's bill.	2/18/98	
255	1554	1440*	Uniform certification of questions of law act adopted.	2/19/98	
256	2372*	2017	Norman County Medical Center bid exemption.	2/25/98	
257	2550*	2261	Rural hospital flexibility program.	2/25/98	
258	2338*	2167	Gulf war vet bonus program modified.	2/25/98	
259	2499*	2156	Hennepin County Board small purchase limit increased.	2/27/98	
260	2890	2478*	Savings association act maintained.	2/27/98	
261	2828*	2345	Commissioner of Health public water supply approval authority modified.	3/4/98	
262	2390	2031*	Real property conveyance provisions modified.	3/4/98	
263	2576	2028*	Emergency vehicle signal operation modification.	3/4/98	
264	none	2379*	Local government unit aid distribution clarification in township annexation.	3/4/98	
265	2646	2621*	Reemployment insurance technical changes.	3/4/98	
266	2590*	2122	Tenant security deposit interest rate increase.	3/4/98	
267	2425	2170*	Watercraft trailers and ATVs exempt from motor vehicle sales on Sunday prohibition.	3/5/98	
268	2927	2525*	Ramsey County purchases from health care cooperatives.	3/5/98	
269	3119	2685*	Public officers contract interest authority clarification.	3/5/98	
270	2811	2315*	Director of Office of Technology membership to various organizations clarified.	3/5/98	
271	3734	2354*	Public employees insurance program expansion.	3/6/98	
272	3095*	2688	Chaplin Sunday designation.	3/6/98	
273	2866	2477*	CFL and Economic Security reorganization codified.	3/9/98	

Bill Introductions

HF3835-HF3843

Monday, March 9

HF3835—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Underwater video camera use for the purpose of taking fish prohibited.

HF3836—Erickson (R)
Health and Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions modified, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3837—Erickson (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3838—Erickson (R)
Taxes
Lawful gambling, pull-tabs, tipboards, and combined receipts tax rates reduced.

HF3839—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Revisor's bill correcting miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors.

HF3840—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Omnibus tax bill and money appropriated.

Tuesday, March 10

HF3841—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Air carrier agreements retroactive exemption from the franchise law removed.

Wednesday, March 11

HF3842—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Franchise definition modified relating to air carrier agreements.

HF3843—Kalis (DFL)
Ways & Means
Omnibus supplemental bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

Population shifts redefine legislative district boundaries

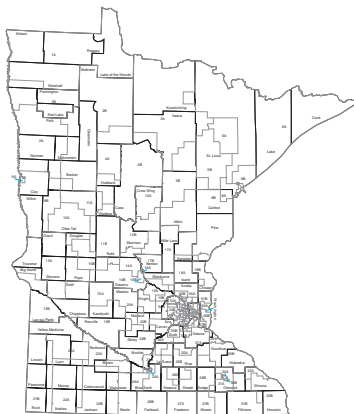
It's a fact!

In 1992, all of Minnesota's House districts were approximately equal in population, each containing about 32,650 people. By 1995, only 40 of the 134 districts were within 3 percentage points of their 1992 population.

Such population changes also could be seen in the state's 67 Senate districts and in its eight congressional districts. Variations of this sort are not unusual; they reflect the mobility of our society.

To keep the districts equal, the Minnesota Legislature must redraw congressional and legislative districts every 10 years following the census. The next round of redistricting will start after the 2000 census, and the Legislature is required to have the new districts in place before the 2002 election.

After the census establishes the population trends, the U.S. Congress and the Minnesota Legislature will reassign the number of districts in a given area based on population changes — a process called reapportionment. Areas that make significant gains in population will get new districts, and areas that decrease in popu-



Minnesota's current legislative boundaries

lation will lose existing districts.

According to predictions made by the Congressional Research Service, Minnesota will probably maintain eight congressional districts. Other midwestern states — including Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan — may have to give up districts because of decreased or negative population growth. The fast-growing sunbelt states like Arizona, Georgia, and Texas could gain as many as two congressional districts each.

State legislative districts also will need to be reapportioned. If population trends continue, the Minnesota Department of Planning predicts the central cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul each may have to give up a legislative district and the Iron Range may lose half of one district. Due to its population spurt, the suburban metropolitan area could gain as many as two and one-half districts.

The process of drawing the lines that separate districts is called redistricting. Unlike reapportionment, which is based on an agreed-upon formula, the redistricting process can be a political battle. The process can be used to ensure that one party has the advantage in elections. For example, lines can be drawn to split a neighborhood that tends to vote for one party, thereby dividing those votes between two districts and decreasing those voters' effectiveness.

In Minnesota, as elsewhere, partisanship has often accompanied redistricting. The past three attempts at redistricting in 1972, 1982, and 1992 were finally settled by the federal courts because they had not been resolved by the election deadline.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

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MONDAY, March 16

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

Time and Room to be Announced

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840

Chrs. Rep. Dee Long

Sen. Douglas Johnson

After Session

WAYS & MEANS

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF2589 (Wagenius) Snowfence easements, highway closures, and signs regulated, state transportation plan revised, private carriers regulated, flexible highway account created, town highways and bridges funded, and conveyances to public bodies permitted.

HF2983 (Tunheim) Minnesota residential mortgage originator and servicer licensing act adopted.

HF2970 (Kahn) Salary increase provided for judges, and employee and employer contribution rates for certain judges retirement plans modified.

HF3314 (Anderson, I.) Tobacco litigation proceeds deposited in the general fund and subject to appropriation.

HF3167 (Slawik) Children's endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2532 (Chaudhary) Youth-oriented driver improvement clinics and graduated licensing system established, driving privileges restricted for permit and provisional license holders, and violation-free period required prior to advancement to next license stage.

HF2389 (Entenza) DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles and while hunting.

Additional bills may be added.

1/2 Hour After Session

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Higher Education Bill

SF3297

118 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf

After Last Body Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus K-12 Education Policy Bill

HF2874/SF3378

112 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Becky Kelso

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller

TUESDAY, March 17

8 a.m.

Permanent School Trust Fund Advisory

Council Meeting

123 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Keith Langseth

Agenda: Island Lake land exchange approval.

Legislative Audit Commission program evaluation report on school trust land. State Investment Board-report on investments.

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Last Body Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus K-12 Education Policy Bill

HF2874/SF3378

112 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Becky Kelso

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller

WEDNESDAY, March 18

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Last Body Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus K-12 Education Policy Bill

HF2874/SF3378

112 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Becky Kelso

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller

THURSDAY, March 19

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Last Body Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus K-12 Education Policy Bill

HF2874/SF3378

112 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Becky Kelso

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller

FRIDAY, March 20

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Last Body Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus K-12 Education Policy Bill

HF2874/SF3378

112 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Becky Kelso

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's 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

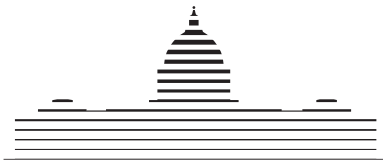
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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
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ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota crash facts

Licensed drivers in Minnesota, 1996	3,456,505
Registered motor vehicles, 1996	3,701,865
Traffic crashes in Minnesota, 1996	105,332
Motor vehicles involved	193,067
People involved	288,281
People injured in crashes, 1996	48,963
in 1995	47,161
People killed in crashes, 1996	576
in 1995	597
in 1968 (record high)	1,060
Males killed in traffic crashes, 1996	374
Females	202
Male drivers involved in crashes, 1996	106,420
in fatal crashes	599
Female drivers involved in crashes, 1996	69,893
in fatal crashes	223
Drunken driving arrests, 1996	38,925
Percent female	19
Drunken driving arrests, 1995	33,355
Known alcohol-related traffic fatalities, 1996	205
in 1988 (10-year high)	277
Bicyclists killed in collisions with a motor vehicle, 1996	6
Pedestrian fatalities, 1996	46
in 1995	49
in 1971 (record high)	157
Fatalities on two-lane, two-way roadways, 1996	355
on freeways and other divided highways	103
Fatal crashes in which illegal or unsafe speed was a contributing factor 1996	138
Injury crashes	6,195
Fatal crashes in which weather was a contributing factor, 1996	30
Injury crashes	2,476
Fatal crashes in which driver use of a cellular phone or CB radio was a contributing factor, 1996	1
Injury crashes	39
Motorcycles registered in Minnesota, 1996	112,551
Motorcycle crashes, 1996	1,131
Motorcyclists killed, 1996	42
Those wearing helmets	9

Source: *Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts*, 1996, Office of Traffic Safety,
Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

Minnesota was a state for just three years when it was called upon to show its loyalty to the nation. When Fort Sumter, S.C., was attacked on April 12, 1861, President Lincoln asked for 75,000 troops to defend the Union.

Gov. Alexander Ramsey, who was in Washington, D.C., at the time, met with Lincoln to commit the service of 1,000 men from the state militia.

Lt. Gov. Ignatius Donnelly received a telegraph in St. Paul from Ramsey on April 14 and called a meeting that evening with the St. Paul Pioneer Guards. Josias R. King was the first to sign up. He made history that evening by becoming the first to volunteer for the Union in the Civil War.

At 10 a.m. the next day, Aaron Greenwald, James W. Groat, and five other citizens were the first to volunteer under former territorial governor Willis Gorman in Anoka, Minn.

The Minnesotans memorialized in bronze in the Capitol (see related story, page 14) also represent forgotten names of hundreds of enlisted men, among them Josias King's cousin, Levi, who was wounded at Gettysburg. Others were well-known. Among them were Gov. Henry Sibley and Gorman. Another was Knute Nelson, who served in the 1st Wisconsin Regiment as a corporal, became governor of Minnesota in 1893, then served as a U.S. senator.

Of the 259 blacks noted in the 1860 census, 104, or almost one-half of the African-American population in Minnesota, volunteered to serve in 1861, even though they were not able to vote in the state until 1870.

Minnesotans fought successfully in other military units, but it was the 1st Minnesota under the Army of the Potomac that was successful at Manassas, Bull Run, and other battles. Still, the bloody Gettysburg battle stands out in state history.

Josias and Levi King, Greenwald, Groat, and 258 others led the charge of the 1st Regiment on July 2 and 3, 1863. Fifteen minutes into battle, 215 of them were dead. Greenwald was one of them.

Many Civil War memorials have been dedicated around the state. They include the monument to Knute Nelson in front of the Capitol steps and a makeshift wooden staff that carried the tattered U.S. flag at Gettysburg, displayed with the flag in the Capitol rotunda.

The staff — its wood half Union and half Confederate — is held with a leather strap that patched together two fragments of flag staffs found on the battlefield after the original bearers fell.

Other Civil War monuments include: a plaque erected to Greenwald, Groat, and others that is located across the street from the old Anoka County Court House; a monument to Col. William Colvill in Cannon Falls, Minn.; and the Josias R. King monument, found a few hundred yards north of the St. Paul Cathedral.

King posed for its creation, and it was completed in 1903. He was among the 4,000 who attended the dedication to "perpetuate the memory of the Union soldiers and sailors of the War of 1861-1865. Their suffering and sacrifice exalted the chorus."

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Perched high above the rotunda floor, Plant Management Engineer Dave Albien changes lights around the Capitol dome March 18.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Graduated licensing restrictions . . .

Bill requires teens to 'graduate' through driving stages

By Jim Thielman

For teen-agers, a driver's license spells independence. But for 669 California teens in 1994, a driver's license meant the end of their lives.

So although California is already among 26 states with some form of graduated teen licensing, starting July 1 the state will place additional conditions and restrictions on driving privileges for young people.

Minnesota teens have no graduated licensing restrictions of any kind, but a bill approved by the House Ways and Means Committee March 16 aims to introduce some new requirements.

A similar bill stalled in the House Transportation and Transit Committee a year ago, and its companion bill in the Senate never came up for a floor vote.

Nighttime driving is a particularly high-risk activity for 16- to 19-year-olds. Accident studies reveal that only about 20 percent of miles driven by teens is accumulated between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., but almost half of their fatal crashes occur during those hours.

Auto accidents are the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Drivers aged 16 and 17 are 18 times more likely to be killed in traffic accidents than adults aged 30 to 34, according to NHTSA. Twenty-five percent of teen drivers will be involved in an auto accident, and 5 percent of those collisions will lead to serious injury or death.

Teen drivers also are more likely to be involved in single-vehicle incidents.

Currently, 16-year-old drivers in Minnesota can drive unsupervised at any hour. But under the graduated licensing system, driving between midnight and 5 a.m. would be restricted, with some exceptions.

The restriction, and the exceptions, have generated much debate among lawmakers.

Provisional license holders would be allowed to drive between midnight and 5 a.m. for employment, religious, education, or limited social purposes. The young drivers would need a certificate stating the nature of the exception, and the certificate would have to be signed by a parent, guardian, or employer.

The exceptions to the midnight driving curfew have grown as the bill has moved through the House committees process. For instance, the original bill excepted school-sponsored events from the nighttime driving limits, but during discussion in the Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) asked about hockey and ice skating practices.

She said ice hockey "captains' practices" are not school-sponsored events. They are called at the discretion of the team, and they are often held after midnight, when ice time is available. She also indicated that many figure skaters drive to indoor facilities very early in the morning for the same reason.

The bill was amended to include such activities on the list of exceptions to the driving curfew.

Other legislators argued that a teen attending a film that begins at 9:30 p.m. is unlikely to get home before the midnight deadline. That activity does not fall under any of the bill's stated exceptions.

Another provision in the bill would require that a driver with a learner's permit could be accompanied in the front seat by only the supervising licensed driver.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), the Ways and Means Committee chair, said the provision would mean problems for parents who are pickup truck owners.

"I can't have one son drive and another as passenger then?" he asked.

Legislators were told in that situation the supervising driver should be behind the wheel.

The bill has drawn concern from some lawmakers, but Chaudhary's plan is supported by the Minnesota State Patrol, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Department of Public



Minnesota teens currently can acquire a driver's license with full driving privileges at age 16, but a bill moving through the House is designed to introduce restrictions on teen-age drivers. Minnesota could join the ranks of over half of the states that already have some sort of graduated licensing system for teens.

The graduated licensing laws on the books in 26 states require young drivers to "graduate" through stages of restricted driving before they are allowed to get their unrestricted licenses.

The restrictions applied in other states often include a mandatory supervised driving period, night driving curfews, and training that involves a certain amount of night driving experience.

The bill (HF2401/SF2407*), sponsored by Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), would place restrictions on nighttime teen driving, create youth-oriented driver improvement clinics for traffic violators under age 18, and create a three-stage licensing process.

Under the bill, drivers in Minnesota would have to be at least 16 years old and have a learner's permit for six months to apply for a provisional license.

Safety, and more than a dozen other groups.

The Senate has passed a graduated licensing bill this year without the curfew language.

And the public seems to favor graduated licensing.

An April 1997 Minneapolis *Star Tribune* poll of 800 adults revealed 79 percent of respondents favored a midnight driving curfew.

Under the House bill, the minimum age for a full driver's license would be 17. In the *Star Tribune* poll, 54 percent favored raising that age limit from 16 to 17.

The attempt to restrict younger drivers is not just a Minnesota effort.

Under the enhanced California law that takes effect July 1, a 16-year-old with a provisional license will have to be accompanied by parent or licensed driver 25 or older in order to drive between midnight and 5 a.m. Currently, in California, the restriction applies only to those who are 15 and a half and have a learner's permit.

The California measure also will incorporate a trend toward combining driver's education with graduated licensing.

Worldwide research has indicated that people who merely graduate from driver's education courses do not have fewer subsequent crashes than drivers who learned without formal driver education.

The belief of experts is that training combined with a graduated licensing system is the safest way to introduce teens to various driving conditions.

The first model for teen graduated licensing was developed more than 20 years ago by the NHTSA. The NHTSA and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators are pushing for entry-level staged licensing and education in all 50 states. 🐼

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By Jim Thielman

In former Rep. Kathleen Vellenga's mind, there is rarely anything bad about a good argument. That's certainly one thing she misses since she left the House in 1994.

"Having something to say and standing up on the floor of the House and saying it, that's one thing I really miss," she said in a recent interview.

On the other hand, Vellenga's career as project coordinator of the St. Paul/Ramsey County Children's Initiative has its advantages.

"I don't wake up in the middle of the night as much. I don't feel like the whole state's watching me," she said.

A Macalester graduate in education, she taught school and volunteered in child-abuse prevention programs before she sought political office.

When voters in Vellenga's St. Paul district approached her about running for state representative in 1980, her thought was that she was just a normal person.

"After I got over to the House, I realized everyone was," she said.

Vellenga was just a kid from Nebraska, but her uncle Tom Osborne was a state senator there. (The senator's son and Vellenga's cousin was the Tom Osborne

who retired this year after 25 seasons as head football coach at the University of Nebraska.)

When first elected, Vellenga set her goal at three terms in the Minnesota House at a time when women were a small minority in the House. The DFLer never expected leadership roles would follow.

However, during her seven terms as a lawmaker, Vellenga chaired the House

Vellenga maintains former goals in 'Children's Initiative' position

Education Finance Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

When Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) stepped down as House speaker in 1993, Vellenga's name was mentioned as a potential successor.

"I knew I did not want to do that," Vellenga said. "Sure, it would be fun up there running the floor sessions and, sure, it would be fun to be that influential on issues. But you've got to be out there campaigning for 134 House seats, because you've got to keep that majority."

"I wasn't going to do that. I never even liked my own campaigns."

She says her most important legislative work was "synthesizing the message that we wanted to spend one dollar on prevention for every dollar we spent on corrections. We know the first three years in a



Former Rep. Kathleen Vellenga, who was once a teacher, now works as project coordinator of the St. Paul/Ramsey County Children's Initiative.

child's life are the most important, and we wanted to get that message out."

Now, she pursues that social goal at another level.

In hindsight, Vellenga said she "was getting cynical [in the House]. It was time to go." But she believes her years in the House gave her a breadth of knowledge that makes it easier to do her current work. 🐼

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Bill to study hemp defeated

A bill calling for a study to determine the feasibility of allowing Minnesota farmers to grow industrial hemp was soundly defeated in the House March 19. The vote was 81-49 against the plan.

Leading the charge to defeat the bill was Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, who said he was uncomfortable with the fact that industrial hemp comes from the same family as marijuana, an illegal, controlled substance in the U. S. since 1937.

Bill sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the study would not open the door to the legalization of marijuana. But, she said, industrial hemp might open some financial doors for farmers in Minnesota because it can be used for a variety of products such as paper, clothing, fiber board, twine, birdseed, and oil.

Marijuana and industrial hemp carry the scientific classification of *cannabis sativa*, but they are significantly different plants, according to information that has been supplied by the North American Industrial Hemp Council.

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the intoxicating drug in both marijuana and hemp. Marijuana contains 3 percent to 20 percent THC, while hemp contains 0.05 percent to 1 percent THC. Hemp-based finished products have no THC in them.

The bill (HF349/SF1181*) also had the approval of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council, which is "hardly a liberal think tank," Kahn said.

"I don't want to pretend that this bill will save the farm community. It's supporting their use of a crop which can be uniquely successful in Minnesota," she said.

Stanek said law enforcement officials believe that legalization of hemp might not be a good idea.

"How do I explain going down the slippery slope of allowing hemp to be grown when most people associate it with marijuana?" Stanek asked.

Kahn said, "You tell them the first draft of the Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper. You tell them that Betsy Ross' first American flag was sewn with hemp fabric."

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said several studies conducted in other states concluded hemp's possibilities as a profitable crop were dubious.

"I feel upset that people say this will be a viable crop and save agriculture," she said. "It's not been found viable — not for economic reasons, not for any reason. I have a real problem with giving false hope to an agricultural community that needs real hope."

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said it would be hard for law enforcement to tell the difference between industrial hemp and marijuana.

"I would think it would be an important step backwards in the war against drugs," he said.

The Senate approved the hemp study bill last year.



BANKING

Checks in the mail

The House passed a bill March 19 that would place some restrictions on the unsolicited checks that some financial institutions send to consumers. The vote was 126-2.

Bill sponsor Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said he recently received one such check — for thousands of dollars — in the mail.

"If that check would have been taken out of my mailbox and someone had taken it to the check-cashing place and cashed it, my life would have been miserable," he said.

Consumers who find such checks in their mailbox are actually receiving loan solicitations, carrying interest rates as high as 30 percent.

Under the bill, no financial institution or lender could send such a check unless it complied with several new requirements.

The checks would have to become void after 30 days, and information would have to be sent with the check advising consumers to destroy the check if they do not use it.

Consumers also would have to be told in plain terms that the check is a loan, and the loan agreement would have to be on the back of the check.

If such a check is fraudulently cashed by someone other than the addressee, the consumer would be absolved from liability by signing a statement saying he or she did not cash the check.

"There have been incidents where checks have been stolen," Haas said. "We're putting regulations in place in which the consumer would be protected. There is no procedure in place to protect me."

The measure would allow an exception for prospective borrowers who already have an open-end credit arrangement, such as a credit card account, with a lender.

The bill (HF2016/SF2550*) now goes to the governor.



BUDGET

Tobacco lawsuit funds

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill March 16 that would require that any funds received from the state's lawsuit against big tobacco go into the general fund.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), sponsor of the bill (HF3314), told the committee that money reimbursed to the state should be distributed by elected officials. He said he didn't want the state of Minnesota to go through the same situation as in Texas.

In January 1998, Texas received a settlement from cigarette makers in the amount of \$15.3 billion. The Texas attorney general placed a portion of the funds in a foundation governed by a board of directors.

Texas state legislators argued that they alone had the constitutional authority to appropriate state revenues. After weeks of grandstanding and legal challenges, the state attorney general agreed to turn the funds over to the Legislature.

Anderson's bill now goes to the House floor.



BUSINESS

Minnesota's franchise law

A House panel has approved a bill that aims to prevent Northwest Airlines from using a 1997 law to its advantage in a court battle.

The 1997 Legislature passed special legislation for Northwest Airlines that retroactively exempted airline carriers from Minnesota's franchise law.

The state franchise law provides franchisees with some degree of protection against unwarranted termination of agreements with their parent companies.

Controversy erupted when it was discovered recently that the retroactive exemption had an effect on pending litigation against Northwest Airlines.

A \$30 million lawsuit filed in Maine in 1994 by Northeast Express Airlines and Precision Valley Aviation claims that Northwest Airlines violated Minnesota's franchise law when it dropped the two "feeder" airlines, forcing them into bankruptcy.

Some legislators have questioned whether Northwest Airlines withheld knowledge of the lawsuit before the Legislature passed the 1997 law.

The House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee approved a bill (HF3841) March 12 that would specify that the 1997 franchise exemption does not apply to any agreements that were subject to litigation prior to passage of the law.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, also carried the 1997 legislation.

"It was not my intention to get in the way of pending litigation," he said.

Joseph V. O'Donnell, of Portland, Maine, is the bankruptcy trustee of Northeast Express Airlines and Precision Valley Aviation. O'Donnell said the retroactive repeal of the franchise law seriously damaged his court case.

Northwest Airlines brought the 1997 legislation to the table as a "housekeeping" measure, O'Donnell said.

"They have not used it as housekeeping in Maine," he said. "I think it was material to the 450 people who lost their jobs."

Robert Benner, a Northwest Airlines lobbyist, said the bill would not affect the Maine lawsuit.

"There are a number of other issues," Benner said. "Northwest will continue to pursue its rights under the law without the benefit of the franchise amendment passed in 1997."

The committee also voted to send along a related bill (HF3842) without recommendation. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would repeal the 1997 airline carrier franchise exemption altogether.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) expressed concern over once again subjecting airlines to the franchise law.

Airlines need to have the option of dropping their feeder airlines when safety concerns become insurmountable, McElroy said.

"I would remind the committee that it was Northwest Airlines that grounded Express One before the [Federal Aviation Administration] did," McElroy said in reference to a 1993 commuter airline crash in Hibbing. "The FAA is certainly important, but they are not the only link in the safety issue."

Both bills are headed for the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Limited partner withdrawals

The House passed a bill March 13 that would alter regulations by which a limited partner in an investment may withdraw from the partnership. The bill passed 132-0.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville), would allow limited partners to withdraw from an investment partnership only if permitted by the written partnership agreement. If the agreement contained no withdrawal authority, the limited partner could not withdraw.

Current law allows limited partners to withdraw unless it is specifically forbidden in the written partnership agreement.

Limited partners invest in a partnership but are usually not subject to the same legal liability to which the general partners are subject.

The bill would apply to partnerships formed after July 31, 1998, and to partnerships formed beforehand that contain a written provision allowing withdrawal.

HF2507/SF3036* goes to the governor.



CHILDREN

Child protection system

The House approved a bill March 13 which would make significant changes to the state's child protection system. The vote was 128-0.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the bill (HF2985) seeks to address issues that have recently come to light regarding the state's ability to protect children who are in danger.

In January 1998, the legislative auditor released an evaluation of the state's child protection system. The auditor found that services varied greatly from county to county and that no external oversight exists to monitor the

actions in these cases. The auditor suggested numerous approaches to reforming the current state of the system.

Entenza's bill incorporates many of the suggestions, along with changes recently mandated by federal law. The bill would create a more uniform statewide system and attempt to provide a sufficient level of oversight to make sure that the cases are handled effectively.

The bill also seeks to place children more quickly into permanent living situations, either with a parent or another alternative home. In addition, the bill would require that the Department of Human Services design a statewide child protective services plan with input from the county-administered programs.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Children's endowment fund

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill March 16 that aims to create a permanent endowment fund to improve the physical, intellectual, and emotional development of Minnesota's youngest citizens.

HF3167, sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), is headed for a vote on the House floor.

The bill would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to create a permanent endowment fund to enhance the development of young children through the age of four?"

Potential sources of initial funds for the endowment include surplus dollars in state coffers and tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Money in the endowment fund would be earmarked for several purposes, including

Peekaboo



Rep. Rich Stanek's 2-year-old daughter, Jennifer, plays at her father's desk in the House chamber during the floor session March 16.

Olympic medalists



Olympic gold medalists Jenny Schmidgall of Edina, *left*, and Alana Blahosky, of St. Paul, are cheered by members of the House. The two were part of the U.S. women's hockey team that took the gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. The pair was honored on the House floor March 16.

activities that heighten public awareness of the importance of early brain stimulation and more research into early childhood development.

The fund would exist to supplement, not supplant, current spending on early childhood education programs.



DWI

Alcohol concentration

Following two similar victories — one in Washington, D.C., and one in Washington state — a proposal to lower Minnesota's blood alcohol concentration standard was narrowly approved by the House Ways and Means Committee March 16. The vote in committee was 12-10.

HF2389, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would lower the per se blood alcohol concentration limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

On March 4, the U.S. Senate adopted an amendment which would tie highway funding to the 0.08 percent standard. If it becomes law, states that do not have the lower standard in place by 2001 would see a reduction in federal highway dollars.

Later that same week, Washington state legislators passed a bill that would make Washington the 16th state to enact the 0.08 percent limit. The governor of Washington is expected

to sign the bill into law.

Proponents argue that the new standard is reasonable and that it will result in a reduction in Minnesota's DWI related traffic fatalities.

The average male would have to drink four standard drinks in an hour and the average female would have to drink three standard drinks in an hour to reach that level, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

Opponents contend that the new standard would unfairly target social drinkers and take valuable resources from the real problem, repeat DWI offenders.

The bill now goes to the House floor.



EMPLOYMENT

Workplace breast-feeding

The House passed a bill March 19 that would require businesses to make "reasonable efforts" to provide adequate private space and unpaid time off for new mothers to pump breast milk. The vote was 107-19.

"Many businesses are doing this already," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), House sponsor of the bill. "We're just trying to provide a positive nudge."

The bill would require employers to make available "the nearest convenient and appropriate room or other location, other than a

toilet stall," for women to take breaks to privately pump milk.

Under the bill, the break times would run concurrently with any other allotted breaks. Employers would not have to provide the breaks if doing so would "unduly disrupt the operations" of the business.

Greiling noted that the bill purposely uses vague language and does not set penalties for noncompliance.

"We're not trying to make this be an unreasonable request or burden," she said.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) successfully added an amendment specifying that businesses would be held harmless if reasonable efforts to comply with the potential law had been made.

The bill also contains a provision, added in the Senate, that would clarify that breast-feeding is excepted from the crime of indecent exposure.

The bill (**HF3459/SF2751***) now goes back to the Senate.



ENVIRONMENT

Watercraft bill withdrawn

A bill that would place restrictions on the operation of personal watercraft on Minnesota lakes suffered a major setback on the House floor March 18.

The so-called "personal watercraft safety and courtesy act," sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), included a provision that would have banned the operation of personal watercraft on lakes of 100 acres or less.

Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) offered a successful amendment to remove the proposed ban from the bill. In response to the 96-34 vote in favor of the amendment, Hasskamp withdrew her bill from consideration.

"Without a major influx of public opinion and people calling their legislators, it could be dead for the session," Hasskamp said afterward.

What remains of the bill includes measures that would shorten the hours for operation of personal watercraft, prohibit the continuous operation of a personal watercraft in the same area for longer than 30 minutes, and assess civil penalties for operators who violate personal watercraft laws.

"If we do nothing this year . . . the problem will get worse," Hasskamp said. "I fear that road rage will turn into water rage."

Hasskamp said she has tried to accommodate "jet-sporters" where she thought they had reasonable concerns, but "people who do

this don't understand that their fun in the sun is someone else's torture."

The bill (HF1169) was met with bipartisan opposition.

"Frankly, I think we need to be more tolerant of each other's recreational interests," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the bill would make Minnesota the "Land of 3,000 Lakes" because many lakes would be off-limits to personal watercraft enthusiasts.

Transport packaging waste



A new law aims to reduce the amount of transport packaging waste that Minnesota's soft drink industry creates.

In 1995, 22 percent of municipal solid waste consisted of transport packaging such as wood pallets and corrugated cardboard, Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), the House sponsor of the measure, said during floor debate.

The soft drink industry is considering a \$15 million investment in reusable, recyclable plastic merchandise pallets to replace the wood pallets they currently use to transport their goods to retailers.

The plastic pallets are expected to cost about \$32 each, compared to \$5 to \$7 each for wood pallets.

There is now a system in place where third parties collect used pallets from retail sites and then resell them to soft drink companies.

During a Feb. 17 committee hearing, Dave Locey, of the Minnesota Soft Drink Association, said the third party collection system stands in the way of the transition from wood to plastic.

"We're in the position of trying to make a pro-environmental system work," Locey said. "What we want to do before we make this \$15 million investment in plastic pallets is make sure we can control them."

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, third party collectors will be prohibited from taking plastic pallets that are labeled as private property.

The plastic pallets will have to clearly show the owner's name and address or telephone number, as well as a notice that the unauthorized possession of the pallet is a violation of state law.

The rightful owner of a stolen plastic pallet will be able to sue for damages equal to three times the cost of the pallet, in addition to legal expenses.

Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2696/SF2402*/CH282



FAMILY

Joint parenting after divorce

A new process for joint parenting following divorce is the centerpiece of the omnibus family law bill passed by the House March 16. The vote was 106-25.

The bill (HF2784/SF2276*), sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), combines several bills the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee heard this session.

The bulk of the bill is dedicated to Dawkins' parenting plan proposal (originally introduced as HF1323). The proposal would restructure state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

Under current law, the courts establish custody in situations where the placement of the child is an issue after marriage dissolution. Courts designate a custodial parent, and all decisions concerning the child are made by that parent.

Under the new language, parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would be provided the option to compose a plan that would ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. The document would outline visitation and custody issues for the child. Courts would then approve the parenting plan.

Dawkins said that his proposal is an attempt to separate certain decisions about the care of the child from other decisions following marriage dissolution.

Dawkins said that children too often become bargaining chips in the divorce negotiations and parents are unable to make concessions that they think are in the best interest of the child.

"In my own law practice, I've had fathers coming in saying, 'I think it's okay for Junior to spend time at his mom's house,'" Dawkins said. "And I'd have to advise the father not to say that in court."

Dawkins said that his proposal is an attempt to maintain a significant relationship between the child and both parents after a marriage dissolution.

Initially, the bill called for the parenting plan option to be offered statewide. In its current form, the bill would create a pilot project and gives each judicial district the power to decide whether or not to participate in the pilot.

The Minnesota Supreme Court would then have the final say in whether or not the pilot projects are initiated.

The omnibus bill now goes to conference committee where legislators will work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The Senate version does not address the parenting plan.

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

Sacred drummers



The Fond du Lac sacred fire lodge drummers sing and pray on the steps of the Capitol during a spiritual gathering for the wolf. The Minnesota Wolf Alliance held the March 16 gathering in honor and support of wolves and to voice opposition to proposals to allow hunting or trapping of wolves. The drummers include Pat Braveheart, Harold Ironshield, Ken Danielson, and Garrett Wilson.



Omnibus pension bill

Minnesota judges would receive a small raise to allow them to contribute more of their retirement plan costs, under the omnibus pension bill the House passed March 18.

"Currently, judges are paying a much smaller part of the cost of their retirement plan than [other state employees]," said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring HF2970. "This brings them more in line with others, and it is cost-free to the state."

The bill would give judges a 1.5 percent raise but would require them to increase their pension fund contributions by 1.73 percent. The state would make up for paying the higher salaries because its own required contributions to the pension fund would go down.

The wage hike is necessary because the state constitution prohibits reducing the salary of a sitting judge. Although the provision would still lead to a slight drop in pay, Kahn said that judges have agreed to the arrangement and would not rule it unconstitutional in court.

"The result is that we will be getting to better judicial pension policy at no cost to the state and at small cost to judges," Kahn said.

But some lawmakers objected to any increase in judges' salaries because the Legislature granted them a 9 percent raise in 1997. A failed amendment by Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) would have eliminated the raise but left the provision calling for increased pension contributions.

"Let's put it out there, and let's see if the judges rule it unconstitutional," Kraus said. "I think [eliminating the raise] would be fair and I think fairness is important to all judges."

The bill passed on a 90-40 vote and now goes to the Senate.

Other provisions in the omnibus pension bill would:

- increase surviving-spouse benefits for the wife of a St. Paul building inspector killed while on duty last Christmas Eve;
- change the qualifications and filing deadlines for the state's part-time teacher pension program, allowing teachers to work up to 80 percent of full-time hours and remain eligible for the program; and
- provide guidelines under which two public medical facilities may provide pension-related payments if they are transferred to private ownership. The two facilities are Luverne Community Hospital in Luverne, Minn., and Arnold Memorial Hospital in Adrian, Minn.

Claims against the state

The family of a 14-year-old girl killed in 1991 by a convicted sex offender on his way from prison to a halfway house would receive almost \$15,000 under a bill the House passed March 13.

David and Gayle Johnson of Alexandria, Minn., filed a wrongful-death suit against the state after their daughter was murdered by a convict who had been released from St. Cloud prison five days earlier and ordered to report to a halfway house in Minneapolis. He was not assigned an escort and did not show up at the halfway house.

Following the murder, the Legislature changed the law to require that escorts be provided in similar situations, but the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected the parents' claim.

The Johnsons next turned for recourse to the Minnesota Legislature's Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims, which annually hears private restitution claims that have been refused by the courts or state government departments.

This year's claims bill (HF3830), sponsored by Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston), would authorize payment of certain of those claims against the state, as recommended by the subcommittee. The bill passed the House on a 126-6 vote.

In addition to the payment to the Johnsons, the bill would pay almost \$24,000 to a Benton County deputy who in 1996 shot and killed a suspect in the murder of a St. Joseph police officer. The deputy later suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome and was unable to

work for eight months, but she was refused lost-wage payment by Benton County.

The bill also would provide several payments to inmates or former inmates who suffered injuries while incarcerated and to persons injured while performing court-ordered community service work.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Donating 'distressed' foods

Food handlers could donate "distressed" foods to local governments or to the state, under a bill passed by the House March 18. The vote was 130-0.

Food is considered distressed when it cannot legally be sold but is still deemed safe — unspoiled milk that has not sold before the expiration date, for example.

Currently, food handlers can donate distressed foods to nonprofit organizations who supply the food to the elderly or needy. The bill (HF176/SF154*) would expand the law to allow them to donate these foods to units of government.

The bill would remove liability for food handlers who choose to donate the distressed food, except in instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

Bill sponsor Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said that the idea was brought to her by county commissioners who felt that it was a good way to defray corrections costs.

"It's food that may not be marketable, but it is still safe for consumption," Harder said.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Libertarian protest



Protesters seeking a permanent tax cut and a refund of the state's projected budget surplus gather on the Capitol steps March 16. Members of the crowd voiced their opinions and listened to speakers during a rally sponsored by the Libertarian Party of Minnesota.



HEALTH

Acquiring nonprofit hospitals

The House passed a bill March 17 that would make it more difficult for for-profit hospital groups or health care companies to acquire nonprofit hospitals. The vote was 76-53.

The attorney general already has the power to investigate and stop such transactions, but the bill would ensure written notice would go to the attorney general's office 45 days in advance of the deal.

The attorney general could make the transaction notices accessible to the public and obtain public comment on any pending transaction.

The bill stipulates that the attorney general could investigate transactions if 50 percent or more of a hospital's assets are involved in the proposed sale and could make notice to the public if the attorney general determines the public would benefit from the information.

Nonprofit hospitals are commonly viewed as charitable community assets, but from 1990 to 1996 a total of 192 nonprofit hospitals nationwide were converted to for-profit status.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor, said that before California adopted similar legislation, roughly \$3 billion in public assets disappeared when for-profit chains acquired nonprofit hospitals.

Public funds are used for various projects at nonprofit hospitals. If the hospital is acquired by a for-profit company, the company acquires assets paid for with public dollars, possibly at less than fair-market value.

Acquiring a hospital below market value would likely mean fewer dollars enter charitable trusts to help those communities promote health care.

HF381/SF695* awaits action in a conference committee.

Emergency medical care

People who provide emergency medical care with a new device called an automatic external defibrillator would not be liable for civil damages, under a bill the House passed March 17. The vote was 125-0.

The exemption for liability would fall under the existing "Good Samaritan statute," which provides immunity to untrained people who give emergency care, unless the patient objects.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), would not exempt medical professionals but would include vol-

unteer firefighters, volunteer police officers, and other volunteers likely to find themselves in a situation where administering the treatment is necessary.

Many airlines are now carrying the new defibrillator devices, which restore the rhythm of the heart by delivering an electric shock. Other businesses also are beginning to invest in the devices.

To use an automatic external defibrillator, the rescuer places two pads on the victim's chest area, and the device measures the heart's rhythm. If the device detects ventricular fibrillation, which requires a shock to the heart, the machine directs the user to push a button.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 250,000 Americans die each year from sudden cardiac arrest, and fewer

than seven percent of those suffering cardiac arrest outside a hospital survive.

The association believes wider availability of these defibrillators would reduce fatalities.

HF3138/SF2861* now goes to the governor for his consideration.



HOUSING

Preserving low-income housing

The law governing how private-activity, tax-exempt bonds can be allocated would be altered under a bill passed by the House March 16. The vote was 128-0.

These bonds are used to finance private projects, and because of their tax-exempt status, the state places limits on how they are allocated.

HF3165, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), would give top priority to projects that preserve existing federally subsidized low-income housing.

Rest's bill, along with several others introduced this year, seeks to address a shortage of affordable housing that may develop because of a situation involving federally subsidized complexes.

In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program where developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of these complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mortgage and to begin charging market rate rent.

Housing advocates say that this situation could happen at over 300 apartment complexes throughout the state that were financed through the federal program.

HF3165 would make several changes in the law that regulates distribution of the state's federal limit for private-activity, tax-exempt bonds.

In addition to highlighting low-income housing preservation, the bill would give special consideration to projects for seniors only.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Housing options for seniors



A new law signed by the governor March 18 seeks to create more affordable housing options for seniors.

Effective March 19, 1998, the law will expand the statutory definition of elderly housing as it applies to the

Welfare rally



Lanette Howze, of Minneapolis, holds her sign to shade her eyes from the sun during a March 19 rally on the steps of the Capitol. The rally, sponsored by the Welfare Rights Committee, attracted people who want changes in welfare reform law that was enacted last year.

human rights law, bringing state law into compliance with federal statutes. The effect will be that more facilities could classify as elderly housing exclusively.

The new law will remove the requirement that elderly housing must provide facilities designed to meet social and physical needs, such as recreation and meeting rooms.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), sponsor of the measure, said that the additional services provided to tenants mean additional cost in rent.

"These types of facilities often cause rent to be \$100 to \$300 higher than other facilities," he said.

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF2779/SF2230*/CH291

Selling abandoned homes



A new state law aims to help Minnesota's manufactured-home park owners rid their properties of abandoned homes.

Effective March 17, 1998, the law authorizes the owner of a manufactured-home park to obtain a limited dealer's license and to sell up to five used homes that are within the park's boundaries per year.

Previously, only real estate agents and licensed dealers were permitted to sell manufactured homes in Minnesota.

The legislation was introduced at the request of rural park owners who were having difficulties attracting agents to sell low-end homes.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF3148/SF2047*/CH280



HUMAN SERVICES

Removing employment barriers

A resolution asking the U.S. Congress to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities has been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State without the governor's signature.

The resolution urges Congress to adopt Medicaid buy-in legislation that would allow people with permanent disabilities to retain Medicaid coverage to address unmet health needs when they become employed.

Employee-based health care and government programs such as Medicare and MinnesotaCare do not typically cover long-term support needed by disabled people.

The resolution seeks to remove any policy barriers to employment so more people with disabilities can reduce their dependence on government programs and become taxpaying workers.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) sponsored the measure.

HF3258/SF2699*/Res. 7



INDUSTRY

A practice called 'slamming'

Long-distance telephone carriers would need to provide proof that a customer authorized a change in long-distance service carriers, under a bill the House passed March 18. The vote was 132-0.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), aims to further combat a practice called "slamming," which is the switching of long-distance carriers without a customer's permission.

Telephone customers sometimes receive mailed notices that their long-distance carrier will be switched unless the customer responds to the letter and cancels the change.

The legislation stipulates that if challenged, a long-distance carrier would have to provide proof the change was actively authorized by a customer. This would require a carrier to produce a tape recording or written statement of the approval.

If the long-distance provider could not present the evidence, that carrier would have to pay the cost of returning the customer to the original service and the cost of the customer's long distance calls during the unauthorized period.

Long-distance telephone carriers also would have to provide, upon customer request, information about the cost of interstate and intrastate calls, including any difference in pricing for evening, night, and weekend rates. The carrier also would have to provide other applicable information such as flat fees and termination charges.

The measure would deem it insufficient if the long-distance carrier simply files tariffs or price lists for its services with a regulatory agency.

The legislation also would repeal a current provision that allows carriers to notify customers of price increases through newspaper ads. Instead, carriers would have to make a direct notice to customers, either by including the information with a bill or by direct mail.

Another provision would require carriers to offer customers the ability to block interna-

tional calls from their telephones. This would prevent children or other unauthorized callers from making international calls.

HF3042 now moves to the Senate.

Using professional titles



Industrial hygienists — people hired to make work environments safer — will become members of a legally recognized profession under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

The law will prohibit people who do not meet certain requirements from using specific titles including industrial hygienist, certified safety professional, and construction health and safety technologist.

Only those who have attended an accredited college or university and received the proper certification will be allowed to use those professional titles. For instance, a certified industrial hygienist will have to pass a test by the nonprofit American Board of Industrial Hygiene and maintain that license in order to use the title.

The restrictions will not apply to properly supervised apprentices, or to employees of the state of Minnesota, who are already subject to strict standards.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), who sponsored the proposal in the House, said the law will not only protect the professionals, but will further public health and safety by ensuring quality work.

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the new measure in the Senate.

HF668*/SF668/CH288



INSURANCE

MCHA cap increased



The maximum lifetime benefit for people who get their health coverage through Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) will be increased from \$1.5 million to \$2 million, under a new law effective March 19, 1998.

The change is necessary to address the needs of a southern Minnesota boy who suffers from Melnick-Needles Syndrome, a bone and cartilage disorder. The boy requires a full-time nurse, specialized equipment, frequent hospital visits, and medications.

A 1995 law moved the cap on MCHA benefits from \$1 million to \$1.5 million because the boy's medical expenses were approaching the limit and he was at risk of being cut off from coverage.

Now, the child is closing in on the \$1.5 million maximum. Also, supporters of the new law said \$2 million is the standard limit for lifetime benefits.

The Legislature created MCHA in 1976 to sell insurance to state residents who have been turned down for insurance due to pre-existing conditions.

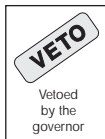
The organization is not funded by the state. Premiums are collected from participants and from an annual assessment on insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, and other insurance providers.

The boy could have been forced onto the government-funded Medical Assistance program, had the MCHA coverage limit not been increased.

The new measure was sponsored by Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

HF3065/SF2608*/CH293

No break on insurance premiums



Gov. Arne Carlson used his veto authority March 18 to strike down legislation that would have allowed drivers who successfully complete an accident prevention course to get a break on auto insurance premiums.

Drivers over 30 years old who passed the safety course would have received a 10 percent reduction in their auto insurance premiums, under the bill. Currently, drivers 55 and older who pass an accident prevention course every three years receive a premium reduction.

In his veto message, Carlson wrote, "Statistical analyses fail to provide evidence that successful completion of additional driver testing results in heightened safety rates on Minnesota roadways."

He said automobile insurance premiums ought to be determined by the market and individual driving records.

"Any mandated rate reduction to one class of citizen drivers would unfairly shift costs to those of the unprotected class," he said. "In this case, the shift would take place on those drivers who are already paying the highest premiums within this state, that is, those drivers under the age of 30."

Carlson also said while a driver safety course can be effective for those 55 and older, "I do not believe that the completion of this type of program would be effective on younger drivers."

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) and Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Tower).

HF2846*/SF2245/CH287

New investment options

The House passed a bill March 13 that would give insurance companies more flexibility in investing their assets. The vote was 128-4.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), "financially strong" insurers could choose to be governed by the new provisions in the bill, rather than by current state insurance laws, which would stay in place.

To use the new investment options, insurers would be required to have a minimum of \$2 billion in total assets and a total of capital and surplus of \$200 million.

Insurers who qualify and decide to invest under the bill could invest in anything within a standard considered by the company's board of directors, subject to an internal control system. The companies would have to have a written investment policy.

Under the bill, the commissioner of commerce could require information from insurers, and the commissioner could hire an expert to review an insurer's investments. The commissioner could order insurers to change their

investments, and the insurers could request hearings.

HF3355/SF3032* goes to the governor.

Reinsurance investment options

Reinsurance intermediary-brokers would have more investment options for the funds they hold for insurance companies, under a bill passed by the House March 16. The vote was 129-1.

Currently, reinsurance intermediary-brokers may invest funds they hold for insurance companies exclusively in bank trust accounts. The bill would allow investments in federally guaranteed short-term securities or any investment considered appropriate.

The bill states that the investments must be traded on a national securities exchange and may include municipal and corporate bonds.

The reinsurance broker, who could take advantage of the new investment opportunities only with written permission from the client who holds the money, would be responsible for any losses on the investments.

According to the bill, the investments "should emphasize safety, liquidity, and diversification." The bill, sponsored by Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), further states that the money should be invested so that it's available to remit on a timely basis.

HF2750/SF2262* now goes to the governor.

Snow capped



Snow rests on a statue of the young Civil War soldier Knute Nelson. The monument of Nelson, who served as governor of Minnesota in the 1890s, stands in front of the Capitol and is one of a group of works depicting different stages in the governor's life.



LAW

Special guardians, conservators



A new law signed by the governor March 16 refines the special guardian and conservator hearing process to prevent potential abuse.

Guardians and conservators are appointed by the state courts to make decisions for adults who are incapable of making decisions for themselves, oftentimes the elderly in nursing homes.

Special guardianships and conservatorships differ in that they are temporary arrangements designed to respond to short-term situations.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law lengthens the time required to give notice of hearings related to special guardianships and conservatorships from 24 hours to 48 hours and requires that the hearing be held within two weeks of the notice.

The law also requires that petitioners show a clear need for the appointment. It also limits these appointments to 30 days.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), House

sponsor of the new measure, said that the idea was brought to him by members of a family in his district who felt the process was being abused by a nursing home caring for their father.

Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1414/SF1151*/CH281



METRO AFFAIRS

Innovative bike racks



Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law March 16 a measure that allows cities of the first class to place art and informational signs on bicycle racks and storage areas.

Effective March 17, 1998, the new law results from a desire by the Minneapolis City Council to place decorated bicycle racks on every block in the Uptown neighborhood of the city.

The city is trying to promote bicycle riding to ease parking and traffic congestion. City officials want to place art or signs on the racks that would blend with the Uptown area's atmosphere that caters to a young clientele.

The art and signs will be allowed only if placement does not create a hazard. That decision will be left to the road authority that authorizes the placement of the art or signage.

The new measure was sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls).

HF3296/SF2729*/CH283



TRANSPORTATION

Ignoring highway barricades

Motorists who ignore barricades, drive on closed state highways during storms, and get stuck might also get stuck with the cost of any rescue, under a bill headed to the House floor.

HF2589, sponsored by Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), would require any motorist who becomes stranded after bypassing a barricade designed to prevent travel on a highway during or after a storm to pay up to \$10,000 in expenses incurred during any rescue efforts by local or state law enforcement officials.

The House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill March 16.

The legislation resulted from a number of incidents during the 1996-1997 winter when drivers ignored highway barricades. Law enforcement officers put themselves at risk to save some of the motorists, and the state or local law enforcement units paid the cost.

The legislation would allow the state agency

or political entity that incurs the cost to bring action to recover up to \$10,000 of those costs. Legislators were told the cost of the rescues is typically under \$2,000.

Drivers would be liable if they failed to obey the instruction of authorized personnel at the restricted roadway, or if they drove over, around, or through a barricade designed to stop travel on a closed portion of highway.

Also in the bill is a provision crafted to prevent motorists from driving around lowered railway crossing gates.

Under current law, drivers who go around lowered railway gates face a misdemeanor charge only if it is determined that it was unsafe to do so. The bill would require all drivers to stop when railway gates are lowered and to wait for the gates to be raised. Anyone who drives around the gates — regardless of the conditions — would face a misdemeanor charge.

Legislators asked if the restriction applies to

Desktop memento



A statue of St. Patrick stands on Rep. Mark Mahon's desk in the House chamber. Mahon taped the figure to his desk on St. Patrick's Day March 17.

malfunctioning gates that are triggered when no train is approaching, or gates that fail to rise after a train passes.

Betsy Parker, of the Department of Transportation, told legislators those instances are rare, while violations occur frequently when trains are oncoming and the gates have worked properly. No provision was included in the bill to address the issue of gate malfunctions.

Aircraft repair resolution

A resolution asking President Clinton and Congress to enact federal legislation called the Aircraft Repair Station Safety Act of 1997 has been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State without the governor's signature.

The resolution supports a congressional effort to force foreign repair facilities to use the same standards that apply to domestic aircraft repair procedures and parts.

Some aviation experts are concerned that airplane repair facilities in foreign countries use defective parts or do substandard repair work on U.S. airplanes.

Federal legislation before the U.S. Congress aims to tighten controls on repair facilities that service aircraft that operate in the U.S. The act would revoke certification of any repair facility that purposely uses uncertified or substandard parts.

Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield) and Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the resolution.

HF3250*/SF2786/Res. 7

Bowe Memorial Highway



For the first time in Minnesota history, a stretch of highway will be named after a slain state trooper.

Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law March 18 a measure that will rename a stretch of Trunk Highway 95 after Cpl. Timothy Bowe.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law requires the commissioner of transportation to adopt a design and to erect the signs to mark the memorial highway. The signs will be paid for by the community of Cambridge, Minn.

Last year, Bowe became the first Minnesota State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty since 1978. The 36-year-old Coon Rapids man was shot to death in Chisago County while answering a call about a shooting at a rural home.

Bowe, a 15-year veteran, was the seventh Minnesota trooper killed in the line of duty.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the measure.

HF2612*/SF2335/CH290

Memorials in bronze . . .

Four Civil War officers stand tall in Capitol rotunda



A panoramic photo of the statues of three of the four Civil War heroes in the Capitol rotunda.

By Jim Thielman

A cavalry broadsword was large, heavy, and a poor choice for duels, which is why Abraham Lincoln chose it.

"I don't want the fellow to kill me," he said.

The fellow was James Shields, one of four Civil War officers whose statue stands on the second floor of the Minnesota State Capitol.

Shields' bronze likeness in the Capitol is one of many artistic elements carrying a Civil War theme. The reason for that theme is no mystery.

Minnesotans were still living on the edge of the frontier when ground was broken for the third and current state Capitol in 1896, and the young men who survived the Civil War had become state decision-makers.

Three of the six men who served on the commission to build the Minnesota Capitol were Civil War veterans. Six of the state's first 10 governors were Civil War veterans.

So it's evident why six of eight paintings that hang in the Governor's Reception Room — the most ornate and elaborately appointed room in the Capitol — depict Civil War battles.

In alcoves on the second floor of the Capitol — where the rotunda turns into an octagonal wall of Kasota stone — stand the larger-than-life statues of Civil War heroes John B. Sanborn, Alexander Wilkin, William Colvill, and Shields. All four were prominent figures in 19th century Minnesota.

Maj. Gen. James Shields

Shields was perhaps the best-known of the group. He was regarded as a handsome bachelor — genial yet vain — and a statesman. And he considered himself a ladies' man.

When the Democrat Shields served as Illi-

nois state auditor, he clashed rhetorically with Lincoln, who was then a Whig.

After Shields learned Lincoln had written, under a pseudonym, a letter to a newspaper satirizing an Illinois currency crisis and Shields' aversion to marriage, Shields challenged Lincoln to a duel.

In Lincoln's day, it was the job of "seconds" to resolve disputes. Most of these challenges to honor were settled diplomatically, and Lincoln's second did just that. Even if the duel had occurred, it's likely Lincoln would have won and both men would have survived.

Lincoln had the choice of weapons and conditions, and Lincoln's favored conditions would have restricted the movement of each man, keeping Lincoln's body well beyond the reach of Shields. Shields was shorter than Lincoln, who had uncommonly long arms and who admitted he had practiced with the broadsword.

"I felt sure that I could disarm him," Lincoln said, "having had more than a month to learn the broadsword exercise."

Lincoln was said to be greatly embarrassed by the dispute, but both political careers steamed forward. While Lincoln's fate is well known today, Shields' is not.

Shields — a major general during the war — became the only man to serve as a senator in three states — Illinois, Minnesota, and Missouri. He also was the governor of the Oregon Territory.

Gen. Alexander Wilkin

Of the four Civil War veterans cast in bronze at the Capitol, only Gen. Alexander Wilkin died in battle. He was the highest ranking Minnesota officer to perish in the Civil War.

Wilkin founded St. Paul Fire and Marine

Insurance Company before the war. He stood 5-foot-1 and weighed about 110 pounds, but the descendent of two generations of politicians was considered a tenacious fighter, and, like Shields, was not averse to a duel. Wilkin shot and killed a fellow officer who challenged him during the Mexican War.

Wilkin faced many war-time skirmishes and once expressed amazement at surviving a battle in which he was caught in a Confederate crossfire and could sense the bullets whizzing past his skull.

He died while he was supposed to be in reserve in Tupelo, Miss. Hot-tempered Confederate officer Nathan Bedford Forrest, who had no formal military training, was raiding heavily in middle Tennessee at the time. Wilkin was among those Gen. William Sherman thought could stop Forrest. That's something which might have changed history: Forrest survived to found the Ku Klux Klan.

Union casualties near Tupelo were slight in the ensuing battle, but Wilkin was among them. In 1868, Minnesota's Wilkin County was named after him.

Col. William Colvill

The statue of Col. William Colvill appropriately overlooks a tattered cloth encased in glass on the Capitol's first floor. The cloth is the remnant of a flag the First Minnesota Regiment carried at Gettysburg, the bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil.

The First Minnesota suffered more than 80 percent casualties in July 1863, and Colvill was wounded during the second day of the three-day battle in Pennsylvania. He returned to Minnesota weak from his wounds, but survived to age 75.

In 1905, Colvill was the first man to lie in state in the present Capitol. He is buried in Cannon Falls, Minn.

Brevet Maj. John B. Sanborn

The fourth statue on the Capitol's second floor is of Brevet Maj. John B. Sanborn, who was Minnesota's adjutant general when the Civil War began.

Commander of the Fourth Minnesota volunteer infantry, he was one of two brigade commanders in charge of Vicksburg after Gen. Ulysses S. Grant took the city.

Sanborn was a lawyer and both a state senator and representative. He eventually became president of the Minnesota Historical Society and was a member of the society for 48 years. He died at age 78 in 1904.

Those interested in learning more about the Capitol's Civil War legacy will have two chances to do so before the end of the year. For a small fee, the Minnesota Historical Society will present a "Rally Round the Flags Civil War Tour" June 13 and Nov. 14 at the Capitol. Reservations can be made by calling (612) 296-2881.

Civil War statues lack Cass Gilbert's blessing

Cass Gilbert was a man with a sweeping handlebar mustache who made sweeping demands. He was, someone said, "purposely impressive in manner and rather pompous at times."

As architect of the Minnesota Capitol, he was driven to control its every detail, including the monuments that would stand inside.

While Capitol visitors might not think critically of the four immense bronze Civil War statues that stand on the second floor of the building, Gilbert was not pleased with any of them. He was least satisfied with the work of Minneapolis artist Catherine Backus, who rendered the memorial to William Colvill.

Gilbert wanted a sculptor of international reputation to do Colvill's statue. When the citizens' group that commissioned Backus ignored that wish, he wrote to the group:

"You now have before you models for this important work by persons who are naturally ambitious but who, so far as I can ascertain, utterly lack the training and experience to execute the work."

Despite Gilbert's evaluation, the work by Backus was placed in the Capitol, and many other memorials without Gilbert's blessing followed.

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Four-term legislator gears up for more door-knocking

By Nicole Wood



Don't be surprised if Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield) shows up on your doorstep in the next few months.

Garcia has decided to leave the House after four terms to run for the office of secretary of state. And she loves door-to-door campaigning.

"I would probably door-knock even out of office — just to talk," she said during a recent interview. "Sometimes I knock so hard, the skin on my knuckles starts peeling. People invite you in and ask for help with things — I have even helped people unclog sinks."

Garcia believes it is of utmost importance for elected officials to go out into the communities they represent and visit the nursing homes, hospitals, veterans homes, and even the casinos.

"If you really want to know what's in people's hearts or how they've overcome adversity, go out there and talk to them and listen to them," she said. "If you don't, how can you be the judge of how some people live or don't live?"

Garcia grew up poor in Clovis, N.M., which is about one hundred miles west of Amarillo, Texas.

Her parents divorced after her alcoholic father gambled away the ranch that was their family home. Her dad often would fail to follow through on his word, she said, and from this she learned the importance of discipline and persistence.

"He had great visions and promises, but he never fulfilled anything," she said. "It's like the old saying goes, even a bad example is a good example."

As a means of "escape" during her childhood, Garcia would slip off to 10-cent June Allison movies and to the library.

"I loved to read, but my grandmother used to say, 'Put that book down. All you're going to wind up doing is changing diapers, anyway,'" Garcia said. "If my background had been different, I don't think I would be where I am today."



Rep. Edwina Garcia is leaving the House after four terms to seek the position of secretary of state.

Garcia and her husband, Joe, left New Mexico for Minnesota in the early 1970s.

"We only came with one pickup, my daughter, and a little dog," she said. "We just took off, the four of us, because we wanted to start fresh. But I tell you, if we hadn't come here, I don't think we would have had the opportunities or direction to follow."

At the age of 35, Garcia was the first person in her family or her husband's family to graduate from college. Their daughter, Jill, became the first in the family to obtain a master's degree.

Garcia was in the middle of her second term on the Richfield City Council when she mounted a successful run for the House in 1990.

The legislative district she represents is "landlocked" between the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport, several major freeways, and Edina, Garcia said. Before seeking the state office, she was frustrated by the lack of partnership between her local government and the Legislature.

"We have nowhere to grow but up," she said. "We've done very well in terms of redevelopment and building up our tax base."

Garcia regards the Metropolitan Airport Commission noise mitigation legislation she sponsored as her "sweetest victory" because it was a win for the people who live adjacent to the airport.

"It was just beautiful because [the commission] hadn't been defeated in years," she said. "I like to fight impossible battles and I like a challenge. It just keeps you going and gives you so much energy."

Garcia said she can feel her energy level increasing as she gears up for her secretary of state campaign.

"I've never lost a race, but if someone were to beat me, I would say, 'I wish you well. I wish you success. If there's anything I can do to help you in that office, I will,' and I would walk away free," she said. "Whatever happens, I'm OK with leaving." 🐾

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate
231 Capitol 296-0271
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343
Chief Clerk of the House
211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate
110 Capitol 296-2887
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231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House
175 State Office Building 296-2146
TTY*, Senate 296-0250
Toll free 1-888-234-1112
TTY*, House 296-9896
Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Rep. Charlie Weaver . . .

Five-term lawmaker seeks control over his own destiny

By Grant Martin



Seeking one of the most high-profile elected positions in the state with hopes of having more time to spend with your children seems to go against common sense.

But Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) said in a recent interview that his children are one of the main reasons he is running for state attorney general.

"One of the reasons I'm leaving the House is that this is critical time in their lives," Weaver said. "The attorney general's office will allow me to be there."

Weaver said that unlike the governor and legislators who have to deal with the constant political battle, the attorney general's work is much less partisan.

"It's not an easier job," Weaver said. "I'll just have more control over my own destiny. I'm really looking forward to spending more time with my kids."

Weaver said that his experiences as a prosecuting attorney for Anoka County make his pursuit a logical one. He has worked for the county since 1991.

Weaver also has a good deal of experience when it comes to political battles. Elected in 1988, he rose rapidly to a leadership role within the Republican caucus. He is currently an assistant minority leader and Republican floor leader, and he frequently takes the point position for the Republicans in floor debate.

Weaver joked that his inspiration to run for a seat in the Legislature stems from a "genetic defect."

Weaver's family has had a long history in state politics. Weaver's House seat was held by his father, Charles Weaver, from 1967 to 1974 and by his uncle John Weaver from 1979 to 1982.

"Growing up, it wasn't my ambition to be a state representative," Weaver said. "I didn't grow up with that as my goal. It just worked out that way."

Whether it was nature or nurture, Weaver eventually got involved in politics. He said looking back now it's obvious to him that his father was the inspiration to go into public life.

"My father was my hero," Weaver said. "And I learned the importance of giving back to the community from him."



Rep. Charlie Weaver, a second-generation House member, will not seek re-election this fall. He is a candidate for attorney general.

Weaver said that he is very proud of his work in the Legislature regarding school safety. He was the chief author of the 1993 Safe Schools Act, which sought to give teachers and administrators the power to keep the state's schools safe from violence.

He also is pleased with his lesser-known legislative work.

"I am very proud of the little things," Weaver said. "The genetic discrimination act that we passed two years ago and the bone marrow donor legislation, for example. These things have been really important to me."

Weaver said that he learned a good deal about strategy from House members on both sides of the aisle. He said that his role models were former Reps. Brad Stanius, Paul Ogren, and Gil Gutknecht.

"The thing that all three of these guys had in common was they could be tough, strong partisans without being personal," he said. "They could disagree without being disagreeable."

Weaver said that the members of the Legislature can learn from that attitude. He said that he is worried that members are losing the ability to both debate ideas and maintain friendships.

"The thing that legislators need to avoid, and it's getting harder and harder to do it, is

taking themselves too seriously," Weaver said. "We tend to come down here and get caught up in the business, and that's important. But my biggest disappointment in the last 10 years is the decline in the personal relationships between members."

Weaver said that such relationships are important to the institution.

"When I first arrived here there were lots of opportunities to talk to other members and get to know them in social settings," he said. "Frankly, that's declined and I think it's bad for the system that we don't spend much time together — Republicans and Democrats — outside of here."

He also thinks that partisanship has become a serious problem for the Legislature, especially for the image of the institution.

"It's not good especially now that we're on camera," Weaver said. "The worst thing we could do is cause people to lose respect for the institution. We don't lose respect by disagreeing on issues. We lose it by being overtly partisan."

Weaver said that he will miss members from both sides of the aisle, but he is excited about his future plans.

"It's going to be fun," he said. "If I don't win, I'll just go back to prosecuting bad guys."



More bill listings . . .

House files incorporated into 1998 omnibus bills

If you've lost track of some of the bills you have been following during the session, you may find them on one of these pages. This is the third and last installment of an unofficial listing, as of a certain date, of the House files that are contained in the various omnibus bills and other larger bills.

Ongoing floor and conference committee action may well alter the makeup of these bills before they reach the end of the legislative process. In many cases, the language found in the major bills may not be exactly as it appears in the original House files due to amendments that happen along the way. In addition, the House files that are listed may have been included either entirely or partially.

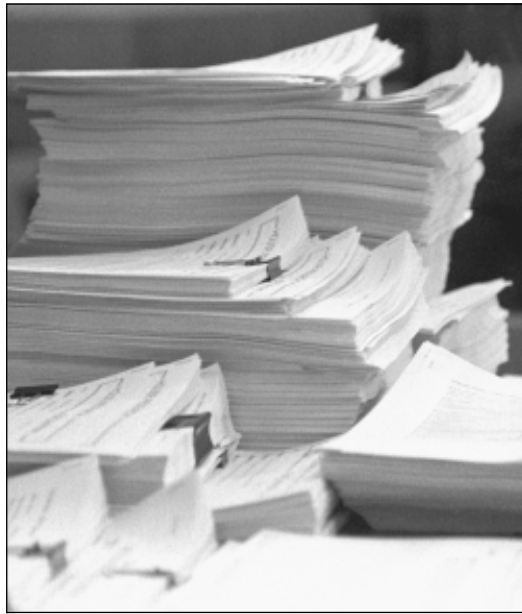
The list was compiled by the House Public Information Office from a variety of sources, including committee administrators, fiscal analysts, commission staff, and legislative analysts. In some cases, the Senate companion file number and author are listed along with the House file number and author. Each bill is accompanied by a brief description of its content.

An asterisk after a House or Senate file number indicates the version of the bill that is under consideration.

If you're interested in following conference committee action (and have access to the World Wide Web), point your Web browser to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

You also can stop by the office and pick up a "Today" sheet which provides the daily meeting schedule.

If you have questions, call the House Public Information Office, (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 or the Senate Information Office, (612) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112.



A total of 1,597 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives so far during the 1998 Legislative session. The governor has already signed a few of these. Some will follow, some will not, and many others have been rolled into large omnibus bills that are awaiting their fates.

Government

Omnibus Pension Bill

HF2970 (Kahn)/SF2555 (Morse) (Delete everything amendment LCPR98-82)

Content as of March 18, 1998, when the House passed the bill on a 90-40 vote.

(Note: The following is a listing, by article, of the source bills as amended and contained in the delete everything amendment. The sections indicated below refer to sections in the amendment in which the source bill, as revised by any amendments recommended to pass by the the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement, appears.)

Article 1: Public Medical Facility Privatization

HF2727 (Mulder)/SF2150 (Lesewski) PERA; retirement coverage after hospital privatization. (Sections 1, 2, and 3)

Article 2: Miscellaneous General Employee Pension Changes

HF3012 (Kahn)/SF2657 (Morse) TRA and IRAP; Phase-Out-Into-Retirement program modifications. (Sections 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 10)

HF2869 (Delmont)/SF2439 (Metzen) Deferred Compensation Program; administrative expense changes. (Sections 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, and 17)

HF3418 (Jefferson)/SF3038 (Pogemiller) MERF; increase death-while-active survivor benefit. (Section 13)

HF2802 (Slawik)/SF2410 (Price) PERA; Special survivor benefit for certain deceased St. Paul building inspector. (Section 14 and 15)

HF3260 (Jefferson)/SF3025 (Pogemiller) PERA; allow Hennepin County Regional Park employee to elect PERA defined contribution plan. (Section 16)

Article 3: Qualified Part-Time Teacher Retirement Program Reporting Deadline

HF2525 (Koskinen)/SF1939 (Betzold) TRA; Extension of part-time teacher service credit for certain school district. (Sections 1 and 4)

HF3198 (Folliard)/SF2742 (Kelley) TRA; allow greater percentage of full-time in part-time participation program. (Sections 2 and 3)

Article 4: Prior Service Credit Purchases

Establishes a revised prior service credit purchase payment procedure adopted by the LCPR based on an interim study. (Sections 1 and 2)

HF1230 (Johnson, R.)/SF1507 (Hottinger) TRA; Authorization of service credit purchase for prior uncredited leave. (Section 3, Subdivision 1)

HF416 (Entenza)/SF139 (Cohen) TRA; Authorization of service credit purchase for multiple sclerosis leave. (Section 3, Subdivision 2)

HF2525 (Koskinen)/SF1939 (Betzold) TRA; Extension of part-time teacher service credit program for certain school district. (Section 3, Subdivision 3)

HF2987 (Murphy)/SF2556 (Morse) MSRS; Authorization for prior middle management association service credit purchase. (Section 3, Subdivision 4)

HF3122 (Chaudhary)/SF2529 (Novak) TRA; Purchase of Columbia Heights High School district uncredited extended leave of absence period. (Section 3, Subdivision 5)

HF3202 (Pelowski)/SF2769 (Morse) TRA; Purchase of Winona State University uncredited extended leave of absence period. (Section 3, Subdivision 6)

SF3001 (Foley) TRA; Authorizing the purchase of service credit for a sabbatical leave by a certain teacher. (Section 3, Subdivision 7)

HF3228 (Murphy)/SF2798 (Morse) DTRFA; Purchase of service credit for maternity leave for certain person. (Section 3, Subdivision 8)

Article 5: Judges Retirement Plan Contribution Modifications
HF2970 (Kahn)/SF2555 (Morse) Judges retirement plan; increasing salary and contributions. (Sections 1 through 7)

Article 6: Unclassified State Employee Pension Plan Modifications
Commission mandated study: Legislators Retirement Plan and Elective State Officers Retirement Plan; authorizes transfer to Unclassified State Employees Plan. (Sections 1 and 2)

Article 7: Local Police and Fire Relief Association Pension Changes
HF1756 (Chaudhary)/SF1077 (Novak) Columbia Heights volunteer fire; conversion to Defined Contribution Pension Plan. (Section 1)
HF2716 (Kahn)/SF2364 (Pogemiller) Minneapolis fire; certain survivor benefit retroactive. (Section 2)

Insurance

Omnibus Insurance Bill
SF349 (Anderson, I.)
As of March 19, 1998.

HF2253 (Anderson, I.) Automobile insurance discrimination prohibited based upon two or fewer minor traffic violations.

HF3408 (Mahon) No-fault auto insurance disability and income loss benefit limits increased.

HF3508 (Carlson) Health plan companies required to notify enrollees of subrogation recoveries.



Because courtesy titles such as “madam chair” or “representative” precede a person’s name when addressed in House proceedings, it’s not rare for confusion to occur. Often, someone addresses a person by the wrong title.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) had trouble with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Vice Chancellor of Finance Laura King during testimony at the March 16 House Ways and Means Committee meeting.

“I guess I could just call you ‘Laura,’” Bishop finally conceded.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) quickly responded that would be allowed only if Bishop addressed the men by their first name. Bishop said that he had never been accused of being sexist, “at least not since my fourth daughter was born.”

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), the committee chair, got a laugh and ended the exchange when he turned to Bishop and in a fatherly voice said, “David, if you’ll continue.”

When someone asked House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) before a March 16 committee meeting how he enjoyed the weekend, it was impossible for Sviggum not to smile.

Sviggum’s son, Hans, a 5-foot-8 guard for Kenyon-Wanamingo, played the pivotal role in putting his team in the high school state basketball tournament.

Hans stole a pass with 19 seconds left in a March 13 game that led to the state tournament berth. He was fouled twice after that steal, sank all four free throw attempts, and Kenyon-Wanamingo won 34-32.

There was more reason for Sviggum to beam over his son March 17. Hans scored 18 points,

including nine of 10 free throws in the final quarter, in a 55-47 state quarterfinal win over top-ranked, unbeaten Redwood Valley.

Clarification

The story entitled “Population shifts redefine legislative district boundaries” on page 22 of the March 13, 1998, *Session Weekly* needs clarification. The article said that 1972, 1982, and 1992 attempts at redistricting in Minnesota had to be settled by the federal courts because matters had not been resolved by the election deadline. The 1992 redistricting plan was passed by the Legislature and became law after a failed attempt by Gov. Arne Carlson to veto the proposal. The administration then mounted a court challenge that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which allowed the Legislature’s redistricting plan to stand.

Chief Clerk’s Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk’s 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

Where to find information

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

House Television Services is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some

committee hearings. Such coverage is aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. The House also broadcasts via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should check with local cable operators for time and channel information or the office’s Web site at: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/htv.ssi>

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

Governor's Desk

CH274-CH304

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills

and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either

14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at:
<http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File
Res.=Resolution

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 6	3250*	2786	President and Congress memorialized to enact the aircraft repair station safety act of 1997.	Filed without signature	
Res. 7	3258	2699*	A resolution to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities.	Filed without signature	
274	3040*	2355	Long-term nursing care facility payroll documentation procedures modified.	3/16/98	
275	2642*	2280	Standard collection procedure exemption provided to overpaid reemployment insurance benefits.	3/16/98	
276	2809*	2791	Audited financial statement copies provided to members of the local unit of government.	3/16/98	
277	2616*	2255	Dakota County dangerous dog registration system city administration provided.	3/16/98	
278	3071*	2849	Petroleum product specifications modified.	3/16/98	
279	3593	2457*	Rural finance authority and housing finance electronic meetings authority permanency.	3/16/98	
280	3148	2047*	Manufactured home park owners limited dealers licenses.	3/16/98	
281	1414	1151*	Guardians and conservators appointment provisions modifications.	3/16/98	
282	2696	2402*	Merchandise pallets unauthorized possession or damage prohibitions.	3/16/98	
283	3296	2729*	Bike racks and storage facilities ads, public art, informational signs placement and maintenance authority.	3/16/98	
284	2992	2669*	Day training and rehab services business arrangements use and rate variance mechanism flexibility.	3/16/98	
285	3028	2163*	Motor vehicle dealers licensing requirements exemption for charitable organizations.	3/18/98	
286	2777	2516*	Employee relations department experimental or research projects authority expansion.	3/18/98	
287	2846*	2245	Automobile insurance program reduction provided for completion of an accident prevention course.		3/18/98
288	668*	668	Industrial hygienist and safety professional title protection act adopted.	3/18/98	
289	2601*	2677	Building and construction contract lien and claim waivers and subcontractor payments regulated.	3/18/98	
290	2612*	2335	Trunk Highway #95 designated as state trooper Timothy Bowe Memorial Highway.	3/18/98	
291	2779	2230*	Elderly housing definition modification for discrimination prohibition exemption purposes.	3/18/98	
292	2635	2574*	Headwaters regional development commission non-profit housing corporation establishment authority.	3/18/98	
293	3065	2608*	Health insurance basic medicare supplement plans coverage for diabetes equipment.	3/18/98	
294	3532	3068*	Workers comp benefits special compensation fund reimbursement requirement elimination.	3/18/98	
295	2500*	2540	Customer loss or theft of a debit card limited liability provided.	3/18/98	
296	2222*	1973	Cartways established by town boards upon owner petition.	Filed without signature	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
297	2895	2293*	Township mutual insurance companies permitted investments expanded.	3/18/98	
298	3442*	2945	Interstate emergency management assistance compact.	3/18/98	
299	2523*	2266	Gasoline and special fuels tax provisions recodification and clarification.	3/18/98	
300	2659*	2570	Tax provisions technical corrections and administrative changes.	3/18/98	
301	1306*	1076	Health plan coverage for off label use of drugs.	3/18/98	
302	2790*	2384	Chisago county recorder appointment; Rush City easements.	3/18/98	
303	2043*	1583	State agencies reg. rules and programs policy and obsolete, unnecessary or duplicative rules regs.	3/18/98	
304	2294*	2041	Property tax rebate for tax pre-payments.	3/18/98	

Coming Up Next Week . . . March 23 - 27, 1998

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call
House Calls at (612) 296-9283.

All meetings are open to the public.

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MONDAY, March 23

10 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

3 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance
Bill SF3346/HF2868
107 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Sen. Don Samuelson

TUESDAY, March 24

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

WEDNESDAY, March 25

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

After Session

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HF3191 (Paymar) Public Utilities
Commission required to reconsider telephone
area code assignments for the metropolitan area.

THURSDAY, March 26

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

FRIDAY, March 27

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

Bill Introductions

HF3844-HF3852

Monday, March 16

HF3844—Biernat (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3845—Evans (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3846—Greenfield (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3847—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3848—Greiling (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3849—Paymar (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3850—Leppik (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF3851—Chaudhary (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

Wednesday, March 18

HF3852—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
IRC; Congress memorialized to enact legislation that will sunset the Internal Revenue Code by Dec. 31, 2000, and develop a replacement tax code.

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Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Road to women's suffrage proves rocky

It's a fact!

Although women in Minnesota were officially excluded from the political process until 1919 — when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution secured their right to vote — suffragists had been lobbying the state Legislature for almost 60 years before that.

As early as 1860, Jane Grey Swisshelm, editor of the *St. Cloud Visitor*, was invited to speak before the Minnesota House on "Women and Politics." The first of her gender to address the body, she was praised by one newspaper as a woman "who mingled in politics without losing her feminine attributes."

It was seven years later when Sarah Burger Stearns and Mary Colburn brought the first petition for women's suffrage to the Legislature. Although they received a hearing before a special committee, no action was taken that year.

But the following year, another petition was introduced and approved by the House Elections Committee. On the House floor, however, the issue was greeted with laughter and shelved.

In 1870, a bill that would put the question to Minnesota voters actually passed both the House and the Senate. Lawmakers even added a provision that would have allowed women as well as men to vote on the required constitutional amendment.

And while that move may have seemed like good news to the

suffragists, in fact, lawmakers had only added that provision with the expectation that women themselves would defeat the initiative at the polls.

In any event, the matter was settled by Gov. Horace Austin, who vetoed the bill.

The first real success for Minnesota suffragists came in 1875, when voters approved an amendment allowing women to vote on school questions and to hold school offices.

Proponents used two tricky moves to secure the success of that ballot. First, they minimized attention on the issue until just before election day, when they persuaded the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* to endorse the amendment. Also, they convinced both political parties to print the ballots only in the affirmative, so voters would have to find a pencil, cross out yes, and write no to vote against it.

Although advocates continued to organize and to lobby, it was another two decades before the suffrage movement gained further concessions in Minnesota. In 1898, libraries were added to the short list of organizations for which women

could vote and run for office.

Little changed for another 20 years, until the Legislature passed a resolution urging Congress to pass the 19th Amendment. Minnesota ratified that amendment the same year, and women were voting in 1920.

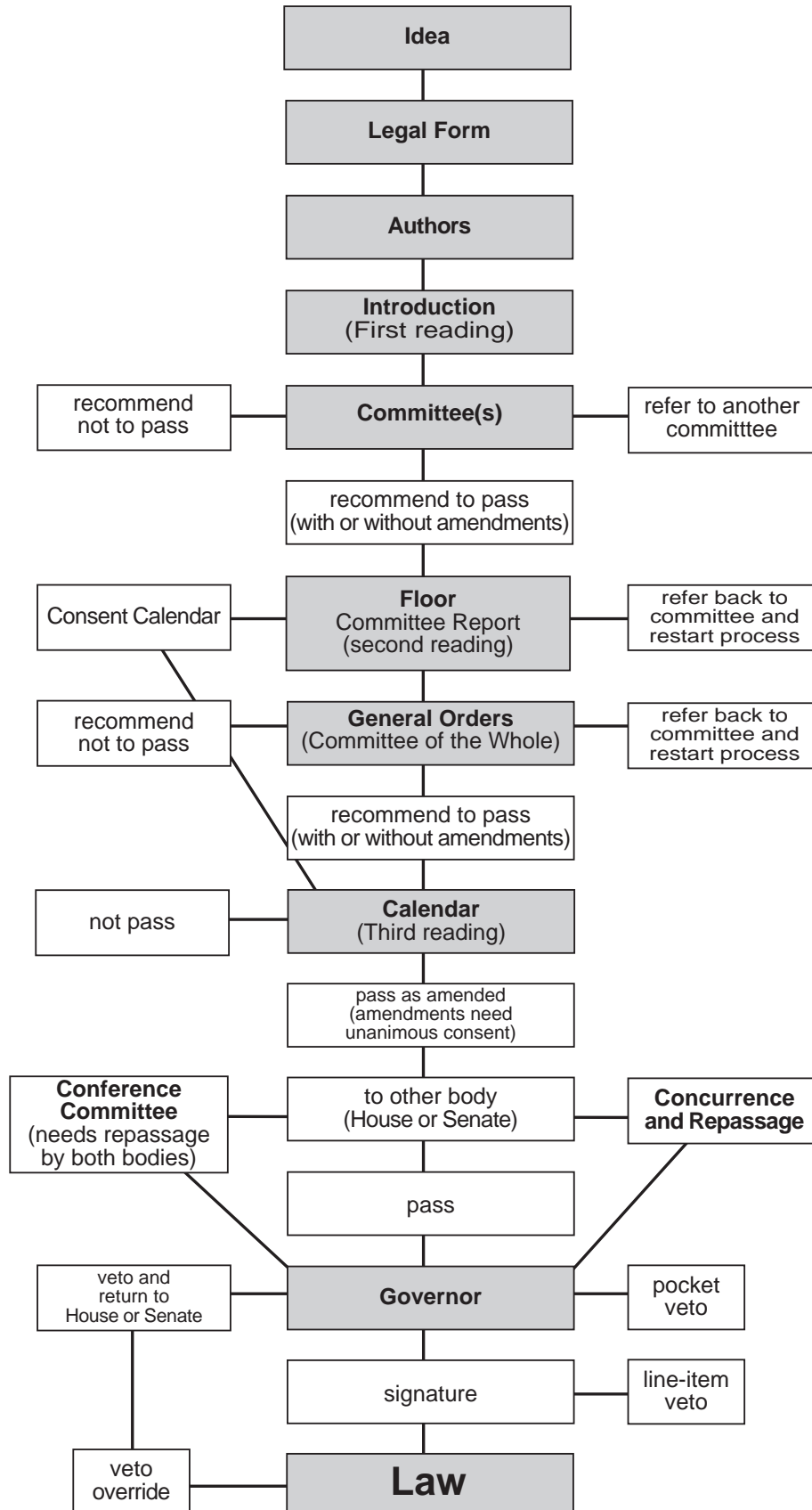


Women register to vote in 1924 at the Calvin Coolidge campaign headquarters in Minneapolis.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Minnesota

The lawmaking process is a technical one, filled with many arcane rules and procedures that can determine whether a bill will or will not become law. While this chart shows how most bills become law, it does not account for all possibilities.



Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Airport traffic on the rise

1997 passengers served at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport,	
in millions	30.2
Percent increase from 1996	5
Passengers in 1997 whose flights originated or terminated at the airport,	
in millions	17.8
Percent increase from 1996	8
Connecting passengers in 1997 who used the airport, in millions	11
Nonpaying customers — such as airline employees and those traveling on	
free passes — that used the airport in 1997, in millions	1.5
Landings and takeoffs, 1997	491,273
in 1996	485,480
in 1995	465,354
Major airline flights, 1997	298,000
International flight passengers served at the airport, 1997	974,000
in 1996	665,000
Percent of 1997 airline takeoffs and landings at the airport that were	
Northwest Airlines flights	78.2
United Airlines flights	4.7
American Airlines flights	4.0
U.S. airports that originate more charter flights than Minneapolis-St. Paul	
International	0
Public parking spaces currently available at the facility	11,000
Public parking spaces to be added in construction of a nine-level ramp	
to begin in 1998	6,000
Additional new spaces for rental car companies	3,000
1996 estimate of cost of parking expansion, in millions	\$94
March 1998 budget for the project, in millions	\$149.5
Drivers who used airport parking in 1996, in millions	3.2
Those who parked for less than four hours, in millions	2.3
Revenue from airport parking in 1996, in millions	\$30.3
Rank of parking among airport revenue sources	1
Hours the airport was closed due to weather, 1996	2.5
Year airport began operating as Speedway Field at current site	1920
Pilots killed on the Chicago-Twin Cities airmail route in nine months	
before service was discontinued in June 1921	4
People who work at the airport	25,000

Sources: Metropolitan Airports Commission (<http://www.mspairport.com/>) and *America's North Coast Gateway*, 1993, Metropolitan Airports Commission.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 27, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 10



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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections



Charles F. Ward

Charles F. Ward will retire at the end of this the 80th Legislative Session. For those who don't know "Charlie," he is the person who watches the door and keeps uninvited guests out of the House chamber. He has performed his duties for the past 11 years, and worked for the House since 1982. Once you get to know Charlie, you won't forget him.

Charlie will be missed as a fixture in the chamber. Those who know him and know his stories will remember his dry wit. His classic one-liners will not be forgotten either. Charlie says, "I've got a good memory, but it's short."

When legislators are not in the chamber, Charlie is sometimes the brunt of a harmless practical joke such as a far-fetched phone call prank.

"Anything that comes from the Front Desk, I gotta believe," he says. "The people who have really been good to me are the Chief Clerk and his entire staff."

If you ask him about himself, Charlie will tell you that he is "79 years old and proud of it." He adds that "God has blessed me with a wonderful wife of 49 years. She is my life. And my six children and 11 grandchildren are great, too." In typical Charlie fashion, he says, "Life has been good!"

As the House doorkeeper, Charlie stands outside the chamber to check out anyone he thinks does not have the credentials to enter. Over the years, Charlie has questioned governor's staff, new journalists, senators, former legislators, and new members about entering the chamber if he didn't know them. "But I do have great respect for the representatives on both sides of the aisle," he says.

Before session, Charlie stands outside the 15-foot high sliding double doors that serve as the chamber's main entrance. Honoring House protocol, he opens a door only for members and special guests. Inside the chamber, Henry Erdman, assistant sergeant-at-arms, only opens the other door for those leaving. Charlie will tell you that "the lobbyists know better. They don't even test me by climbing that first step up to the entrance."

Charlie sits at the chief sergeant's desk inside the open chamber door when the House is not in session. On occasion, he will give a brief talk to tourists and constituents about the chamber. Otherwise, protocol dictates that a sergeant be present in the chamber at all times.

A large clock hangs high above and behind the desk. The timepiece was returned to its place of honor during the 1990 restoration of the chamber. This same clock years ago would be covered at midnight on the last night of a two-year legislative session so that legislative business could continue. Too bad the tradition cannot be resurrected for Charlie.

Something will be missing from the House chamber on the first day of the 81st Legislative Session — Charles. F. Ward's presence.

But, Charlie says, "My time here has been wonderful, and that's damn good."

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: A crowd begins to gather outside the House chamber as session draws near.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Minnesota Wild . . .

Lawmakers, city officials face off on arena proposal

By Grant Martin

Members of a House-Senate conference committee on this year's bonding bill are struggling to find middle ground following an intense review of the St. Paul RiverCentre hockey arena proposal March 26.

The proposed state contribution of \$65 million has become one of the major points of contention between the two sides in conference committee. The House bill would fund the project; the Senate bill would not.

Legislators got an opportunity to question representatives of the Minnesota Wild hockey team and St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman regarding the highly publicized and sometimes controversial plan to bring NHL hockey back to Minnesota.

The hearing followed the recent revelation that the construction firm awarded a contract for the project had contributed to the Minnesota Wild's NHL application fee. The Minnesota Wild has since returned the fee to the construction company.

Sen. Gary Laidig (R-Stillwater), addressing Mayor Coleman, said that these transactions demonstrate the need for further oversight of the project.

"I am disturbed by this and apparently you are not," Laidig said.

Coleman defended the Minnesota Wild and the construction company brought into question. He said that the construction firm was one of many private companies that contributed money to help bring hockey back to Minnesota.

"It is absurd," Coleman said. "It is absurd to insinuate that a premier construction company with experience in building sports facilities [and] with experience building convention centers did anything improper."

However, committee members appeared to be more interested in the details of the arena plan and the possibility of finding middle ground between the House and Senate versions of the bonding bill.

The \$130 million arena proposal is, in fact, a done deal. The city has already negotiated a lease agreement with the Minnesota Wild and the NHL, and has a plan in place to fund the construction. The arena will be built with or without state support.

The question that remains is will the state support the plan and if so, how much support it provide.

Of the \$130 million, the city of St. Paul will



St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman, *left*, and Pam Wheelock, the city's director of planning and economic development, describe their finance plan for a new arena to host the Minnesota Wild hockey team. They appeared before the House-Senate bonding conference committee March 25.

bond for \$30 million, and the team will provide \$35 million in the form of a letter of credit. The team also will pay the NHL \$80 million for the franchise. These amounts are currently set by the lease.

The city of St. Paul will pay off its \$30 million bond contribution through a \$1 ticket surcharge and through revenues raised from an outdoor marquee.

The city is requesting that the state provide \$65 million in general obligation bonds. If the state does not provide these funds, the city is responsible for covering the remaining amount under contracts already negotiated.

Coleman told the committee that the arena is just a part of a larger plan to revitalize the entire RiverCentre facility and downtown St. Paul. He said that the expansion of the entire facility will mean new jobs and economic development in the area.

"Right now, we have a private company willing to come in and pay \$80 million to help our capital city," he said.

He said the plan should be given the same treatment that other convention centers receive.

"All we seek is fairness," Coleman said. "We should be treated the same way as other facilities that are asking for a partnership with the state."

Coleman said that the plan is good for the state and good for taxpayers.

"The question we have consistently asked ourselves is, 'Are the public and the taxpayers adequately protected?'" Coleman said. "The answer is a resounding 'yes.'"

Coleman specifically cited provisions in the arena lease that guarantee that the team must remain in the facility at least for 10 years, and after that if the team chooses to leave, the team is responsible for the remaining bonding debt.

Coleman labeled this provision "an unprecedented taxpayer protection that the city insisted be part of the lease."

Sen. Jerry Janezich (DFL-Chisholm) said that this is not simply a convention center proposal.

"You may want to compare this to other projects," Janezich said. "It's a hockey arena for the team. To think it's for anything but the team is crazy."

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) said that the RiverCentre arena should be viewed apart from other convention center proposals simply because it deals with public subsidies for sports.

"The Minneapolis facility is a facility that has no money going to a sports team," Berglin

Continued on page 4

said. "No money is going to pay a player's salary."

Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) said that he is concerned about the city's financial situation if the state does not choose to provide the \$65 million.

If the city is forced to issue an additional \$65 million, some bond rating agencies have indicated that they would lower the city's credit rating, Cohen said.

Members of the conference committee also were concerned about provisions in the agreement that would prohibit the state from using bonds linked to arena revenues. Under the agreement, the state cannot use revenues which would have an impact on the team.

This agreement includes all revenues related to naming rights, concessions, and parking from game nights. Other revenue sources such as player income tax surcharge may also have an impact on the team and, therefore, may not be considered as possible revenue sources.

Pam Wheelock, of the city of St. Paul, told the committee that the city would be required to compensate the team for obligations of this sort.

Attempts to build a new Twins stadium last year relied heavily on these revenue sources to service the bonds.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) told Coleman and Wheelock that this agreement makes the search for middle ground between the House and Senate very difficult.

"The city has made a contract that precludes us from helping the city out," he said.

Cohen asked Martha Larson, of the Minnesota Wild, if the team would consider renegotiating its lease with the city in order to make some of these revenue sources available.

"If you are looking for a blanket commitment right here and now, I cannot make that for the team," Larson said. "The team needs to be careful when we're looking for middle ground that we keep the team successful."

Several legislators argued that the benefits of the facility justify the full contribution of \$65 million.

"Like all things, you can dig around and find bad things," said Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul). "But it's going to be a beautiful arena. It's going to add to downtown."

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said that the Minnesota Wild should be applauded for making a significant investment in the city. He said that the numbers demonstrate the team is willing to make sacrifices.

"I call this charity," he said. "This is a lousy investment."

Bishop said the state should contribute to professional hockey in Minnesota.

"There is pain in the hearts of those of us who love hockey," he said. "I just won't watch those damn Dallas Stars." 🐻



Dimler concentrates on farming after backing namesake legislation

By Grant Martin

It is only fitting that an interview with former Rep. Chuck Dimler would be conducted via cellular phone with the subject traveling in his car down some unknown Minnesota highway.

Dimler — the man who has saved many Minnesotans from auto insurance rate hikes — would have no need to invoke the statutory provision bearing his name. He was obeying the speed limit.

"Right now, I'm going 55 miles per hour," he said. "You see, the traffic warrants it right here. The car in front of me is going 55."

Dimler, a Republican who served in the House from 1983 to 1986, is most known for the amendment that carries his name.

Under the so-called Dimler Amendment, drivers who are issued tickets for speeds up to 10 mph over a 55 mph speed limit get a break. The violators have to pay the fine, but the ticket does not go on their driving record.

The amendment, which became law in 1986, has prevented untold numbers of Minnesotans caught speeding from seeing their insurance rates jump.

"If I was driving Highway 15 outside of New Ulm, where the road is designed for 70 miles per hour, I'd be driving 64," Dimler said.

And that is the way it should be, according to Dimler. He has long argued that the safest speed is the one that is comfortable for drivers given the conditions of the road.

He said that the purpose of the Dimler Amendment is to give the highway patrol and the courts the tools to separate truly dangerous drivers from the moderate speeders.

It doesn't bother him that people plea bargain in court to get their speeding ticket lowered to fall under his law. It shows the flexibility that should be in the law, Dimler said.

"I've been to court with family and friends, and the judge will — on his own volition — change the charge to bring it under the amendment," Dimler said. "It's a tool they can use. They don't have to use it."

The provision has survived periodic challenges from public safety advocates since it became law. Dimler said that the law is still in effect simply because it's reasonable and people like it.



Former two-term member Chuck Dimler was the architect of the so-called "Dimler Amendment."

"It's a popular piece of statute," he said. "I mean, does it truly offend anyone?"

Dimler's life hasn't changed too much since he left the House more than a decade ago. He still answers the occasional questions about the Dimler Amendment and he still farms his land in Carver and Hennepin counties.

Now it's much easier to just concentrate on farming, he said.

"I am truly one of the living citizen-legislators," Dimler said. "I never left my career to do it. I made farm decisions from the retiring room of the House. Sometimes I planted corn at night and came back to the House the next morning. It was tough to run the farm and be in the Legislature at the same time."

But Dimler does not regret his time in the House.

"I was glad I did it," he said. "It was a life experience."

And Dimler said that it is an experience that more people should have. He said that public service should be seen as a responsibility for everyone and he favors term limits in order to maintain Minnesota's citizen Legislature.

Continued on page 17

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Eliminating a blight

Grain farmers from northwestern Minnesota who, in recent years, have lost significant parts of their crops to a plant disease called "scab" are in trouble, and they're asking the Legislature for some help.

A bill (**HF3853**) that Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) sponsors would provide assistance to those farmers. The bill was approved March 26 by the House Ways and Means Committee.

"This is really a dramatic situation," Tunheim said.

The bill would appropriate \$8.5 million from the budget reserve account to help beleaguered farmers in 11 northwestern Minnesota counties pay for crop insurance. If they've lost 50 percent or more of their crops in the 1994 to 1997 growing seasons, they would get help.

Farmers would receive help equal to half the total premium, to a maximum of \$4,000 per farm. The 11 eligible counties would be Beltrami, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

There are fears that many northwestern Minnesota farmers affected by scab — also known as Fusarium head blight — could fold this spring after five years of difficulty.

Rob Rynning, 34, is a Kittson County farmer who, along with his brother, grows canola, flax, soybeans, wheat, and barley on 3,100 acres.

Scab attaches itself to the kernel of grain crops, eventually rendering the crop unusable, Rynning said. It's often caused by wet weather, which has been abundant in northwestern Minnesota in recent years.

Scab began affecting many farms in the early 1990s.

"Minnesotans have lost \$1.5 billion to this disease that we've been fighting," Rynning told the committee.

If left unchecked, scab could wipe out 50 percent of the farms in northwestern Minnesota, Rynning said, and that would lead to problems with the rest of the economy in that area and the rest of the state.

"Anybody in the rural economy who deals with the farms is affected," he said, adding that he and his brother lost \$80,000 in wheat and barley in 1997.



Robert Rynning, a farmer from Kennedy, Minn., testifies in support of a bill that would provide emergency farm relief for northwestern Minnesota farmers whose crops are infected with wheat scab. Rynning appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee March 26.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota are looking for ways to eliminate the blight, but that could take some time, he said.

"We really need something in the short term. The young farmers are already getting out," Rynning said.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), also a farmer, said he sympathizes with the plight of the farmers in northwestern Minnesota. But farmers are often the victims of unfair prices and bad weather, and when he complains about that, his wife often tells him, "Steve, nobody gave you the right to farm," Sviggum said.

Rynning said this particular problem is different from the usual hardships of farming.

"I don't have the right to farm, but helping out the region is important to the economy," he said.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) spoke in support of the bill. "If farmers weren't farming, if loggers weren't logging, and if miners weren't mining, some people in the [Twin Cities] metropolitan area wouldn't have a job," he said.

The bill now moves to the floor.



BANKING

Checks in the mail



Restrictions will be placed on the unsolicited checks that some financial institutions mail to consumers, under a new law signed by Gov. Arne Carlson March 25.

Consumers who find such checks in their mailboxes are actually receiving loan solicitations, carrying interest rates as high as 30 percent.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the new law stipulates that no financial institution or lender can send such a check unless it complies with several new requirements.

The checks will be required to become void after 30 days, and information will have to be sent with the check advising consumers to destroy it if they do not use it.

Consumers will have to be told in plain terms that the check is a loan, and the loan agreement will have to be on the back of the check.

If such a check is fraudulently cashed by someone other than the addressee, the consumer is to be absolved from liability by signing a statement saying he or she did not cash the check.

The check will have to be mailed in an envelope that does not indicate its contents. Also, it must not be forwarded if the consumer no longer lives at the address.

Bill sponsor Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said during House floor discussion of the measure that he recently received one such check — for thousands of dollars — in the mail.

He said if the check would have been lost or stolen, and cashed, it would have been a hardship. He said his legislation puts procedures in place to protect the consumer.

The measure allows an exception for prospective borrowers who already have an open-end credit arrangement, such as a credit card account, with a lender.

Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2016/SF2550*/CH335

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Lost or stolen debit cards



A new law effective Aug. 1, 1998, will limit customer liability to \$50 on lost or stolen debit cards.

The law will cover the debit cards that financial institutions issue to holders of checking accounts. Besides getting cash out of automatic teller machines, consumers can use debit cards to make purchases that are directly deducted from their checking account, as long as the merchant has a terminal that can handle debit card transactions.

The law will limit customer liability to \$50 if the card is lost or stolen. The limit will apply to unauthorized transactions made before the bank receives notice that the card has been lost or stolen. (There is no liability for transactions made after the financial institution has been notified.)

A similar liability limit for credit card holders exists in current law.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Edward Oliver (R-Deephaven) sponsored the measure.

HF2500*/SF2540/CH295

Women and credit history



A new law seeks to give divorced and widowed women a fairer shake when applying for loans and credit cards.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the law will require that creditors consider the credit history of an applicant's spouse and that credit histories be reported in the name of both spouses.

House sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) said the law will help women who were conscientious borrowers while married, but find themselves unable to secure credit after a death or divorce because the credit history exists solely in their former spouse's name.

"There are times when an applicant finds she has no credit history," Leppik said. "This [will] give that person recourse to state court and small claims court. The applicant still has to establish her own credit-worthiness."

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2309*/SF2136/CH327

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Looking thin



A likeness of Bernie Omann, the governor's chief of staff, watches over proceedings at the House-Senate conference committee on the omnibus tax bill March 20, as Rep. Ted Winter, right, and Sen. Jim Vickerman, confer. Sen. Doug Johnson, chair of the Senate Committee on Taxes, brought the mock figure of Omann to the hearing because Johnson was displeased by a gubernatorial veto of one of his bills.

Reporting fraudulent checks



A new law effective Aug. 1, 1998, aims to encourage banks and credit unions to report information concerning fraudulent check use to the crime alert network or law enforcement agencies.

The law will limit the liability of financial institutions who provide stolen, forged, or fraudulent check information.

As long as an institution is acting in good faith when they disclose information, they will be free of risk of being held liable by the subjects of the disclosure, under the new law.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Ember Junge (DFL-New Hope).

HF3389/SF2493*/CH337



BUSINESS

Minnesota's franchise law

Northwest Airlines would be unable to use a 1997 law to its advantage in a court battle, under a bill that's headed for the governor's desk.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), passed the House March 26. The vote was 128-2.

The 1997 Legislature passed special legislation for Northwest Airlines that retroactively exempted the airline from Minnesota's franchise law.

The state franchise law provides franchisees with some degree of protection against unwarranted termination of agreements with their parent companies.

Legislators recently discovered the retroactive exemption had an effect on pending litigation against Northwest Airlines.

A \$30 million lawsuit filed in Maine in 1994 by Northeast Express Airlines and Precision Valley Aviation claims that Northwest Airlines violated Minnesota's franchise law when it dropped the two commuter airlines, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The bill (**HF3841/SF3397***) would clarify that the 1997 franchise exemption does not apply to any agreements that were subject to litigation prior to passage of the law.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the bill would bring back honor to the words and intentions of the 1997 law.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said Northwest's attorneys willfully used the 1997 law as a defense in the Maine case. "What's their excuse — the devil made them do it?" Abrams asked.

Limited partner regulations



Regulations by which a limited partner in an investment can withdraw from a partnership will be changed under a new law signed March 23 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The law will allow limited partners to withdraw from an investment partnership only if permitted by the written

partnership agreement. If the agreement contains no withdrawal authority, the limited partner will not be able to withdraw.

Current law allows limited partners to withdraw unless it is specifically forbidden in the written partnership agreement.

Limited partners invest in a partnership but are usually not subject to the same legal liabilities to which the general partners are subject.

The new law will apply to partnerships formed after July 31, 1998, and to partnerships formed earlier that contain a written provision allowing withdrawal.

Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure.

HF2507/SF3036*/CH320



CONSUMERS

Getting extended area service



It will be easier to petition the Public Utilities Commission for extended telephone service within school district boundaries, under a new law effective March 24, 1998.

A 1997 law required a majority of all telephone customers in each exchange to vote in favor of extended area service within a school district.

The new measure, signed by Gov. Arne Carlson March 23, requires only that a majority of customers who cast a vote is required to extend the service.

Extended area service is often sought in rural areas, where calls from residents to their children's school can result in long distance charges. While extended area service may result in higher monthly service charges, it does make each call within a school district a local call.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) sponsored the measure.

HF3644*/SF3170/CH326



ELECTIONS

Elected Met Council rejected

The House narrowly rejected a bill March 23 that would make members of the Metropolitan Council stand for election beginning in 2003. The vote was 67-66 against the plan.

The council was created in 1967 and is responsible for regional planning in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It's one of the largest regional governments in the country and over-

sees the regional bus system, wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation that serves disabled people.

The council's annual budget is \$360 million, partially paid by property taxes. It has about 3,500 employees who are governed by a board of directors appointed by the governor. There are 16 members, each representing a different region of the metropolitan area, and a chair.

The bill would require those members to be elected.

HF2588 is sponsored by Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), who has introduced several bills calling for an elected Metropolitan Council in recent years, including one last year that passed the Legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

This year's bill drew much debate on the House floor.

Orfield argued that members of the council should be elected because the council has "many of the powers of legislative government. It has broad discretionary authority.

"In many ways, this entity is shaping the future of the region. A body this large, that has this kind of taxing authority, should be accountable to the people," he said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) spoke against the bill.

"If you don't like how the Metropolitan Council is being run, get another governor," Abrams said. "An elected Metropolitan Council would be about as useful as a third house [of the Legislature]."

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings) said an elected Metropolitan Council would add one more unnecessary level of government.

"You go under the assumption that it's government getting bigger and government getting stronger and more centralized," he said.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said the Metropolitan Council currently is not fulfilling its responsibilities.

"The Metropolitan Council should be providing the coordination and they are not," he said. "I would like to be able to sit down with my Metropolitan Council member and look at the future directions we're taking. I think an elected body will be accountable to the people."

The version of the bill the House rejected would not change any duties of the members of the Metropolitan Council.

An earlier version included a provision that would have required candidates for the Metropolitan Council to also be candidates for the county board in their home county. But that provision had been deleted from the bill.

Voter registration list update

The House passed a bill March 23 that would make voter registration easier for people in Minnesota who move to a new home. The vote was 71-61.

Sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), the bill would authorize the Office of the Secretary of State to get the names and addresses of people who have given the U.S. Postal Service a change-of-address card.

Littlest page



House Speaker Phil Carruthers lets 5-year-old Aaron Phipps try out the best seat in the House March 20. Aaron was visiting his mother, Yonina, who is a House page.

The information then could be given to the appropriate county auditor, who would update the voter registration lists. The county auditor would be required to confirm the voter's new address by mail.

Under current law, voters who move to a new home must take care of registration themselves — by visiting the county courthouse, by mail, or by registering at their polling place on election day.

"It'll just simplify the process so we can start the 21st century before the 21st century," Foliard said.

Critics said the bill would come uncomfortably close to making voter registration mandatory.

"This is an unnecessary piece of legislation. I think we should save the governor the trouble of vetoing it," said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview).

And critics said voters should update their registration and should not count on the state to do it for them.

"Providing a change of address is the task of a responsible citizen," said Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka). "This is a solution in search of a problem."

HF2387/SF2149* now goes to the governor.

Candidates' endorsement claims

Candidates for political office in Minnesota would be required to get written permission before claiming the endorsement of any organization, under a bill the House passed March 23. The vote was 73-59.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), **HF2277** would stipulate that a candidate may not claim in campaign material that he or she has the support of an organization unless the organization has provided written permission.

Tunheim's bill would add organizations such as labor unions and business interests to current law stating that a candidate may not claim the support of an individual without written permission.

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said he sees no need for the legislation because most candidates receiving the support of an organization usually get a letter stating such.

"I just don't see that this is an issue of great importance," he said. "It seems to me this is a self-policing type of situation. I just don't see the need. [It's] more bureaucracy."

Tunheim agreed that when a candidate is endorsed by an organization, the candidate usually gets a letter from the group. But the bill

would make it clear that candidates must have that letter if they're going to mention the support in campaign literature.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Open absentee balloting

A pilot program that allows for open absentee balloting in Ramsey County would be extended for another year, under a bill the House passed March 23. The vote was 78-54.

In 1991, Anoka, Hennepin, Polk, and Ramsey counties entered into a pilot project for open absentee balloting. The 1994 Legislature extended the pilot project in Ramsey County until this year, and the county now wants the project extended again until Dec. 31, 1999.

By law, people who want to vote by absentee ballot must have an acceptable reason that makes it necessary to do so. Reasons can include absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.

An absentee ballot is mailed or given to the voter, who fills it out like a regular ballot and mails it back to the county auditor's office. The ballots are held until election day, then tallied with all the other ballots.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), Ramsey County would continue allowing voters to use an absentee ballot without providing a reason.

The pilot project requires only that voters who want to vote absentee apply in writing to the county auditor's office and provide their name, address and signature.

HF2567/SF2221* now goes to the governor.

Absentee ballots with 'reason'

Voters could use an absentee ballot for any reason, under a bill the House passed March 23. The vote was 68-64.

Current law lists a number of acceptable reasons for voting by absentee ballot. The reasons include absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or election judge service in another precinct.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), would strike that language in current law and would require only that voters list their reason for needing an absentee ballot on their application.

The bill also would make it illegal to accept money for delivering or mailing an absentee ballot and to attempt to influence a voter who is completing an absentee ballot.

Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) expressed concern that voters' reasons for not going to the polls might become frivolous.

"It could be that they want to stay home and watch Andy Griffith reruns," Pawlenty said. "Why have them put a reason on it? It just goes around in a circle, and I think we should say what we mean and mean what we say. I think people should show up to vote."

HF2526/SF2148* goes to the Senate.

Absentee ballot without 'reason'

Voters in Hennepin County would be allowed to vote by absentee ballot without having to provide a reason for doing so, under a bill the House passed March 23. The vote was 73-60.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), calls for a pilot project to test the more liberal absentee ballot requirements.

Under the bill, voters wanting to vote by absentee ballot could do so without giving a reason, as long as they give the county their name, address, signature, and some other basic information.

When the bill was discussed by the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee in February, Jefferson said that his district in Hennepin County consistently has the lowest voter turnout in the state.

With a high concentration of minorities, renters, and poverty, voter turnout is often low. A result of the low voter turnout is that candidates for statewide office rarely campaign in some parts of Hennepin County, Jefferson said at the time.

Under present law, people wanting to vote with an absentee ballot must have a reason, such as absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) objected to the bill and others that would expand absentee voting.

"This series of bills bothers me," he said. "The prevailing attitude is that it's government's duty rather than the voter's duty. There will be a small number of increases in the number of mistakes that are made."

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said it is important to make it easier for everyone to vote.

"I wouldn't want to tell any elderly voters that," she said in response to Sviggum's comments. "I wouldn't want to tell it to a business person who has to be out of town."

HF2293/SF2118* now goes to the governor.



ENVIRONMENT

Lottery revenue dedication

A bill that aims to extend the life of the state lottery's revenue dedication to the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund passed the House March 23. The vote was 132-0.

HF113*/SF76, sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to extend to the year 2025 the dedication of lottery proceeds to the environmental and natural resources trust fund and to maximize the long-term total return to the fund?"

The environmental trust fund was established in 1988 by a constitutional amendment that authorized the state to establish a lottery with 50 percent of the proceeds from the first five years earmarked for environmental spending. A second constitutional amendment in 1990 changed the designated portion of proceeds to 40 percent until the year 2001.

Since 1991, the environmental trust fund has provided 177 projects throughout the state with approximately \$83 million for the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. The fund is currently valued at more than \$209 million.



GAMBLING

Gambling proceeds and the ADA



A new law allows organizations to use legal gambling profits to bring their facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Under previous law, gambling proceeds could be used for construction or repairs on only certain types of property. Legal uses included maintaining nonprofit facilities or replacing buildings lost to natural disaster or eminent-domain ruling.

But the new law allows any group that earns money from legal gambling — including pull tabs and lottery tickets — to use those funds to either improve handicapped access in a facility or to replace an out-of-compliance facility with one that meets ADA requirements.

Proponents said this will be useful for organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, which often can't afford to make handicapped-access improvements.

The new law also allows licensed gambling organizations to pay salaries and winnings via

electronic transfer. Under prior law, gambling profits had to follow a paper check trail. Proponents said the new measure will increase efficiency in large gambling operations.

The law, effective March 24, 1998, was sponsored Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

HF2920/SF2911*/CH322



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing privileges

A bill that aims to amend the Minnesota Constitution to protect hunting and fishing privileges passed the House March 26. The vote was 118-13.

The bill (**HF3808/SF41***), sponsored by Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), would submit the following amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to declare that fishing, hunting, and the taking of game and fish is a valued part of our heritage, which shall be forever preserved, and that this privilege



Fred L. Morrison, professor of law at the University of Minnesota, gives a crash course on constitutional law to members of the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee March 24. The committee was considering a bill that would place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot asking Minnesotans if they want to constitutionally protect the privileges of hunting and fishing. Morrison attended the hearing on behalf of Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

shall be managed by law and regulation for the common good?"

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), citing the disappearance of several species from Minnesota, said she supports the bill on the basis of environmental conservation.

"Because the privilege 'shall be forever preserved' . . . we will need to redouble our efforts to clean up our waters and expand habitats," she said. "It's a win-win situation, even for those who choose not to exercise the privilege to hunt and fish."

Throughout the committee process, proponents have said the bill would be a first step in standing up to anti-hunting groups who seek to curtail the activities of hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) questioned the reality of the threat posed by animal rights groups.

"I suspect the voters of the state will see the folly of this amendment," he said. "There is no need for it. There is no threat."

The bill now moves to the Senate.



HEALTH

'Off-label' drug coverage



Cancer patients who find relief from certain treatments not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for their specific form of cancer no longer will have to wonder if their health plan will pay

for the treatment.

A new state law will require health maintenance organizations and other health plans to pay for "off-label" use of drugs prescribed for cancer treatment. Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the law will stipulate that all health plans, including Medicare supplemental coverage, may not refuse to pay for cancer treatments involving drugs that are already on a plan's formulary.

"Off-label" drug use is the prescribing of drugs recognized as a treatment for at least one form of cancer in standard medical literature. Cancer specialists indicate about 10 percent of their patients respond to treatment that is not covered for their specific cancer under their insurance plan.

Drugs are often approved by the FDA for treatment of certain cancers, and further research sometimes finds the drug is beneficial for a wider range of cancers.

But drug companies rarely resubmit these medications for FDA approval because of the time and cost involved. Some health plans then refuse to pay for use of these prescription

drugs if the medication is not FDA-approved for a specific cancer.

The law will not apply to drugs used in experimental cancer treatment.

There are 27 other states with similar laws related to off-label drug use.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure.

HF1306/SF1076*/CH301

Rendering emergency care



Volunteers and others who provide emergency medical care with an automatic external defibrillator without expectation of compensation will not be liable for civil damages under a new law effective

Aug. 1, 1998.

The law broadens the existing "Good Samaritan statute," which provides immunity to volunteers or untrained people who give emergency care, unless a patient objects.

Many airlines and businesses now carry automatic external defibrillators, which restore the heart's rhythm by delivering an electric shock. To use an automatic external defibrillator, the rescuer places two pads on the victim's chest and the device measures the heart's rhythm. If the device detects ventricular fibrillation, the machine directs the user to push a button to deliver a shock.

Under the new law, any volunteer or other person who does not expect compensation will be able to render the emergency care without fear of civil liability, unless the person giving the care acts in a reckless manner.

The law will apply only to the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital or other facility where licensed practitioners are available.

Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure.

HF3138/SF2861*/CH329

Hepatitis B vaccinations



Children who enroll in kindergarten beginning in the 2000-2001 school year will have to be vaccinated against hepatitis B, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

The law also will apply to children enrolling in kindergarten through the seventh grade beginning with the 2007-2008 school term. But the law will exempt families who object to the vaccination for religious or other reasons.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus and is spread

by contact with an infected person's blood or other body fluids. It can also be spread by sharing washcloths, razors or needles, and through tattooing. The vaccination process involves a schedule of three doses of the vaccine.

The disease causes liver inflammation that can lead to liver failure or cancer.

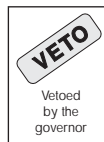
Roughly 80 percent of infants receive the vaccination in conjunction with other childhood vaccinations. The law's purpose is to inoculate those who now do not receive the vaccination.

The cost of the vaccination program for those entering kindergarten is covered under a federal program.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) and Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) sponsored the measure.

HF2681/SF2372*/CH305

Acquiring nonprofit hospitals



Gov. Arne Carlson used his veto authority March 25 to reject legislation that would have made purchase of nonprofit hospitals by for-profit chains more difficult.

The measure would have required that whenever a nonprofit hospital proposes to transfer more than 50 percent of its assets or financial control to a for-profit group, it must notify the state attorney general in writing.

The attorney general already has the power to investigate and stop such transactions, but the legislation would have ensured that written notice would go to the attorney general's office 45 days in advance of any deal.

Under the legislation, the attorney general could have made the notice accessible to the public if the office determined the public would benefit from the information.

The governor wrote in his veto statement, "I am persuaded that the office of the attorney general can adequately protect the public's interest in this area with the authority granted under current law."

Carlson also indicated he thought the bill "established a litigious, adversarial process for conducting business transactions which I find unnecessary."

"While I recognize the value of community hospitals, I cannot support the wholesale lock-out of noncharitable business entities in the marketplace, which is the effect of the bill."

He also said, "In some instances, particularly in the case of a financially struggling rural community hospital, the public may be best served by the noncharitable acquisition of the

hospital, especially when the only alternative is closure of the facility."

Nonprofit hospitals are generally viewed as charitable community assets, but from 1990 to 1996 a total of 192 nonprofit hospitals nationwide were converted to for-profit status.

Public funds are used for various projects at nonprofit hospitals. If the hospital is acquired by a for-profit company, the company likely acquires assets paid for with public dollars, possibly at less than fair-market value.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill.

HF381/SF695*/CH330



INDUSTRY

Telephone assistance plan

Minnesotans' telephone bills would increase slightly under legislation the House passed March 24 that would expand the telephone assistance plan. The vote was 68-63.

Currently, about 50,000 low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities are covered by the program.

However, upcoming expansion of the program under direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will include all residents at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. That means a family of three with an income just under \$20,000 annually would qualify.

The FCC change would put an estimated 280,000 to 285,000 Minnesota households on the plan. That would cover more than 15 percent of the state's population.

The House bill would place a maximum 10-cent monthly surcharge on cellular phones. A current 6-cent surcharge on telephone lines would increase to 10 cents in about three years.

Until recently, the federal government and the state paid \$3.50 per recipient monthly toward the assistance program, for a total of \$7 in assistance for local telephone service.

As of Jan. 1, 1998, the federal share rose to \$5.25, plus an additional \$1.75 if the state contributes \$3.50. If Minnesota continues to contribute \$3.50, the total assistance for eligible households is \$10.50.

Some legislators argued that residents should not face a surcharge to pay for someone else's telephone use.

"We don't do that with food stamps," said Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska). "I don't quite understand why we're asking the general public to help pay for someone else when maybe for them it's an issue to pay their own phone bill."

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of **HF3064/SF2718***, said that for many people helped by the program, telephone service is a lifeline. Without a telephone, many elderly people are cut off from the world, and they are denied 911 access.

Others argued against a surcharge on cellular phones, stating many people use them for business or emergencies and that taxing cellular phones would amount to taxing some phone users twice.

The bill now moves to conference committee.

A similar bill the Senate passed would increase the surcharge to 12 cents a line on July 1, 1999, and to 16 cents on July 1, 2000. The Senate bill has no provision for a cellular surcharge.



INSURANCE

New investment options



A new law that will give insurance companies more flexibility in investing their assets was signed March 23 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Under the law effective Aug. 1, 1998, "financially strong" insurers will be allowed to choose to be governed by the new provisions rather than by current state insurance laws, which will remain in place.

To use the new investment options, insurers will be required to have a minimum of \$2 billion in total assets and a total capital and surplus of \$200 million.

Insurers who qualify and decide to invest under the new law could invest in anything within a standard considered by the company's board of directors, subject to an internal control system. The companies will have to have a written investment policy.

The commissioner of commerce will require information from insurers, and the commissioner could hire an expert to review an insurer's investments. The commissioner also will be able to order insurers to change their investments.

Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the measure.

HF3355/SF3032*/CH319

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

Medical equipment, supplies



A new law effective Jan. 1, 1999, will require health plans to tell clients what medical equipment and supplies are covered.

The law also will stipulate that any health plan that covers durable medical equipment may not exclude coverage of devices used in the home.

In addition, health plans will be required to tell members and prospective members the nature of the coverage for durable medical equipment, level of coverage available, procedures for prior authorizations, and an address or telephone number of someone with the plan that the member can call to get information, either verbally or in writing, on what's covered and not covered.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) and Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Anoka) sponsored the new measure.

HF2814*/SF2130/CH334



LAW

A health care directive

A plan to consolidate the law regarding health care decision-making seems to be well on the way to recovery following what appeared to be full cardiac arrest on the House floor.

The bill (**HF2521/SF2050***), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), failed March 20 on a vote of 67-63 against the mea-

sure. The bill was immediately reconsidered and tabled.

On March 26, the bill was lifted from the table, amended by Bishop, and passed by the full House on a 110-21 vote.

The bill is based on the recommendations of a working group the Minnesota State Bar Association sponsored to review current law on health care decision-making and to suggest ways to make the laws more effective. The group is made up of government officials and representatives from health care organizations, consumer groups, and ethical and religious organizations.

Currently, a patient can create a document that designates the care to be received if he or she cannot communicate those wishes. The document is called a living will. In addition, a patient can name a person as his or her durable power of attorney, which authorizes that person to make health care decisions. The living will and durable power of attorney provisions are contained in two separate statutes.

The bill would combine the living will and the durable power of attorney into one document called a health care directive. The bill provides the criteria necessary for a directive to be valid.

Bishop said that he brought the proposal forward to make an already existing process easier. He said his bill would encourage more people to outline their health care wishes before it is too late.

Opponents of the bill argued that the change would make it easier to withhold treatment that may prolong life from those who are terminally ill.

Special olympian



Bryn Paulson, niece of Rep. Bill Macklin, was recognized on the House floor March 23 for winning three gold medals and one silver in the freestyle swimming competition at the 1995 International Special Olympics in New Haven, Conn.

Bishop's amendment restated safeguards contained in the original law.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Real estate filing fees



A plan to create a uniform real estate filing fee structure for counties statewide was vetoed March 23 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Carlson said he supports the idea of standardizing such processes across the state. However, he said that he could not support the proposal because it would have meant fee increases.

"Minnesotans already pay a substantial portion of their incomes to provide for local, state, and federal services," he wrote in his veto message. "With no demonstrated need for these fee increases, I cannot sanction this bill."

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. David Ten Eyck (DFL-East Gull Lake).

HF1882/SF1654*/CH311



MILITARY

NATO expansion resolution: 2

The House passed a bill March 20 that would call for a resolution asking President Clinton and the U.S. Congress to support the admission of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to NATO. The vote was 101-11.

A similar bill (**HF2417*/SF2055/Res. 5**) concerning Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary was approved without the governor's signature March 5 and a resolution concerning those countries was sent to Clinton and members of Congress.

The U.S. Senate is currently debating a measure that would call for admitting those three former Soviet-bloc nations to the 49-year-old peacekeeping alliance.

The three Baltic states are not included in that measure, which was approved by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee but which still needs a three-quarters majority in the full U.S. Senate for approval. A vote there is expected following a two-week break in April.

HF3613 was sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington). He said the matter was brought to his attention by a Richfield resident from Latvia who is active in promoting Baltic interests in Minnesota.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), a co-sponsor of the bill, said members of the Baltic

community in her district had originally asked that their countries be included in the earlier resolution passed by the Legislature. Out of concern that that measure would be held up by last-minute changes, a second bill was drafted concerning the Baltic countries.

Mahon's bill now goes to the Senate.



TOURISM

Fishing dispute resolution

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said he knew it was time to take action once long-standing fishing disputes with Canada spawned a proposal for Minnesota's Northwest Angle to secede from the United States.

"We need to indicate the willingness of the state of Minnesota to resolve these differences," Anderson said during House floor debate on a bill (**HF3854**) he is sponsoring.

Anderson's measure calls for a resolution asking President Clinton and the U.S. Congress to seek a solution to troubles between Minnesota and the Canadian province of Ontario.

The House passed the bill March 23 on a 124-2 vote.

The approximately 85 year-round residents of the Northwest Angle have complained for years about Canadian policies including fish limits, user fees, and border crossing permits that they say discriminate against U.S. anglers.

The Northwest Angle, the northernmost spot of the continental United States, is actually a peninsula on Lake of the Woods that is attached only to Canada.

According to Canadian law, tourists fishing the two-thirds of the lake in Canada and staying in Canadian resorts may keep up to two walleye or sauger per day. Beginning this summer, anglers staying at U.S. resorts will be allowed to keep none of those fish pulled from

Canadian waters.

Canadians say the regulations are needed because the species are overfished, but Northwest Angle residents claim Canada is driven by a desire to force tourists to stay at Canadian resorts.

U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) introduced a constitutional amendment March 18 that would let the Angle and nearby islands separate from the United States, allowing residents and tourists to enjoy the Canadian fishing privileges.

The Seventh District congressman said he sees secession as a long shot but that he sponsored the proposal in order to bring attention to the plight of Northwest Angle anglers. He also said the Canadian regulations violate a 1909 border-waters treaty and the North American Free Trade Agreement but that the federal government has not taken action to protect U.S. rights in the area.

On the House floor, several lawmakers who supported Anderson's proposal said they did so because they want to find a solution to the border turmoil without seeing a part of Minnesota secede.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

A related bill, also sponsored by Anderson, would give \$25,000 to the Council of State Governments to set up meetings between Minnesota legislators and members of the Manitoba and Ontario parliaments to discuss boundary disputes. That proposal was rolled into the House's omnibus state government finance bill (**SF3354**), which is currently being considered in a conference committee. The Senate companion bill does not include that funding.



TRANSPORTATION

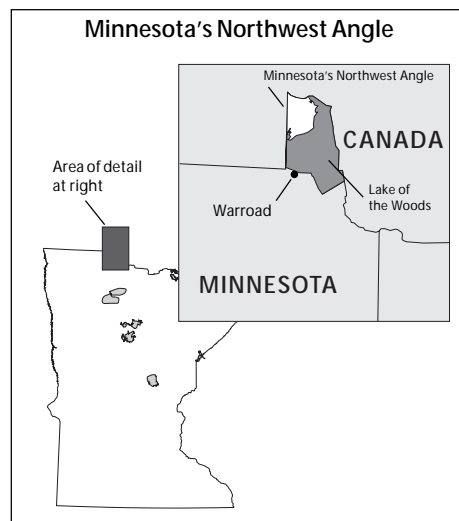
Graduated licensing for teens

No Minnesota teenager could get a full driver's license until age 17, a year later than current law allows, under legislation the House passed March 24. The vote was 80-49.

But it's unlikely most Minnesota teens would find the change restrictive.

The legislation for "graduated licensing" was amended on the House floor to remove what some considered the teeth of the bill, which would have placed a curfew and other restrictions on younger drivers with provisional licenses.

Currently, Minnesota teen drivers can get a learner's permit at age 15 and apply for a full driver's license at 16. The bill, sponsored by



Continued on page 17

Light rail transit . . .

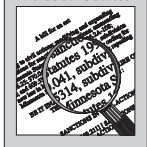
In spite of roadblocks, LRT is on brink of reality



Legislators are currently considering a metropolitan-area light rail transit system similar to this one in San Diego, which runs between that city's downtown area and the Mexican border.

By Jim Thielman

A closer look...



It seems many people believe the streetcar wasn't such a bad idea after all.

Not long after bus service and a growing dependence on automobiles pushed out the streetcar in the Twin Cities, new mass transit alternatives were quickly under study.

The last of the Twin Cities streetcar lines was shut down during the 1950s. The first metropolitan analysis of alternative transit came barely a decade later in 1967.

Now, light rail transit (LRT), which is basically a new generation streetcar, is near to becoming a fledgling reality in the state under a bonding bill (**HF3843**) now being considered by a House-Senate conference committee.

During the 1960s, discussion of alternative transit in the metropolitan area centered on an underground subway system. Since the early 1970s LRT, which like a streetcar, runs on tracks at ground level, has been heavily discussed.

And at the end of the 1980s, LRT was expected to become a reality in the state.

Newspaper accounts in 1989 forecast the look of public transit in approaching decades with grand expectations.

"In the next 10 years, construction of a light rail transit line between St. Paul and Minneapolis is almost a certainty," one report stated. "By the year 2000, there may be three light rail lines operating and a fourth being built."

Interstate 394 was touted at the time as another solution to the metro area's transportation problems. It was called "a whole transportation system" that would encourage car pooling, bus ridership, and exclusive lanes for "quicker trips at rush hour."

A decade later, rush-hour traffic on I-394 is thick, and bus ridership in the Twin Cities has slipped from 93 million a year in 1979 to 60 million annually today.

Yet the evolution of LRT has included several roadblocks and traffic jams. In both 1975 and 1985, the Legislature put bans on LRT planning or spending.

The 1975 ban was lifted in 1980, and LRT was immediately selected as the preferred choice of alternative transportation in an environmental impact statement. The following

said Bill Schreiber, House minority leader at the time. Schreiber is now director of intergovernmental policy for MnDOT.

Study of LRT continued, and in 1986, the Legislature removed the 1985 prohibition and gave regional rail authorities the ability to conduct rail transit planning.

In 1988, along with more studies, came new funding initiatives. The Legislature appropriated funds for designing a LRT system.

In each subsequent year there were engineering and design statements, or more studies or more boards, but nothing was built. Finally, in 1992, the Metropolitan LRT Joint Powers Board was formed, and the most concentrated effort toward LRT began.

The board, which consists of members from the seven-county metropolitan area, coordi-

"This is as close as we've been in 25 years . . ."

—LRT advocate and Hennepin County
Commissioner Peter McLaughlin.

year, a feasibility study was conducted by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and the Metropolitan Transit Commission.

LRT appeared to be gaining serious momentum when legislators created the Regional Transit Board in 1984. But by 1985 the Legislature prohibited spending any public funds on LRT.

"The board was so strongly focused on light rail that everything else became secondary,"

nates policy development, markets, plans, and advises MnDOT and local committees on LRT implementation methods.

The board and LRT advocates got the best news yet this year.

The U.S. Senate passed a \$954 million capital improvements bill that includes \$50 million for the first leg of LRT in the Hiawatha Corridor, which would stretch from the University of Minnesota's West Bank to the Mall of America via downtown Minneapolis and

the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.


On March 24, the U.S. House Transportation Committee approved \$400 million for the LRT line in the Hiawatha corridor.

U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo (D-Minn.) has said he feels the federal government will eventually allocate \$200 million in federal money to the Hiawatha Corridor. State and local government will foot the rest of bill. The state would

be asked to pay about \$100 million, although only about half that amount would be provided in the bonding measures advancing in this year's Legislature.

"This is as close as we've been in 25 years, which is basically ever," said LRT advocate and Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "Congestion is bad and people perceive it as bad. Auto occupancy is at its

lowest ever in the state, bus ridership is down, and the federal government is looking to help. These are all good signs for LRT."

Twenty of the 30 largest metropolitan areas in the country use rail as part of their transit systems. Since 1986, Portland, Dallas, and Denver have opened systems. All three cities have a smaller population than the Twin Cities' 2.7 million. Denver, at 2.2 million, is closest in size. 

Minnesota — first state with nonpartisan Legislature

It's a fact!

Lawmakers who served in Minnesota's nonpartisan Legislature held split opinions about the system. Perhaps not surprisingly, some of their disagreements fell neatly along party lines.

Not so long ago, the Minnesota Legislature was elected on a nonpartisan basis. Under that system, no party affiliation appeared on ballots for legislative races.

Minnesota was the first state in the union to have a nonpartisan Legislature. By the early 1900s, many people in Minnesota and across the country had become disenchanted with political parties and "machine" politics.

The Minnesota law was passed in 1913 to take the party labels out of the legislative process. The Minnesota House was nonpartisan until 1974; the Senate was until 1976.

According to a survey of legislators taken in early 1972 — entitled "Legislator Appraisals of the Nonpartisan Minnesota Legislature" — the majority of lawmakers believed nonpartisan elections had weakened political parties in Minnesota.

However, that doesn't mean the terms "DFL" and "Republican" were foreign to voters. Most legislators identified them-

selves with one or the other party, and they believed most of the voters identified them as such because most legislators had announced their allegiance publicly, even though candidates couldn't be identified with a party on the ballot.

For the 1972 report, legislators were asked what factors they believed voters used to judge a candidate. Most legislators listed "personality" as the top factor in the minds of voters. However, supposed party allegiance was also considered a crucial factor — rating with their position on the issues and their past record.

Legislators saw some advantages to the nonpartisan system. Many lawmakers believed that nonpartisanship weakened the system of "partisan bossism" and "the domination of the Legislature by labor, business, or any other small segment of society."

And lawmakers of all political persuasions said that the nonpartisan system allowed them to "vote their conscience," according to the survey. Legislators also said the nonpartisan system placed more responsibility directly on the voters and that those elected better represented the voters.

However, the 1972 report showed that some DFLers thought the nonpartisan system weakened their party and strengthened the Republicans.

And Republicans did tend to support retention of the nonpartisan Legislature when the issue was debated in the early 1970s.

"Non-party designation makes for less ties with the party, thus fewer dictates by the parties to the legislators. This makes for better government. Minnesota is nationally recognized for having one of the most effective legislatures in the country. Nonparty designation is mainly responsible for this," said one Republican surveyed.

Many DFLers had different feelings on the issue. Most DFLers surveyed for the report said that going back to party designation would improve the Legislature's performance.

"Party identification would make the Legislature more responsible, and also make the party more responsible," said one DFL lawmaker.

"Party designation will make legislators more responsive to the issues of the day," said another DFL legislator.

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088

Frequently called numbers

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building 296-4860

Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Research, House

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-9208

Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY*, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Rep. Eileen Tompkins . . .

Though leaving, member's political life will continue

By Jim Thielman

Stepping
Down

Outgoing Rep. Eileen Tompkins (R-Apple Valley) likes the maxim, "The world belongs to those who show up."

And that should answer any question about her plans to remain involved in politics despite her announcement that she won't run for an eighth term in District 36A.

"I don't intend to go and hide, that's for sure," she said. "I think I'll be involved in politics until the day I die."

Tompkins said she plans to spend the summer and fall helping with St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman's gubernatorial bid.

"He's going to need a Republican majority somewhere," she said. "I don't see that will happen in the Senate, so I plan to help to get that majority in the House."

Tompkins has been involved in the political process as long as she can recall. Her father and uncle were city council members, and she vividly recalls a childhood of heated political debates at home.

When she got older, she became absorbed in precinct caucuses and moved on to manage another candidate's failed campaign for a House seat.

"I think it's in the genes," Tompkins said of politics. "I've been interested in it all my life. The news is always the most important television program at our house, which tells you something."

Tompkins recalls being devastated when the House campaign she managed didn't result in victory. She was certain she wouldn't get that involved again. But she rebounded quickly, and the knowledge she gained from that failed campaign helped her succeed in her first run for the House in 1984.

She said she balked when first approached by party members about running for that House seat, and her protests resulted in an exchange she still laughs about.

"I said, 'I'm too short and too fat to run,' but someone told me that would probably cost me only three percent of the vote," Tompkins said.

Her nine children were grown by then, and



Rep. Eileen Tompkins is leaving the House after her seventh term, but she vows to remain active in public life.

although three of her 22 grandchildren moved in with her after their mother died three years ago, Tompkins never felt obliged to leave the Legislature and stay at home.

"Plenty of women raise a family and work," she said with a shrug. "The oldest of those is now 21. They're good kids. They go to the same schools my kids did, and working in the House is much easier than it used to be."

She recalls floor sessions that ran until 4 a.m. during her early years in the House, and that members were back in their offices three hours later to start another day.

"It was more a process of wearing you down so you'd finally vote for anything," she recalled. "We did some of our own research and handled our own constituent services. There were many times I remember putting in 14- [to] 18-hour days."

Her party briefly had the majority in the House then, and there was only a smattering of women legislators. Now there are more women legislators, but her party is the minor-

ity. She said she hopes to help change that for Coleman.

"I've got too much energy to not be involved with this, and I'll still garden. I love to garden," Tompkins said.

Gardening is another product of her youth. Tompkins was raised on a farm and, she said, gardening came easily to her. As with politics, she attacked gardening with a rare zeal.

Tompkins went to the University of Minnesota to find a solution to a problem with a patch of raspberries she had planted and ended up taking class after class until she became a master gardener.

But, she said, her years as a representative have taught her things she couldn't have learned in a classroom.

"I've learned that everybody has worth," she said. "I've volunteered for Catholic Charities, and I've been to the White House. And I can't tell you there's a big difference between street people and the President of the United States. They all have a human spirit." 🐾

Governor's Desk

CH305-CH337

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills

and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either

14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at: <http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File
Res.=Resolution

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
305	2681	2372*	Hepatitis B immunization required for children.	3/23/98	
306	3524	3016*	Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.	3/23/98	
307	2508	2581*	Olmsted County auditor/treasurer made an appointed position.	3/23/98	
308	2824	2281*	Dakota Co. Housing, Redevelopment Authority employees not county employees w/o co. board consent.	3/23/98	
309	2641	2378*	Corporate professional and professional services definitions expanded.	3/23/98	
310	2665	2316*	Intra-state hazardous material carriers provided continuation of uniform registration, permitting program.	3/23/98	
311	1882	1654*	Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.		3/23/98
312	2686	2269*	Board of Water and Soil Resources hearing and review provisions modified.	3/23/98	
313	2785	2373*	Civil commitment release on provisions modified.	3/23/98	
314	3254	2725*	County recorder and registrar functions provided additional methods.	3/23/98	
315	2315*	2344	Trademarks and service marks regulated.	3/23/98	
316	2401	2207*	Federal drug enforcement administration registration number requirement exemption provided.	3/23/98	
317	2786	2447*	Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, physical therapists, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure requirements modified.	3/23/98	
318	2489*	2381	Ramsey and Washington counties state trail extended.	3/23/98	
319	3355	3032*	Investments of Insurers Act adopted.	3/23/98	
320	2507	3036*	Limited partnership withdrawals regulated.	3/23/98	
321	2706	2068*	Electronic message reliability and certification authorities required.	3/23/98	
322	2920	2911*	Lawful gambling revisions.	3/23/98	
323	2750	2262*	Reinsurance intermediary brokers funds investment authority regulation.	3/23/98	
324	1116	1814*	Board provisions modifications.	3/23/98	
325	2667	2429*	Local government services advisory council membership increase, appointment process clarification.	3/23/98	
326	3644*	3170	Combined school districts extended area telephone service voting requirements modification.	3/23/98	
327	2309*	2136	Financial institutions consumer credit issuance and reporting equal treatment of spouses.	3/23/98	
328	3432	2659*	Life insurance company investments and transactions regulations modified.	3/23/98	

Chapter	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
329	3138	2861*	Emergency medical care automatic external defibrillators use liability immunity.	3/23/98	
330	381	695*	Nonprofit health care trust agreements or transactions regulation.		3/25/98
331	3748	908*	Trust companies regulation provisions modification.	3/25/98	
332	2615	2252*	DWI repeat offenders sentencing to intensive supervision and incarceration.	3/25/98	
333	176	154*	Food donors' liability limit.	3/25/98	
334	2814*	2130	Health plan companies durable medical equipment coverage requirement.	3/25/98	
335	2016	2550*	Financial institutions mail loan solicitations regulation.	3/25/98	
336	1207	330*	Nonprofit corrections treatment facilities liability limit.	3/25/98	
337	3389	2493*	Financial institutions liability immunity for stolen or fraudulent checks information release to criminal alert networks or law enforcement agencies.	3/25/98	

Dimler continued from page 4

"I think it would be great to see more people serve," he said. "It's unfair that some people just don't get the opportunity."

Dimler said that his namesake amendment is not the first thing that comes to mind when he thinks about his legislative accomplishments. He said he is most proud of the work he did on tax classification and agriculture issues.

"We were going through the farm crisis and I think we had a pretty large impact at that time," he said.

Dimler said he is also proud of what he didn't accomplish.

"Sometimes less is more," Dimler said. "My emphasis in the Legislature was to stop legislation. In fact, it's kind of ironic that there's a piece of legislation with my name on it."

Dimler said that he will continue to do what he's been doing for the past 25 years.

"I guess I'll farm a couple of more years," he said. "Then, who knows, maybe I'll come back and run for the Senate." 🐾

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides: committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

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

Graduated licensing continued from page 12

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), would establish a provisional driver's license for 16- and 17-year-olds.

The provisional license-holder would need to go without an at-fault collision and no more than one moving violation for a year to qualify for a full license at 17. The teen applicant also would need to complete 30 hours of driving under the supervision of a licensed driver aged 21 or older.

Under the bill, if the provisional license-holder has two or more violations in 12 months, another 30 hours of supervised driving would be required and the driver would continue under the provisional license.

There would be no provisional license for any license applicant 18 or older.

The version of the bill that went to the House floor contained a proposed curfew that would have forbidden provisional license-holders from driving between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. The midnight to 5 a.m. curfew was removed in a floor amendment.

The earlier version of the bill also would have stipulated that a driver could have no moving violations in a 12-month period in order to apply for a full driver's license. That was amended on the floor to allow one moving violation.

One intent of the original bill was to limit teen driving at night. Although only 20 percent of miles driven by teens is accumulated between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., about half of fatal car accidents involving teen drivers occur during those hours.

A total of 26 states have some form of graduated teen licensing.

The bill (**HF2532/SF2407***) now moves to a House-Senate conference committee.

BWCA rally



Jerry Bahls, of Fridley, lets his canoe paddle do the talking during a rally in the Capitol rotunda March 25. The rally, in support of a bill that would limit motorboat use in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, was sponsored by the Friends of the Boundary Waters.

How a bill becomes law in Minnesota

Idea

1 A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

Introduction

4 The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

General Orders

7 On General Orders, all House or Senate members, acting as the “committee of the whole,” have a chance to debate the issue, offer amendments, and present arguments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. Members’ votes on General Orders are usually not recorded unless there is a specific request to do so. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

Conference

10 If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker of the House appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

Legal form

2 The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor’s office is responsible for assuring that the proposal’s form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

Committee

5 The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

Calendar

8 The Calendar is a list of bills the full House and full Senate vote on. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*. The bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Here, representatives and senators vote on the bill for the last time. A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.

Floor

11 After the full House, or Senate, accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading*. From here, the bill is usually placed on the House and Senate agendas called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that a local or non-controversial bill bypass General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar where it usually passes without debate.)

Authors

3 Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill’s file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to four co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

Floor

6 After the full House, or Senate, accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading*. From here, the bill is usually placed on the House and Senate agendas called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that a local or non-controversial bill bypass General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar where it usually passes without debate.)

Special Orders

9 Toward the end of the session, the rules committees of the House and Senate designate bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day. The House also has a Rule 1.10 calendar which allows the chairs of the Taxes and Appropriations committees to call up for consideration any tax or appropriations bill that has had a second reading. These Rule 1.10 bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

Governor

12 Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor’s veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may “line-item veto” parts of a money bill, or “pocket veto” a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1998 Members

List as of January 28, 1998

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934	37B	Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063	40A	Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	575	2190	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
10B	Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219	55B	McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
53B	Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	287	8872
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336
47B	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262
52A	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331	7A	Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
23A	Clark, James (R)	211	9303	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344
38A	Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293	2B	Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808	60B	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
51A	Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	545	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	247	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199
67A	Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	583	6828
63B	Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	417	5375	46A	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515	28A	Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368
62A	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240	18A	Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	517	5377
12A	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308	50A	Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439
56A	Holsten, Mark (R)	345	3018	4A	Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807
58B	Jefferson, Richard (DFL)	577	8659	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	591	0518	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	445	2365
48B	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	267	2273
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	389	4315
35B	Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534	5B	Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	593	0172
4B	Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)	537	2451	36A	Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506
40B	Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218	67B	Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	207	6316	25A	Tuma, John (R)	301	4229
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231	1A	Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
27A	Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216	34B	Van Dellen, Todd (R)	291	5511
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	303	2907	51B	Vandever, Ray (R)	255	4124
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378	49A	Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729
56B	Larsen, Peg (R)	307	4244	61B	Wejzman, Linda (DFL)	407	7152
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	527	4193	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	393	7026	9B	Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	225	6829
2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	515	5091	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929
33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505
60A	Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185
47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1998 Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537	8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	124G Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind.)	G-51 SOB	5094	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	149 SOB	2084	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	7-8061
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	117 SOB	3826	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	151 SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
46 Junge, Ember Reichgott (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	127 SOB	2159			

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List as of January 28, 1998

Early Minnesotans sought university of their own

It's a fact!

The University of Minnesota, which will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2001, is actually older than the state of Minnesota.

The U of M was founded in 1851. Minnesota had just become a territory two years earlier and would not become a state until 1858.

The now-enormous school, which has facilities in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Morris, and Crookston and is home to tens of thousands of students, was begun at the urging of Minnesota's first territorial governor, Alexander Ramsey.

Ramsey called for the creation of the university in his second message to the Territorial Legislature.

He and other settlers wanted to make sure youths in the area wouldn't have to leave the area to seek higher education. They also wanted something to fill the lives

of the state's young people, and they believed in having an educated citizenry.

A St. Paul businessman named William G. Le Duc helped lead the charge. He wanted Fort Snelling transformed into a university, and he circulated petitions to that effect.

The petitions reached Ramsey, and although the governor didn't endorse the conversion of Fort Snelling, he did support the concept of a territorial university.

Rep. John North, of St. Anthony, then chair of the House Committee on Schools in the Territorial Legislature, pointed out that Harvard had been founded at the Massachusetts Bay Colony when it had only half as many people as Minnesota had in 1851.

There was broad agreement that there should be a university; the question was

where to put it. While the bill was in the House, Rep. Martin McLeod introduced an amendment to locate the university in St. Anthony Falls.

Soon after that, both houses of the Legislature elected a Board of Regents. One of those regents, Franklin Steele, happened to own a tract of land in St. Anthony Falls, and he offered to donate it for the university's first building. It was a two-story building for algebra, geometry, physiology, and languages.

Not long after, Steele decided to use the land for commercial purposes, so he took it back. The regents decided to move the campus to a spot about one mile away, which is the present site in Minneapolis. The land had earlier been deeded for the university by the U.S. Congress. The university paid \$49,000 to erect the first building on its current campus.

1998 House membership statistics

Member information

House members:	134
DFL members:	70
Republican members:	64
Men:	94
Women:	40 (29.8 percent of House members)
DFL women:	26
Republican women:	14
Newly elected members:	4
DFLer (1997):	1
Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba	11B
Republicans (1998):	3
Rep. James T. Clark	23A
Rep. Sondra Erickson	17A
Rep. Ray Vandever	51B
Members deceased:	2
Rep. Ken Otremba	11B
Rep. Barb Vickerman	23A
Member appointed to a commission:	1
Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer	17A
Member appointed to a district judgeship:	1
Rep. Doug Swenson	51B

Member occupations

Education	24
Business	20
Law	17
Lawmaking (full-time)	18
Farming	10
Consulting	6
Homemaking	5
Communications	4
Government	3
Insurance	3
Real Estate	3
Retired	3
Retail	2
Trades	2
Public Safety	2
Accounting	1
Medicine	1
Art	1
Religion	1
Social Services	1
Other	7

In the Hopper . . .
March 20 - 26

Bill Introductions

HF3853-HF3858

Friday, March 20

HF3853—Tunheim (DFL)
Ways & Means
Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau counties; temporary emergency federal crop insurance premium assistance program established, and money appropriated.

Monday, March 23

HF3854—Anderson, I. (DFL)
House Floor
Ontario; United States government memorialized to resolve differences between the province of Ontario and the state of Minnesota regarding Canadian waters and the taking of fish.

Thursday, March 26

HF3855—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture
Agricultural cooperative competition with members limited, and exception provided.

HF3856—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Wilderness areas created in Rice, Winona, and Houston counties, and motorized equipment prohibited.

HF3857—Van Dellen (R)
Judiciary
Women not employed and with one or more children not attending school provided jury duty exemption.

HF3858—Seifert (R)
Education
Criminal background checks provided for teacher license and coach contract renewals, and license issuance or renewal prohibited for persons convicted of criminal sexual conduct.

Coming Up Next Week . . . March 30 - April 3, 1998

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, March 30

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

1/2 Hour After Last Body
Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Capital Investment
Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388
123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis
Sen. Keith Langseth

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Data Privacy Bill
SF1378/HF1626
316 State Capitol
Chrs. Sen Don Betzold
Rep. Mary Jo McGuire

TUESDAY, March 31

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

REGULATED INDUSTRIES
& ENERGY
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: Informal hearing regarding the 612 area code assignment.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

1/2 Hour After Last Body
Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Capital Investment
Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388
123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis
Sen. Keith Langseth

WEDNESDAY, April 1

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

1/2 Hour After Last Body
Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Capital Investment
Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388
123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis
Sen. Keith Langseth

THURSDAY, April 2

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

1/2 Hour After Last Body
Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Capital Investment
Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388
123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis
Sen. Keith Langseth

FRIDAY, April 3

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985
15 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dee Long
Sen. Douglas Johnson

1/2 Hour After Last Body
Adjourns

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Omnibus Capital Investment
Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388
123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis
Sen. Keith Langseth

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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Health and health care in Minnesota

Heart disease deaths per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	225.2
in U.S.	280.7
Cancer deaths per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	188.6
in U.S.	204.9
Stroke deaths per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	67.8
in U.S.	60.1
Smokers among adult population in Minnesota (as percent), 1995	21.6
in U.S.	22.3
Reported AIDS cases per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1996	6.5
in U.S.	25.6
Hospital admissions per 1,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	113.0
in U.S.	126.6
Hospital outpatient visits per 1,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	1,377.3
in U.S.	1,838.0
Emergency room visits per 1,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	261.2
in U.S.	380.0
Health care employment (as percent of total jobs in Minnesota), 1996	8.0
in U.S.	7.9
Physician generalists per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	47
in U.S.	28
Physical specialists per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	182
in U.S.	200
Registered nurses per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1996	945
in U.S.	798
Hospital beds per 100,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	449.7
in U.S.	411.0
Live births per 1,000 population in Minnesota, 1995	13.6
Births to unmarried women as percent of all births	23.7
Percent of state population not covered by health insurance, 1995	8
Percent of Minnesota population enrolled in HMOs, 1996	28.6
Percent of adults who are overweight, 1995	28.4
States with a higher percentage of adults who are overweight	22
Minnesotans' 1993 personal health care expenditures, in billions	\$14.19
Per capita expenditures	\$3,137

Sources: *Reforming the Health Care System: State Profiles 1997*, American Association of Retired Persons and *Minnesota Health Care in Perspective 1997: Health Care in the North Star State*, Morgan Quitno Press.

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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

Once again in less than a year, disaster has disrupted the order of things. In the closing weeks of the 80th Legislative Session, the Legislature is presently debating decisions on how to construct surplus revenue proposals that will not impose a governor's veto. Now, they must consider providing emergency funds for the most recent tragedy in and around St. Peter, Minn.

Natural phenomena like floods, droughts, forest fires, and tornadoes are never expected. Every time they occur on a large or small scale, they wreak havoc and disrupt the well-being of all those who directly experience them.

In April 1997, the flooding of the Red River caused billions of dollars of damage in western Minnesota. The March 1998 tornadoes destroyed century-old public buildings and homes that can never be replaced. These are not the only disasters that lawmakers have taken on to help provide relief.

Disaster struck "when in 1873, a severe blizzard left 70 settlers dead, an uncounted number injured, and thousands of farm animals destroyed." The Legislature provided \$5,000 for medical, surgical, and other aid. Such was not the case back in 1871 when farmers barely survived after their crops were ruined by hailstorms and prairie fires. Gov. Horace Austin called for private contributions for the needy, but this failed, so he called on the state to help. The Legislature refused, but did offer seed grain.

Another tragic phenomenon in Cottonwood County from 1873 to 1878 was the arrival each year of the Rocky Mountain locusts that ate most of the crops. Locust or "locus ustus" means "burnt place" in Latin. This describes exactly what the "despicable" insects left behind. Grasshoppers, as the farmers called them, appeared "as a large black cloud . . . from which came an ominous sound." They ate thousands of acres of grain and grasses, and other plants were stripped to nothing but stubble. It was former Gov. Henry Sibley, then president of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, who rallied volunteers to financially help. Later, Gov. Cushman Davis was able to get state help with direct relief.

One of the worst disasters of all was the Great Hinckley Fire of 1894, when over 418 people lost their lives in fires that engulfed many towns and land in east central Minnesota. While 248 individuals perished just in Hinckley, so did Chief Wacouta and 23 of his Chippewa men who were on a hunting trip. Relief came in from around the country, and true to its nature, the Minnesota Legislature, through Gov. Knute Nelson provided contributions and supplies for those who survived.

As life goes on, disasters that affect the lives of Minnesotans will continue to occur. Lawmakers may well make the cliché, "a rainy day fund," an ongoing reality.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: A raindrop reflects the Capitol.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Relief efforts under way . . .

Spring tornadoes ravage south-central Minnesota

By Jim Thielman

A string of rare spring tornadoes that hit four Minnesota counties with winds approaching 200 mph left lawmakers scrambling as the end of the legislative session approaches.

The tornadoes that killed two March 29 also collapsed barns, shredded homes, toppled trees, downed power lines, and prompted a statewide effort to provide aid.

Gov. Arne Carlson said a preliminary damage assessment and aid bill was expected in the first few days of April. He said a one-day special session could be called later this year if issues beyond the emergency funds need to be addressed.

The regular legislative session is expected to wrap up around Easter.

Carlson pledged swift state aid to the area and asked President Clinton to declare the affected counties a federal disaster area.

President Clinton on April 1 declared Brown, Le Sueur, Nicollet, and Rice counties major disaster areas. The declaration frees up federal money for recovery efforts by residents, businesses, and local governments.

Measures moving through the House and Senate also would provide aid.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said the House and Senate "try to create a situation in our annual budget where we do have a reserve for these situations," and added this year the state is in very good financial shape to deal with the disaster.

The state currently enjoys a forecast budget surplus of \$1.9 billion.

Officials and residents of the tornado-stricken areas have been invited to testify via interactive television before the House Ways and Means Committee April 6.

"We want to hear directly from people in affected communities as we work on a tornado relief proposal," Carruthers said. "But we don't want to take them away from their important tasks. By using the House interactive television system, we can, in effect, bring the committee hearing to them."

Two-way television links will be established at three sites for the hearing.

Almost immediately, three House bills were introduced pertaining to damage the insurance industry estimates to exceed the \$120 million insurers paid during the Red River flooding of 1997. (Tornado damage is covered under most home insurance policies, which



Peter Langsjoen walks through what's left of his parents' tornado-damaged home on North Fourth Street in St. Peter, Minn., March 30.

usually do not provide coverage for flood damage.)

HF3863, sponsored by Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), would make an unspecified appropriation from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety to be used as a state match to any federal funds related to the tornado damage. If it is determined any of the appropriation is not needed by Sept. 1, 1998, the unused funds would be returned to the general fund.

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) said it is possible an omnibus disaster bill could be assembled that would include grain farmers in northwestern Minnesota who have suffered significant crop loss in recent years because of a plant disease called wheat scab.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) introduced **HF3865**, which would direct the commissioner of revenue to make immediate payments of homestead and agricultural credit aid and local government aid to the areas that have suffered financial hardship because of the disaster. The payments would otherwise be made July 20, 1998.

Additional financial relief could come under **HF3868**, sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen). Workman said there is typically a minimum 17-percent tax on solid waste disposal, and his bill would allow the

commissioner of revenue to waive that tax for construction debris generated from demolition and repair in the counties designated a disaster area because of the storm.

"It's pretty simple," Workman said. "The bill just says let's not have the state collect unnecessary tax revenue from a disaster."

Income tax filing extensions for those affected by the tornado are also being considered.

The day after the tornado struck, three officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) traveled to the stricken area to inspect damages, as did representatives of state agencies.

The disaster was particularly surprising in that of the roughly 1,000 tornadoes Minnesota has recorded in the past 50 years, only four had previously occurred in March.

A six-year-old boy and an 85-year-old man died as a result of injuries from the March tornadoes, and another 38 people were injured, three critically.

The historic river city of St. Peter was the largest town hit by the tornado, as winds reached 200 mph over a 140-mile long stretch in south-central Minnesota. (See photo story on pages 16-17.) A tornado with winds of 260 mph is the highest on the Fujita-Pearson Tornado Intensity Scale.

About 90 percent of the homes in St. Peter

were damaged or destroyed. The 137-foot steeple atop Christ Chapel at St. Peter's Gustavus Adolphus College crumpled to the ground, and most trees were uprooted on the quaint campus that sits on a wooded hill.

"But the good news," said Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter), "is the cross atop the steeple is fine, and the stained glass window was not broken."

Further good news was that most of Gustavus' 2,350 students were on spring break when the storm swept through.

Johnson categorized the mood of the town as "shocked fortitude."

"I was in East Berlin in the '60s before some of the areas of the town that were bombed out in World War II were cleaned up, and it looks a lot like that," she said.

But, she said, a command center set up in the basement of 116-year-old Nicollet County Courthouse — one of 13 buildings in the town listed on the National Register of Historic Places — was operating effectively.

"Our local city officials have been running a command center like clockwork," she said. "There has been good patrolling of the city and the work of cleaning up is going well. I've seen badges on people who are helping from all over the state."

A team from the Minnesota Historical Society toured St. Peter and concluded damaged historical buildings still have structural integrity. There is optimism they can be restored.

Johnson said just days after the storm most of the debris had been cleared.

"Things looked better, but with all the trees and debris cleared out of there you could see more clearly how much damage had been done to the houses and businesses," she said.

Johnson also said she hopes the April 6 two-way television hearing, "will help expedite the process of getting help to our region."

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), chair of the Ways and Means Committee, said legislators want to hear about the extent of the damage and the specific needs of the affected communities.

"We know we won't have a complete picture, but it's important for committee members to hear about the situation as we proceed with a bill," he said.

Links for the hearing will be established in South Central Technical College in North Mankato and at Worthington Community College.

The Minnesota Public Safety Department's Division of Emergency Management has set up a toll-free number for people willing to volunteer or make donations. The number is 1-800-657-3504. 🐼



By Matt Wetzel

Former Rep. Todd Otis always had a passion for public service.

It was why he joined the Peace Corps, why he ran for the Legislature and served for six terms, why he made three unsuccessful runs for statewide offices, and why he now works as a public affairs consultant helping people deal with public issues.

Otis served in the House from 1979 to 1990, and his career of public service was almost inevitable. His father, James C. Otis, was an associate justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court from 1961 to 1982, his brother was in the Peace Corps in Thailand, and his grandfather was on the St. Paul City Council.

"I was raised in a family that was very public service-oriented. I grew up with a lot of political discussion and also a feeling of community service," Otis said.

Politics and public service were always discussed at the dinner table while Otis was growing up. Those discussions and President John F. Kennedy's call to the nation's youth for service in the 1960s inspired Otis to join the Peace Corps in 1967 after he graduated from Harvard University.

He was assigned to Senegal, a country in Africa, and worked in a small town called Linguere, where he taught English and helped with community development. He likened his service in the Peace Corps to his service some 10 years later in the Legislature.

"I was so impressed with my colleagues in the Legislature and my co-workers in the Peace Corps. They were bright, public-spirited, very concerned. It was the diversity and shared experience," he said.

After he returned from Africa in 1969, Otis went to Columbia University in New York to obtain a master's degree in journalism. He returned to Minnesota in 1970 to work in community relations for Dayton Hudson Corp. and later for First Bank.

He married his present wife Jane, in 1977, then went to work as a lobbyist for the National Federation of Industrial Business. In 1978, Gov. Arne Carlson, then a Republican legislator from Otis' district in south Minneapolis decided to run for state auditor. Otis sought the DFL endorsement for that House seat, received it, and won the election.

Otis stays in public service mode, calls House 'a great place to be'

"I was elected at a time when we had an energy crisis going, and we were in touch with those issues," he said. His chief concerns were energy, education, and economic development.

Otis, who now lives in St. Louis Park with his wife and two children, was born and grew up in the Macalester-Groveland area of St. Paul, graduating from St. Paul Academy.

Since leaving the House, Otis has mounted runs for U.S. Senate, governor, and state auditor. He also has served as state chairman of the DFL. He said he does not see himself running for statewide office again.



Former Rep. Todd Otis' career has taken him from a village in Africa to the Minnesota Capitol.

He started his consulting business in 1994, and then in the summer of 1995, he met the nightmare that every parent fears. His 22-year-old son, Philip, was working as a volunteer conservationist at Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington that summer. In August, while trying to rescue an injured climber, Philip slipped and fell off a cliff and was killed.

"It changes your life forever. You never get around it, but you try to integrate it into your life and you do accept it," he said.

His minister urged him to take something positive out of the horrible situation, and Otis did that. Philip was a passionate environmentalist, and one aspect of Otis' business is working on environmental issues. Otis said he thinks of his son when doing that work.

"His whole spirit, his big signature was his smile. If you don't believe in some form of God, or that we're connected to each other, I don't know how you can cope with this kind of reality. It's one of the most important things in my reality," he said.

Highlights



CHILDREN

Children's endowment fund

Minnesota voters would decide whether to create a constitutionally protected children's endowment fund, under a bill the House passed March 31. The vote was 68-62.

"It's a vision of making Minnesota the best it can be, starting with its youngest citizens," said Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), sponsor of the bill.

The bill (HF3167/SF2775*) would submit the following amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to create a permanent endowment fund to enhance the development of young children through the age of four?"

Research indicates the portions of the brain that control language, emotions, and logical reasoning develop before a child heads off to kindergarten, Slawik said. The fund would be used to supplement spending on activities that heighten awareness of the importance of early brain stimulation and further research into early childhood development.

A number of states have trust funds for children, Slawik said, including California, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington. However, those funds are not constitutionally protected.

The latest annual report by the Children's Defense Fund indicates that the rates of teen pregnancies and violent juvenile crime are on the rise, Slawik said.

"If you want to stem the increase of crime, curb special education costs, and stop remedial education costs . . . you start with children," said Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), who chairs the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

"We can help now, or we can pay later," Slawik said.

The exact source of funding for the children's endowment would not be decided until the 1999 Legislative Session, if the amendment is successful at the polls.

Potential sources of initial funds for the endowment include surplus dollars in state coffers, a portion of any proceeds from the state's tobacco lawsuit, and tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Proponents compared the idea to the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund — supported by state lottery revenue — that was established by a constitutional amendment in 1988.

"We did it for the animals. We did it for the fish. We should be doing it for children," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) argued that the environmental fund is different because voters knew beforehand exactly how that fund would be structured and financed.

The lack of a predetermined revenue source for the children's fund led to a debate on the House floor.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the bill potentially could amount to "a billion dollar tax increase."

Critics repeatedly asked Slawik about how the state would pay for the children's fund.

"I hope you're going to show us the money," Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said. "If you really want to help children, get out of mom and dad's wallet."

The issue is expected to go to a House-Senate conference committee because the version of the bill the Senate passed March 18 differs significantly from the House version.

The Senate bill would rename the state permanent school trust fund as the "children's endowment fund." The school trust fund, which currently is managed by the Department of Natural Resources, is supported by income from timber sales and state land leases. Proceeds are divided annually among school districts across the state. Under the Senate bill, money from the school trust fund would instead be earmarked for activities that support the development of children through age six.



CRIME

Omnibus crime prevention bill

A slightly altered omnibus crime prevention bill (SF3345) is on its way to the governor's desk. The full House accepted the conference committee's adjustments and gave the bill final passage April 1. The vote was 89-40.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), contains most of the major crime initiatives and public safety funding for this session.

Several provisions in the earlier House bill

did not make it into the conference committee's final version. The so-called "three strikes" provision, backed by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), was one such casualty of conference committee.

This provision would have required life imprisonment for criminals convicted of three violent felony-level crimes. The provision also included language for judicial discretion in applying the new sentence requirements.

Another section left out of the conference committee's bill would have opened some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public.

For juveniles under 14 years old, the provision would have made court records available to the public if the juvenile is found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense. For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the provision would have opened all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense. The records would have been closed to the public when the juvenile turns 21.

Here are some highlights of the omnibus crime prevention bill.

Getting tough

The omnibus crime prevention bill includes several provisions aimed at lengthening penalties for certain crimes.

The bill also would increase penalties for felons convicted of violent offenses who are found illegally in possession of a firearm. Currently, the mandatory minimum prison sentence is 18 months; the bill would increase the mandatory minimum to five years.

Another provision in the bill increases penalties generally for soliciting a prostitute or receiving profit from prostitution. This provision also increases the penalties for engaging in prostitution in a school zone.

Charging burglars

A provision of the omnibus crime bill would make it easier to prosecute people who illegally enter a property by expanding the definition of burglary to include accomplices.

Prosecutors said the new language would make the law more explicit and allow them to bring charges against anyone who illegally enters a dwelling, even if they don't actually break in or steal something.

Prosecuting gangs

Prosecutors also told legislators that they are having difficulties bringing gang members to trial and making the penalties stick. Several provisions in the omnibus crime bill seek to address such concerns.

One provision would expand a current law that provides increased penalties for crimes done for the benefit of a gang to include crimes motivated by "involvement with" a gang. This provision also increases these enhanced penalties.

The bill would increase penalties for witness tampering and would add witness tampering to the list of crimes that can receive enhanced penalties if done for the benefit of a gang.

The bill also seeks to get people to show up for court, both offenders and witnesses. One provision would increase the penalty for failure to appear in court if charged with a felony level crime.

Another provision would increase penalties for individuals who knowingly and willingly defy a court subpoena to appear in relation to a violent crime.

Fighting drugs

The omnibus bill would increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine. Law enforcement officials said that Minnesota is seeing a dramatic increase in use of the drug.

The bill would raise the drug to the same status as cocaine and heroin and would make the manufacture of any amount of methamphetamine a first-degree controlled substance offense.

The bill also makes the drug ephedrine a controlled substance, to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances. The targeted over-the-counter products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teenagers and others looking to achieve a legal high.

Drive-by shootings

A provision in the omnibus bill makes murder committed during a drive-by shooting a first-degree murder crime, increasing the prison sentence for the offense.

The crime bill would also raise the maximum penalty from a five-year prison term to a 10-year term for firing into an occupied vehicle.

Murder-kidnapping

Another provision in the bill would classify murder committed in the course of a kidnapping a heinous crime. A person convicted of such a crime could be sentenced to life without parole, Minnesota's toughest sentence.

Protecting police officers

Several provisions in the bill seek to make it easier and safer for police officers to do their job.

One such provision comes as a result of an incident where two Richfield police officers were accused of sexual assault. Although the allegations were proven false, the incident greatly disrupted the criminal justice process, not to mention the lives of the two officers involved.

The provision would make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties. This provision would also add police officers to a list of judicial officials who are protected from retaliatory harassment under current law.

Another provision would authorize officers to conduct pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.

Under current law, pat-down searches can be performed only on adult offenders. Proponents of the change argued that police officers need to be protected from juveniles, as well as adults, carrying concealed weapons.

Financing justice

The bill contains \$7.9 million in supplemental appropriations, a majority of which would go to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the state courts.

Of the total amount, \$3 million would be recouped in revenue from increased criminal justice fees and criminal fines.

The Department of Corrections would receive \$2.1 million, much of which would go to reducing the caseload for probation officers. Grant programs which fund community corrections would also be funded through these dollars.

The Department of Public Safety would be appropriated \$1.6 million. Of these funds, the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman would receive \$300,000 to fund its services; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension would receive \$133,000 to add forensic scientists to its crime lab; and the department would get \$750,000 for law enforcement and community crime prevention grants.

The state fire marshal would receive \$170,000 of public safety money for the creation of an arson data system. The database would contain only basic information at the state level but would provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases of arson.

The bill would appropriate \$1.1 million to the state courts for law clerk salaries. The state public defender would receive \$1 million for defense attorney salaries. Another \$375,000

would be given to Legal Aid to provide legal service to low-income individuals.



DWI

Legal blood-alcohol limit

With surprising speed and hardly any debate, the House passed a bill April 2 that would lower Minnesota's legal blood-alcohol concentration limit. The vote was 79-46.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would lower the per se blood-alcohol concentration limit from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent.

The bill (HF2389/SF2099*) now goes to conference committee where lawmakers will attempt to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

The Senate bill would apply the lower 0.08 percent limit only to repeat DWI offenders. The 0.10 percent limit would remain the limit for all other drivers.

Proponents of the lower standard for all drivers argue that the new standard is reasonable and that it will result in a reduction in Minnesota's DWI-related traffic fatalities.

The average male would have to drink four standard drinks in an hour and the average female would have to drink three standard drinks in an hour to reach that level, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

Opponents contend that the new standard would unfairly target social drinkers and take valuable resources from the real problem, repeat DWI offenders.

Repeat DWI offenders



Effective March 26, 1998, a new law authorizes state courts to sentence repeat DWI offenders to an intensive probation program in place of mandatory jail sentences. Gov. Arne Carlson signed the measure March 25.

Intensive probation programs seek to provide alternative sentencing for those DWI offenders considered to be of high risk to the community.

These programs require a period of incarceration in a treatment facility followed by supervised home detention. Offenders are prohibited from using alcohol or drugs and are frequently tested for use throughout the probation. Offenders are also required to pay a substantial portion of program costs.

The Department of Corrections has a grant program in place to assist counties interested

in establishing intensive probation programs. Correction officials said that they received requests from 13 counties this year.

Officials from Dakota County said that an evaluation of their intensive probation program showed a recidivism rate of 11 percent. They said the rate for those incarcerated without the program was 43 percent.

The officials said it is difficult to get a repeat offender into the program voluntarily after he or she has already done jail time.

Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the legislation.

HF2615/SF2252*/CH332



ELECTIONS

Updating voter lists



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill March 31 that aimed to make it easier for people who move to new homes to update their voter registration information.

The bill would have authorized the Office of the Secretary of State to get names and addresses of people who have given the U.S. Postal Service a change-of-address card.

The bill called for the secretary of state to then send the information to the appropriate county auditor and for the auditor to confirm the voter's new address by mail.

In his veto message, the governor said he vetoed similar legislation in 1997 and that he still has the same concerns. He then listed those concerns as follows: "1) Where a person receives their mail is not necessarily always where they reside and vote; 2) Establishing the residence of thousands of potential voters is a culmination of many factors that may not always be reflected by an automatic process for registration; and 3) The unintended outcome of this process may actually be more confusion on the part of the electorate," he wrote.

Carlson said any change in election law is too important and should have bipartisan support. The bill passed 71-61 in the House and 46-14 in the Senate.

"Even if my concerns were entirely satisfied, I could not support any changes to our election laws when only three Republican members in the House of Representatives, and relatively few in the Senate, supported the bill. Changes such as those proposed in this bill should have at least modest bipartisan support before becoming law," he wrote.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the bill.

HF2387/SF2149*/CH346

Open absentee balloting



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill March 31 that would have extended Ramsey County's open absentee ballot program.

In his veto message, Carlson questioned the need for its continuation.

"The project has been in existence since 1991," he wrote. "At what point do we bring a *pilot* project to an end? What information, other than what has already been gathered, does the county hope to obtain? And what does the county intend to do when the project expires in two years? We know what the benefits and drawbacks of this program are — it's time to end it and take up the larger debate of applying it to all citizens of the state."

In 1991, Anoka, Hennepin, Polk, and Ramsey counties entered into a pilot project for open absentee balloting. The 1994 Legislature extended the pilot project in Ramsey County until this year.

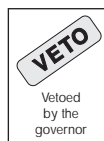
Under the pilot project, people don't need a reason to vote absentee, they just need to apply in writing at their county auditor's office. (State law dictates that people who want to vote by absentee ballot must have an acceptable reason, such as absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.)

An absentee ballot is mailed or given to the voter, who fills it out like a regular ballot and mails it to the county auditor's office. The ballots are held until election day, then counted with the rest of the ballots.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the bill.

HF2567/HF2221*/CH347

Absentee ballots with 'reason'



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill April 2 that would have allowed voters to use an absentee ballot for any reason.

Current law lists a number of acceptable reasons for voting by an absentee ballot. The reasons include absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or election judge service in another precinct.

The bill would have stricken that language in current law and required only that voters

list their reason for needing an absentee ballot on their application.

In his veto message, Carlson said he was concerned about the party-line vote on the bill.

"Significant changes to election laws such as those proposed in this bill are too important to be entirely one-sided and lacking in bipartisanship," Carlson wrote.

The bill was widely opposed by Republican legislators.

"Changes should have at least modest support from both sides of the aisle before being signed into law, and certainly not the vociferous opposition that accompanied this and other election law bills," Carlson wrote.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the bill.

HF2526/SF2148*/CH352



EMPLOYMENT

Essential employee status

Emergency dispatchers would become essential employees and lose the right to strike, under a bill the House passed March 30. The vote was 77-50.

Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) is sponsoring the legislation, which he said is necessary because a strike by dispatchers could threaten public safety.

Under the bill, police, fire, and 911 dispatchers would join law enforcement personnel, health care workers, prison guards, and others who are considered essential employees.

Under that status, workers give up the right to strike, but they can still request arbitration in a labor dispute.

The Minnesota Sheriff's Association, Minnesota Professional Firefighters Association, Law Enforcement Labor Services, and several 911 dispatchers testified in support of the bill at an earlier hearing before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Because the proposal was supported by employees, employers, and the union, many lawmakers said they would support it at that time.

But Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) urged his colleagues to oppose the bill, which he said could lead to more employees losing their right to collectively bargain.

"It is at times essential for people to go on strike and walk the picket line so that their fellow workers can benefit," he said.

The League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties also opposed the bill.

On the House floor, Rukavina offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have required employers who offer workers anti-union information during work hours to also offer equal time to union organizers.

"This is a matter of equal time," Rukavina said. "It doesn't hurt any employer who is a good employer — and I believe most of them are."

Lawmakers who said they are wary of imposing any new restrictions or mandates on employers defeated the amendment.

The bill (HF1693/SF1074*) now goes to the governor.

Hibbing workers' benefits

About 20 workers temporarily laid off from the Hibbing Taconite Co. in St. Louis County would receive extended re-employment benefits under a bill the House passed March 30. The vote was 74-52.

The workers were laid off between July and September 1997 because of lack of work. The company says it expects to have them back to work by the end of May, but the employees' regular unemployment benefits ran out over the winter.

HF3465, sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), would allow the Hibbing workers to receive up to 13 additional weeks of benefits.

Current law grants those additional benefits to workers who are affected by a large, permanent layoff in a county with a high unemployment rate.

Tomassoni's bill would exempt the Hibbing workers from three requirements: that the layoff be of a certain size, that it be permanent, and that it occur in a county where the unemployment rate is more than 10 percent. The workers would still have to meet requirements specifying that they be otherwise eligible for unemployment and that they have exhausted all other rights to benefits.

Tomassoni said the average benefit of the affected workers is \$331 per month, and the total extra benefits would be about \$128,000. He also said that the company, since it is still in business, would end up paying for most of that amount in tax.

Workplace breast-feeding

The House gave final passage to a bill April 2 that would require employers to make "reasonable efforts" to provide adequate private space and unpaid breaks for new mothers to pump breast milk. The vote was 106-23.

The bill (HF3459/SF2751*) had gone to a

conference committee after the House added a provision specifying that businesses could not be held liable if reasonable efforts to comply with the potential law had been made.

The Senate bill did not contain such language, but the provision was approved by the conference committee and remains in the final bill.

The bill would require employers to provide "a room or other location, in close proximity to the work area, other than a toilet stall," where a woman could privately pump breast milk.

Under the bill, the break times would run concurrently with any other provided breaks. Employers would not have to provide the breaks if doing so would "unduly disrupt the operations of the employer."

The bill also contains a provision that clarifies that breast-feeding would not be considered indecent exposure under the law.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), now goes to the governor.



ENVIRONMENT

Personal watercraft operation

A bill that aims to regulate personal watercraft operation on Minnesota lakes was approved by the House April 1. The vote was 75-52.

"It would provide people with some relief and still allow for courteous operation of personal watercraft," said Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), sponsor of the bill.

The bill would reduce the hours for legal operation of personal watercraft, expand the no-wake zone on all lakes, and set up procedures for citizens to lodge civil complaints against personal watercraft operators who violate the law.

The April 1 debate was the third time the bill had come up on the House floor in two weeks. In the face of opposition to her proposal, Hasskamp had twice delayed a vote to allow time for changes meant to appease critics.

Under the bill, personal watercraft operation would be permitted only between 9:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. or one hour before sunset, whichever is earlier. Current law allows personal watercraft use between 8 a.m. and sunset.

The bill would add another 50 feet to the no-wake zone, making it illegal to operate a personal watercraft at full speed within 150 feet of shoreline, docks, swimmers, or other boats. However, it still would be permissible to pull water-skiers behind personal watercraft.

Another provision would prohibit "tricksters," as Hasskamp referred to them, from operating personal watercraft while facing backwards.

The provision that drew the most criticism would allow individuals to lodge citizen complaints with law enforcement representatives against operators who violate personal watercraft laws. Such a complaint would have to include a sworn statement or a videotape. Peace officers could then, in turn, issue a civil citation to the personal watercraft owner.

The citizen reporting measure was designed around language in current littering and trespassing laws, Hasskamp said.

"I believe if we can provide the citizens with some sense of justice — access to law enforcement — then we can say we've done something significant this year," she said during floor debate March 31.

Critics objected to the citizen citation clause because of the potential for frivolous complaints.

"If the individual were frivolously bringing [the complaint] forth, they could be guilty of perjury," Hasskamp said.

"If you don't think perjury is serious, you just have to talk to Monica Lewinsky," said Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield).

The bill (HF1351/SF1169*) now heads to a House-Senate conference committee because, among other differences, the Senate version of the personal watercraft bill does not contain a citizen complaint clause.

Lottery revenue dedication



A new law effective Aug. 1, 1998, will allow voters to extend the duration of the dedication of state lottery revenue to the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Under the law, voters in the 1998 general election will decide the following question: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to extend to the year 2025 the dedication of lottery proceeds to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund and to maximize the long-term total to the fund?"

The fund was established by a constitutional amendment in 1988. At the time, the state was allowed to earmark 50 percent of the lottery proceeds for the environmental fund.

A second constitutional amendment in 1990 reduced to 40 percent the portion dedicated to the environmental fund. That dedication expires in 2001.

The amount appropriated each year of a biennium under the constitutional amend-

ment could be up to 5.5 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year preceding the start of the biennium.

The fund's current value is about \$210 million. About \$22 million was dedicated for projects in the current biennium.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. Steven Morse (DFL-Dakota) sponsored the new measure. Gov. Arne Carlson signed it into law March 27.

HF113*/SF76/CH342



FAMILY

Family, early childhood bill

Minnesota's families would receive \$14.9 million in state dollars under the omnibus family and early childhood education spending bill that won final passage in the House April 1. The vote was 81-47.

The bill (**HF2803/SF2532***), sponsored by Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), would appropriate money for programs such as Head Start and Early Childhood Family Education, fuel assistance, and drug and violence prevention programs.

The bill now goes to the governor.

Here's a look at some of the major provisions that were agreed upon by a House-Senate conference committee.

Child care assistance

The bill would appropriate \$5 million for a program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. Another 1,700 families who are on a waiting list for the Basic Sliding Fee program could be covered, Kinkel said. Also, a portion of the money would ensure that parents who are on a welfare-to-work path continue to receive child care assistance.

Under the bill, an additional 17,000 families could qualify for the Minnesota dependent care tax credit program. The bill would raise the maximum income threshold from \$31,000 to \$38,000 at a cost of \$4.9 million to the state. The average dependent care tax credit is \$317 per year.

Investing in the family

A proposal that would allow low-income families to contribute money to a "family asset account" and receive matching dollars from the state or a private organization would receive \$775,000.

The family assets for independence initiative was the top-ranked program to be approved by the Family and Early Childhood

Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, Kinkel said.

To qualify, a family must have an income level at 200 percent of the federal poverty level or less (or \$26,700 for a family of three) and assets of \$25,000 or less.

The matching funds would be kept in a separate account, and the family would not get the money until they have finished an economic literacy course and achieved their goals for one of three approved purposes — buying a home, paying for an education, or starting a business.

Other states are considering similar programs and similar legislation is pending in Congress.

The program would be administered by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Helping the homeless

The Department of Children, Families and Learning estimates that there are 21,000 homeless children in Minnesota. The spending bill would appropriate \$900,000 for emergency services grants to provide shelter, medical care and other assistance to the homeless. Another \$1 million would be spent on transitional housing programs.

Right to polka



Albert Clouse brought his baritone horn to the Capitol March 27 to demand his right to polka. Since the Legislature is considering putting a constitutional amendment protecting Minnesotans' right to hunt and fish on the ballot next November, a group of citizens rallied in the rotunda for equal protection for their recreational activities.

Gang prevention

The bill would appropriate \$200,000 for gang prevention and intervention.

The funding would be available for local organizations to reach children and young adults who are either at risk for criminal gang involvement or who have expressed interest in terminating their gang affiliation.

After-school activities, job skill training, and counseling are among the services that would be offered to the young people.

Lead contamination

The bill would appropriate \$200,000 for the clean up of lead-contaminated residential sites around the state. Of this amount, \$50,000 would be earmarked for the city of St. Louis Park to complete a lead abatement project in a residential neighborhood surrounding an industrial site.

A call for help

First Call For Help is a social services information and referral telephone hotline that was developed 50 years ago by the United Way of Minneapolis.

In 1997, the program received 350,000 calls — a 20 percent increase over 1996.

The bill would appropriate \$100,000 to expand the successful First Call for Help into "First Call Minnesota," a statewide computer system database of health services, social services, educational programs, housing information, and employment services.

Child care projects

The bill also would transfer approximately \$5 million in federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds to the Department of Children, Families, and Learning for several child care projects.

Among the provisions is a plan to make available more nonstandard-hour care. The number of parents seeking child care during evening and overnight shifts is projected to increase dramatically with the recent overhaul of the federal and state welfare system.

The department would receive \$500,000 for grants to public and private agencies to provide child care during these nonstandard working hours and to research the changing face of child care in the age of welfare reform.

Under the bill, \$2.2 million would be appropriated for child care service development grants to child care providers for business and licensing assistance and multicultural outreach.

The outreach would include providing informational brochures on licensing and child care options in all of the predominant non-English languages in Minnesota.

The bill also would direct \$300,000 toward an education loan forgiveness grant program for child care workers. The child care industry considers low wages to be one of the biggest challenges in the field. It is often difficult for child care workers to afford continuing education or pay back student loans.



GOVERNMENT

State government finance bill

Although the baseball stadium controversy has received little attention from lawmakers this year, the Metrodome turned up at the heart of opposition to the omnibus state government finance bill that won final passage in the House April 1. The vote was 71-56.

Calls to send the bill back to conference committee came from Republicans and DFLers alike, who were upset that Senate conferees defeated a provision from the original House bill that would have prohibited the Metropolitan Sports Facility from contracting with a professional sports team to play in the Metrodome for less than a seven-year period.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), who moved to send the bill back to conference, said she was frustrated because she felt senators had rejected "out of hand" provisions that House conferees considered essential.

She said the stadium lease agreement would be the only way to ensure that a repeat of the 1997 stadium debate doesn't dominate future legislative sessions.

"We thought we should be able to debate [stadium funding] without the threat of the team leaving," she said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) agreed with Kahn, and said the lease clause would be the only way "to protect the people of Minnesota from yet another stadium debate that will consume the 1999 session."

But other lawmakers, including Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), urged colleagues to keep government out of baseball, and Kahn's motion was defeated.

Osskopp also argued that a bill with the stadium-lease provision would almost certainly elicit a gubernatorial veto. That, Osskopp said, would punish the Office of the Attorney General the most, because its 1999 operating budget, vetoed last year, is in this year's bill.

Here's a look at key provisions of the state government finance bill (HF3137/SF3354*), which now goes to the governor.

Attorney general's budget

The bill would provide \$24.1 million for the attorney general's 1999 expenses. That's just \$100,000 more than was in the House bill that

went to conference committee, but \$331,000 less than requested by the office and earlier approved by the Senate.

The extra \$100,000 is earmarked for a fund that would educate senior citizens about telemarketing fraud. The original House bill would have directed that such a program be set up, but would not have provided funding.

The rest of that office's budget would be distributed as follows: \$23 million for general functions, \$500,000 for legal services to state agencies, \$250,000 for gaming enforcement, and \$250,000 to assist counties with felony prosecutions, community notification of sex offenders, and related tasks.

The office's budget was in question because Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto authority to strike its proposed 1999 funding from the 1997 state government omnibus finance bill, citing what he called unnecessary and excessive growth in the office.

This year's bill also calls for a task force to study the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the attorney general.

Community-based planning

A much debated plan to extend a state advisory council on community-based planning was voted out of the omnibus state government bill in conference committee.

The House version contained a proposal to expand membership on an existing advisory council and to extend the life of the council for six months until Dec. 31, 1998. The council helps communities set up long-range land-use plans on a voluntary basis.

But several Greater Minnesota lawmakers have said throughout the session that they don't believe such a program would remain voluntary for long — and that they don't want metropolitan-area help for rural planning.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), House sponsor of the omnibus bill, said on the House floor that he was not sorry to see this provision go in conference committee.

"I tried to give some assurance to those of us who live in rural Minnesota that this voluntary program would not become mandatory," he said.

No small gifts

Also stripped in conference committee was a provision that would have allowed lawmakers to receive gifts worth less than \$5 from lobbyists.

The earlier House version of the bill would have exempted those small gifts from the current ban on public officials accepting anything of monetary value from lobbyists or others with a stake in a government decision.

Rukavina said the ban should be relaxed

because it limits lobbyists' access to legislators by making even a cup of coffee an illegal gift.

Senators who opposed the provision said they did so because they felt it was slipped into the House bill without sufficient debate and was never brought up in the Senate.

Studying feedlots

The final version of the bill also would give \$1.3 million to the Office of Strategic and Long-range Planning to fund a three-year study of the effects of the livestock industry on the state's economy and environment.

A committee would be required to submit an environmental impact statement to the Legislature and could consider factors such as government regulation of feedlots, potential ownership arrangements, and the impact of current feedlots.

Perpich's portrait

Another part of the bill would direct that the state must accept a portrait of former Gov. Rudy Perpich and wife, Lola, if a private donor provides funds for one, and that the new portrait would be substituted for the portrait of Perpich currently hanging in the Capitol.

Near the end of his time in office, the former governor pushed to have his wife included in his portrait, and the matter became the subject of significant controversy.

Portraits of each former Minnesota governor hang throughout the corridors of the Capitol, and each of the governors is pictured alone. The portrait of Perpich now found on the ground floor of the Capitol shows the former governor standing alone with an iron ore mine in the background.

Settling border disputes

Also remaining in the final bill is \$25,000 that would go to the Council of State Governments to set up meetings between Minnesota and Canadian lawmakers to discuss boundary disputes, including fishing laws.

Fiber-optics plan remains

A House plan that would have delayed implementation of a controversial fiber-optics contract is no longer in the omnibus bill.

The contract in question was signed in January, giving exclusive rights to one company to lay fiber-optic cables along the state's highway system. The House proposal would have delayed the contract until a report on its legality was completed.

The stripping, in conference committee, of this provision was — along with the loss of the stadium-lease provision — the reason Kahn said she wanted to send the bill back to conference.

"Many people believe this contract is anti-competitive," she said.

Administration

Under the bill, the Department of Administration would receive the following appropriations:

- \$4.3 million to help update government computer systems to address problems associated with the year 2000;
- \$315,000 to Pioneer Public Television to build a tower in Otter Tail County, currently the only part of the state that does not receive a public television signal;
- \$150,000 to coordinate the Minnesota Alliance with Youth initiative;
- \$44,000 to make the state register and guidebook to state agencies available on the Internet free of charge; and
- \$20,000 for a portrait of Carlson to hang in the Capitol.

Donating 'distressed' foods



Food handlers will be able to donate "distressed" foods to local governments or to the state, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Food is considered distressed when it cannot legally be sold but is still deemed safe — unspoiled milk that has not sold before the expiration date, for example.

Currently, food handlers can donate distressed foods to nonprofit organizations who supply the food to the elderly or needy. The new law will allow them to donate these foods to units of government.

The measure, signed by the Gov. Arne Carlson March 25, will remove liability for food handlers who choose to donate the distressed food, except in instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

Bill sponsor Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said that the idea was brought to her by county commissioners who felt that it would be a good way to defray corrections costs.

"It's food that may not be marketable, but it is still safe for consumption," Harder said.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF176/SF154*/CH333

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



HEALTH

Partial-birth abortions

A conference committee dropped a provision from an omnibus health and human services bill (HF2868) that would have banned "partial-birth" or late-term abortions April 2, setting up a possible showdown when the bill returns to the House floor.

Seventy-five members of the House have signed a petition stating they wouldn't vote for the \$56 million omnibus bill if it returned to the floor without the abortion language.

The version of the omnibus bill earlier approved by the House included the ban on late-term abortions. The Senate version of the bill had no abortion reference.

The conference committee deadlocked 5-5 on a vote that would have included in the bill a provision banning partial-birth abortions and making it a felony offense for anyone to perform such a procedure. The measure would have allowed the procedure only if it were performed to save the mother's life.

More than half the states have either passed bills or injunctions against partial-birth abortions.

The conference committee also debated a portion of the House bill that would require clinics and doctors to complete extensive forms to report abortions. Those provisions are still pending a vote of conference committee members.

The omnibus bill also carries provisions for welfare reform, efforts to address the problem

of fetal alcohol syndrome, and various other human services initiatives, including food stamps for 8,000 to 10,000 legal immigrants and pay raises for nursing home workers.

The House bill is sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls).

Improper use of DEA numbers



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) uses a numbering system that was established to identify medical professionals and others who are authorized to engage in business activities involving controlled substances.

But the insurance industry and health plan companies have sometimes used DEA numbers for other purposes, such as tracking the drug prescription practices of health care providers.

That will no longer be allowed under a law signed March 23, which will not take effect for at least two years. Its effective date is 24 months after a unique, alternative health identifier is adopted.

The identifier would be adopted under the federal legislation dealing with health insurance portability and accountability. The status of that identifier is pending.

The DEA has tried to get national health insurance associations to find an alternative to the industry use of DEA numbers and has asked its registrants to refuse to furnish DEA numbers to insurance providers for reimbursement purposes. The DEA claims misuse could



Supporters from both sides of the abortion debate brought their signs to the hallway outside the House chamber April 1. Later, the health and human services conference committee removed from a bill a provision that would have legally limited so-called partial-birth abortion procedures.

weaken the registration system, and the agency has sought to restrict the registration numbers to use for drug enforcement purposes.

The new state law will limit the use of DEA numbers for law enforcement purposes, and thus prohibit insurance providers or health plan companies from monitoring the prescribing practices of a practitioner.

The law also stipulates a prescription that is not a controlled substance does not have to bear a DEA number.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure.

HF2401/SF2207*/CH316



INDUSTRY

New area codes

A last-ditch effort to keep St. Paul from losing its 612 telephone area code seems to have stalled.

After hearing testimony March 31 from Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Chair Edward Garvey before the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee, Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said he would discuss the issue with his St. Paul colleagues, but he essentially conceded the matter was over.

"My position is that the decisions are made," Paymar said. "I do not think this will be helpful for St. Paul. I'm not satisfied, but there comes a time when you have to see the writing on the wall and throw in the towel."

Paymar's aim is to keep the 612 area code for the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He wants the new 651 area code to go to the outlying suburbs.

Paymar said St. Paul businesses would incur considerable cost in making the change and all government-related numbers in St. Paul would be involved as well.

Shortly before the March 31 House committee meeting, the PUC voted unanimously to stick with its plan to split the area code in the metropolitan area along municipal boundaries.

The hearing on Paymar's bill (**HF3191**) marked the second time in less than a month he had tried to halt the PUC's planned July 1998 switch of St. Paul and other eastern metropolitan area cities to a new 651 area code.

Paymar earlier tried to amend separate legislation on the House floor to include language that would halt the change. That amendment failed.

Frontier Communications officials have also protested the change because about 5,000 of its customers in the southern suburbs of Apple Valley and Lakeville will be assigned entirely

new telephone numbers because of technical issues.

Frontier officials say switching the customers to new phone numbers is inconvenient and costly and that the software the company will require in the change is untried.

Some legislators have questioned why certain alternatives couldn't be sought, but Garvey explained a new area code is inevitable and a geographic split by municipal boundaries was the best solution.

The option preferred by U.S. West and by Garvey was for all existing numbers to remain the same, with new numbers assigned the 651 area code. But that would mean all numbers dialed in the metropolitan area would be 10-digit numbers. Also, a residence or business could have both 612 and 651 area codes.

Other legislators wondered why cellular phones, pagers, and fax machines could not be assigned the new area code. Garvey explained the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) forbids that. The FCC has decided it is discriminatory to give new area codes to just one set of telecommunications providers.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said that prefixes are assigned in blocks of 10,000 and asked why unused prefixes allotted to an exchange or company can't be distributed elsewhere. Garvey said current technology does not allow this, although it is expected to be possible in the future.

Garvey said the PUC decided after seven public meetings to go with a geographic split. One option under that plan was to give either Minneapolis or St. Paul a new area code. The other option was to give the suburbs ringing the two cities a new area code and keep Minneapolis and St. Paul in the 612 area. That would have been in line with Paymar's bill.

But PUC projections suggested the outer ring of cities would exhaust all its numbers no later than 2003, and the inner ring in mid-2007. Garvey said history indicates the numbers would be exhausted before then.

In addition, Garvey said the PUC currently believes it will have to add a 952 area code in the western suburbs around 2001. Regardless of the plan, he said two new area codes will be needed in the metropolitan area within the next few years.

Garvey said the PUC decided to give the east side of the metropolitan area the new area code this summer because it will inconvenience fewer people because that side has fewer residents. But, more importantly, the PUC did not want some people to be forced to change area codes twice in a short period of time, he said.

Because the PUC knows some portion of western metropolitan area customers will need the 952 area code, if the west side were as-

signed the new area code some western customers would have to change to the 651 code this summer, then to 952 within three or four years.

If St. Paul and the eastern suburbs get a new area code now, no customer will have to change again in the foreseeable future, he said.

The new area codes are effective July 12, 1998, with "permissive dialing" until Jan. 10, 1999. Permissive dialing means a call between the old 612 area code and the new 651 area code will connect even if seven rather than 10 numbers are dialed. The permissive dialing period allows customers to get used to the change.

The committee took no action on the bill.

Electric industry study

The House passed a bill March 30 that would direct the existing Legislative Electric Energy Task Force to complete a comprehensive study of certain aspects of the electric industry. The vote was 117-9.

HF3654, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), would require the task force to study potential benefits and costs of restructuring the electric industry to rural, low-income, residential, small business, and commercial and industrial energy consumers.

The study would include the ability of these consumers to participate in and benefit from restructuring. The task force also would examine various issues such as safety and maintenance concerns and would analyze laws and regulations that could prevent Minnesota utilities from competing fairly in an open market.

The Legislative Electric Energy Task Force consists of 10 House members and 10 Senate members. It currently analyzes issues relating to the deregulation of the electric industry and makes recommendations to the Legislature.

The bill would stipulate that while conducting the review and analysis of restructuring, the task force would have to consult with affected and interested parties.

The Clinton administration, in March, unveiled a proposal to bring competition and consumer choice to the electric industry.

Among other directives, the Clinton proposal would require states to decide by Jan. 1, 2003, if they would open retail service to competition, require utilities to disclose information on a standard consumer label, and provide matching funds to states for low-income assistance, energy efficiency programs, and use of renewable energy sources.

The Clinton administration claims its proposal would save American consumers \$20 billion a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

But there are concerns. One is that unless the average consumer is consulted and has a chance to voice an opinion, industrial users will reap the benefits of deregulation and small electric customers could possibly wind up subsidizing the cost of the effort.

Some believe the Clinton proposal will help protect the environment and help low-income customers but that too much authority will be concentrated at the federal level.

Jennings said on the House floor that if the states don't address restructuring issues, the federal government will do it for them.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Protecting telephone customers



A measure designed to protect Minnesota telephone customers from unauthorized switching of long-distance telephone carriers was signed into law March 31.

"While most long-distance providers conduct their business in an ethical, above-board fashion, there are some that unfortunately do not," Gov. Arne Carlson said in a news release. "In signing this legislation, we are now able to give Minnesotans protection from unscrupulous carriers."

A new provision, effective July 1, 1998, will require long-distance providers to give price information on specific calling patterns to consumers and will forbid the providers from the practice of "slamming," or switching customers without their knowledge.

The long-distance providers will have to provide proof that a customer authorized a change in carriers. If the provider is unable to produce a written statement or a tape recording indicating the customer authorized the change, the carrier will have to pay the cost of returning the customer to the original service and the cost of any of the customer's long-distance calls during the unauthorized period.

Long-distance companies also will have to provide upon request — or when soliciting customers — information on the price range of services, minimum volume requirements, termination charges, and other fees.

A separate provision effective April 1, 1998, provides an exemption to requirements of biomass-fueled power plants. Examples of biomass power sources are sawdust or wood chips, agricultural residues, and the organic portion of the solid waste stream.

Previous law provided that biomass-fueled power plants can use non-biomass fuels for up to 25 percent of their fuel. The new law provides an expansion so that when biomass fuel sources are not reasonably available to the facility because flood, fire, drought, disease or other acts of God, the power facility can ex-

ceed the exemption without penalty or a charge against its normal 25 percent exemption.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the legislation.

HF3042*/SF2797/CH345



METRO AFFAIRS

Met Council 'service redesign'

The Metropolitan Council would carry out a plan known as "service redesign" to reduce its costs, under a bill the House passed March 30. The vote was 82-43.

The bill, which would set up a pilot project, was initiated by the Metropolitan Council to allow it to sell some of its services to either the private or public sector to generate revenue.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would require the council, when performing services such as wastewater treatment, to develop plans in which performance and cost can be measured objectively. The plan would be effective in the seven-county metropolitan area.

The council could improve efficiency of its operations for a particular project by selling the capacity to another government entity or a service provider in the private sector.

The Metropolitan Council was created in 1967 and is responsible for regional planning in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It's one

of the largest regional governments in the country and oversees the regional bus system, wastewater treatment facilities, and Metro Mobility, a transit operation that serves disabled people.

An amendment relating to airport projects and offered by Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) was approved on the floor. It would require that the council review proposed airport projects and not approve them unless the council sees that the Metropolitan Airports Commission has given the nearby communities a chance to discuss and participate extensively in the decision-making process.

HF680/SF525* goes to the Senate.



TAXES

Property tax rebate



Effective March 19, 1998, a new state law ensures homeowners who prepaid their 1997 property taxes can claim a rebate allowed under a law passed last year.

The 1997 Legislature, flush with a projected \$2.3 billion budget surplus, passed a one-time tax rebate to give some of that surplus back to homeowners and renters. The rebate was linked to property taxes paid in 1997.

However, that created a problem for those

Asking for action



Allyson Hartle, a lobbyist for the Special Transportation Services Association, studies the names of agencies and organizations written on a petition set up outside the House Chamber April 2. The petition is an attempt to convince members of the Legislature to pass an omnibus health and human services spending bill, regardless of a controversy over abortion-related provisions.

who paid their 1997 property taxes before Jan. 1, 1997. Homeowners sometimes pre-pay their taxes to claim an itemized deduction for the previous year's income tax.

Under the 1997 law, people who prepaid were out of luck, because the measure limited payment of the rebate to those who paid their property taxes in 1997.

The new law allows the property tax rebate to be paid to all taxpayers who paid their 1997 property taxes before Jan. 1, 1998.

The rebate is available to both homeowners and renters. For homeowners, it comes to 20 percent of their property taxes, and for renters, 3.6 percent of their rent paid. Although the rebate is a property tax rebate, it is claimed on the state income tax returns filed this year. The rebate is separate from the regular property tax refund that many renters and homeowners get in August of each year.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Tower) sponsored the new measure.

HF2294/SF2041*/CH304



TRANSPORTATION

Omnibus transportation bill

There would be fewer new state troopers on the road than the governor requested under the \$51 million omnibus transportation and transit bill that won final passage in the House April 2. The vote was 119-9.

However, conference committee members did find a compromise in funding for additional staff for the state patrol. The bill would appropriate \$2.7 million for 29 new troopers and add \$200,000 for additional state patrol helicopter flight time to enhance law enforcement efforts.

The governor had requested 47 additional state troopers at a cost of \$5.25 million.

Maj. Gene Halverson, of the state patrol, told conference committee members that local television stations have more helicopters than Minnesota law enforcement agencies. He said that's difficult to understand when "there is no greater advantage we get when those helicopters come and light up the scene."

The state patrol flies its helicopter patrols only on Friday and Saturday nights to support officers on duty. "But if I had my druthers," Halverson said, "we'd fly every night."

Halverson said the helicopters have heat-sensing devices that not only help in criminal matters but also have located missing people. One flight in northern Minnesota even saved the lives of some snowmobilers.

Another 29 state troopers would bring the allowable full-funded complement to 564.

Currently, there are 488 state troopers on the road in Minnesota and another 39 in training.

In 1996, the governor sought funds to hire 46 additional troopers, but only four additional state patrol dispatchers were hired.

Even with the additional funds for flights, about \$1.5 million was shaved from the original House state patrol funding request. The original House bill called for an overall appropriation of \$52.5 million and the Senate bill called for \$45 million.

The final bill includes \$40 million that would be appropriated from the state trunk highway fund for road construction in fiscal 1999.

A Senate provision that would allow preparation for light rail transit also made its way into the final bill.

The provision would establish an 11-member planning board for the Lake Street corridor in Minneapolis from the western city limits to the Mississippi River. The board would plan and coordinate economic development, transportation, and residential renewal in conjunction with affected neighborhood, government, and business entities.

The bill (**HF3057/SF3298***), sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), now goes to the governor.

Making vehicles available



Nonprofit organizations that sell or lease inexpensive cars no longer need to apply for a motor vehicle dealer's license, under a new law that took effect March 17.

Certain charitable organizations repair and recondition older vehicles that are donated to them. These groups then sell the vehicles at low prices to people moving off public assistance or to other low-income people.

The new law exempts these organization from needing a dealer's license.

Under the law, the cash value of the vehicle being sold must be less than \$1,000 and the organization must meet the requirements of a nonprofit charitable group under the tax code to get the exemption.

The law could make more vehicles available for people at a time when welfare recipients are being encouraged to find employment under welfare reform measures that took effect in 1997. Many of these people do not have transportation, according to Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), who sponsored the measure in the House.

Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF3028/SF2163*/CH285

No more fingerprint checks



Those with direct management responsibility for a company's hazardous waste transportation no longer must submit a full set of fingerprints to determine if the person has a criminal record under a law effective March 24.

Ward Briggs, of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, said the hazardous waste transportation industry objected to the requirement, calling it a nuisance. He also said the background check involving fingerprints had been part of a national pilot program that had expired.

Briggs said the fingerprint checks were not proven to be the best method of evaluating the background of those involved with the intrastate transport of hazardous waste. He said some with a criminal record were slipping by despite the checks.

Briggs said other methods of accomplishing better background checks are currently under study, and a national system for such a process is expected soon.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure.

HF2665/SF2316*/CH310

Correction

A story on pages 7-8 of the March 27 issue of *Session Weekly* titled "Voter registration list update" misquoted Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), who was the sponsor of a bill that aimed to make voter registration easier for Minnesotans who move to a new home. The quote should have read: "The bill brings us into the 20th century before the start of the 21st century. This is a bill whose time has come." Folliard also said that the bill would use technology to simplify the process. We regret the error.

Need a copy of a bill?

Call the Chief Clerks Office at
(612) 296-2314

Local man, saved from disaster, serves term in House

By Sandy Donovan

When former House member John Pillsbury Snyder died in 1959, his obituary touted the fact that he had bowled a perfect 300 game at the Minneapolis Athletic Club in 1942.

The obituary, which made the front page of the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, also praised Snyder for his successful automobile business and his leadership of several mining corporations and noted that he was the grandson of former Minnesota Gov. John Sargent Pillsbury.

It was not until near the end of the article that a 1912 event that had put Snyder on the front page of newspapers around the country was mentioned. In April of that year, he and his wife, Nelle, were among the 705 survivors of the Titanic disaster.

The newly married couple had honeymooned in Europe in early 1912, traveling mostly through Italy to study how Fiats were made. Snyder's luxury-car dealership, Snyder Garage Inc. of 407 S. 10th St. in Minneapolis, was just beginning to sell the new brand of Italian cars.

For their return trip, the Snyders booked a first-class stateroom on the maiden voyage of the luxury liner Titanic. Those exclusive cabins cost up to \$5,000 for the six-day trip.

Nelle Snyder, who was only 20 at the time, later told reporters that she had been reluctant to travel on the highly touted but untested Titanic.

Soon after boarding the ship April 10, Snyder must have sat down to write a thank-you note to a London cigar merchant. His correspondence, on Titanic stationery, was among the few surviving letters from the doomed voyage. It was handed overboard at the dock before the ship sailed.

Today Snyder's grandson, Stevenson Miller, of Montana, owns the letter. He told the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* that he received it along with "a bunch of stuff nobody in the family wanted."



John Pillsbury Snyder

Three days after he wrote that letter, Snyder and his wife were walking along one of the liner's upper decks, about to return to their stateroom for the night, when they felt a crash. They later said they were told that there was no danger, and they retired to their cabin. It would have been just before midnight, April 13.

Within a few minutes, the Snyders later said, a steward knocked on their door and told them they should get up on deck. Snyder said there was general concern but not panic, and his wife, complaining of the cold, went back to the cabin to get warmer clothing and her jewelry box.

Snyder said the crew was by then telling people to get in the lifeboats, but most were resisting.

"The women, after looking over the rail into the water, refused to change their seeming safe position for the more precarious one in a lifeboat," he told reporters. "An officer pleaded, then ordered them into the boat. But still they refused to go."

While most newspaper stories at the time praised male passengers and crew as heroes for obeying the rule of the sea — and sacrificing their own lives to save women and chil-

dren — Snyder's accounts stressed that few people wanted to get in the lifeboats and that he was practically shoved into the first one to be lowered from the sinking liner.

"Somebody . . . called out that families should keep together in getting into the boats," he told the *Minneapolis Journal*. "The people were reluctant to get into the boats at first. Those in front stepped back."

"Some of them looked over the side of the vessel into the darkness of the night and were loath to trust themselves to the frail-looking boats swinging on the davits."

Snyder also said that people were calling for brides and grooms to get in the first boat.

"When the crowd in front turned aside, my wife and I were left at the front," he said. "The first thing we knew we were both assisted into the lifeboat. At that time there were not many men or women on the deck ready to go into the lifeboats."

"Those that did get into the boats felt that it was merely a measure of precaution — that they would be able to return to the ship within a couple of hours at the outside, when whatever damage that had been done had been remedied."

Snyder's version of events is likely close to the truth. When his lifeboat was lowered at about 12:45 a.m. it contained only 28 people, although it could have carried 65. After about five hours at sea in the leaking lifeboat — Nelle Snyder reported that she used her hat to bail out water — they were rescued by the *Carpathia*, the first ship to answer the Titanic's distress calls.

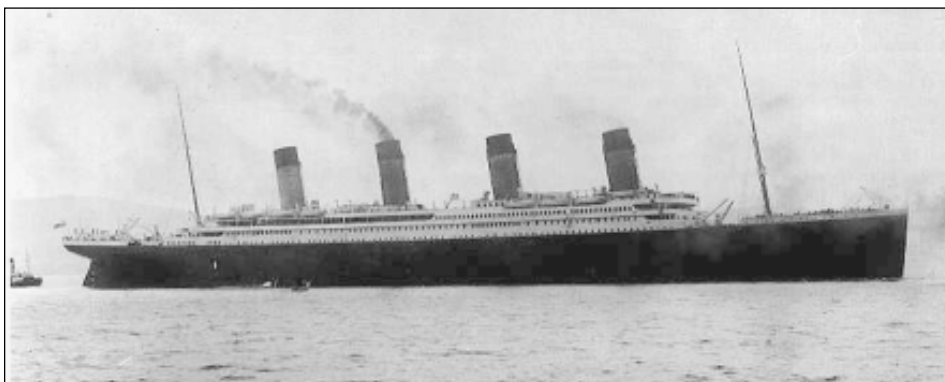
But whatever the circumstances, Snyder undoubtedly felt somewhat sheepish after surviving the tragedy. Following initial conversations with the press, neither of the Snyders discussed their rescue for several decades.

Upon landing in New York, they checked into a hotel, contacted family, and returned soon to Minneapolis. Once home they settled into Minneapolis society, had three children, and watched Snyder Garage flourish. During World War I Snyder served as a major in the infantry.

When he was elected to the House in 1926, Snyder was following family footsteps into public life. Not only had his maternal grandfather been governor, his father had also served in the House for one term in 1897-98.

Snyder represented part of Minneapolis in the state's 34th district and served on six House committees: civil administration, motor ve-

Continued on page 21



The Titanic on April 10, 1912, as it prepares for its maiden voyage.

Photo from Eng Klat's Titanic HomePage at <http://web.singnet.com.sg/~ektcompq/>

Spring tornadoes hit St. Peter and

The historic river city of St. Peter was the largest town hit by a string of tornadoes in south-central Minnesota March 29. Winds reached 200 mph over a 140-mile long stretch in south-central Minnesota.

About 90 percent of the homes in St. Peter were damaged or destroyed. A command center was set up in the basement of 116-year-old Nicollet County Courthouse — one of 13 buildings in the town listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gov. Arne Carlson and legislative leaders pledged quick support to help rebuild St. Peter and other storm-ravaged towns and farms.



From the roof of his garage, now in his neighbor's backyard, Gardell Harms surveys the damage to his property on North Washington Street in St. Peter, Minn.



Tom Miller, of Restoration Unlimited, makes his way through the rubble. The church was due to be restored this summer but



Joan Walter, left, points out a family valuable to her daughter Nancy Brey as they pick through the rubble of what was their garage on Madison Street in St. Peter, Minn.

and surrounding area



out of St. Peter's Catholic Church after assessing the damage. Some fear it may now be impossible to salvage the structure.



With broom in hand, Carol Langsjoen stands in the living room of her home on North Fourth Street. The north wall of her house was ripped away by the March 29 tornado in St. Peter, Minn.



The Maas family begins to pick through the rubble on the first floor of their home on Madison Street in St. Peter, Minn., searching for any family valuables left behind by the March 29 tornado.

—Photos by
Tom Olmscheid

Historians to celebrate laying of Capitol cornerstone

By Nicole Wood

State Capitol historians are gearing up for a milestone celebration this summer. July 27, 1998, marks the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Capitol cornerstone.

The 1898 cornerstone laying ceremony was a grand event with plenty of pomp and circumstance (and long-winded orators), according to *Laying of the Corner Stone of the New Capitol of Minnesota*, a commemorative book published by the Pioneer Press Co. in 1898.

The festivities began with a parade through St. Paul, complete with marching bands, mounted police, and a 36-by-20 American flag handled by 18 men from the Fifteenth Minnesota Infantry.

Several carriages carried government officials and dignitaries, including U.S. Sens. Knute Nelson and Cushman K. Davis, Archbishop John Ireland, Capitol architect Cass Gilbert, and Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Larpenteur, who had originally homesteaded the land upon which the Capitol was constructed.

While the band played "Stars and Stripes," several thousand invited guests and citizens gathered on the Capitol lawn.

It was a day to marvel at how far the state had come since 1849 when, in the words of Davis, "[t]here were no courts, no legislature, no executive, and it was doubtful if there were any laws. . . . Minnesota was a political derelict upon the sea of Time."

The population had grown from 4,940 in 1849, the year the Minnesota Territory was organized, to nearly 1.6 million in the 1895 census.

Alexander Ramsey, first governor of the

Minnesota Territory and second governor of the state of Minnesota, was chosen to set the cornerstone in place.

"The corner stone has always conveyed a mystical and symbolic meaning, even in divine utterances," Davis said. "The hand that laid the ideal foundation of this state 50 years ago, in the dining room of a frontier tavern, now lays the corner stone of this, the capitol of the completed commonwealth."

Ramsey was presented with a silver trowel adorned with a border of moccasin flowers. The trowel's handle was made of tamarack wood from the old Central House, a hotel that hosted the first Territorial Legislature and served as the unofficial Capitol in 1849.

In acknowledging the gift, Ramsey demonstrated a sense of humor previously absent from the day's speeches.

"[The trowel has] relieved me of serious embarrassment, for, being new to such functions, I had neglected to provide myself with the necessary implements and have been somewhat perplexed as to how I should perform them," Ramsey said.




The Capitol cornerstone, laid nearly 100 years ago, is located near the southeast ground level door, close to the *porte-cochere* entrance beneath the front steps.

The cornerstone is inlaid with a sealed copper box containing many significant historical documents and objects.

The articles include: a Bible; a Minnesota Historical Society publication titled "How Minnesota Became a State"; a two-volume set of Minnesota Statutes; a book titled *History of Minnesota Volunteers in the War of Rebellion*; portraits of Ramsey and Henry Sibley, Minnesota's first governor; photographs of Minneapolis and other Minnesota cities; copper plate etchings of the Capitol floor plans; and copies of the St. Paul and Minneapolis newspapers.

"Minnesota has been last of all her sisters of the West in building a statehouse commensurate with the dignity and suitable to the uses of a great state," said C.H. Graves of Duluth, a member of the State Capitol Commission. "May this building be the birthplace of wise laws, enacted by honest and incorruptible legislators, interpreted by a fearless and learned court, and administered by loyal officers of the state."

The Minnesota Historical Society will host a celebration in honor of the cornerstone centennial on Saturday, July 25, 1998, at 1 p.m. in the Capitol rotunda. Visitors will witness a re-enactment of a portion of the ceremony. Also, objects similar to those sealed within the cornerstone will be displayed. 



Former Gov. Alexander Ramsey spreads mortar with a silver trowel as the Capitol cornerstone is hoisted into place July 27, 1898. The sea of onlookers sang the national anthem as the stone descended.

Photo from *Laying of the Corner Stone of the New Capitol of Minnesota*, The Pioneer Press Co., 1898.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Rep. Dee Long . . .

Ten-term legislator seeks secretary of state position

By Grant Martin



Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) said in a recent interview that she learned valuable political lessons from the good sisters of the St. Stephen's Convent in South Minneapolis.

"The nuns were activists," she said.

Long said that she had been volunteering in the civil rights and antiwar movements years ago and felt she should attend her precinct caucus, which happened to be at St. Stephen's Church.

"The nuns took my hand and said, 'Would you like to be a delegate?' I said, 'Yeah, how do I get in?' And they said, 'Well, we'll help you.' So, I guess, I really learned my grass roots political involvement from the St. Stephen's Convent nuns," Long said.

In fact, the nuns completed a long political education that began with her politically active parents, Long said.

"I was raised with the thought that you owe something to your community and to society as a whole," she said. "You have an obligation to try to leave things better when you leave this place."

Long's father was very involved in politics and would take her to both parties' headquarters on election night to watch the returns. Long recalls being introduced to people from both sides of the aisle who were very passionate about their political involvement.

"I was left with the impression that politics was something that was an appropriate involvement and fun," she said.

Elected to the House in 1978, Long announced this year that she will be leaving the Legislature to run for secretary of state.

"I have spent 20 years in this position," she said. "I think sometimes you just feel it's time to move on and, intuitively, now is the time."

Long said she is excited about the possibility of tackling the secretary of state job. She sees the job as key to securing public participation in the political process.

"I have been concerned for a number of years about the sense of disengagement from public life and community in general," she said. "We need to get back to more of a feeling that we are a part of a neighborhood or a community — part of a city or a town. That was one of the things that inspired me to run for [the secretary of state] office."



Veteran legislator Rep. Dee Long has seen many changes since she was elected to the House in 1978. She's hoping to take what she has learned into her campaign for secretary of state.

In many ways, Long's legislative career illustrates the advances made by women in politics. Long was the first woman to chair the House Taxes Committee and the second woman elected as DFL majority leader. In 1993, she became the first woman elected speaker of the House.

Long said that women tend to bring a different and valuable perspective to lawmaking.

"I do think women bring somewhat different experiences," she said. "And I do think women's style of leadership can be somewhat different. I think women don't, as much, need the feeling that they have personal power. They tend to be much more conciliatory."

Long said women have brought important issues to the table, including child care and child support. She said that these concerns are now much more prevalent in society.

"I have noticed a difference in the younger male members — the greater appreciation of the role of working wives and mothers," she said.

Long resigned the speaker position in the fall of 1993 amid criticism of her response to the "phonegate" controversy.


"I certainly could have handled the situation better," she said. "I learned a lot from mistakes that were made."

Since 1993, Long has mounted what political insiders have been calling a major comeback. She was named chair of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee in 1995. In 1997, she regained the chair of the powerful Taxes Committee, and she has been spending a good deal of her time working on tax issues.

However, for Long, other legislative accomplishments stand out.

"What I feel best about is the environmental legislation," she said. "That will make a difference 50 or 100 years from now. Changes in tax law are interesting to work on, but I don't think that they have that same durability."

Long said that she will miss the times when legislators can rise above differences in party and local interests.

"What I will remember with great fondness are the times when you have members from both parties working together to accomplish some real policy goals," she said. "That, to me, is the Legislature at its best." 

Pinstripes 'n cell phones . . .

Technology has positive impact on legislative process

By Matt Wetzel

Walk down a hallway in the State Office Building during the legislative session and chances are you'll see several well-dressed lobbyists talking into thin, flat devices seemingly attached to the sides of their heads. Cellular phones, no less.

Ten years ago, they might have been lined up at the pay telephones, awaiting their turn.

When a legislator returns to St. Paul after a long weekend, he or she might have more than 200 e-mail messages waiting to be read. Or that person might have 20 voice-mail messages waiting to be heard.

Lawmakers have the option of returning those messages by e-mail, which is available to them on the laptop computers issued to all House members.

Legislators and their constituents also can go on the Internet and look up any bill or bill summary, and during a floor session, all amendments offered that day.

Technology has made its mark on the legislative process, and most legislators and lobbyists agree it has improved it. But some legislators caution that the people who don't have personal computers with Internet access shouldn't be forgotten.

Tom Newcome, who served in the House from 1965 to 1975 representing the White Bear Lake area, said he had seen many changes at the Capitol in those years. Since then, he's been a lobbyist, now with the firm of Leonard, O'Brien, Wilford, Spencer and Gale Ltd. of St. Paul.

"I do think [the process is] better in the respect that everybody has the information to make a decision," Newcome said.

Sarah Janecek of the firm Spano & Janecek agreed. "With all the technology we have to make the information available instantaneously, I think it's great," she said.

Newcome recalled serving on a conference committee in the early 1970s before technology and other forces made the process more open and accessible.

"We went out to the governor's mansion for two weeks. It was like electing the pope. We came out and announced we'd made our decision," he said.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) agreed that technological advances have improved the legislative process for members of the public.

"I think whenever you can get more information it's better," he said. "We're accessible to the public by e-mail."



Cellular phones have replaced pay phones as the communication mode of choice for lobbyists and lawmakers during session.

He finds the laptop computer regularly situated on his desk in the chamber convenient. Instead of sending an aide to get a copy of a bill he needs, Sviggum can use the computer to look it up or to find out almost anything else he wants to know about the Legislature on the House's web site (www.house.leg.state.mn.us).

Technology "makes communication a lot easier," said Jack Horner, a lobbyist with the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association.

Horner says he still gets his information, particularly on bills, the old-fashioned way, by attending committee meetings and going to the Chief Clerk's Office. But he said he has occasionally "pulled them off the Internet."

He agrees that the information explosion has improved voters' access to their legislators, and that's apparent when there is an issue that's commanding public attention. Legislators are often besieged by e-mails, voice-mails and faxes.

"The first thing I'm afraid of is an expecta-

tion of a response to every inquiry," said Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), adding that he received 497 e-mail messages over the Christmas holidays.

"They're expecting they'll get a response from everyone they wrote to. It doesn't make sense," he said.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), who is in his 10th year as a legislator, said he regularly receives 20 to 30 daily messages on his voice-mail.

"I return the calls if they're in my district," he said. "It makes us keep in touch with the public, which has been good."

Pugh, who has been in the Legislature since 1989, said having the laptop is convenient to check e-mail and to check on bills and amendments.

"This way, it's just a couple punches of the key. You can read the whole bill," he said.

Lea Schuster, a consumer and economic rights advocate for the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group, said she believes technology has improved accountability in the lawmaking process.

"I'd say it's changed generally for the better," she said.

Her organization's charge is that of a citizen's group working for social change on consumer rights and land use. Schuster said a problem with technological changes is that some people are left behind.

There are a lot of low-income people who don't have access to the Internet that rely on the old-fashioned methods to communicate with their legislators, and the Legislature should work to accommodate them, she said.

As for those cellular phones, some refuse to use them and others say they couldn't get along without them. Newcome said he does keep a cellular phone in his briefcase, but he rarely uses it.


Janecek said she does have one and thinks it's great.

"You don't have to have quarters," she joked.

Horner said he doesn't have one, just because he hasn't felt the need for one. But he acknowledged that he does use a pager.

Sviggum is a veteran of cellular phone use, using one for three and-a-half years.

"It just makes it a much more convenient use of my time," he said. "I spend a lot of time on the road."

He often uses that time to return telephone calls. And, if something happens to his car on the way, he can call for help. 

Continued from page 15


hicles and motor tax laws, reapportionment, reforestation, taxes and tax laws, and workmen's compensation.

He stepped down after one term in the House and turned much of his attention to the

state's iron ore resources. He and his wife made a second uneventful trip to Europe on the eve of World War II in 1938.

For the next 20 years, Snyder served as director of several mining corporations. He didn't speak publicly about his Titanic experi-

ence until a few years before he died, but spent his time bowling, golfing, hunting, and fishing.

He died on the 17th green of Orono's Woodhill Country Club golf course in July 1959. 

Tracking the Bills . . . March 27 - April 2, 1998

Governor's Desk

CH338-CH353

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills

and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either

14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at: <http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File
Res.=Resolution

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 8	3854*	3406	U.S. memorialized to resolve differences between province of Ontario and the state of Minnesota regarding Canadian waters and the taking of fish.	Filed without signature	
338	2861	3040*	Child and medical support enforcement administration process modification.	3/31/98	
339	2625	2267*	Workers' comp self insurance regulation provisions modification.	3/31/98	
340	2308*	2014	Accountant licensing provisions modified.	3/31/98	
341	3297*	2296	MERLA; statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under MERLA.	3/31/98	
342	113*	76	State lottery proceed dedication to Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund.	3/31/98	
343	2983	2966*	Minnesota Residential Mortgage Originator and Servicer Licensing Act.	3/31/98	
344	2971	2489*	Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.	3/31/98	
345	3042*	2797	Long-distance telephone provider slamming and loading disclosure requirements expanded.	3/31/98	
346	2387	2149*	Voter record address change updates.		3/31/98
347	2567	2221*	Ramsey County open absentee ballot system pilot program extension.		3/31/98
348	3324	2445*	One call excavation notice system modification.	4/2/98	
349	2774	2302*	County optional forms of government adoption referendum procedure clarification.	4/2/98	
350	3070*	2847	Decorative gas lamp prohibition variance provided.	4/2/98	
351	3068*	2520	Public employee labor agreements ratified.	4/2/98	
352	2526	2148*	Absentee voting eligibility expansion.		4/2/98
353	3841	3397*	Air carriers agreements franchise law retroactive exemption application exclusions.	4/2/98	

Bill Introductions

HF3859-HF3868

Monday, March 30

HF3859—McCollum (DFL)

Judiciary

Men and women provided equality of rights under the law, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3860—Tunheim (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wilderness areas created in Rice, Winona, and Houston counties, and motorized equipment prohibited.

HF3861—Olson, E. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Wilderness areas created in Rice, Winona, and Houston counties, and motorized equipment prohibited.

Tuesday, March 31

HF3862—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Ways & Means

Federal disaster relief matching funds provided for tornado and other weather damages, and money appropriated.

HF3863—Dorn (DFL)

Ways & Means

Federal disaster relief matching funds provided for tornado and other weather damages, and money appropriated.

HF3864—McCollum (DFL)

Judiciary

Gender-specific language in the state constitution changed to gender-neutral, and constitutional amendment proposed.

Wednesday, April 1

HF3865—Harder (R)

Ways & Means

Early payments of state aids to local governments affected by tornadoes allowed.

HF3866—Kahn (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Multi-tenant building smoking area designation restricted.

HF3867—Orfield (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

Thursday, April 2

HF3868—Workman (R)

Ways & Means

Counties affected by tornado damage provided solid waste management tax waivers.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call House Calls at
(612) 296-9283.

All meetings are open to the public.

Sign language interpreter services:

(612) 224-6548 v/tty

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MONDAY, April 6

8 a.m.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Solberg

Agenda: HF3862 (Johnson, R.) Relating to public safety; providing for matching funds for federal disaster relief and appropriating money.

Additional bills may be added.

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

Legislative Audit Commission

125 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener

Agenda: Review of best practices report on 911 dispatching, Roger Brooks, deputy legislative auditor for program evaluation; Jody Hauer, project manager; Jennifer Moenck Feige, Valerie Bombach, evaluation specialists. Review and approval of program evaluation topics recommended by Topic Selection Subcommittee.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985

15 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Dee Long

Sen. Douglas Johnson

*****Time to be announced*****

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Capital Investment

Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis

Sen. Keith Langseth

TUESDAY, April 7

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985

15 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Dee Long

Sen. Douglas Johnson

*****Time to be announced*****

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Capital Investment

Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis

Sen. Keith Langseth

WEDNESDAY, April 8

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985

15 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Dee Long

Sen. Douglas Johnson

*****Time to be announced*****

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Capital Investment

Bonding Bill HF3843/SF3388

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Henry Kalis

Sen. Keith Langseth

THURSDAY, April 9

9 a.m.

The House meets in session.

1 p.m.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Tax Bill HF3840/SF2985

15 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Dee Long

Sen. Douglas Johnson

*****Time to be announced*****

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Omnibus Capital Investment

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Public transit in Minnesota and elsewhere

Metropolitan area trips on public transit per capita in 1990	24
in 1960	44
in 1950	118
in 1920	314
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in 1970	49
Rides per capita on public transit in the Twin Cities, 1995	27.4
in Tampa Bay, Fla.	10.8
in Milwaukee	46.8
in Portland, Ore.	52.8
in San Francisco	105.9
in Boston	115.7
Percent decrease in transit ridership in metropolitan area, 1987 to 1996	10
Percent increase in transit spending in metropolitan area, 1987 to 1996	11
Percent increase in ridership in Greater Minnesota, 1987 to 1996	4
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Passengers carried by Twin Cities public transit in 1996, in millions	66
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Vehicle miles traveled, in millions	35
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Fares, in millions	\$50
State appropriations and grants, in millions	\$43
Operating costs for Greater Minnesota transit in 1996, in millions	\$24
State appropriations, in millions	\$10.6
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Sources: *Transit Services*, February 1998, Office of the Legislative Auditor and *Transit Fact Book*, February 1997, American Public Transit Association.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 10, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 12



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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

Teresa Kittridge is leaving the House. She is one of those rare individuals one cannot help but respect and care about. After 20 years of dedicated service to the House in many responsibilities, she steps down as 2nd assistant chief clerk to go to work in the private sector.

When her departure was announced on the House floor during session on April 7, the members were startled. With a loud gasp expressing astonishment, then regret, they stood and gave Teresa and Charlie Ward, the other staff member leaving, one of the longest ovations heard in the chamber in years.

An informal duty during her tenure was to serve as a "pacifier" for first-termers who always started out being confused by the process. Teresa's duties included serving as the official liaison for chaplains who come to give the invocation.

"I will miss her," said House Chaplain Rev. Ronald A. Smith. "The chamber can be intimidating, but Teresa made you feel at home with her perennial smile. She also helped you understand the process."

Teresa's work in public service did not begin with her stint as the intern for former Rep. John Brandl (DFL-Mpls) in 1978.

As long as she can remember, "public service in my family was as automatic as brushing your teeth," she said.

Her grandfather, Leonard Keyes, was a district judge in Anoka for 35 years. Her deceased father, Gerald Kittridge, worked 35 years for the State Highway Patrol and later was a lobbyist for the Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association.

"But the real politician was my grandmother, Cecilia Keyes. She instilled a dedication to public service in us," said Teresa. "She was a DFL associate chair and a close friend of Hubert H. Humphrey."

All the Kittridge siblings work in the public sector. Sister Colleen Landkamer is a commissioner for Blue Earth County. Brother Kevin is former chief of the State Highway Patrol. He now is a district commander. Teresa's other brother, Patrick, is a Ramsey County public defender. Their mother, Martha Keyes Kittridge, although retired more than once, does chemical dependency and gambling assessments for Ramsey County.

Darlene Keran, DFL supervisor of administrative support staff, said, "Over the years, Teresa's communications and negotiating skills have been a major asset in support of staff in both caucuses."

Chief Clerk Ed Burdick finds it very difficult to think of not having Teresa around. Since 1987, he has served as her mentor and good friend. For Teresa, it has been a privilege and honor to have worked for the Legislature and Mr. Burdick.

"The most difficult part about leaving, she said, "is to know that I will no longer be working with him, [1st Assistant Clerk] Al Mathiowetz, and the other main desk and clerk's staff. Also, my last few years here would not have been possible without my devoted husband, Kurt." Kurt Findorf has been the full-time "stay at home parent" with their daughter, Cecilia, for all of her five years.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Some people wave flags and others carry signs as several hundred protesters gather on the Capitol steps April 4 to urge legislators to cut taxes and authorize rebates.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

On the last day . . .

Major initiatives win approval; some hit rough waters

By Nick Healy

Major legislative initiatives won approval in the waning hours of the legislative session April 9, as Gov. Arne Carlson's record veto total continued to swell during his final year in office.

After weeks of often-difficult conference committee negotiations, major bills related to taxes, state building projects, and K-12 education emerged for action on the House floor.

Emergency relief for tornado victims sped to passage, but several major spending bills — including human services, economic development, and early childhood education measures — ran into rough times.

The House passed an omnibus tax bill that would provide \$500 million in property tax rebates for homeowners and renters and would make reforms in the property tax system.

"We've worked long and hard," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the House Taxes Committee. "This bill is the result of compromises on both sides."

Long and her Senate counterpart, Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower), demonstrated an unusual level of camaraderie when they wrapped up conference committee work on the tax bill with a friendly little kiss — just a peck for the cameras.

All lawmakers did not respond so warmly to the bill produced by the conference committee Long and Johnson led. Opposition to the measure came from legislators who called for more of the state's projected \$1.9 billion surplus to be returned to taxpayers. Critics were not satisfied with the proposed \$500 million in rebates.

"It's not enough. It's \$500 million out of \$1.9 billion," said Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth). "There's no permanent tax cut that you permanently give back to taxpayers. It's very reasonable for us to expect that taxpayers have a permanent tax cut."

But supporters said the bill would provide sizable rebates and significant reform, and Long defended the tax plan.

"If you knew what was in the bill, you couldn't make the statements you continue to make. There are permanent property tax cuts for all Minnesota businesses and apartment owners in the bill," she said.

The House also passed a \$124 million K-12 funding bill on the session's final day. The



Sen. Doug Johnson and Rep. Dee Long, co-chairs of the conference committee on omnibus tax legislation, seal a \$1 billion tax agreement with a kiss. The tax compromise, reached April 8, includes another \$500 million in property tax rebates for homeowners and renters next year and permanent property tax cuts for businesses and apartment owners.

vote was 105-28. The bill would allow school districts to phase in the Profile of Learning, a portion of the state's Graduation Standards initiative that would measure student achievement on a broad range of skills in many subject areas.

The Profile of Learning is currently set to be implemented statewide in the 1998-1999 school year, but the bill would allow districts up to three years to fully implement the new requirements.

The bill would provide \$70 million to help districts implement the Profile of Learning. Funds could be used to update curriculum and to train teachers to work with the new requirements.

The bill also includes a provision that would abolish the State Board of Education, a nine-member board that sets a limited range of policies and regulations for K-12 education and community education.

The close of the legislative session also saw a break in the standoff over an omnibus bonding bill that was the subject of great controversy related to funding for a new St. Paul arena to house the Minnesota Wild professional hockey team.

The bonding bill, which would provide for nearly \$1 billion in capital projects, emerged

from conference committee including a plan that would provide a \$65 million interest-free loan from the state to the city that would support construction of the \$130 million St. Paul arena. The bonding bill also includes funds for expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center and for convention and community center projects in cities including Duluth and St. Cloud.

The House passed the bill late April 9. The vote was 86-47.

The emergency tornado relief bill quickly assembled and passed before the close of the session would provide \$27.6 million to help residents and businesses in south-central Minnesota towns struck by a recent storm.

"The power that comes from hope is very well represented in this package," said Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter), who sponsored the bill.

Johnson's home was among the 1,000 in St. Peter to receive minor damage in the March 29 storm. Another 200 homes were destroyed, and 600 others in the historic Minnesota River town had major damage.

The state funds would provide the state and local matching contributions required to receive federal aid for the four Minnesota counties declared a major disaster area. And the

state money will fund a variety of other initiatives to help recovery in affected areas.

Other significant measures passed by the Legislature in the final days of the session would let voters in the November 1998 general election decide the fate of proposed constitutional amendments that would eliminate the state treasurer's office and would protect hunting and fishing rights.

If a proposed amendment were approved by voters, the treasurer's office would be eliminated in January 2003 and its duties would be transferred to the Office of the Secretary of State.

"Many studies over several decades have recommended abolishing the office because it's a shell of its former self in terms of policy-making," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of the bill.

Another proposed amendment would declare that "hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good."

"I believe the people of the state of Minnesota will take this with open arms and ratify it," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), a co-sponsor of the bill.

While many significant legislative initiatives found approval, several other noteworthy bills ran into trouble.

House members rejected a \$58 million omnibus health and human services bill April 8 by voting to send the legislation back to conference committee.

A battle over abortion-related provisions jeopardized the bill, which also would fund programs for legal immigrants, children, and the elderly, make changes in child-protection, and provide raises for nursing home workers.

The House had earlier approved a version of the bill that would have banned late-term or "partial-birth" abortions and would have established new reporting requirements for medical professionals who perform abortions. But those provisions did not survive a House-Senate conference committee.

The governor also vetoed several major pieces of legislation, including a \$38 million economic development bill, a \$14.9 million family and early childhood education spending bill, and a handful of elections-related bills.

Prior to Carlson's election, the record for career vetoes by one governor was held by former Gov. Al Quie, who shot down 31 bills during his one term in office. Carlson had already vetoed 164 bills at the outset of the 1998 session, and he showed no sign of stopping as the session drew to a close.



By Nicole Wood

The clock is ticking on the 80th Legislative Session and former Rep. Mary Forsythe sends her condolences from Sun City, Ariz., to her old colleagues in St. Paul.

"I feel sorry for them," she said during a recent telephone interview. "They're probably working until two in the morning."

"That was one thing I got out of the Legislature — I don't even get jet lag when I go to Europe because I'm used to being up all night."

Forsythe, a Republican, served District 42B in Edina from 1972 to 1990. She was the first woman elected to the Legislature from her district and the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee.

"I always said [Edina] was the best town in the state," she said. "I had a lot of people who cared and a lot of well-educated people with an interest in politics."

Plus, she said, it was a town full of Republicans, so she fit right in.

"The most outstanding thing about Mary, other than her intellect, was that she had this wonderful voice," said friend and former Rep. Sidney Pauly, who served a district bordering Forsythe's in the 1980s. "She was a music major at St. Olaf and when she would talk in a normal voice, it would just boom out. It wasn't high and squeaky — it was a voice of authority."

In 1986, Forsythe sponsored the state's first mandatory seat belt law. It was the

Forsythe spends winters in Arizona; remembers seat belt law with pride

toughest piece of legislation she ever sponsored, she said, and it is the bill of which she is most proud.

"I was damned from one part of the state to the next," she said. "It finally passed, but it was an awful lot of work. I still think it was the right thing to do."

Forsythe was just shy of her 70th birthday when she left the House. The breakdown of relationships between DFLers and Republicans that she observed toward the end of her 18 years in office was regrettable, she said.

"When we first came in, you could be friends with the opposition," she said.



Former Rep. Mary Forsythe poses outside the theater in her hometown, Edina, in 1990. Forsythe was the chief sponsor of Minnesota's first mandatory seat belt law.

"When I left, there was far more partisan politics involved, which wasn't pleasant for those of us who had been in office for a while."

Today, Forsythe and her husband, Robert, divide their time between Sun City and Longville, Minn., although she is quick to

Forsythe continued on page 18

Carlson, who made a surprise appearance on the House floor April 9, had vetoed or line-item vetoed 10 bills as of that time.

He called the spending in the omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations bill "clearly excessive" and he reminded legislators of his vision of what even-year legislative sessions should be.

The \$38 million development bill included about \$20 million in appropriations for housing issues and \$18 million in appropriations for statewide economic development and job training.

"As I stated in my prior veto message, even-year legislative sessions were not created to

enact large appropriation bills such as this," Carlson wrote in his veto message. "Outside of bonding and emergency financing, the Legislature should significantly limit all spending proposals during these sessions."

In the veto message that accompanied the family and early childhood education bill, Carlson included a simple request of lawmakers.

"How about considering limiting even-year sessions to three weeks and giving the public a constitutional amendment that will allow them to create a unicameral legislature?" Carlson asked. 🐼

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Help for grain farmers

The House passed a bill April 9 that would provide \$8.8 million in assistance for struggling grain farmers in 16 Minnesota counties, mostly in the northwest portion of the state. The vote was 95-32.

Wheat and barley farmers during the past five years have lost significant parts of their crops to a plant disease called "scab," a problem linked to the persistent wet weather experienced in the northwestern part of the state.

Farmers have seen catastrophic drops in yields as the result of scab and other wet-cycle plant diseases. At the same time, federal crop insurance has risen in cost and dropped in coverage.

The bill (**HF3853**), sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would provide aid to help affected farmers get insurance coverage. Under the measure, farmers whose losses have reached a specific threshold could receive up to \$4,000 apiece to help pay crop insurance premiums.

The 16 counties included in the bill fall near Minnesota's entire western border, but the most widespread losses have been in the northwest.

The eligible counties would be Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and Wilkin.

There are fears that many farmers whose crops are affected by scab — also known as *Fusarium head blight* — could fold this spring after years of difficulty.

During a House committee hearing on Tunheim's bill, a Kittson County farmer told lawmakers that Minnesotans have lost \$1.5 billion to scab and that the problem could wipe out many farms in northwestern Minnesota.

The bill goes to the governor.

Studying industrial hemp

A bill that would allow the study of industrial hemp and its uses — an idea earlier rejected by the House — was resurrected and narrowly passed April 9. The vote was 68-64.

Bill sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) added a successful amendment stating that

concerns of law-enforcement officials must be taken into consideration in the study.

Kahn said the bill might open new financial opportunities for farmers in Minnesota because hemp can be used for a variety of products, such as paper, clothing, fiber board, twine, birdseed, and oil.

The bill would direct the University of Minnesota, working with the Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, to study issues related to hemp production.

"Industrial hemp was never banned legally. The U.S. Congress never passed a bill banning industrial hemp. The [Drug Enforcement Administration] has no authority to override Congress. What we're trying to do is get the DEA and The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in sync," she said.

The bill has attracted controversy because hemp is in the same family as marijuana, an illegal controlled substance in the United States since 1937.

Marijuana and industrial hemp carry the scientific classification of *cannabis sativa*, but they are significantly different plants, according to information supplied by the North American Industrial Hemp Council.

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the intoxicating drug in both marijuana and hemp. Marijuana contains 3 percent to 20 percent THC, while hemp contains .05 percent to 1 percent THC. Hemp-based finished products have no THC in them.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, has consistently spoken against the bill.

"The bill has not changed that much," he said. "I urge you to vote the bill down again tonight. We all know that industrial hemp has the same active ingredients as marijuana."

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) agreed.

"The last thing the state of Minnesota needs is one more product that we can heavily subsidize," she said.

But Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said the bill is about economic development, not marijuana.

"For the people watching us, they'd think we were smoking dope, but we're not. We're talking about an economic development bill," he said. "This is a bill similar to what was proposed in North Dakota. Get rid of the idea that it's a project that's going to frighten you and your constituents."

The bill (**HF349/SF1181***) would call for

the university to report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1999.



BUSINESS

Alcohol sales on campus



The sale of alcohol on state university grounds will be allowed on a limited basis, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

The law will allow issuance of temporary on-sale liquor licenses for events sponsored or approved by the university requesting the permit. The law will not apply to campus sporting events, fraternity or sorority parties, or other functions geared toward students.

Legislators were told the permits will be for social functions at universities, such as plays held on campus, where wine sales have been requested. The temporary licenses also could be used for on-campus alumni functions.

Legislators also were told that community functions are sometimes held on campuses and that some civic organizations have requested to serve liquor on campus.

The law also will allow on-sale liquor licenses to be issued for Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort and for Ironworld Discovery Center. A state agency, the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, owns and operates Ironworld in Chisholm, Minn., and Giants Ridge near Biwabik, Minn.

The fee charged for a license issued for Ironworld or Giants Ridge will have to be comparable to the fee charged in the surrounding area.

The law also will exempt towns of 5,000 or less from a restriction that allows the sale of only one temporary license to a municipality within a 30-day period. The exemption also applies to licenses issued in connection with community festivals.

Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the new measure.

HF2695/SF2274*/CH364

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Franchise law exemption



Northwest Airlines will be unable to use a 1997 law to its advantage in a court battle, under a new law signed by the governor April 2.

The 1997 Legislature passed special legislation for Northwest Airlines that retroactively exempted the airline from Minnesota's franchise law.

The state franchise law provides franchisees with some degree of protection against unwarranted termination of agreements with their parent companies.

Legislators discovered this year that the retroactive exemption had an effect on pending litigation against Northwest Airlines.

A \$30 million lawsuit filed in Maine in 1994 by Northeast Express Airlines and Precision Valley Aviation claims that Northwest Airlines violated Minnesota's franchise law when it dropped the two commuter airlines, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The new law clarifies that the 1997 franchise exemption does not apply to any agreements that were subject to litigation prior to passage of the law. The new law is effective retroactively to May 31, 1997.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure.

HF3841/SF3397*/CH353



CRIME

Omnibus crime prevention bill



Gov. Arne Carlson signed omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention legislation that includes several provisions aimed at lengthening penalties for certain crimes April 6.

One such provision in the new law will classify murder committed in the course of a kidnapping a heinous crime, effective Aug. 1, 1998. A person convicted of such a crime could be sentenced to life without parole, Minnesota's toughest sentence. (Art. 2, Sec. 6)

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who backed the provision, said that measure comes in response to the 1996 murder-kidnapping of Paul Antonich, a Two Harbors teen-ager taken from his father's car in Duluth after a minor traffic accident.

Another provision in the new law will make murder committed during a drive-by shooting a first-degree murder crime, increasing the prison sentence for the offense. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

The new law also will raise the maximum penalty from a five-year prison term to a 10-year term for firing into an occupied vehicle. Both drive-by shooting provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998. (Art. 2, Sec. 22)

The measure also will increase penalties for felons convicted of violent offenses who are found illegally in possession of a firearm. Currently, the mandatory minimum prison sentence is 18 months. Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the mandatory minimum will be increased to five years. (Art. 2, Sec. 4)

Another provision in the law will increase penalties generally for soliciting a prostitute or receiving profit from prostitution. This provision, effective Aug. 1, 1998, also will increase the penalties for engaging in prostitution in a school zone or in a residential area. (Art. 2, Secs. 1, 12)

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

Here are some other highlights of the new law.

HFnone/SF3345*/CH367

Prosecuting gangs

Prosecutors told legislators this year that they are having difficulties bringing gang members to trial and making the penalties stick. Several provisions in the new law seek to address such concerns.

One provision will expand a current law that provides increased penalties for crimes done for the benefit of a gang to include crimes "motivated by involvement with" a gang. The provision also will increase these enhanced penalties. (Art. 2, Sec. 9)

The new law will increase penalties for witness tampering and will add witness tampering to the list of crimes that can receive enhanced penalties if done for the benefit of a gang. (Art. 2, Sec. 5)

The measure also seeks to get people to show up for court, both offenders and witnesses. One provision will increase the penalty for failure to appear in court if charged with a felony level crime. (Art. 2, Sec. 16)

Another provision will increase penalties for individuals who knowingly and willingly defy a court subpoena to appear in relation to a violent crime. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

These provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Charging burglars

A provision of the new law will make it easier to prosecute people who illegally enter a property by expanding the definition of burglary to include accomplices. The new definition is effective Aug. 1, 1998. (Art. 2, Sec. 21)

Prosecutors said the new language would

make the law more explicit and allow them to bring charges against anyone who illegally enters a dwelling, even if they don't actually break in or steal something.

Fighting drugs

The new law will increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine. Law enforcement officials said that Minnesota is seeing a dramatic increase in use of the drug.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the drug will be raised to the same status as cocaine and heroin and the manufacture of any amount of methamphetamine will be a first-degree controlled substance offense. (Art. 4, Secs. 1-3)

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will make the drug ephedrine a controlled substance, to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances. The targeted over-the-counter products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teen-agers and others looking to achieve a legal high. (Art. 4, Secs. 5, 6)

Protecting police officers

Several provisions in the new law seek to make it easier and safer for police officers to do their jobs.

One such provision comes as a result of an incident where two Richfield police officers were accused of sexual assault. Although the allegations were proven false, the incident greatly disrupted the criminal justice process, not to mention the lives of the two officers.

The provision will make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties by expanding the state's stalking law. (Art. 2, Sec. 23)

In addition, the new law will make it easier to prosecute people who interfere with officers making an arrest by expanding the legal definition of obstruction of justice. (Art. 2, Sec. 17)

The two provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Another provision, effective April 7, 1998, authorizes officers to conduct pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.

Under previous law, pat-down searches could be performed only on adult offenders. Proponents of the change argued that police officers need to be protected from juveniles, as well as adults, carrying concealed weapons. (Art. 10, Sec. 10)

Conditional release

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will make several changes to the state's probation and conditional release law.

The measure also will allow peace officers to detain for eight hours a person on conditional

release if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has violated the terms of his or her release. (Art. 7, Sec. 12)

The law also allows probation officers to impose community service on people who violate the conditions of their parole. (Art. 7, Secs. 1, 2)

The new law also authorizes the use of remote electric alcohol monitoring for offenders who agree to abstain from alcohol as a condition for pretrial release or probation. Offenders who can afford the program are required to pay the costs. (Art. 11, Sec. 6)

Juvenile criminals

A version of the legislation earlier approved by the House would have opened some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public. For juveniles under 14 years old, the bill would have made court records available to the public if the juvenile was found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense. For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would have opened all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense.

These provisions were removed by the conference committee. However, juvenile court proceedings and documents will be open to the victim of the crime, under the new law. (Art. 10, Secs. 7, 8)

The measure also will increase penalties for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. Another provision will create a civil penalty for this crime, requiring a person found liable for the delinquency of a juvenile to provide restitution to victims. (Art. 10, Secs. 11, 12)

The new law also will make it easier to get juveniles who are participating in prostitution into the state's child protection system. (Art. 10, Secs. 4-6)

These provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Right to ride

A provision of the new law will prohibit owners of public accommodations, such as restaurants and hotels, from discriminating against motorcyclists.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law provides exceptions if the owner feels that the person's conduct poses a risk to property or the safety of other patrons, or if the clothing worn by the motorcyclist is obscene or includes the symbol of a criminal gang. (Art. 11, Sec. 18)

Reporting crime

Several provisions within the new law authorize reports to the Legislature regarding crime in Minnesota.

One provision requests that the legislative auditor study the cost of crime in the state,

including direct costs to state and local governments for criminal justice and indirect costs placed on individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods. (Art. 1, Sec. 14)

Another measure authorizes the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Hennepin County District Court to provide data on criminal justice in the city of Minneapolis. This study must be approved by both the Minneapolis City Council and the Hennepin County Board. (Art. 2, Sec. 29)

Another provision seeks more accurate information on prostitution in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The new law mandates that city attorneys in the two cities and county attorneys in Hennepin and Ramsey counties report on investigation and prosecution of prostitution within the jurisdictions. (Art. 2, Secs. 30-31)

Financing justice

The measure contains \$7.9 million in supplemental appropriations, a majority of which will go to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the state courts.

Of the total amount, \$3 million will be recouped in revenue from increased criminal justice fees and criminal fines.

The Department of Corrections will receive \$2.1 million, much of which will go to reducing the caseload for probation officers. Grant programs that fund community corrections also will be funded through these dollars.

The Department of Public Safety will be appropriated \$1.6 million. Of these funds, the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman will receive \$300,000 to fund its services; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will receive \$133,000 to add forensic scientists to its crime lab; and the department will get \$750,000 for law enforcement and community crime prevention grants.

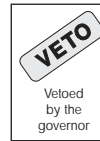
The state fire marshal will receive \$170,000 of public safety money for the creation of an arson data system. The data base will contain only basic information at the state level but will provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases of arson.

The measure will appropriate \$1.1 million to the state courts for law clerk salaries. The state public defender will receive \$1 million for defense attorney salaries. Another \$375,000 will be given to Legal Aid to provide legal service to low-income individuals. (Art. 1)



DEVELOPMENT

Jobs, housing, development



Citing what he referred to as "clearly excessive" spending,

Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations bill April 7.

The \$38 million bill included about \$20 million in appropriations for housing issues and \$18 million in appropriations for statewide economic development and job training.

In his veto message, the governor restated his belief that the even-year legislative session should focus on bonding and emergency issues.

"As I stated in my prior veto message, even-year legislative sessions were not created to enact large appropriation bills such as this," Carlson wrote. "Outside of bonding and emergency financing, the Legislature should significantly limit all spending proposals during these sessions."

The governor said that the bill contained several worthwhile appropriations which should be revisited by the Legislature, including funds to the Department of Economic Development for a vocational rehabilitation program and appropriations for various housing programs.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn) sponsored the bill.

The vetoed bill included a provision that would have provided \$10 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to assist in maintaining existing low-income housing. That provision was the centerpiece of the \$20 million housing portion of the bill.

The provision was in response to a situation occurring statewide. In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program where developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of many such complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mortgage and to begin charging market-rate rent.

The \$10 million in the bill would have funded the equity takeout loan program administered by the MHFA. The fund is used to provide financial incentives to maintain existing subsidized housing. The incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

Need a copy of a bill?

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(612) 296-2314

The bill also would have provided \$5 million to the MHFA for production of new multi-family, low-income housing.

And the bill included \$9 million in appropriations to the Department of Economic Security for job training and assistance, including \$3.2 million for summer youth employment and \$1.4 million for the State Services for the Blind to develop a digital communication center for its Radio Talking Book program.

The bill would have appropriated \$6.2 million to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for statewide projects. Of that amount, \$3.3 million would have gone to the Minnesota Film Board to provide support for the state's \$250 million film and video industry.

The appropriation would have been used to create a revolving loan fund to be administered by the film board and the Department of Trade and Economic Development. The governor had originally requested that \$5 million be appropriated for the fund.

HF3806/SF3367*/CH374



EMPLOYMENT

Hibbing workers' benefits



About 125 workers, temporarily laid off from the Hibbing Taconite Co. in St. Louis County, will receive extended re-employment benefits, under a new measure Gov. Arne Carlson allowed to become

law without his signature.

Effective April 4, 1998, the workers will be eligible for up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits.

They were laid off between July and September 1997 because of lack of work. The company says it expects to have them back to work by the end of May, but the workers' regular unemployment benefits ran out over the winter.

Under previous law, extended benefits were granted only to workers affected by large, permanent layoffs in counties with high unemployment.

The new law exempts the Hibbing workers from three requirements: that the layoff be of a certain size, that it be permanent, and that it occur in a county where the unemployment rate is more than 10 percent. The workers still need to meet requirements specifying that they be otherwise eligible for unemployment and that they have exhausted all other rights to benefits.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) said the average benefit of the affected workers

is \$331 per month and the total extra benefits will be about \$128,000. He also said that the company, since it is still in business, will end up paying for most of that amount in taxes.

Tomassoni and Sen. Jerry Janezich (DFL-Chisholm) sponsored the legislation.

HF3465/SF3084*/CH358

Workplace breast-feeding



Employers will be required to make a "reasonable effort" to provide adequate private space and unpaid breaks for new mothers to pump breast milk, under a new law signed by the governor April 9.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, employers must provide "a room or other location, in close proximity to the work area, other than a toilet stall," where a woman can privately pump breast milk.

But employers will not be held liable if they have made a "reasonable effort" to comply, and the law does not contain penalties.

The law will stipulate the break times can run concurrently with any other provided breaks. Employers will not have to provide the breaks if doing so would "unduly disrupt the operations of the employer."

The law also will exempt breast-feeding from indecent exposure laws.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF3459/SF2751*/CH369

Emergency dispatcher status



Emergency dispatchers will be classified as essential employees under a new law signed by the governor April 3.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, police, fire, and 911 dispatchers will join law enforcement personnel, health care workers, prison guards, and others as essential employees.

Under that status, workers give up the right to strike, but they can still request arbitration in a labor dispute.

Supporters of the new measure said it was needed because a dispatchers' strike would threaten public safety.

Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF1693/SF1074*/CH355



FAMILY

Omnibus family law bill

The omnibus family law bill returned from conference committee April 8 without the ambitious parenting plan provisions earlier approved by the House. The bill won final passage on a 126-2 vote.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said the Senate members of the conference committee could not accept the new concept in marriage dissolution he pushed for this session.

"It was unfortunate that the Senate just

Student rally



Students from Spring Lake Park High School rally in front of the Capitol April 6 in support of more educational funding.

didn't want to talk about reform this year," he said.

The omnibus family law bill (**HF2784/SF2276***) contains several provisions that would adjust the way that child support is decided. Most notably, one provision would require that courts consider financial obligations to subsequent children of current marriages when figuring increases in support payments for children of a previous marriage.

Dawkins' parenting plan proposal would have restructured state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

Under current law, the courts establish custody in situations where the placement of the child is an issue after marriage dissolution. Courts designate a custodial parent, and all decisions concerning the child are made by that parent.

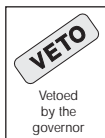
Under Dawkins' proposed language, parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would have been provided the option to compose a plan that would ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. The document would have outlined visitation and custody issues for the child.

Parenting plans could possibly be revisited by the Legislature in the future. Language for the creation of a parental cooperation task force was included in the omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention bill (**HFnone/SF3345*/CH367**) signed by the governor April 6.

The task force will explore the use of parenting plans and other means to decrease the conflict between parents involved in marriage dissolution, and will make recommendations to the Legislature and the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The omnibus family law bill now goes to the governor.

Family, early childhood bill



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the \$14.9 million family and early childhood education spending bill April 3.

The bill would have appropriated money for programs such as Head Start and Early Childhood Family Education, child care assistance, emergency services grants to homeless shelters, gang prevention, and lead abatement projects.

"The spending in this bill far exceeds the budget that I had submitted to the 1998 Legislature in this area," Carlson wrote in his veto message.

And he reminded the legislators of last year's "historic budget increase for child care, Head

Phone home



Rep. Rob Leighton's 18-month-old son, Taylor, discovers a new toy called a telephone in the House retiring room April 3.

Start, and other children and family programs."

The bill would have appropriated \$5 million for a program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. The basic sliding-fee child-care program already received an increase of more than 130 percent over the last biennium, Carlson said.

Under the bill, an additional 17,000 families would have qualified for the Minnesota dependent care tax credit program. The bill would have raised the maximum income threshold from \$31,000 to \$38,000 at a cost of \$4.9 million to the state.

The governor closed his veto message with a general suggestion for lawmakers.

"Even-year legislative sessions should not be allowed to become full-blown tax and spend sessions," he wrote. "How about considering limiting even-year sessions to three weeks and giving the public a constitutional amendment that will allow them to create a unicameral legislature?"

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) and Sen. Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the bill.

HF2803/SF2532*/CH365



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing heritage

Minnesota voters would decide in November whether hunting and fishing should be constitutionally protected, under a bill that won final passage in the House April 9. The vote was 124-7.

The bill (**HF3808/SF41***) would submit the following amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to affirm that hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good?"

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said it is not his intent to interfere with treaty rights, gun control laws, or property rights.

"I believe the people of the state of Minnesota will take this with open arms and ratify it," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), a co-sponsor of the bill.

The right to hunt and fish is under attack in a lot of states, said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook). A constitutional amendment would send a message — "you're not welcome here" — to animal rights groups who seek to curtail the activities of hunting and fishing enthusiasts, he said.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said the bill's potential positive environmental impact has turned him into a proponent.

"This amendment is as green an amendment as we're ever going to see," he said.

The bill now goes to the governor.



GOVERNMENT

Disaster relief bill approved

Weary officials from tornado-stricken south-central Minnesota told legislators via video conference April 6 that "any help you can give us would be welcome."

The House responded by approving a \$27.6 million disaster relief bill April 8 that Department of Commerce Commissioner Dave Gruenes termed "very generous." The vote was 131-0.

"The power that comes from hope is very well represented in this package," Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) said on the House floor. She sponsored the bill (**HF3869/SF3411***).

Johnson's home was among the 1,000 in



Members of the House Ways and Means Committee listen to testimony April 6 from Comfrey Mayor Linda Wallin (shown on left monitor) on the extent of tornado damage from the March 29 storm and her community's need for matching funds for federal disaster relief.

St. Peter to receive minor damage in the March 29 storm. St. Peter Mayor Jerry Hawbaker told the House Ways and Means Committee via the interactive television connection the city had another 200 homes destroyed, plus 600 others with major damage.

The town of Comfrey, with a population of about 450, was almost completely destroyed in the string of tornadoes that prompted President Clinton to declare four Minnesota counties a major disaster area.

Gruenes told the Ways and Means Committee the tornadoes probably caused about \$200 million in damage, much of which is covered by private insurance.

The legislation would provide \$8 million to match federal disaster assistance. Johnson said the state would assume the 10 percent contribution normally funded by local governments under federal disaster relief. The federal government typically pays 75 percent while states pay 15 percent and local governments pay 10 percent.

Another \$3.5 million appropriation would be designated to those rebuilding homes. Loans up to \$10,000 at no interest would go to those who stay in their homes for 10 years. Another \$500,000 would be provided in the form of forgivable loans for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of rental housing.

Businesses affected by the tornadoes would be eligible for \$4.8 million in grants to help rebuild. Legislators were told that Le Center, a town of 2,000, has 400 jobless residents because of the storm.

Another \$1 million would be set aside for local government to repair and replace publicly owned buildings, water systems, streets, bridges, and other infrastructure.

The bill also includes \$250,000 for after-school child care and expanded day care services.

Under the legislation, farmers would be

provided with \$4 million to repair farm buildings and to obtain working capital operating loans.

Tim Nelson, the disaster coordinator for Brown County, said more than 32,000 acres of farmland and drainage ditches are strewn with debris, some of which is so heavy it will require removal by heavy machinery. But he said most of the debris will have to be removed by hand.

"There are no machines that can do most of this work," he said.

Legislators also were told farmers need loans for machinery and seed, but that there was relatively little livestock loss in the area.

Under the bill, another \$3.2 million would be set aside as a contingency fund that can be appropriated to the commissioner of finance for allocations made at the governor's request or for unanticipated needs.

Another \$1 million would go toward loans or grants needed for historic preservation.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) told the Ways and Means Committee the state needs to look into federal aid for the historic buildings.

"It would be a shame if we passed up the chance to rebuild this city the way it was," Kahn said.

St. Peter has 270 buildings that have been inventoried as possibly historic and 14 buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rev. Dennis Johnson, vice president for college relations at St. Peter's damaged Gustavus Adolphus College, told legislators the best way to help the wounded college would be to help the community, where much of the faculty and staff reside.

"We can not succeed in our mission at the college without a strong, vibrant community," he said.

The bill now goes to the governor's desk.

State treasurer's office

Minnesota voters would decide whether to abolish the state treasurer's office, under a bill the House passed April 7. The vote was 88-44.

The bill would place a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot asking whether the elected office should be eliminated in January 2003 and its duties transferred to the Office of the Secretary of State.

"Many studies over several decades have recommended abolishing the office because it's a shell of its former self in terms of policy-making," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of the bill (**HF103/SF161***).

The office used to be in charge of managing the state's permanent school fund and overseeing unclaimed properties. Those duties have been transferred to the State Board of Investments and the Department of Commerce, respectively.

Most of the remaining responsibilities of the office, Greiling said, are cash-management duties that do not involve policy-making.

Greiling said the purpose behind eliminating the office "is not to be saving money but to have one less elected figure."

Of the 13 current employees in the treasurer's office, two positions — those of the treasurer and the assistant treasurer — would likely be cut. The other positions would be transferred to the secretary of state's office. An estimated \$150,000 would be saved in salaries.

An earlier version of the bill called for the office's remaining duties to be transferred to the commissioner of finance. However, House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) offered an amendment during an April 3 hearing before the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee that changed it to the secretary of state's office.

"Then you still have an elected person who's independent from the governor's administration to look at the state's financial system," Carruthers said.

Under the bill, voters would vote twice more for treasurer: once in November, at the same time they would vote on the constitutional amendment, and once again in 2000 for a final two-year term.

The Senate passed the House-amended version April 8, so the bill will become law. The governor has no power to veto proposed constitutional amendments.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Attorney general's budget



Following through on his earlier criticism of the size of the attorney general's budget request, Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto to cut \$1.1 million from the office's 1999 budget.

Carlson said he was troubled by what he called misrepresentation by the attorney general's office concerning a 1995 budget appropriation. He said the office had requested \$3 million for one-time technology upgrades in 1996 and 1997 but had, in fact, spent about \$2 million of that money on salary increases.

That \$2 million then expanded the office's budget base and led to an increased request for future funding, according to the governor.

"Frankly, the Office of the Attorney General possesses a division that deals with consumer issues and insists on high standards of truthfulness," Carlson wrote. "Those standards were not applied to the 1996-1997 budget expenditures."

But the governor left \$23 million for the office's 1999 expenses in the \$32 million omnibus state government finance bill he signed April 6.

Last year, he used his line-item veto authority to strike the attorney general's entire 1999 budget of \$24.4 million, citing what Carlson called the enormous and unnecessary growth of the office since 1991.

This year's \$23 million appropriation will go for core functions of the state's top legal and law enforcement agency for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The office is responsible for asserting and defending the state's legal interests, settling claims, and aiding other law enforcement agencies in prosecuting and solving cases.

The \$1.1 million line-item vetoed by Carlson would have provided: \$500,000 for legal services to state agencies; \$250,000 for gaming enforcement; \$250,000 for counties needing assistance with felony prosecutions and related tasks; and \$100,000 for a fund to educate senior citizens about telemarketing fraud.

Carlson also noted that the \$23 million appropriation represents a 13.6 percent increase over the office's previous base funding.

"Therefore, this line-item veto will do little more than return their service to normal," he wrote.

The new law also calls for a task force to study the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the attorney general's office.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury) sponsored the legislation.

HF3137/SF3354*/CH366

Claims against the state



The family of a 14-year-old girl killed in 1991 by a convicted sex offender on his way from prison to a halfway house will receive almost \$15,000, under a new law signed by the governor April 6.

David and Gayle Johnson of Alexandria, Minn., filed a wrongful-death suit against the state after their daughter was murdered by a convict who had been released from St. Cloud prison five days earlier and ordered to report to a halfway house in Minneapolis. He was not assigned an escort and did not show up at the halfway house.

Following the murder, the Legislature changed the law to require that escorts be provided in similar situations, but the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected the parents' claim.

The Johnsons next turned for recourse to the Minnesota Legislature's Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims, which annually hears private restitution claims that have been refused by the courts or a state government department.

Effective April 7, 1998, this year's claims law authorizes payment of certain of those claims against the state, as recommended by the subcommittee.

A Benton County deputy who, in 1996, shot and killed a suspect in the murder of a St. Joseph police officer will receive about \$24,000. The deputy later suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome and was unable to work for eight months, but she was refused lost-wage payment by Benton County.

Several inmates or former inmates who suffered injuries while incarcerated, as well as some people injured while performing court-ordered community service, also will receive payments this year.

Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the claims legislation.

HF3830*/SF3393/CH362

State employee labor agreements



Employees of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension have a new reason to look into taking early retirement, under a new law effective April 3, 1998.

Certain employees of that bureau who retire before age 55 will now be eligible for employer-paid health insurance.

The new law, signed by the governor April 2, also ratifies labor agreements with state employment unions, compensation plans for state employees who are not represented

by unions, and salaries for state agency heads.

Those agreements, plans, and salaries had already been approved by a joint legislative subcommittee on employee relations, and have been in effect on an interim basis.

The new law also makes a small change to the salary of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board commissioner. That salary now is capped at 75 percent of the governor's salary and is to be set by the governor. Previously, the Legislative Coordinating Commission set that salary.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the new measure.

HF3068*/SF2520/CH351

Red Cross volunteers



Although Gov. Arne Carlson allowed a bill granting full pay to state employees who volunteer for the American Red Cross to become law without his signature, he wrote that the legislation "truly represents poorly thought-out public policy."

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1998, allows any state employee to receive 100 percent pay while volunteering for the Red Cross for up to 15 days per year.

"Clearly, the intent is noble . . . but this bill goes well beyond the normal parameters of good judgment," Carlson wrote.

He said the legislation was flawed for including only state employees and not private-sector or local government workers, and also for including volunteering with only the Red Cross and not other disaster-relief organizations.

"At the same time, how can a person be a 'volunteer' while receiving 100 percent pay?" he wrote. He added that he hoped the Legislature would consider altering the policy in the future.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the measure.

HF2673*/SF1946/CH356



HEALTH

Prenatal alcohol abuse



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a bill into law April 6 which will authorize the voluntary reporting of prenatal alcohol abuse.

The legislation comes as a result of recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol

Syndrome, which was chaired by first lady Susan Carlson.

The task force was formed in July 1997 to formulate a comprehensive approach to the problem of alcohol abuse during pregnancy. Approximately 800 children are born each year in Minnesota with the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, according to the task force.

Effective Aug. 1, 1999, the new law will permit health care workers, counselors, and others working with pregnant women to report instances of suspected alcohol abuse to local welfare authorities.

The law will require that the local welfare agency then conduct an assessment and offer necessary services to the pregnant woman.

An earlier version of the bill would have made prenatal abuse of alcohol statutory grounds for civil commitment and required local welfare agencies to petition for commitment in cases where the woman fails to follow treatment recommendations.

The civil commitment process is used to require individuals to accept health care when, because of mental illness or other reasons, they do not realize the need for treatment. Civil commitment usually prompts hospitalization, which allows the individual to be monitored and effectively treated.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the new measure.

HF3184*/SF3207/CH361



HIGHER EDUCATION

Omnibus higher education bill

The House passed an omnibus higher education bill April 8 that aims to stabilize tuition and represents the largest supplemental budget increase for higher education in this decade. The vote was 99-34.

The \$73 million in appropriations would target \$36 million each for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU) system. The remaining \$1 million would go to the Higher Education Services Office.

Opponents of the funding bill argued the appropriations would be too high in the non-budget year of the biennium. The appropriation is \$10.5 million below the governor's request for higher education.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said enough operating money was appropriated last year and the Legislature "ought to be looking at only cleanup matters and emergency issues."

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), chair

of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee and sponsor of the bill, said in the last decade higher education funding has decreased from 15 percent to 11 percent of the overall state budget.

He also said the Legislature has previously funded higher education with "one-time money, but colleges go on two- and four-year cycles."

Here's a look at some highlights of the bill.

Funding for MnSCU

A total of \$20 million would reduce funding variances in state appropriations for full-year equivalent students at the 36 MnSCU institutions.

MnSCU was created in 1995 by the merger of Minnesota's technical, community, and state colleges.

Minnesota currently spends more per student at some two-year institutions than at some of its four-year campuses. Significant disparities exist in the amount of money the state's institutions receive per full-time equivalent student.

For example, Southwest State University receives about \$2,000 more per student than Mankato State University. The variance between the highest- and lowest-funded state universities for fiscal year 1998 is 54 percent, and the disparity among two-year schools reaches 90 percent.

Legislators expect MnSCU to develop its own allocation model beginning with fiscal year 2000. The model is supposed to minimize campus and system reliance on one-time funding, and reduce the variation in per student funding.

Another \$10 million would enhance partnerships between campuses and the private sector. The appropriation contains money to increase the number of students enrolled in internships by providing incentives for businesses to train, place, and retain hard-to-place individuals.

There is also \$3 million projected for libraries, although neither the governor nor MnSCU officials requested funds for the acquisition of library materials.

Another \$3 million was included in the bill so colleges could redesign their curriculum and train would-be teachers for implementation of the state's new K-12 Graduation Standards.

The governor's budget had requested \$42 million for the MnSCU system.

University of Minnesota spending

More than \$25 million of the appropriation for the U of M would be set aside for academic initiatives and equipment in digital technology and molecular and cellular biology.

Both the governor and the university had asked for \$41.5 million in total appropriations.

U of M President Mark Yudof has focused on investing in the school's molecular and cellular biology initiatives in his first year as president.

His goal is to create an institute for molecular and cellular biology with the aim of pushing the school into the top five public universities in biological sciences.

In his supplemental budget request, Yudof requested funds to recruit 11 blue-chip faculty members during the next three years and to provide them with expensive equipment needed for research. The president also intends to hire another 15 junior faculty by redirecting current U of M funding.

The legislation would provide \$9.8 million for faculty and staff compensation, \$6.6 million for equipment, and \$700,000 for design of a digital computation laboratory.

Another \$7.9 million would be targeted for molecular and cellular biology, and \$3 million for research of industries based on renewable natural resources. There is also \$250,000 for law clinic programs operated by the U of M law school.

No grade 13

A proposal intended to create a tax credit for the first year of postsecondary school costs for Minnesota high school graduates was removed from the higher education bill by a House-Senate conference committee.

The plan would allow families of high school graduates to deduct \$500 when they filed their state tax return if the child enrolled in a Minnesota postsecondary school in the fall and if the family fit certain income limits.

The federal government recently established the Hope Scholarship Credit, which calls for a \$1,500 credit for those who come under the same income guidelines.

The one-time state credit would have applied to tuition and education-related expenses.

Regent elections unchanged

A House provision stipulating a change in the University of Minnesota regent election process was also removed by the conference committee.

The provision, which would have set new residency requirements, was the result of a joint House and Senate subcommittee recommendation to have the board's membership reflect various parts of the state.

Currently, candidates are selected from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts. The measure would have required at least five regents to live in the seven-county metropolitan area.

HFnone/SF3297* now moves to the governor's desk.



HUMAN SERVICES

Health, human services bill

House members rejected a \$58 million omnibus health and human services bill April 8 by voting to send the legislation back to conference committee.

A battle over abortion-related provisions jeopardized the bill, which also would fund programs for legal immigrants, children, and the elderly, make changes in child-protection, and provide raises for nursing home workers.

The House voted 84-48 to return the bill to conference committee. The House also voted 79-53 to appoint new conference committee members.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) had earlier replaced two House members of the conference committee in an effort to get the votes required to move the bill to the floor.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill sponsor and chair of the finance division of the House Health and Human Services Committee, remained on the conference committee. The new members were Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), who is the Health and Human Services chair, and Reps. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), Bill Haas (R-Champlin), and Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul).

Seventy-five House members had previously

signed a pledge to not support the bill (**HF2868/SF3346***) if it returned from conference committee without a ban on late-term or "partial-birth" abortions and without abortion reporting requirements.

The version of the bill earlier passed by the House included the ban and the reporting requirements, but the Senate version of the bill did not. The bill that emerged from conference committee also did not.

The Senate has adopted the conference committee bill, but it would stall without House approval.

The bill contains a provision for revamping the child-protection system. It would reduce, in most cases, the time a child spends in foster care, and would consider the best interest of the child when reuniting the child with his or her family. Without the provision, the state could lose more than \$50 million in federal money.

The bill included a 3 percent wage increase for nursing home employees, along with funds for food stamps for about 10,000 legal immigrants in the state who will no longer be eligible for federal food stamps.

Minnesota also could lose millions in federal funds targeted to buy health care coverage for uninsured children in the state. Under a federal "KidCare" program, Minnesota could receive \$28 million annually. But the money has been withheld from Minnesota because most children eligible for the federal program already receive MinnesotaCare health insurance for low-income workers.



INDUSTRY

Telephone Assistance Plan

A new surcharge on cellular telephones would help pay for expansion of the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP), under legislation the House passed April 3. The vote was 74-55.

The bill would add about 150,000 Minnesota households to the TAP, which currently provides assistance for basic telephone service to about 50,000 low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The version of the bill the Senate approved earlier would have exempted cellular phones from any surcharge to fund the program and would have increased the monthly 6-cent surcharge on standard lines to 12 cents per line in 1999 and to 16 cents in the year 2000.

Under the compromise worked out by a House-Senate conference committee, cellular phones would be included, but the surcharge could not exceed 10 cents a month on cellular, business, and residential lines.

The new surcharge would begin in 1999 and would not apply to telephone pagers.

The bill (**HF3074/SF2718***), sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), resulted from an expansion of the program under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission.

The new version of the TAP makes no reference to age or disability; it simply broadens the program to include single-person households at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level and multiple-person households at or below 150 percent of the level. A family of three with an income just under \$20,000 annually would qualify.

Until recently, the federal government and the state each paid \$3.50 per program recipient monthly, for a total of \$7. As of Jan. 1, the federal share rose to \$5.25, with an additional \$1.75 if each state contributes \$3.50. If Minnesota continues to contribute \$3.50, the total assistance for eligible households would reach \$10.50 a month.

Clark's bill would provide the additional revenue the state needs to cover the growth in enrollment in the program.

A residential household that participated in the TAP prior to Aug. 1, 1998, is entitled to receive continued telephone assistance credits whether or not the household meets the new income criteria.

Health and human services rally



Heidi Myhre of West St. Paul holds her sign from the second floor railing of the Capitol rotunda as several hundred supporters of social programs included in the omnibus health and human services bill rally April 7. The bill became bogged down in controversy over abortion-related provisions.

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

Pipeline excavation notices



A new law will make a distinction between information needed before a pipeline excavation and information needed before a land survey when notifying the Gopher State One-Call excavation notice system. The provision is effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Current law requires these notices to contain the same information. The new law removes language pertaining to anticipated discharge of explosives when only a survey is being done.

The Minnesota Pipeline Safety Act of 1987 mandated the establishment of a one-call notification center for facility operators, which became the Gopher State One-Call. That act included definitions and requirements for notices given by excavators and underground facility operators.

Underground facility operators include those who deal with electricity, power, heat, gas, oil, and water.

The new law also requires, as of Jan. 1, 1999, that operators maintain maps, drawings, diagrams, and other records of any underground facility that was abandoned or out of service after Dec. 31, 1998.

And the new measure will allow the commissioner of public safety to appoint a pipeline advisory committee. The new provision is effective June 30, 1998.

This discretionary advisory committee would replace the Pipeline Safety Advisory Council, and it would be governed by the statute pertaining to advisory councils and committees rather than administrative boards and agencies.

The difference is that members on advisory councils and committees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Members of the current council may be removed for missing three consecutive meetings.

The new committee would consist of representatives of the hazardous liquid pipeline industry, the gas distribution industry, the gas pipeline industry, the pipeline design and construction industry, state or local government, and the general public.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the legislation.

HF3324/SF2445*/CH348

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



INSURANCE

No rebate on coverage

The House passed a bill April 3 that would prohibit insurance companies from "rebating," or selling identical coverage to one policyholder at a lower price than other policyholders. The vote was 109-20.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), who owns and operates an insurance agency. He said insurance rebating does not help the consumer.

"It really disrupts the process. Insurance is not something you just go give away free," he said.

He said the bill has the support of the insurance industry.

"It basically says you can't be an insurance agent enticing people by giving away free policies or by rebate," Davids said.

Insurance is an important commodity that ought to be bought with careful consideration, and the insurance agent is supposed to explain parts of it the client doesn't understand, he said.

The bill (**HF3402/SF2928***) goes to the governor.



LAW

Protection for news media



Gov. Arne Carlson allowed a measure providing new protections for the news media to become law without his signature April 6.

However, the governor did take the opportunity to comment on what he referred to as a "disturbing trend" in journalism in a letter filed with the bill.

Effective April 7, 1998, the new law expands the current media shield law by guaranteeing protection for reporters' notes and tapes except in extreme instances.

Carlson, in his two page letter, wrote that while the freedom of the press must be maintained, he is concerned about the lack of accountability in journalism, especially with investigative journalism.

"News organizations often justify their activities based on the public's 'right to know,'" Carlson wrote. "It is ironic, however, that the media seldom extend that right to the way they do business."

Journalists have no boards of professional responsibility like lawyers, doctors, and accountants to ensure ethical behavior, according to the governor.

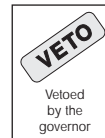
"Granting this law's special protection to

the news media would be more palatable if it were a profession that adhered to a strict code of journalistic conduct," Carlson wrote.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the new measure.

HF1668/SF1480*/CH357

Absentee ballots without 'reason'



A bill that would have established an absentee ballot pilot project for Hennepin County was vetoed April 9 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), called for a pilot project that would have allowed voters to vote by absentee ballot without having to give a reason, as long as they supply their name, address, signature, and other basic information.

It's the fourth bill relating to election law that Carlson has vetoed in the past two weeks, including a bill that would have extended a similar absentee ballot pilot project in Ramsey County, and he noted that in his veto message.

"What do we hope to learn from the Minneapolis project that was not demonstrated in Ramsey County? We know what the benefits and drawbacks of an open ballot system are — if it is a good idea, then take it statewide," he wrote.

Under present law, people wanting to vote absentee must have a reason, such as an illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.

Carlson noted that changes to election law are too important to be "laced with partisanship. I cannot support changes to our election laws when not a single Republican in the House, and relatively few in the Senate, supported the bill," he wrote.

"Increasing voter turnout, especially in our large cities, is an admirable goal; but simplifying the process is only a very small part of the solution. Issues and candidates move people to vote. I suggest we focus on those critical parts to move the citizens of Minneapolis to the polls," Carlson concluded.

Jefferson and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill.

HF2293/SF2118*/CH370



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Nonprofit corporations

A new state law permits Brown County and other political subdivisions to create nonprofit corporations to help with economic development.

The measure has been filed with the secretary of state without the governor's signature. It empowers such nonprofit corporations to issue bonds, make grants to companies, and to buy, sell, and develop property.

Gov. Arne Carlson allowed the measure to become law, but he clearly did not approve of its content.

"It gives local governments the power to create entities with broader powers than the entity itself," Carlson wrote, in a letter filed with the measure. "This is a dangerous precedent being established by the Legislature. Moreover, these local entities — while having greater powers than local governments — are not subject to some of the same legal requirements such as open meeting laws, competitive bidding, the Data Practices Act, and the Ethics in Government Act."

Carlson also was bothered by the expansion of power to many other nonprofit corporations, which he believes "has now opened the door to widespread misuse by these entities."

When introduced in the House, the measure applied only to Brown County, but it was amended to include similar corporations created elsewhere before June 1, 1997, by allowing them to continue to operate.

The budget of any such corporation must be made public, and if the corporation is going to spend more than \$100,000, it has to be approved by the county board.

The new law took effect April 8, 1998, except for the section devoted to Brown County, which is retroactive to July 10, 1990.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the measure.

HF2700/SF2192*/CH360



TAXES

Omnibus tax bill

It took weeks of conference committee negotiations, but the omnibus tax bill, which includes \$500 million in property tax rebates and more than \$400 million in property tax reform, won final passage in the House April 9. The vote was 100-33.

"We've worked long and hard," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the House Taxes Committee. "This bill is the result of compromises on both sides."

Opposition to the bill ran pretty much along party lines, with Republicans insisting that more of the state's projected \$1.9 billion surplus should go to the taxpayers, and DFLers maintaining that the bill would provide rebates for taxpayers and significant reform.

Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth)

urged that the bill be returned to the conference committee. He said he is not satisfied with the proposed \$500 million in rebates.

"It's not enough. It's \$500 million out of \$1.9 billion," he said. "There's no permanent tax cut that you permanently give back to taxpayers. It's very reasonable for us to expect that taxpayers have a permanent tax cut."

Long responded by defending the tax plan.

"If you knew what was in the bill, you couldn't make the statements you continue to make. There are permanent property tax cuts for all Minnesota businesses and apartment owners in the bill," she said.

Here's a look at some highlights of the bill (**HF3840**).

Property tax rebates

The bill would provide a rebate for homeowners and renters equal to 20 percent of the property taxes paid in 1998, similar to the rebate in effect for property taxes paid by homeowners and renters in 1997. The maximum rebate would be \$1,500. The rebate would be allowed as a refundable income tax credit to be claimed on the 1998 income tax return filed in 1999.

In the earlier version of the bill approved by the House, there was a proposal for an additional rebate to be sent out later this fall that would equal 50 percent of the regular 1997 rebate. The "no-wait rebate" is not part of the conference committee version of the bill.

Property tax reform

Property taxes for homeowners, businesses, and others would be reduced, under the final version of the bill.

The tax classification rate for the second tier of residential homestead property (value over \$75,000) would go from 1.85 percent to 1.7 percent.

The class rate of the first \$115,000 in market value of agricultural homestead property would go from 0.4 percent to 0.35 percent. The class rate on the market value of over \$115,000 and under 320 acres would go from 0.9 percent to 0.8 percent. The class rate on market value over \$115,000 and 320 acres would go from 1.4 percent to 1.25 percent.

There also would be a break for owners of commercial and industrial property. Class rates on that property valued up to \$150,000 would go from 2.7 percent to 2.45 percent. The upper tier, over \$150,000, would go from 4.0 percent to 3.5 percent.

Owners of apartment buildings with four or more units would see their class rates go from 2.9 percent to 2.5 percent, and owners of rental houses would see their class rates go from 1.9 to 1.25 percent for the first tier, and from 2.1 to 1.7 percent on the upper tier.

The bill also would require that the state's budget reserve (now \$522 million) be \$622 million in November of odd-numbered years, and would establish a tax reform and reduction account, with the governor proposing to the Legislature how the account would be used.

Any surplus in the state's November economic forecast would be used as follows: A total of \$200 million of that surplus would go to the tax reform and reduction account for tax reductions, and the next \$400 million would go to reduce the amount of bonding to pay for capital projects in the 1998 bonding bill. Any amount above that would become a balance in the general fund.

The bill which, passed the Senate on a 66-1 vote, now goes to the governor.



TOURISM

Fishing dispute resolution

A resolution asking President Clinton and the U.S. Congress to help settle fishing-rights disputes between Minnesota and the Canadian province of Ontario has been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State without the governor's signature.

The resolution urges the federal government to seek a solution to the border troubles that have spawned a proposal to allow Minnesota's Northwest Angle to secede from the United States.

The approximately 85 year-round residents of the Northwest Angle have complained for years about Canadian policies including fish limits, user fees, and border crossing permits that they say discriminate against U.S. anglers.

The Northwest Angle, the northernmost spot of the continental U.S., is actually a



Minnesota's Northwest Angle



peninsula on Lake of the Woods that is attached only to Canada.

According to Canadian law, tourists fishing the two-thirds of the lake in Canada, and staying in Canadian resorts, may keep up to two walleye or sauger per day. But beginning this summer, anglers staying at U.S. resorts will not be allowed to keep either of those fish if pulled from Canadian waters. Canadians say the regulations are needed because the species are overfished, but Americans say they are driven by a desire to force tourists to stay at Canadian resorts.

U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) introduced a constitutional amendment March 18 that would let the Angle and nearby islands separate from the United States, allowing residents and tourists to enjoy the Canadian fishing privileges.

Peterson said he sees secession as a long shot but that he sponsored the proposal in order to bring attention to the plight of affected anglers. He also said the Canadian regulations violate a 1909 border-waters treaty and the North American Free Trade Agreement but that the federal government has not taken action to protect U.S. rights in the area.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the legislation.

HF3854*/SF3406/Res.8



TRANSPORTATION

Omnibus transportation



Gov. Arne Carlson got many of the extra state troopers he had wanted for two years when he signed a \$51 million omnibus transportation bill into law April 7.

The new law also allows the Department of Transportation to spend up to \$40 million on new highway projects. And the law will create a task force designed to catch Minnesota residents who illegally register their vehicles in neighboring states.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the legislation.

Here is a look at major provisions of the new law. All of the provisions detailed below are effective July 1, 1998.

HF3057/SF3298*/CH372

State troopers

The governor had originally requested 47 additional state troopers and support staff at a cost of \$5.25 million. In 1996, the governor sought funds to hire an additional 46 state troopers, but

the Legislature approved only enough funding for four state patrol dispatchers.

Under the new law, there will be \$2.7 million in funding for 29 new state troopers, and there is \$200,000 for additional state patrol helicopter flight time.

Legislators were told helicopter patrols, which are currently used only on Friday and Saturday nights, are perhaps the greatest single boost ground patrols receive in law enforcement efforts. The funding will allow the patrols to fly during weekday evenings as well.

The state patrol's current complement is 535 troopers, including 37 that are expected to shortly graduate from training. The new troopers would increase the allowable force limit to 564.

Highway projects

A total of \$40 million will be appropriated from the trunk highway fund for highway construction projects in fiscal year 1999.

Another \$6.8 million from the trunk fund will be available for design engineering and construction engineering.

Also, the new law stipulates that the town bridge account may be used to pay the cost of abandoning an existing bridge that is deficient but will not be replaced.

The account also will be used to pay to construct a road or street to facilitate the abandonment of a deficient bridge if it is determined the construction of the road or street is more cost-efficient than replacing the existing bridge.

Lake Street planning board

A provision in the new law will establish a 13-member board to help plan and coordinate development of the Lake Street corridor in Minneapolis. The board would have jurisdiction over one-half mile on either side of Lake Street.

The board's purpose will be to concentrate on economic development, transportation, and residential renewal in the area in coordination with local government, businesses, and other neighborhood entities.

If light rail transit becomes a reality in the state, this area is expected to be affected by the Hiawatha Corridor of the transit line.

The members will have a three-year term ending June 30, 2001.

Registration task force

A dealer licensing and motor vehicle registration enforcement task will be created, under the new law.

A total of \$50,000 from the highway user tax distribution fund will be allocated to the commissioner of public safety, who is to designate four state highway patrol members to investigate the incidence of vehicle registra-

tion evasion and dealer fraud.

It is believed countless Minnesota residents register their motor vehicles in neighboring states, which have lower licensing fees. Estimates indicate this costs the state millions annually, even though it is a gross misdemeanor for vehicles owned and operated in Minnesota to be registered in another state.

The task force's final report is to go to the governor and the Legislature by Feb. 15, 1999. The task force expires July 1, 2000.

Driver's licenses and teens

The House passed a three-tiered driver's licensing system for teen drivers April 8 that would require Minnesota's younger drivers to acquire a learner's permit and then a provisional driver's license before receiving a full driver's license. The vote was 68-64.

People under 18 could not apply for a full driver's license unless they had driven one year free of certain driving convictions and had at least 10 hours of supervised driving with a licensed driver 21 or older, under the bill.

Currently, 15-year-olds can receive a learner's permit (which they must hold for six months) and 16-year-olds can apply for a full license.

The bill stipulates that the teen would have to be free of conviction in a crash-related moving violation and have no more than one driving conviction unrelated to a crash to be eligible for a full license. Parking and equipment violations or warning citations would not count against the teen.

Under the bill (**HF2532/SF2407***), if a teen were convicted of a traffic violation, the teen could face not only the penalties that apply to the offense but also be required to attend a youth-oriented driver improvement clinic.

The clinics would be designated for traffic violators age 18 and under to assist them in correcting improper driving practices and review provisions of traffic law. The clinics would focus on driving problems common to novice drivers.

The holder of a provisional license would be able to drive only when every occupant under the age of 18 has a seat belt or child passenger seat properly fastened. There would be a \$25 fine for violating the provision, but a citation could be issued for the seat belt violation only if a law officer stopped the car for a moving violation.

A total of \$295,000 would be appropriated from the trunk highway fund for fiscal year 1999 to the commissioner of public safety for the implementation of the licensing system and for youth-oriented driver clinics.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the legislation.

Underground expansion . . .

Grand Space designed to convey 'open government'

By Grant Martin

It is strangely appropriate that a significant plan to expand the Capitol complex in the Gopher State would center on a proposed underground facility.

A national competition to design a Capitol annex was authorized by the Legislature in 1973. The competition, called Minnesota II in reference to the first Capitol design competition in 1893, was administered by the newly formed Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB).

The proposed facility was to have legislative hearing rooms, museum space for the Minnesota Historical Society, a cafeteria, and parking — almost 400,000 square feet total.

And the proposed facility had to fit entirely under the Capitol mall.

Most parties agreed that an expansion was necessary for several reasons. Hearing rooms in the state Capitol were inadequate, partly due to the new demands of annual legislative sessions. Open meeting laws passed in 1973 also increased the demand for facilities that could accommodate larger numbers.

In addition, the Minnesota Historical Society, which was at that time located east of the Capitol in what is now the Judicial Center, was also strapped for space. The agency had room for only 1 percent of its total collection in that facility.

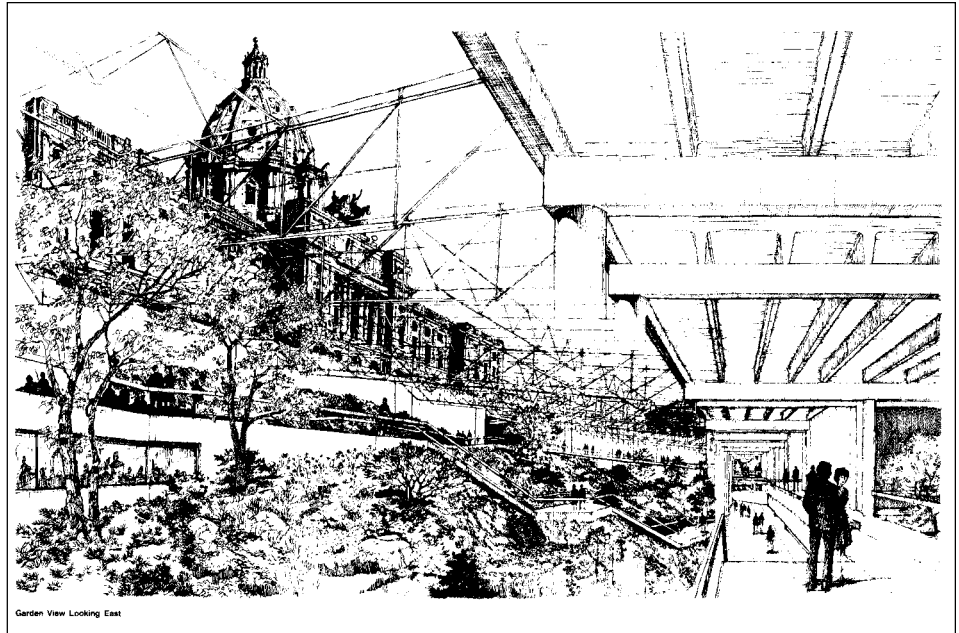
The mall was selected among three sites near the Capitol mainly because of its proximity between the Capitol and the Historical Society. The location promised to provide the easiest access for legislators, staff, and visitors. Disruption to the mall would be minimized because the facility would be underground.

"By providing a central, easily accessible location for legislative and executive branch meetings, the new facility will be a practical and logical manifestation of [the] open meeting law as well as an expression of the values of political openness and honesty of its people," the CAAPB explained in the competition rules it sent out.

Members of the legislative planning committee were told that an underground facility would save the state 50 percent in heating costs and 22 percent in air conditioning costs. In a time of growing energy concerns, the option was obviously appealing.

Members of the committee also were swayed by arguments that a new underground annex would not impede the historic view of the Capitol.

The competition began in full force in the

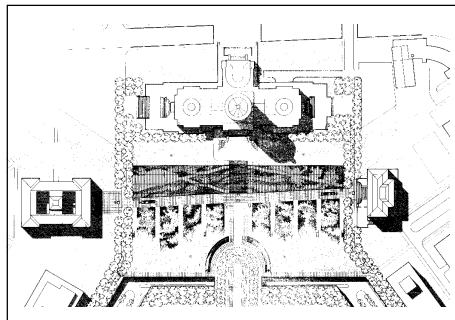


"At all times the Capitol and the open space can be viewed in ever-changing vistas," architect Helmut Jahn wrote in his proposal for an underground addition to the Capitol complex. "The south wall of the Capitol becomes the northern space defining element of the underground space. The closest interaction possible between interior and exterior is achieved." Shown here the view looking east along the proposed "Grand Space."

Drawings from C. F. Murphy Associates, Chicago.

fall of 1976. During the first stage of the Minnesota II competition, the CAAPB received 261 entries. From these entries, a jury made up of architects and public figures selected five finalists to submit more detailed designs. The finalists submitted both drawings and models to the jury in the spring of 1977.

The jury awarded the final prize to Helmut Jahn of C.F. Murphy Associates in Chicago on March 8, 1977. The winner was awarded \$100,000, which was to be considered a down payment on the project, had it been authorized.



The plans for an underground addition to the Capitol complex called for a large skylight that the architect said would relate "the terratectural structure to the Capitol and its environs and [create] a spatial composition between above and below grade." This is the artist's sketch of the proposed facility viewed from above.

Jahn, who is probably best known for the United Airlines Terminal Complex at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, is considered one of the most influential living American architects.

The winning design was a three-level structure with historical exhibit space, legislative hearing rooms, a cafeteria, an auditorium, and a parking facility for 450 cars.

The centerpiece of the design was what Jahn referred to as the "Grand Space," a two-story terraced tropical garden leading from the main floor up to the Capitol level. The garden would have been covered by a 690-foot glass skylight, providing natural light to the complex. Pedestrian traffic would have been allowed on the outside of the skylight.

Jahn wrote in his proposal that the Grand Space would symbolically communicate the feeling of open government to all who visited the Capitol.

"The Grand Space is a terraced skylight tropical garden with gentle ramps forming the circulation grid," Jahn wrote. "This space is visible from all levels, creates a spatial unity, furthers close interaction and facilitates openness and orientation. Every person coming to the Capitol complex shares this spatial experience."

Jahn's design received an award from an

architecture journal in 1979.

The cost of the construction was estimated at \$35 million, including furnishings, equipment, and landscaping. Construction was set to begin in 1978, pending approval from the Legislature.

After the final selection of the design, opposition to the plan mobilized as critics realized that the project was moving from the planning stages to the appropriation phase.

Several editorials appeared referring to the projects as the "Meginot Line" and the "Capitol Bunker." A poll conducted by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* showed that 59 percent of those questioned were opposed to the plan.

Opposition also solidified in the Legislature, including an announcement from a younger Arne Carlson, then a Republican

House member from Minneapolis, that he would campaign against the plan. Opponents questioned the need for the facility, argued that the project could be built on other sites more economically, and questioned whether the project would violate the integrity of the mall.

Opponents also questioned whether a facility could be built given the presence of water under the mall.

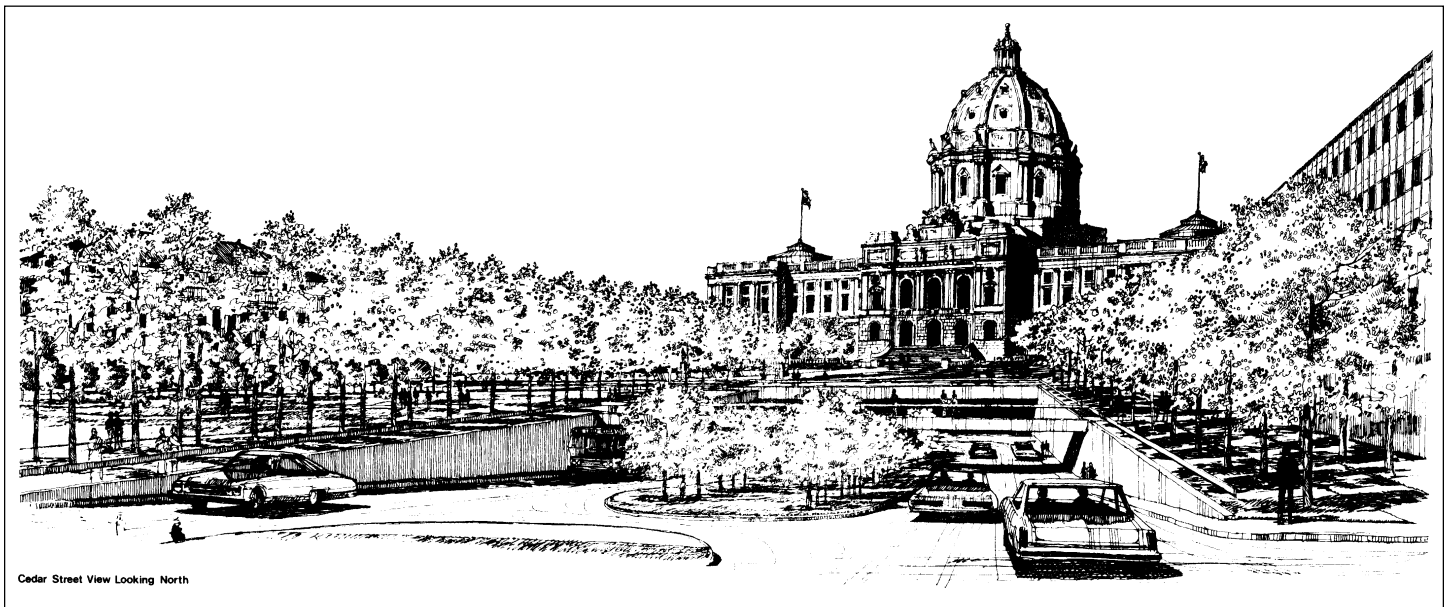
Senate Majority Leader Nick Coleman (DFL-St. Paul), the chief proponent of the plan, argued that the state could no longer ignore the problems at the Capitol complex.

"I just can't see how we can continue to say we are encouraging public participation in the governmental process and then turn around and say, 'Sorry, there's no place to park, there

isn't room for you, and bring your own lunch.' Improving public access is the only way to facilitate public access," Coleman said, as quoted in a Senate publication.

The three-year process to build a Capitol annex came to an abrupt end in April 1977. Following a two-to-one vote against the plan by the House DFL Caucus, Coleman tabled the bill in the Senate. Subsequent attempts in 1978 and 1979 to provide funding for the Capitol annex also failed.

The space concerns of the Capitol complex were eventually eased through a more piecemeal process, including the construction of the new Minnesota History Center, a large addition to the current Judicial Center, and the renovation of the hearing rooms in the State Office Building.



The artist's plans called for Cedar Street and John Ireland Boulevard to converge in a large underground traffic loop, providing access to the facility. This is the artist's drawing of the view from Cedar Street into the loop.

Drawings from C. F. Murphy Associates, Chicago.

Forsythe continued from page 4

mention that she would never give up her Minnesota residency.

"We just come down here for the weather," she said. And they have a nice group of friends from college and Edina who also spend their winters in Arizona.

Forsythe said she'll be back in Minnesota for Mother's Day. She intends to spend her summer reading biographies and volunteering for the Longville Friends of the Library. She joked about her unique library fund-raising approach: Friends who make donations to the Longville library are welcome to stay in her Arizona guest room for free. 🐾



Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) brought a bill (**HF3191**) before the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee asking the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to halt its plan to put St. Paul in a new telephone area code.

Paymar has argued the change will greatly inconvenience St. Paul businesses and residents.

PUC Chair Edward Garvey went before the committee to testify, and keeping with protocol, announced his name and affiliation to the committee. "... [A]nd [I'm] from St. Paul," Garvey added with a wry smile.

"You did this to yourself?" replied Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), who chairs the committee.

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) were removed from the health and human services conference committee April 7. House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) replaced the pair after controversy over abortion language had stalled work on the omnibus health and human services bill.

When Winter bounded into the April 8 House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which he chairs, Goodno asked, "Rep. Winter, you still have this job?"

"You never know," Winter said with a laugh. "We'll see what the day brings."

Rep. Richard Jefferson . . .

Retiring lawmaker recalls legislative accomplishments

By Nicole Wood



After six terms in the House, Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) is looking forward to his second retirement.

"I retired 12 years ago, and then I got a job at which I spent more time than I did at my original job," he said during a recent interview.

Jefferson's first retirement came after 32 years with the U.S. Bureau of Mines. As the head of research services, he used his chemistry background to oversee research into mining techniques and the use of resources — projects that the private sector would not do or couldn't afford.

The federal government has since closed the Bureau of Mines.

"I like to tell people there was no need to have it after I left," he joked, "but that's not exactly how it happened."

Jefferson has been a key negotiator on several Minneapolis public facilities financing deals, including the 1994 Target Center buyout and this year's proposed Minneapolis Convention Center expansion. Of the 12 House members from the Minneapolis delegation, Jefferson was the only one to vote for a new Twins stadium during the November 1997 Special Session.

"I saw [those initiatives] primarily as job opportunities, as much as anything," he said.

Jefferson said the most important piece of legislation he sponsored was a 1993 measure setting residency requirements for public employees of the city of Minneapolis.

"It had the greatest impact and the most far-reaching effect on the city of Minneapolis of anything I've ever done," he said.

Another bill that remains close to his heart but did not receive as much attention provided for the testing of newborn babies for sickle-cell anemia, a genetic blood disease that primarily strikes those of African descent.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said that besides the important role Jefferson plays as the only black member of the Legislature, his capacity for deciphering complicated state



Rep. Richard Jefferson, who has announced his retirement from the House after six terms, looks forward to a little more time both on the golf course and with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

purchasing and pension policies will be missed.

"It's so hard to find legislators who are willing to deal seriously with complex technical issues," she said. "One of his great triumphs was the Target Center bill, which he was able to pass all by itself, not tucked in with something else. That takes an enormous amount of legislative credibility and ability."

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) recalls that she once had a legislative assistant who analyzed the makeup of the House in search of "normal" people.

"Jefferson was one of the few normal people," Long said. "He's very solid, very down-to-earth, and a heck of a good golfer."

Besides more time on the links, Jefferson is looking forward to fishing, downhill skiing (which he took up at the age of 60), and spending time with his five children, 14 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

He has more than 60 cactus plants to attend to, as well. He and his wife, Mary, like to travel to Texas and Arizona during the winter and, through a process of elimination, they have

developed an appreciation for the hearty cactus.

"The first time we went away for three weeks — we came back and all the cactus plants were fine and the other plants were in bad shape," he said. "So, we specialize in cactus because we don't have to make arrangements like we do for the dog."

One of the things Jefferson said he has enjoyed the most as a legislator is helping people who were tied up in the bureaucracy of local government.

"That's the power of this office," he said. "It can be, when used properly, a very important tool for helping people."

But he made it clear that he has no illusions about how long the power to get phone calls returned quickly lasts.

"The power is seated in the position, not in the individual," he said. "Because the day that I leave here, that will no longer exist for me, and the young man who comes in behind me will be able to do those things." 🌵

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Hot dogs, ice cream . . .

Manager of Capitol's popular food stop steps down

By Sandy Donovan

There was a time, before Roger and Shirley Larson took over operations at the Ulcer Gulch, when you couldn't get ice cream on the second floor of the Capitol.

"Today, we have people asking for ice cream even on the coldest day of the year," said Roger, who's stepping down at the end of this session after 15 years of running the Capitol's most prominent food stop. "Bringing in the ice cream freezer was the biggest thing we've done here."

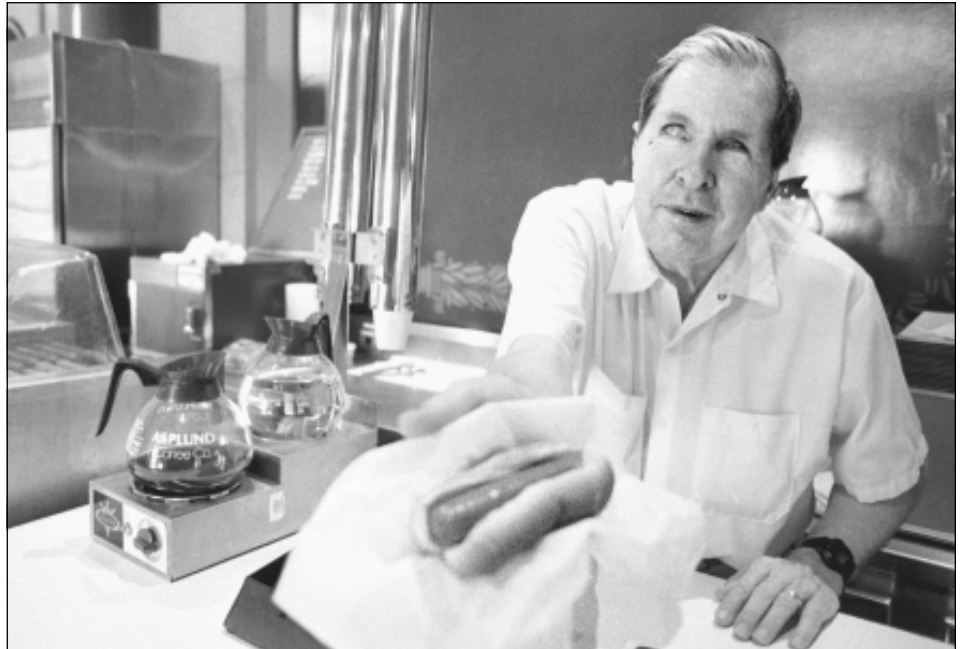
But the Larsons offer more than ice cream to the lobbyists and lawmakers milling outside the House and Senate chambers. It's not a well-kept secret that the snack bar is the best place to find a friendly ear and a chance to unwind from lawmaking proceedings.

"I enjoy the camaraderie, the teasing and kidding around with these guys," Roger said.

The Larsons have been running the snack bar and stocking the Capitol-area vending machines since 1983. They're independent contractors through Business Enterprises for the Blind, so they've enjoyed creative control over the business.

Besides ice cream, they've also introduced sandwiches and more low-fat snacks to the traditional hot-dog menu.

"We just try to have whatever we think people will like," Shirley said. Some items, like pizza (you had to wait 10 minutes for it to cook) and soup (too hard to eat while stand-



After 15 years of serving up hot dogs and friendship, Roger Larson is retiring as manager of the Capitol's second-floor snack bar.

piano tuner, often having his mother drive him around western Wisconsin to make house calls.

"But people don't really have pianos like they used to, and I never really earned enough to live on," he said.

So in 1981, both Larsons started with a training program in the Veterans Building through State Services for the Blind. Two years

manager comes on board. Roger, with some help from his son, will also continue to stock the vending machines through the interim.

"So if you see me still around this summer, don't have me arrested," he said.

He added that he'll miss the many friends he's made at the Capitol, but plans to enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Roger said he feels proud to have accomplished what he said was his biggest goal when he and Shirley started out in the Capitol.

"We just wanted to show people that blind people can do a lot more than you might think." 🐶

"We just wanted to show people that blind people can do a lot more than you might think."

—Roger Larson, snack bar manager

ing), didn't take off like the sandwiches and ice cream.

For Roger, 67, running the food service has really been a second career.

Although he was born in St. Paul, he went to the State School for the Blind in Janesville, Wis., at age 14. His parents also soon moved to Wisconsin.

In 1956, he moved back to St. Paul and three years later met Shirley, a Fargo, N.D., native, when they were both in a Minneapolis-based training program for blind adults. They married in 1961 and their son, Daryl, was born five years later.

For the next 25 years, Roger worked as a

later, they got the contract to manage the Capitol snack bar, and they haven't had an uneventful spring since.

They've been working together daily for those 15 years, arriving at 7 a.m. to stock the vending machines.

"A lot of husbands and wives just plain couldn't do it," Roger said. "When we started they told us it wouldn't work; they said they'd had other couples try to do it and it never worked. But we're different, and we proved that to them."

Although Roger's retiring mostly because of advancing Parkinson's disease, Shirley may be back next session when a new snack bar

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

House Index Department

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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.

Governor's Desk

CH354-CH387*

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills

and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either

14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at: <http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File
Res.=Resolution

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
354	3332*	2949	Open adoption agreements modified.	4/3/98	
355	1693	1074*	Public safety dispatchers as essential employees under PELRA.	4/3/98	
356	2673*	1946	Compensation increase provided for state employees on leave serving as Red Cross disaster volunteers.	Filed without signature	
357	1668	1480*	Minnesota free flow of information act disclosure provisions.	Filed without signature	
358	3465	3084*	Hibbing taconite company employees additional reemployment insurance benefits.	Filed without signature	
359	2947	2730*	Administration department provisions modifications.	4/3/98	
360	2700	2192*	Local government units corporations creation clarification.	Filed without signature	
361	3184*	3207	Prenatal alcohol abuse voluntary reporting and legislative report provided.	4/6/98	
362	3830*	3393	Payment of claims against the state.	4/6/98	
363	3145*	2719	Low income housing tax credit allocation and compliance monitoring review provided.	4/6/98	
364	2695	2274*	Omnibus liquor bill.	4/6/98	
365	2803	2532*	Omnibus family and early childhood education programs supplemental appropriations.		4/3/98
366	none	3354*	Omnibus state departments bill.	4/6/98	Line item
367	none	3345*	Omnibus crime bill.	4/6/98	
368	2736*	2205	Counties authorized to provide grants to nonprofit community food shelves.	4/9/98	
369	3459	2751*	Employers nursing mothers accommodations requirement.	4/9/98	
370	2293	2118*	Minneapolis absentee voting pilot project.		4/9/98
372	none	3298*	Omnibus transportation bill.	4/7/98	
373	2708*	2414	Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established.	4/9/98	
374	none	3367*	Omnibus jobs, housing and economic development.		4/7/98
375	3402	2928*	Insurance company affiliates rebating activities prohibition.	4/9/98	
376	2486	2256*	Elections provisions modifications for constitutionality purposes.	4/9/98	
377	2326	2586*	Sex offender treatment and release notification requirements modification.	Recalled by author	
379	2722*	2756	Red tag issuance authorized for underground petroleum storage tank violations.	4/9/98	
380	3654*	3189	Electric industry restructuring comprehensive study required.	4/9/98	
383	3862*	3411	Tornado relief bill.	4/9/98	
387	103	161*	Constitutional amendment to abolish Office of State Treasurer.	4/9/98	

*(non-consecutive)

Bill Introductions

HF3869-HF3884

Friday, April 3

HF3869—Long (DFL)
Ways & Means

Disaster relief provided for 1997 flood loss and areas affected by tornado and other weather damage, special levy authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3870—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health occupations regulation criteria modified.

HF3871—Westrom (R)
Taxes
Proposed property tax notices required to separately list taxes imposed by each special taxing district.

HF3872—Tunheim (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Uniform Commercial Code fraud actions clarified relating to economic loss arising from the sale of goods.

HF3873—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Tornado damage relief provided, temporary program waivers authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3874—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Housing infrastructure and economic development relief provided for tornado damages, and money appropriated.

HF3875—Rest (DFL)
Judiciary
Surrogate parentage agreements considered void and unenforceable, and arrangement prohibited.

Monday, April 6

HF3876—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Passenger motor carrier provisions modified, and money appropriated.

Tuesday, April 7

HF3877—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Midwife licensure exemption provided, and parent disclosure statement and informed consent required.

Thursday, April 9

HF3878—Wenzel (DFL)
Ways & Means
Tornado disaster relief expanded.

HF3879—Trimble (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Gift certificate sales regulated, and civil penalties imposed.

HF3880—Abrams (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health care provider reimbursement through capitation and similar payment methods prohibited.

HF3881—Hausman (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Prairie Island nuclear generating plant operator required to provide a renewable development account expenditure plan.

HF3882—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watershed and drainage district provisions modified.

HF3883—Olson, M. (R)
Judiciary
Juvenile programming grant program developed, eligibility criteria specified, and money appropriated.

HF3884—Olson, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended until 2025, and constitutional amendment proposed.

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A publication outlining the new laws of 1998 will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1998* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1998*? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

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Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota governors and veto power

Year Territorial Gov. Alexander Ramsey became the first Minnesota executive to use the authority to veto a bill	1849
Couples forced to remain legally wed by Ramsey's 1851-52 vetoes of bills to allow their marriages to be dissolved	2
Earliest year for which full records of vetoes are available	1939
Total number of vetoes 1939 to 1990	178
Vetoes by Gov. Arne Carlson 1991 to 1997	164
Most vetoes by a single governor before 1991 (Gov. Al Quie)	31
Vetoes by Gov. Rudy Perpich during first term (1977-78)	0
Perpich vetoes during remaining years in office (1983-90)	20
Veto override attempts since 1939	28
Successful overrides	4
Attempts to override Carlson vetoes (1991-97)	12
Successful overrides	0
Year Minnesota Constitution was amended to allow line-item veto of spending provisions in appropriations bills	1876
Year the line-item veto was first used by a Minnesota governor	1929
Amount saved by Gov. Theodore Christianson's 1929 line-item veto of an appropriation to the Crippled Children's Hospital	\$1,000
Minnesota governors who have used the line-item veto	6
Bills line-item vetoed by Gov. Wendell Anderson (1971-76)	1
Bills successfully line-item vetoed by Carlson (1991-97)	48
States where the governor has line-item veto authority	43
States that allow the governor to reduce spending provisions	9
Year Minnesota voters considered a constitutional amendment to allow the governor to reduce appropriations	1916
Votes in favor of amendment	136,700
Votes against amendment	83,324
Total votes in 1916 election	416,215
Percent of those voters who voted for amendment (majority needed)	33
Bills vetoed by President George Washington	2
by President Millard Fillmore	0
by President Abraham Lincoln	2
by President Franklin D. Roosevelt	372
by President George Bush	29

Sources: *History of the Item Veto*, 1992, House Research Department; Legislative Reference Library; *Vital Statistics on American Politics*, 1997-98, Congressional Quarterly Inc.; and *The Book of the States*, 1996-97, The Council of State Governments.

For more information



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SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ April 17, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 13

Final Issue . . . Latest New Laws



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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 17, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 13

Reflections

During the legislative session, some lawmakers made weekly trips to the Capitol from far away, as much as 389 miles, one way. That's understandable, for Minnesota is 385 miles wide, 405 miles long, and covers 86,943 miles in area. Those who made a long weekly round trip did it as part of their elective commitment to the voters.

Distances like the 22,000 miles Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) traversed annually, were minor in comparison to the trek made to St. Paul by some Territorial Council members before statehood, and then others after statehood. Two members — Norman Kittson, a fur trader, and Joe Rolette, a voyageur — lived in far away Pembina (now in North Dakota). At different sessions, they came by dog sled, traveling 30 to 40 days to arrive in St. Paul.

Likewise, Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) traveled the farthest from the northwest to get to the capital city. And Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) who shares the same district, said his trip was exactly 325 miles one-way, "from garage to garage."

During this session, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) would leave his northeastern home to make a 205-mile, four-hour drive south. Around the same time, at 4 a.m. on Monday mornings Rep. Michelle Rifenberg (R-La Crescent) and Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) would leave their homes in the far southeast to drive north. Like Lieder, Tunheim, Finseth, Rukavina, and Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) they all returned home every Friday.

But after 14 years in office, Olson stepped down and will no longer make the long weekly journey.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) has come from the farthest point north for 24 years, and Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) has religiously made the trip in for 16 years. But in recent years, Rep. Richard "Doc" Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) has flown his own plane from the far southwest when the weather was fair.

Tunheim once flew in commercially from Grand Forks, N.D., 70 miles from his home. For the past two sessions, he and his wife, Diana, have driven to St. Paul. "It took only three hours longer," he said.

Until next session, Lieder no longer will arrive home on Saturday at 1 a.m. to his wife, Shirley, patiently awaiting him. Lieder said he had only three delays in travel during his 14 years in office. "The first was when I had to stay overnight in Sauk Centre, due to a blizzard. Another was having to wait for a herd of deer to cross the highway, like caribou migrating. The third time was during this 1998 session."

One Friday, as chair of the Transportation and Transit Finance Division, Lieder and others approved staff increases and funding for the highway patrol. Just 15 miles from home, he was given his only warning ever from a state trooper.

Those who live so far away may wish to adopt the inscription on the New York City main post office: "Neither snow, nor rain . . . nor gloom of night stays these couriers from . . . completion of their appointed rounds."

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: The halls of the state Capitol are quiet. The 1998 Legislative Session has ended, and lawmakers and lobbyists have left the building.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading



Gov. Arne Carlson dropped in on the House April 9, the last day of a session that saw passage of a record capital projects bill and a separate measure that will provide taxpayers with another round of rebates.

1998 session wrap-up . . .

Legislators focus on capital projects, tax reductions

By Sandy Donovan

It was a short session that produced some tall numbers.

In less than 12 weeks, lawmakers cooked up and passed the state's largest-ever bonding bill, including almost \$1 billion in funding for universities, convention centers, light-rail transit, and a St. Paul hockey arena.

And they also found time to put together a package of tax rebates and reductions that topped \$1 billion. The bill would bring the biennial tax reductions to almost \$2 billion, another state record.

Tax cuts and capital projects were on the agendas of both the Legislature and the governor since the session opened in January with a projected \$1.3 billion surplus in state coffers.

But even as the projected surplus grew closer to \$2 billion, House and Senate members were at odds as to how to best spend that money.

House members advanced plans that would rebate most of the surplus to taxpayers, while selling bonds to pay for building projects around the state.

Meanwhile, senators called for using the surplus to pay cash for building projects, which they said would save money in the long run.

In the end both sides compromised to reach

a final agreement, hammered out during the last week of session.

Tax cuts would include \$500 million in one-time rebates for homeowners and renters as well as substantial reforms in the state's property tax system.

And funding for the \$1 billion in new capital projects would be split almost evenly between cash and bonds, with \$552 million coming from the general fund and \$416 million slated to come from bond sales.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) called the agreement a balanced plan, although a House-approved proposal for a so-called "no-wait rebate" this year had to be scrapped.

"This plan meets . . . important goals," he said. "First, it meets the goal of providing significant property tax relief to Minnesota's working families. Second, it enabled us to save money on building projects that not only create jobs, but which will put our colleges, parks, transportation systems, and communities on track for prosperity in the 21st Century."

Much of the money earmarked for capital projects will go to initiatives backed by Gov. Arne Carlson, including University of Minnesota improvements, environmental

preservation projects, and a St. Paul hockey arena, slated to benefit from a \$65 million loan to the city.

Still, some high-profile items were left out of the record bonding bill, including Carlson's desired veterans park in Duluth to feature the USS Des Moines.

And in other areas, lawmakers produced plans that far exceeded Carlson's January budget proposals.

An omnibus K-12 education spending bill, which Carlson has not yet signed but has verbally agreed to, calls for \$124 million in new spending. The governor has repeatedly said he considers that an excessive amount of money.

Most of it — \$70 million — would go to help districts implement the Profile of Learning, a portion of the state's Graduation Standards initiative, but the bill also includes

Lawmakers will return for a special session April 20 to resolve a civil-law issue that affects one Minnesota firm, as well as to attempt to pass revised family and early childhood and economic development measures. Earlier versions of those two omnibus bills were vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

\$12 million for Carlson-supported boarding schools for at-risk teens.

The K-12 bill also would abolish the State Board of Education and begin a major reform of the state's special education system.

An omnibus crime measure already signed into law imposes tougher sentences for a variety of felons and includes funding for more probation officers and for a project to have inmates build low-income housing.

But the so-called "three strikes" plan, which would have mandated life sentences for criminals convicted of violent crimes three times, did not make it into law.

And after much debate over whether to increase abortion restrictions, lawmakers passed a \$58 million health and human services bill that calls for more abortion reporting but does not prohibit so-called "partial birth" abortions.

Other initiatives this session include two proposed constitutional amendments to be placed on the November ballot: One will ask voters whether hunting and fishing should be preserved as a valued part of the state's heritage, and the other will ask whether the state treasurer's office should be abolished.

Also beginning this year, some employers will be required to provide space and time for nursing mothers to privately pump breast milk, and telephone companies will have to provide more detailed information when trying to entice customers to switch long-distance plans.

And awaiting Carlson's signature is a plan that would introduce a three-stage license system for teen-age drivers.

Still, of the more than 1,600 bills introduced in the House since January, several notable ones were defeated or watered down somewhere along the way.

A much talked-about proposal for a three-year moratorium on feedlots eventually passed the Legislature as a two-year ban on only new open-air lagoons for swine waste. But another measure signed by Carlson included funding for the first year of a three-year feedlot study.

Also arriving on the governor's desk in a more modest form than originally conceived was a plan to increase restrictions on personal watercraft operations. Under that bill, which awaits action by the governor, operations would be prohibited for about a 12-hour overnight period and the shoreline no-wake zone would be expanded.

Some other high-profile bills never did make it to Carlson's desk, including a proposal to prohibit banks from levying fees on ATM users.

Likewise, a House-approved plan to lower the legal blood-alcohol content for drivers did not make it out of the Senate, and a proposed constitutional amendment to create a permanent children's endowment fund will not be on the November ballot. 🐾



By Matt Wetzel

When former Rep. Wayne Simoneau started out as a mechanic in the late 1950s, he had no idea that roughly four decades later he would be capping off a career in public service as the commissioner of the Department of Finance. And working for a Republican governor, yet.

"Didn't even think about it. Just had to go to work and buy a house," said Simoneau, a former lawmaker, auto mechanic, and Teamster.

And it will soon be former finance commissioner. With Gov. Arne Carlson leaving office in less than a year, Simoneau's service as commissioner will be over.

"I'm going to retire," said Simoneau, a father of six and grandfather of seven who has put in 23 years of work in state government.

Simoneau, 63, lives in Fridley with his wife of 39 years, Jane. He served in the Legislature from 1974 to 1995, representing District 46B, which includes Columbia Heights and part of Fridley.

Born in Washburn, Wis., he attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis to learn auto mechanics, and in 1957, went to work. He was active in his union, the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters, and his Fridley DFL precinct, where he became the chair. In 1974, he became the chair of his Senate district, and soon after, he ran for the Legislature.

On the first day of his first term in January 1974, he knew he had a lot to learn.

"You've got to know how things work in order to make them work for you," he said. "I understand government and large systems and how they work. We're bigger than 3M. You've got to understand how big government systems work."

The best way to do that is to wait, watch, and think, he said. And, he said, flexibility is a must, whether guiding a bill through the Legislature or negotiating with special interests.

"Each situation is different. It's like going to college constantly," he said.

During his legislative career, Simoneau served as chair of the House Governmental Operations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. He last held the

Simoneau says being in Legislature was like 'going to college constantly'

position of chair of the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Regarding his legislative work, he is most proud of an initiative to bring state employees under one collective-bargaining agreement in 1980.

"We gave complete bargaining rights to state employees," he said.

The goal was to keep the Legislature out of setting employee salaries, except those of the commissioners, department managers, and essential employees.

He also was the House author of legisla-

tion that provided critical assistance for Northwest Airlines in 1993. And he was House author of a bill in a 1987 special session that helped protect Minnesota employers from hostile takeovers. That came when Dayton-Hudson Inc. was threatened, he said.

Carlson appointed Simoneau in 1995 to go to

work at the Department of Employee Relations, first as deputy commissioner and later as commissioner.

Simoneau said he doesn't consider it surprising that a lifelong DFLer, as he is, was appointed to an administration job by a Republican governor. Simoneau said he considers himself closer to the center than to the far left, and that Carlson has long had a reputation as a moderate Republican, closer to the center than to the far right.

"We're in the middle. That's pretty much where almost everyone in the state is," Simoneau said.

In October 1996, a vacancy occurred for the commissioner of the Department of Finance. Simoneau and Carlson went over the possible choices for a replacement.

"One day Arne just called me up and said, 'You're it. Won't you go upstairs?'" And Simoneau did. 🐾



Wayne Simoneau, an auto mechanic turned politician, is currently the state's commissioner of finance, but his long career of public service will end when Gov. Arne Carlson leaves office.

Highlights



BANKING

Checks in the mail



Restrictions will be placed on the unsolicited checks that some financial institutions mail to consumers, under a new law signed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Consumers who find such checks in their mailboxes are actually receiving loan solicitations, carrying interest rates as high as 30 percent.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the new law stipulates that no financial institution or lender can send such a check unless it complies with several new requirements.

The checks will be required to become void after 30 days, and information will have to be sent with the check advising consumers to destroy it if they do not use it.

Consumers will have to be told in plain terms that the check is a loan, and the loan agreement will have to be on the back of the check.

If such a check is fraudulently cashed by someone other than the addressee, the consumer is to be absolved from liability by signing a statement saying he or she did not cash the check.

The check will have to be mailed in an envelope that does not indicate its contents. Also, it must not be forwarded if the consumer no longer lives at the address.

Bill sponsor Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said during House floor discussion of the measure that he recently received one such check — for thousands of dollars — in the mail.

He said if the check would have been lost or stolen, and cashed, it would have been a hardship. He said his legislation puts procedures in place to protect the consumer.

The measure allows an exception for prospective borrowers who already have an open-end credit arrangement, such as a credit card account, with a lender.

Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2016/SF2550*/CH335

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

Lost or stolen debit cards



A new law effective Aug. 1, 1998, will limit customer liability to \$50 on lost or stolen debit cards.

The law will cover the debit cards that financial institutions issue to holders of checking accounts. Besides getting cash out of automatic teller machines, consumers can use debit cards to make purchases that are directly deducted from their checking account, as long as the merchant has a terminal that can handle debit card transactions.

The law will limit customer liability to \$50 if the card is lost or stolen. The limit will apply to unauthorized transactions made before the bank receives notice that the card has been lost or stolen. (There is no liability for transactions made after the financial institution has been notified.)

A similar liability limit for credit card holders exists in current law.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Edward Oliver (R-Deephaven) sponsored the measure.

HF2500*/SF2540/CH295

Women and credit history



A new law seeks to give divorced and widowed women a fairer shake when applying for loans and credit cards.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the law will require that creditors consider the credit history of an applicant's spouse and that credit histories be reported in the name of both spouses.

House sponsor Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) said the law will help women who were conscientious borrowers while married, but find themselves unable to secure credit after a death or divorce because the credit history exists solely in their former spouse's name.

"There are times when an applicant finds she has no credit history," Leppik said. "This [will] give that person recourse to state court and small claims court. The applicant still has to establish her own credit-worthiness."

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2309*/SF2136/CH327

Reporting fraudulent checks



A new law effective Aug. 1, 1998, aims to encourage banks and credit unions to report information concerning fraudulent check use to the crime alert network or law enforcement agencies.

The law will limit the liability of financial institutions who provide stolen, forged, or fraudulent check information.

As long as an institution is acting in good faith when they disclose information, they will be free of risk of being held liable by the subjects of the disclosure, under the new law.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Ember Junge (DFL-New Hope).

HF3389/SF2493*/CH337



BONDING

House approves bonding bill

The 1998 bonding bill — complete with a \$65 million loan for the St. Paul RiverCentre hockey arena — awaits action from the governor after being approved by the House April 9. The vote was 86-47.

The bill (**HF3843**), sponsored by Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters), appeared to be headed for disaster a few weeks ago.

The House-Senate conference committee could not agree on the RiverCentre appropriation, and Gov. Arne Carlson was threatening to veto all or parts of the bonding bill if the appropriation was absent.

The \$130 million arena plan itself also appeared to be in jeopardy. With the early stages of construction about to begin, it looked like the city would have to shoulder the financial burden of the facility, possibly damaging the city's bond credit rating.

Members of the St. Paul City Council were considering measures to delay the demolition of the current arena until the financing issue was settled.

It seemed that attempts to bring NHL hockey back to Minnesota might be in trouble.

A renegotiated lease between the city of St. Paul and the Minnesota Wild hockey team finally provided the necessary boost to resolve the stalemate.

The new lease allows the state to receive payments on its loan and gives the city of

St. Paul the ability to assume more of the debt without risking its bond credit rating.

Under the bonding bill, the state would provide a \$65 million interest-free loan to the city to assist in the construction of the hockey facility.

The bill would require that \$48 million of the loan be repaid by the Minnesota Wild through a set payment schedule over the next 20 years as outlined in the bill. The payments range from \$1.25 million to \$4.75 million annually. The payments would go to a youth activities account.

The remainder of the loan would be forgiven, provided the team can reach an agreement with the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to open the arena to the public for free events each year.

Under the initial proposal presented by the governor and included in the House version of the bill, the state was to provide a \$65 million grant to fund the arena.

Under the new plan, the Minnesota Wild will not pay the \$35 million in construction costs required by the previous lease. Instead, the team is required to pay the city \$3.5 million in rent annually.

The team remains responsible for the daily maintenance of the facility over the period of the lease and retains all revenue generated from the facility, including the ticket surcharge and outdoor marquee revenue originally slated to go to the city.

The new plan also removes the team's exemption from property tax, requiring that the team make a payment in lieu of tax that is based on revenue recouped by the team from the ticket surcharge and the outdoor marquee.

Initially, the city would have been required

to issue bonds in the amount of \$30 million, which would have put the city at its maximum debt capacity. The debt would have been serviced by revenues from the \$1 ticket surcharge and the outdoor marquee, and by an existing half-cent sales tax.

The new proposal would require the city to cover the remaining \$65 million in construction costs for the facility. The additional debt would be serviced by the rent payments and payments made in lieu of property taxes by the team.

Proponents of the plan say that the arena is just a part of a larger plan to revitalize the entire RiverCentre facility and downtown St. Paul. They say that the expansion of the entire facility will mean new jobs and economic development in the area.

Aside from professional hockey, this year's bonding bill focuses on transportation, higher education, environment, and economic development projects statewide.

If approved by the governor in its current form, the \$999 million proposal would be the largest bonding appropriation in state history. The bonding bill passed in 1994 holds the current record at \$711 million.

This year's bonding bill is also unusual in that it would pay for over 50 percent of the amount with cash from the general fund as opposed to bonding for the entire amount.

Proponents of this approach argued that it would be better to finance these improvements without placing the debt burden on future generations.

Here are some other highlights of the capital improvement bill.

Light rail transit and transportation

The prospect of a light rail transit (LRT)

system in the Twin Cities moves closer to reality with the bonding bill, which would provide \$46.5 million toward transit-way development.

The bill would provide \$40 million of this amount to build a transportation line from downtown Minneapolis to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. The line is being called the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor.

The state's contribution would be matched with federal transit capital funds that should be made available by Congress.

The remaining \$6.5 million for LRT in the bonding proposal would be used to study expansion of the LRT into St. Paul and other corridors and to study commuter rail development.

LRT typically serves urban-suburban markets with short distances between stations. Commuter rail primarily serves the suburban market, typically providing links from outlying areas to the LRT. Commuter rail uses existing rail lines and is characterized by longer station-to-station distances of approximately 2.5 miles.

The bill would appropriate \$5 million to assist in developing rural transit. Transit systems in Duluth, Mankato, and St. Cloud would also receive funds, under this provision.

The bill also would appropriate \$34 million for the construction and repair of Minnesota bridges. Transportation officials told lawmakers that bridges are deteriorating faster than expected because of unprecedented use by heavier vehicles and because of a change in construction methods 40 years ago.

Of Minnesota's 19,790 bridges, 3,460 are deficient by federal standards, according to the transportation department. A total of 573



A record \$999 million bonding bill approved by the Legislature would provide money to construct a light rail transit line — resembling the San Diego system shown here — to link downtown Minneapolis and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

of those are on the trunk highway system, and 2,887 are on local road systems.

Higher education spending

The largest portion of the bonding bill — \$281.4 million — would go to improvements to the state's higher education facilities. Of that amount, the University of Minnesota would receive \$138.3 million for projects across the state.

The Twin Cities campus would receive funding for several improvements, including \$53.6 million for the Walter Library, \$1.3 million for renovations to Amundson Hall, \$4 million for biology laboratories in Gortner and Snyder halls, and \$6.9 million for improvements to Peters Hall.

Other projects in the university system include \$28.2 million for improvements to the science and mathematics facility at the Morris campus, \$22.3 million for the construction of a new library at the Duluth campus, and \$4.4 million for university-operated agriculture stations statewide.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system would receive \$143.1 million for statewide improvements, including \$10.4 million at the North Hennepin Community College, \$10 million at the St. Paul Technical College, \$16 million at Hibbing Community and Technical College, and \$43 million to fund asset preservation at several system facilities.

K-12 education projects

The Department of Children, Families and Learning would receive \$62.4 million for projects, under the bill.

Of that amount, \$5 million would go to Youth Enrichment Grants. Communities could apply for the funds to develop after-school community facilities.

Also from this amount, \$14 million would go to a grant to the St. Paul School District to assist in the development of community schools.

The bill would also provide \$9.2 million for the renovation of facilities at the state academies for the deaf and blind in Faribault, and would allocate \$1.4 million to the Lola and Rudy Perpich Center for Arts Education for improvements.

Recreation and conservation

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would receive nearly \$130.3 million for a myriad of projects, including \$10.3 million to acquire and maintain state trails and \$17 million for improvements to the state park system.

Other projects overseen by the DNR would

include \$30 million for grants to local governments to prevent or control flood damage, \$4 million to establish and maintain metropolitan-area green space and natural areas, \$5 million for safe harbors on Lake Superior, \$5 million to improve trails in the metropolitan area park system, and \$10.3 million for the acquisition and development of statewide trails.

The Board of Soil and Water Resources would receive \$19.8 million. Of that figure, \$15 million would target wetlands for protection under the Reinvest in Minnesota program. Under the program, landowners are paid to retire certain lands from agricultural production or place wetlands into conservation.

State buildings

The bonding bill contains several appropriations which seek to maintain the state's stock of buildings.

The Department of Administration would be appropriated \$15 million to fund the Capital Asset Preservation and Replacement Account (CAPRA). The CAPRA account is used to finance urgent and necessary improvements, such as elimination of hazardous materials or emergency repairs.

The department also would receive money for other state facilities, including \$3.8 million to construct a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension building, \$5.4 for relocation of the Department of Revenue to its new facility in the Capitol complex, and \$3.1 million to relocate workers from the troubled Capitol Square Building.

The bonding bill also would appropriate \$9.5 million to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board for improvements at the state Capitol.

Convention centers

Consistent with the governor's proposal, convention centers also receive a good deal of attention in the bonding bill. Along with the St. Paul RiverCentre, the city of Minneapolis would receive \$87 million to help finance the expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Duluth would receive \$10 million for the expansion of the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Other convention center funding would be provided to the cities of Fergus Falls, Hutchinson, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

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BUSINESS

Alcohol sales on campus



The sale of alcohol on state university grounds will be allowed on a limited basis, under a new state law.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, a provision in the law will allow issuance of temporary on-sale liquor licenses for events sponsored or approved by the university requesting the permit. The law will not apply to campus sporting events, fraternity or sorority parties, or other functions geared toward students.

Legislators were told the permits will be for social functions at universities, such as plays held on campus, where wine sales have been requested. The temporary licenses also could be used for on-campus alumni functions.

Legislators also were told that community functions are sometimes held on campuses and that some civic organizations have requested to serve liquor on campus.

Effective April 7, 1998, another new provision allows on-sale liquor licenses to be issued for Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort and for Ironworld Discovery Center. A state agency, the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, owns and operates Ironworld in Chisholm, Minn., and Giants Ridge near Biwabik, Minn.

The fee charged for a license issued for Ironworld or Giants Ridge must be comparable to the fee charged in the surrounding area.

Also effective April 7, 1998, the law exempts towns of 5,000 or less from a restriction that allows the sale of only one temporary license to a municipality within a 30-day period. The exemption also applies to licenses issued in connection with community festivals.

Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the new measure.

HF2695/SF2274*/CH364

Business on Sundays



A new law makes it easier for Minnesota's boat, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle dealers to do business on Sundays.

Previously, boat, snowmobile, and all-terrain vehicle trailers were considered "motor vehicles" under state law, which prohibits the sale of motor vehicles on Sundays. That meant customers without their own trailer had no way to transport their purchases on Sundays.

Effective March 6, 1998, the new law fixed the impractical glitch in state law by exempting certain trailers from the Sunday sales ban.

A second provision in the new law also aims to make life easier for trailer dealers.

Prior to the passage of the law, it was necessary for an individual to hold a franchise license in order to sell a motor vehicle. The new law exempts trailers from the franchise requirement.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), sponsor of the measure, was alerted to the problems with trailer sales by a small marine dealer in his district. Originally, Anderson said, he considered doing away with the Sunday motor vehicle sales ban entirely.

But that idea opened a "hornet's nest," he said. Some dealers support Sunday sales; many do not.

During a House committee hearing, Scott Lambert of the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association, said that his organization has no problem with exempting trailers from the Sunday sales ban, but the automobile dealers Lambert represents are not interested in doing regular business on Sundays.

Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2425/SF2170*/CH267

Limited partner regulations



Regulations by which a limited partner in an investment can withdraw from a partnership will be changed under a new law.

The law will allow limited partners to withdraw from an investment partnership only if permitted by the written partnership agreement. If the agreement contains no withdrawal authority, the limited partner will not be able to withdraw.

Current law allows limited partners to withdraw unless it is specifically forbidden in the written partnership agreement.

Limited partners invest in a partnership but are usually not subject to the same legal liabilities to which the general partners are subject.

The new law will apply to partnerships formed after July 31, 1998, and to partnerships formed earlier that contain a written provision allowing withdrawal.

Rep. Bill Macklin (R-Lakeville) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure.

HF2507/SF3036*/CH320

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Franchise law exemption



Northwest Airlines will be unable to use a 1997 law to its advantage in a court battle, under a new law signed by the governor.

The 1997 Legislature passed special legislation for Northwest Airlines that retroactively exempted the airline from Minnesota's franchise law.

The state franchise law provides franchisees with some degree of protection against unwarranted termination of agreements with their parent companies.

Legislators discovered this year that the retroactive exemption had an effect on pending litigation against Northwest Airlines.

A \$30 million lawsuit filed in Maine in 1994 by Northeast Express Airlines and Precision Valley Aviation claims that Northwest Airlines violated Minnesota's franchise law when it dropped the two commuter airlines, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The new law clarifies that the 1997 franchise exemption does not apply to any agreements that were subject to litigation prior to passage of the law. The new law is effective retroactively to May 31, 1997.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure.

HF3841/SF3397*/CH353



CHILDREN

Child protection changes

A bill that would make significant changes to the state's child protection system is on its way to the governor. The House passed the bill April 9 on a 131-1 vote.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the bill (**HF2985*/SF2682**) seeks to address issues that have recently come to light regarding the state's ability to protect children who are in danger.

In January 1998, the legislative auditor released an evaluation of the state's child protection system. The auditor found that services varied greatly from county to county and that no external oversight exists to monitor the actions in these cases. The auditor suggested numerous approaches to reforming the current state of the system.

Entenza's bill incorporates many of the suggestions, along with changes recently mandated by federal law. The bill would create a more uniform statewide system and attempt to provide a sufficient level of oversight to

make sure that the cases are handled effectively.

The bill also seeks to place children more quickly into permanent living situations, either with a parent or another alternative home. In addition, the bill would require that the Department of Human Services design a statewide child protective services plan with input from the county-administered programs.

The bill also would direct spending of a \$10 million family preservation appropriation contained in the omnibus health and human services bill (**HF2868/SF3346***), which is sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls). A total of \$9.3 million would go to the counties to assist in permanent placement, and the remaining \$700,000 would go to the Department of Human Services to assist in planning and coordination of the statewide system.



CONSUMERS

Getting extended area service



A new state law makes it easier to petition the Public Utilities Commission for extended telephone service within school district boundaries.

A 1997 law required a majority of all telephone customers in each exchange to vote in favor of extended area service within a school district.

The new measure, effective March 24, 1998, requires only that a majority of customers who cast a vote is required to extend the service.

Extended area service is often sought in rural areas, where calls from residents to their children's school can result in long distance charges. While extended area service may result in higher monthly service charges, it does make each call within a school district a local call.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) sponsored the measure.

HF3644*/SF3170/CH326

TAP expansion vetoed



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill calling for a new surcharge on cellular phone accounts to help pay for expansion of a program that assists some needy people to afford basic telephone service.

The bill would have added about 150,000 Minnesota households to the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP). The program currently

provides assistance for basic telephone service to about 50,000 Minnesotans who meet criteria related to age or disability. The bill would have changed eligibility requirements to income-based criteria.

The bill "amounts to a tax increase," Carlson wrote in his veto message.

"This legislation will eventually increase TAP fees placed upon telephone customers by 66 percent and impose a fee on cellular phones to increase the fee base by 30 percent, thus giving rise to a tax increase of approximately \$1 million," the governor stated. "Moreover, this language nearly triples the size of the existing program."

The bill would have allowed a surcharge on cellular phones, but the surcharge would have been capped at 10 cents a month on cellular, business, and residential lines. The surcharge would not have applied to telephone pagers.

Currently, there is a 6-cent monthly surcharge on regular telephone accounts to finance the program.

The proposed new version of the TAP would have included no reference to age or disability in eligibility requirements. The bill would have broadened the program to include single-person households at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level and multiple-person households at or below 150 percent of the level.

"I have long opposed legislation which results in new or increased taxes," Carlson wrote. "My position has not changed."

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) sponsored the measure.

HF3064/SF2718*/CH378

Another provision in the new law will make murder committed during a drive-by shooting a first-degree murder crime, increasing the prison sentence for the offense. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

The new law also will raise the maximum penalty from a five-year prison term to a 10-year term for firing into an occupied vehicle. Both drive-by shooting provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998. (Art. 2, Sec. 22)

The measure also will increase penalties for felons convicted of violent offenses who are found illegally in possession of a firearm. Currently, the mandatory minimum prison sentence is 18 months. Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the mandatory minimum will be increased to five years. (Art. 2, Sec. 4)

Another provision in the law will increase penalties generally for soliciting a prostitute or receiving profit from prostitution. This provision, effective Aug. 1, 1998, also will increase the penalties for engaging in prostitution in a school zone or in a residential area. (Art. 2, Secs. 1, 12)

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

Here are some other highlights of the new law.

HFnone/SF3345*/CH367

Prosecuting gangs

Prosecutors told legislators this year that they are having difficulties bringing gang members to trial and making the penalties stick. Several provisions in the new law seek to address such concerns.

One provision will expand a current law that provides increased penalties for crimes

done for the benefit of a gang to include crimes "motivated by involvement with" a gang. The provision also will increase these enhanced penalties. (Art. 2, Sec. 9)

The new law will increase penalties for witness tampering and will add witness tampering to the list of crimes that can receive enhanced penalties if done for the benefit of a gang. (Art. 2, Sec. 5)

The measure also seeks to get people to show up for court, both offenders and witnesses. One provision will increase the penalty for failure to appear in court if charged with a felony level crime. (Art. 2, Sec. 16)

Another provision will increase penalties for individuals who knowingly and willingly defy a court subpoena to appear in relation to a violent crime. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

These provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Charging burglars

A provision of the new law will make it easier to prosecute people who illegally enter a property by expanding the definition of burglary to include accomplices. The new definition is effective Aug. 1, 1998. (Art. 2, Sec. 21)

Prosecutors said the new language would make the law more explicit and allow them to bring charges against anyone who illegally enters a dwelling, even if they don't actually break in or steal something.

Fighting drugs

The new law will increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine. Law enforcement officials said that Minnesota is seeing a dramatic increase in use of the drug.

CRIME

Omnibus crime prevention bill



Gov. Arne Carlson signed omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention legislation that includes several provisions aimed at lengthening penalties for certain crimes.

One such provision in the new law will classify murder committed in the course of a kidnapping a heinous crime, effective Aug. 1, 1998. A person convicted of such a crime could be sentenced to life without parole, Minnesota's toughest sentence. (Art. 2, Sec. 6)

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who backed the provision, said that measure comes in response to the 1996 murder-kidnapping of Paul Antonich, a Two Harbors teen-ager taken from his father's car in Duluth after a minor traffic accident.



A new law will increase penalties for a number of crimes, including prostitution and drive-by shootings.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the drug will be raised to the same status as cocaine and heroin and the manufacture of any amount of methamphetamine will be a first-degree controlled substance offense. (Art. 4, Secs. 1-3)

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will make the drug ephedrine a controlled substance, to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances. The targeted over-the-counter products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teen-agers and others looking to achieve a legal high. (Art. 4, Secs. 5, 6)

Protecting police officers

Several provisions in the new law seek to make it easier and safer for police officers to do their jobs.

One such provision comes as a result of an incident where two Richfield police officers were accused of sexual assault. Although the allegations were proven false, the incident greatly disrupted the criminal justice process, not to mention the lives of the two officers.

The provision will make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties by expanding the state's stalking law. (Art. 2, Sec. 23)

In addition, the new law will make it easier to prosecute people who interfere with officers making an arrest by expanding the legal definition of obstruction of justice. (Art. 2, Sec. 17)

The two provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Another provision, effective April 7, 1998, authorizes officers to conduct pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.

Under previous law, pat-down searches could be performed only on adult offenders. Proponents of the change argued that police officers need to be protected from juveniles, as well as adults, carrying concealed weapons. (Art. 10, Sec. 10)

Conditional release

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will make several changes to the state's probation and conditional release law.

The measure also will allow peace officers to detain for eight hours a person on conditional release if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has violated the terms of his or her release. (Art. 7, Sec. 12)

The law also allows probation officers to impose community service on people who violate the conditions of their parole. (Art. 7, Secs. 1, 2)

The new law also authorizes the use of remote electric alcohol monitoring for offenders who agree to abstain from alcohol as a condition for pretrial release or probation.

Offenders who can afford the program are required to pay the costs. (Art. 11, Sec. 6)

Juvenile criminals

A version of the legislation earlier approved by the House would have opened some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public. For juveniles under 14 years old, the bill would have made court records available to the public if the juvenile was found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense. For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would have opened all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense.

These provisions were removed by the conference committee. However, juvenile court proceedings and documents will be open to the victim of the crime, under the new law. (Art. 10, Secs. 7, 8)

The measure also will increase penalties for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. Another provision will create a civil penalty for this crime, requiring a person found liable for the delinquency of a juvenile to provide restitution to victims. (Art. 10, Secs. 11, 12)

The new law also will make it easier to get juveniles who are participating in prostitution into the state's child protection system. (Art. 10, Secs. 4-6)

These provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Right to ride

A provision of the new law will prohibit owners of public accommodations, such as restaurants and hotels, from discriminating against motorcyclists.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law provides exceptions if the owner feels that the person's conduct poses a risk to property or the safety of other patrons, or if the clothing worn by the motorcyclist is obscene or includes the symbol of a criminal gang. (Art. 11, Sec. 18)

Reporting crime

Several provisions within the new law authorize reports to the Legislature regarding crime in Minnesota.

One provision requests that the legislative auditor study the cost of crime in the state, including direct costs to state and local governments for criminal justice and indirect costs placed on individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods. (Art. 1, Sec. 14)

Another measure authorizes the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Hennepin County District Court to provide data on criminal justice in the city of Minneapolis. This study must be approved by both the Minneapolis City Council and the Hennepin County Board. (Art. 2, Sec. 29)

Another provision seeks more accurate information on prostitution in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The new law mandates that city attorneys in the two cities and county attorneys in Hennepin and Ramsey counties report on investigation and prosecution of prostitution within the jurisdictions. (Art. 2, Secs. 30-31)

Financing justice

The measure contains \$7.9 million in supplemental appropriations, a majority of which will go to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the state courts.

Of the total amount, \$3 million will be recouped in revenue from increased criminal justice fees and criminal fines.

The Department of Corrections will receive \$2.1 million, much of which will go to reducing the caseload for probation officers. Grant programs that fund community corrections also will be funded through these dollars.

The Department of Public Safety will be appropriated \$1.6 million. Of these funds, the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman will receive \$300,000 to fund its services; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will receive \$133,000 to add forensic scientists to its crime lab; and the department will get \$750,000 for law enforcement and community crime prevention grants.

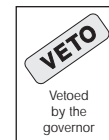
The state fire marshal will receive \$170,000 of public safety money for the creation of an arson data system. The data base will contain only basic information at the state level but will provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases of arson.

The measure will appropriate \$1.1 million to the state courts for law clerk salaries. The state public defender will receive \$1 million for defense attorney salaries. Another \$375,000 will be given to Legal Aid to provide legal service to low-income individuals. (Art. 1)



DEVELOPMENT

Jobs, housing, development



Citing what he referred to as "clearly excessive" spending, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations bill.

The governor has indicated that he will call a special session, opening the possibility that all or parts of the bill may be reconsidered.

The \$38 million bill included about \$20 million in appropriations for housing issues and \$18 million in appropriations for

statewide economic development and job training.

In his veto message, the governor restated his belief that the even-year legislative session should focus on bonding and emergency issues.

"As I stated in my prior veto message, even-year legislative sessions were not created to enact large appropriation bills such as this," Carlson wrote. "Outside of bonding and emergency financing, the Legislature should significantly limit all spending proposals during these sessions."

The governor said that the bill contained several worthwhile appropriations which should be revisited by the Legislature, including funds to the Department of Economic Development for a vocational rehabilitation program and appropriations for various housing programs.

A last-minute attempt to get a scaled-back jobs, housing and economic development bill to the governor's desk failed April 9.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) sponsored an amendment to add many of the appropriations contained in the vetoed bill to a separate bill (HF2034/SF90*), sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

The amendment contained \$2.7 million in appropriations for housing programs and \$10.4 million in appropriations for economic development and job training.

The amendment was added to the bill. However, the bill did not come up for a vote before the final adjournment.

Trimble and Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn) sponsored the vetoed omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development bill.

The vetoed bill included a provision that would have provided \$10 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to assist in maintaining existing low-income housing. That provision was the centerpiece of the \$20 million housing portion of the bill.

The provision was in response to a situation occurring statewide. In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program where developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of many such complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mortgage and to begin charging market-rate rent.

The \$10 million in the bill would have funded the equity takeout loan program administered by the MHFA. The fund is used to

provide financial incentives to maintain existing subsidized housing. The incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

And the bill included \$9 million in appropriations to the Department of Economic Security for job training and assistance, including \$3.2 million for summer youth employment and \$1.4 million for the State Services for the Blind to develop a digital communication center for its Radio Talking Book program.

The bill would have appropriated \$6.2 million to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for statewide projects. Of that amount, \$3.3 million would have gone to the Minnesota Film Board to provide support for the state's \$250 million film and video industry.

The appropriation would have been used to create a revolving loan fund to be administered by the film board and the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

HF3806/SF3367*/CH374



DWI

Repeat DWI offenders



Signed
by the
governor

Effective March 26, 1998, a new law authorizes state courts to sentence repeat DWI offenders to an intensive probation program in place of mandatory jail sentences.

Intensive probation programs seek to provide alternative sentencing for those DWI offenders considered to be of high risk to the community.

These programs require a period of incarceration in a treatment facility followed by supervised home detention. Offenders are prohibited from using alcohol or drugs and are frequently tested for use throughout the probation. Offenders are also required to pay a substantial portion of program costs.

The Department of Corrections has a grant program in place to assist counties interested in establishing intensive probation programs. Correction officials said that they received requests from 13 counties this year.

Officials from Dakota County said that an evaluation of their intensive probation program showed a recidivism rate of 11 percent. They said the rate for those incarcerated without the program was 43 percent.

The officials said it is difficult to get a repeat offender into the program voluntarily after he or she has already done jail time.

Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the legislation.

HF2615/SF2252*/CH332



EDUCATION

K-12 education finance bill

The state's Graduation Standards would stay, the State Board of Education would go, superintendents' paychecks could grow, and Minnesota's special-education system would see a major overhaul, under the K-12 education finance bill the House passed April 9.

The bulk of the funding — \$70 million of the bill's total \$124 million — would go to help districts implement the Profile of Learning, a portion of the state's Graduation Standards initiative that would measure student achievement on a broad range of skills.

Although the Profile of Learning is currently set to kick in with the 1998-1999 school year, the bill would allow districts to phase in the requirements over the next three years. All students graduating in 2002 would be required to have completed the new standards.

"Our goal was to make sure the Graduation Standards are able to work, and to move down a path that will result in kids being better prepared for the world," said Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), who sponsored the bill (HF2874*/SF3378) in the House.

She also noted that, being the second year of the legislative biennium, 1998 is "not a year for dramatic changes or reform."

Nevertheless, the bill carries a major policy change, calling for abolishing the 79-year-old State Board of Education by 2000.

The nine-member board helps set rules and policies for K-12 and community education. Under the bill, most of the board's authority would be transferred to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, but a new board would be created to take over regulating the state academies for the deaf and blind in Faribault.

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the legislation in the Senate. The governor has said he plans to sign the bill.

Special education

The state's special education system also would receive a major overhaul under the omnibus bill.

A 1997 report of the legislative auditor showed that special education costs in Minnesota were spiraling, and Kelso has said that getting those costs under control was a high priority for this session.

The bill would require the state to reimburse districts for 50 percent of certain legal costs incurred when schools attempt to deny parents' requests for what the schools perceive as unnecessary special education services. The theory is that districts often provide



A \$124 million K-12 education bill that passed the Legislature would provide funds to support all-day kindergarten and would allow secondary schools to phase in the Profile of Learning, which is a part of the state's Graduation Standards initiative.

unnecessary, costly services because they are afraid of the potential cost of lawsuits — even unsuccessful ones — brought by parents asking for services.

But before they would be eligible for reimbursement, districts would first have to make a “good faith effort” to resolve the dispute through mediation.

In another attempt to cut costs, the bill would mandate that as of July 1, 1999, state special education requirements could not exceed federal requirements.

The bill also contains provisions that would maximize Medical Assistance reimbursements for special education purposes.

The bulk of the bill's special education provisions were the result of a year-long joint House and Senate subcommittee, headed by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville).

Superintendents' salaries

The current cap — at 95 percent of the governor's annual paycheck — on Minnesota school superintendents' salaries also would be repealed under the bill.

Several metropolitan-area districts have said they've had trouble recruiting and retaining top-notch superintendents because of the salary cap.

“It simply makes no sense for the state of Minnesota to be involved in something of that local nature,” Kelso said.

Boarding schools

Gov. Arne Carlson's plan to establish residential boarding academies for at-risk youth is also supported in the bill.

The measure calls for \$12 million to help build three year-round schools.

The proposed year-round academies would be geared to high school students who are unsuccessfully bounced between foster families or those whose parents feel a residential environment would help get their child on the right track. Enrollment would be conditional upon the students' voluntary desire to attend.

All-day kindergarten

The bill also would provide an additional \$1.5 million for certain schools to begin or continue all-day kindergarten programs.

The new funds would bring next year's allowance for the first-grade preparedness program, initiated in 1996, up to \$6.5 million. Kindergarten is still optional in Minnesota, but several recent reports have shown that attending all-day programs dramatically increases children's academic and social skills.

The House version of the omnibus bill that went to conference committee would have added only \$500,000 in new funds for this program, but the Senate version would have added \$5 million.

Loophole closed

Another provision would clarify a murky area of state statute under which some districts have been able to substitute locally approved achievement tests for state-mandated tests.

Under the bill, all districts would be required to use the same tests for assessing students' basic skills aptitudes.

Summer school

Attending summer school could become mandatory for some students under the new bill.

Districts would have the authority to set their own criteria for determining who would be required to attend summer programs. The provision is intended to help districts improve performances on the state-mandated basic skills tests.

Earlier start dates

Under the bill, districts would also be allowed to begin the school year as early as September 1.

Current law prohibits schools from starting before Labor Day, and an earlier provision to repeal the mandated start date altogether was heavily opposed by members of the tourism industry, who were concerned about potential lost revenue in a shortened summer season.

Last year, lawmakers passed a measure allowing an exception to the Labor Day school start law to allow schools to begin classes before the holiday in 1998 and 1999.

Charter school sponsors

A current ban on corporate sponsorship of charter schools would be repealed under the bill. Currently, only public school districts and public or private colleges and universities can sponsor a state charter school.

Kelso said the provision was added at the request of the governor, who “felt strongly” that businesses should be allowed to sponsor the schools.



ELECTIONS

Elections provisions modified



A new law changes the standard for conviction of people who distribute false material during an election campaign.

Under previous law, people who distributed false material or made a false statement about a candidate or a ballot question could have been convicted of a gross misdemeanor.

Now, to be convicted, the person making the statement has to know the material is false or has to have failed to check on it adequately. The law was drafted to conform with a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

To conform with a separate state district court decision, the new law also restores the voting rights of those judged legally incompetent because they are considered sexually dangerous or psychopathic. Under previous law, they could not vote.

The new law, which took effect April 10, 1998, was sponsored by Rep. Mindy

Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

HF2486/SF2256*/CH376

Updating voter lists



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill that aimed to make it easier for people who move to new homes to update their voter registration information.

The bill would have authorized the Office of the Secretary of State to get names and addresses of people who have given the U.S. Postal Service a change-of-address card.

The bill called for the secretary of state to then send the information to the appropriate county auditor and for the auditor to confirm the voter's new address by mail.

In his veto message, the governor said he vetoed similar legislation in 1997 and that he still has the same concerns. He then listed those concerns as follows: "1) Where a person receives their mail is not necessarily always where they reside and vote; 2) Establishing the residence of thousands of potential voters is a culmination of many factors that may not always be reflected by an automatic process for registration; and 3) The unintended outcome of this process may actually be more confusion on the part of the electorate," he wrote.

Carlson said any change in election law is important and should have bipartisan support. The bill passed 71-61 in the House and 46-14 in the Senate.

"Even if my concerns were entirely satisfied, I could not support any changes to our election laws when only three Republican members in the House of Representatives, and relatively few in the Senate, supported the bill. Changes such as those proposed in this bill should have at least modest bipartisan support before becoming law," he wrote.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the bill.

HF2387/SF2149*/CH346

Open absentee balloting



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill that would have extended Ramsey County's open absentee ballot program.

In his veto message, Carlson questioned the need for its continuation.

"The project has been in existence since 1991," he wrote. "At what point do we bring a *pilot* project to an end? What information, other than what has already been gathered,

does the county hope to obtain? And what does the county intend to do when the project expires in two years? We know what the benefits and drawbacks of this program are — it's time to end it and take up the larger debate of applying it to all citizens of the state."

In 1991, Anoka, Hennepin, Polk, and Ramsey counties entered into a pilot project for open absentee balloting. The 1994 Legislature extended the pilot project in Ramsey County until this year.

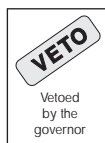
Under the pilot project, people don't need a reason to vote absentee, they just need to apply in writing at their county auditor's office. (State law dictates that people who want to vote by absentee ballot must have an acceptable reason, such as absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.)

An absentee ballot is mailed or given to the voter, who fills it out like a regular ballot and mails it to the county auditor's office. The ballots are held until election day, then counted with the rest of the ballots.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the bill.

HF2567/HF2221*/CH347

Absentee ballots with 'reason'



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a bill that would have allowed voters to use an absentee ballot for any reason.

Current law lists a number of acceptable reasons for voting by an absentee ballot. The reasons include absence from the precinct, illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or election judge service in another precinct.

The bill would have stricken that language in current law and required only that voters list their reason for needing an absentee ballot on their application.

In his veto message, Carlson said he was concerned about the party-line vote on the bill.

"Significant changes to election laws such as those proposed in this bill are too important to be entirely one-sided and lacking in bipartisanship," Carlson wrote.

The bill was widely opposed by Republican legislators.

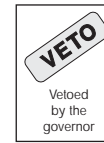
"Changes should have at least modest support from both sides of the aisle before being signed into law, and certainly not the vociferous opposition that accompanied this and other election law bills," Carlson wrote.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) and

Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) sponsored the bill.

HF2526/SF2148*/CH352

Absentee voting pilot project



A bill that would have established an absentee ballot pilot project for Hennepin County was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), called for a pilot project that would have allowed voters to vote by absentee ballot without having to give a reason, as long as they supply their name, address, signature, and other basic information.

It's the fourth bill relating to election law that Carlson has vetoed this year, including a bill that would have extended a similar absentee ballot pilot project in Ramsey County, and he noted that in his veto message.

"What do we hope to learn from the Minneapolis project that was not demonstrated in Ramsey County? We know what the benefits and drawbacks of an open ballot system are — if it is a good idea, then take it statewide," he wrote.

Under present law, people wanting to vote absentee must have a reason, such as an illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.

Carlson noted that changes to election law are too important to be "laced with partisanship. I cannot support changes to our election laws when not a single Republican in the House, and relatively few in the Senate, supported the bill," he wrote.

"Increasing voter turnout, especially in our large cities, is an admirable goal; but simplifying the process is only a very small part of the solution. Issues and candidates move people to vote. I suggest we focus on those critical parts to move the citizens of Minneapolis to the polls," Carlson concluded.

Jefferson and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill.

HF2293/SF2118*/CH370



EMPLOYMENT

Hibbing workers' benefits



About 125 workers, temporarily laid off from the Hibbing Taconite Co. in St. Louis County, may receive extended re-employment benefits, under a new measure Gov. Arne Carlson allowed to become law without his signature.

Effective April 7, 1998, the workers became

eligible for up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits.

They were laid off between July and September 1997 because of lack of work. The company says it expects to have them back to work by the end of May, but the workers' regular unemployment benefits ran out over the winter.

Under previous law, extended benefits were granted only to workers affected by large, permanent layoffs in counties with high unemployment.

The new law exempts the Hibbing workers from three requirements: that the layoff be of a certain size, that it be permanent, and that it occur in a county where the unemployment rate is more than 10 percent. The workers still need to meet requirements specifying that they be otherwise eligible for unemployment and that they have exhausted all other rights to benefits.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) said the average benefit of the affected workers is \$331 per month and the total extra benefits will be about \$128,000. He also said that the company, since it is still in business, will end up paying for most of that amount in taxes.

Tomassoni and Sen. Jerry Janezich (DFL-Chisholm) sponsored the legislation.

HF3465/SF3084*/CH358

Workplace breast-feeding



Employers will be required to make a "reasonable effort" to provide adequate private space and unpaid breaks for new mothers to pump breast milk, under a new law signed by the governor April 9.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, employers must provide "a room or other location, in close proximity to the work area, other than a toilet stall," where a woman can privately pump breast milk.

But employers will not be held liable if they have made a "reasonable effort" to comply, and the law does not contain penalties.

The law will stipulate the break times can run concurrently with any other provided breaks. Employers will not have to provide the breaks if doing so would "unduly disrupt the operations of the employer."

The law also will exempt breast-feeding from indecent exposure laws.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF3459/SF2751*/CH369



Joanne Wesley, a lactation specialist at the Minnesota Department of Health, informed lawmakers about the benefits of breast milk for infants. She backed a new law that will require employers to provide reasonable unpaid break time and a private space for nursing mothers to pump breast milk.

Emergency dispatcher status



Emergency dispatchers will be classified as essential employees, under a new law.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, police, fire, and 911 dispatchers will join law enforcement personnel, health care

workers, prison guards, and others as essential employees.

Under that status, workers give up the right to strike, but they can still request arbitration in a labor dispute.

Supporters of the new measure said it was needed because a dispatchers' strike would threaten public safety.

Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF1693/SF1074*/CH355



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental spending

A \$17.2 million environment, natural resources, and agriculture spending bill won final passage in the House April 9. The bill awaits action by the governor.

Originally, the House had rejected compromise language adopted by a House-Senate

conference committee. Bill sponsor Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said he was unable to renegotiate the deal because the Senate refused to return to conference committee.

"This bill hasn't changed at all, except it just sat there for six days," said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview).

But, with the threat of the 1998 Legislative Session ending without an environmental spending package, the bill finally passed on a 72-60 vote.

Here's a look at some of the key provisions of the bill (HF3799/SF3353*).

Living with livestock

Most notably, the House-approved moratorium on new construction or expansion of feedlots at the level of 750 animal units was not adopted by the House-Senate conference committee.

The bill would, however, prohibit the issuance of permits to construct or expand clay, earthen, or flexible membrane (plastic-lined) swine waste lagoons until June 30, 2000.

"This bill is very important to rural Minnesota and the environmental community and it's a start down to the path to improvements," said Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison).

After March 1, 2000, those who commercially manage and apply animal wastes would have to hold valid animal waste technician licenses issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempt from the provision.

The bill would clarify the power of counties to adopt feedlot ordinances that are more stringent than those of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The agency would be authorized to deny permits to feedlot operators who are lacking adequate experience or who have bad environmental records in other states.

Personal watercraft

Under the bill, personal watercraft owners would pay a \$50 surcharge every three years for a watercraft license. The proceeds would be divided between the state and counties for law enforcement and education efforts.

The conference committee did not adopt House language that would have prohibited the use of a personal watercraft in one place for more than 30 minutes, nor did the conference committee choose to instruct the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct a study on the impact of personal watercraft on loons.

Snowmobile studs

Under another provision of the omnibus bill, no snowmobile with a track equipped with metal studs could be operated on any

public lands, roads, or trails after July 1, 1999. Current law prohibits the use of studs on paved public trails.

Although many claim that studs make for safer riding, proponents of the measure say paved trails are being destroyed by studs despite the current law.

Until the total stud ban takes effect, the bill would place a \$50 annual surcharge on snowmobiles with studs. Fees from the surcharge would be earmarked for the repair of paved state trails.

Under the bill, an individual who violates the stud ban on paved public trails would have his or her snowmobile confiscated after the second or subsequent violation.

Many House members opposed the forfeiture provision.

"We don't want to forfeit our snowmobiles just because we ride over a couple of patches of tar," said Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka).

Osthoff, who chairs the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee, promised to revisit the forfeiture provision next year.

Minnesota Zoo shortfall

The Minnesota Zoological Gardens would receive \$1.5 million for operating costs to make up for a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer.

The Apple Valley zoo was forced to ask the Legislature for help after experiencing a string of bad luck, bad weather, and bad press, Kathryn Roberts, the zoo's director, said during an earlier House committee hearing.

The bill would require the zoo to address its attendance forecasting methods to avoid a similar problem in the future.

Deformed frogs

The MPCA would receive \$375,000 for research into the cause of deformities found in frogs across the state. The money would have to be shared with the University of Minnesota, Hamline University, and the state departments of health, agriculture, and natural resources.

Currently, researchers are speculating that groundwater contamination or possible ultraviolet radiation may be the cause of the deformities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has begun to examine the issue.

Gypsy moths

Under the bill, the Department of Agriculture's gypsy moth trapping and eradication program would be allocated \$360,000.

The money would supplement the biological control program and allow for more field personnel to trap the leaf-eating insects.

Minnesota grown

The bill would appropriate \$267,000 for a pilot project to expand Minnesota Grown, a coupon program designed to provide nutritious food to low-income families and promote locally grown products. Critics have claimed that redeeming the coupons is confusing because many grocers are unfamiliar with the foods that qualify.

Timber wolf depredation

The bill would increase from \$400 to \$750 per animal the amount of compensation available to farmers whose livestock are killed by wolves. Farmers would have to establish timber wolf best management systems to qualify for compensation.

Helping hog farmers

Market Champ Inc. a nonprofit corporation that transfers high quality genetic material from the University of Minnesota to family farmers across the state would receive \$125,000.

Helping dairy farmers

Minnesota dairy farmers are currently engaged in a lawsuit against the federal government (*Minnesota Milk Producers Association v. Glickman*) to bring about reform of the federal milk market pricing system.

The bill would give the farmers another \$100,000 in state money for the legal battle.

Living snow fences

The Board of Water and Soil Resources would receive \$100,000 to fund a voluntary program for landowners to plant and maintain trees, shrubs, and grass strips alongside roads in an effort to control drifting and blowing snow.

Whitewater rafting on the Mississippi

One provision included in the bill would explore the possibility of harnessing the water power of St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis for recreational pursuits.

The DNR would receive \$100,000 to conduct engineering and hydraulic research into the possible development of a whitewater park for kayaking, rafting, and canoeing at the falls.

Tornado damage

Five funnel clouds tore through 5,300 acres of sparsely populated forests in Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties on Sept. 18, 1997, leaving a path of destruction 25 miles long and three-quarters of a mile wide.

The DNR would receive \$75,000 for grants to assist landowners with reforestation efforts, under the bill.

Personal watercraft regulation

A bill that aims to regulate personal watercraft operation on Minnesota lakes won final approval in the House April 9. The vote was 102-28.

The bill, which was among the most controversial of the 1998 session, once included language that would have banned the operation of personal watercraft on lakes of 100 acres or less. The proposed ban was removed from the bill before it was sent to a House-Senate conference committee.

The bill returned from conference committee without a highly criticized citizen reporting measure that would have allowed individuals to lodge formal complaints against



An environment and natural resources bill passed by the Legislature would take some steps to address problems related to animal feedlots. The measure would prohibit the issuance of permits to construct or expand clay, earthen, or plastic-lined swine waste lagoons until June 30, 2000. And the bill would set new requirements for those who commercially manage and apply animal wastes.

operators who violate personal watercraft laws. Peace officers could have then issued civil citations to the owner of any personal watercraft that was the subject of a citizen complaint.

Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), who had been a vocal opponent of the 100-acre lake ban and civil complaint provisions, said bill sponsor Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) deserves the "tenacity award" for the session.

"I am delighted to finally stand up on this bill and support it," Weaver said. "It makes good sense now."

Under the bill, personal watercraft operation would be permitted only between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset. Current law allows personal watercraft use between 8 a.m. and sunset.

The bill would add another 50 feet to the no-wake zone, making it illegal to operate a personal watercraft at full speed within 150 feet of shoreline, docks, swimmers, or other boats. However, it still would be permissible to pull water-skiers behind personal watercraft.

Another provision would prohibit the operation of personal watercraft while facing backwards.

Several provisions in the bill seek to make personal watercraft operation safer for teen-agers.

One such provision would expand the state's youth watercraft safety course to include personal watercraft. Completion of a personal watercraft training program would be mandatory for 13- to 17-year-olds, and 13-year-old operators would have to remain under direct visual supervision of an adult 21 years of age or older.

The bill also would require that personal watercraft purchasers and renters sign state-issued forms indicating they have read the laws governing personal watercraft operation. Dealers and rental agents would have to keep the forms on file for six months and allow for easy access by law enforcement officers.

The bill (HF1351/SF1169*) now goes to the governor.

Red tags on petroleum tanks



A new law aims to help the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) bring all underground petroleum storage tanks into compliance.

Petroleum from leaking tanks can seep into the groundwater supply and, years later, cause extensive soil and groundwater cleanup work and costly litigation.

The new law authorizes the MPCA to "red tag" underground petroleum tanks that are in violation of current regulations. Violations could include failure to have the tank protected from corrosion, failure to have spill or overfill protection around the tank, or failure to have a leak detection method in place.

A red tag on the cap of a tank will prohibit delivery of petroleum until the violations are corrected.

Gas station owners and other petroleum-dispensing facility operators have until Dec. 31, 1998, before the red tag provisions take effect.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the new measure.

HF2722*/SF2756/CH379

Transport packaging waste



A new law aims to reduce the amount of transport packaging waste that Minnesota's soft drink industry creates.

In 1995, 22 percent of municipal solid waste consisted of transport packaging such as wood pallets and corrugated cardboard, Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), the House sponsor of the measure, said during floor debate.

The soft drink industry is considering a \$15 million investment in reusable, recyclable plastic merchandise pallets to replace the wood pallets they currently use to transport their goods to retailers.

The plastic pallets are expected to cost about \$32 each, compared to \$5 to \$7 each for wood pallets.

There is now a system in place where third parties collect used pallets from retail sites and then resell them to soft drink companies.

Dave Locey, of the Minnesota Soft Drink Association, told legislators the third party collection system stands in the way of the transition from wood to plastic.

"We're in the position of trying to make a pro-environmental system work," Locey said. "What we want to do before we make this \$15 million investment in plastic pallets is make sure we can control them."

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, third party collectors will be prohibited from taking plastic pallets that are labeled as private property.

The plastic pallets will have to clearly show the owner's name and address or telephone number, as well as a notice that the unauthorized possession of the pallet is a violation of state law.

The rightful owner of a stolen plastic pallet will be able to sue for damages equal to three times the cost of the pallet, in addition to legal expenses.

Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2696/SF2402*/CH282

Lottery revenue dedication



A new law will allow voters to extend the duration of the dedication of state lottery revenue to the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Under the law, voters in the November 1998 general election will decide the following question: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to extend to the year 2025 the dedication of lottery proceeds to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust



A bill approved by the Legislature would limit hours of operation and expand the no-wake zone for personal watercraft on Minnesota lakes.

Fund and to maximize the long-term total to the fund?"

The fund was established by a constitutional amendment in 1988. At the time, the state was allowed to earmark 50 percent of the lottery proceeds for the environmental fund.

A second constitutional amendment in 1990 reduced to 40 percent the portion dedicated to the environmental fund. That dedication expires in 2001.

The amount appropriated each year of a biennium under the constitutional amendment could be up to 5.5 percent of the market value of the fund on June 30 one year preceding the start of the biennium.

The fund's current value is about \$210 million. About \$22 million was dedicated for projects in the current biennium.

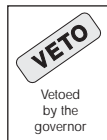
Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. Steven Morse (DFL-Dakota) sponsored the new measure.

HF113*/SF76/CH342



FAMILY

Family, early childhood bill



Citing excessive spending, Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed a \$14.9 million family and early childhood education spending bill.

The bill would have appropriated money for programs such as Head Start and Early Childhood Family Education, child care assistance, emergency services grants to homeless shelters, gang prevention, and lead abatement projects.

In his veto message, Carlson reminded the legislators of last year's "historic budget increase for child care, Head Start, and other children and family programs."

The bill would have appropriated \$5 million for a program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. The basic sliding fee child care program already received an increase of over 130 percent over the last biennium, Carlson said.

Under the bill, an additional 17,000 families would have qualified for the Minnesota dependent care tax credit program. The bill would have raised the maximum income threshold from \$31,000 to \$38,000 at a cost of \$4.9 million to the state.

The governor closed his veto message with a general suggestion for lawmakers.

"Even-year legislative sessions should not be allowed to become full-blown tax and spend sessions," he wrote. "How about considering limiting even-year sessions to three weeks and giving the public a constitutional amendment

that will allow them to create a unicameral legislature?"

A last-minute attempt by House sponsor Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) to revive a limited portion of the bill failed as the 1998 session was coming to a close April 9.

However, a family and early childhood spending package may be discussed during a special session set to begin April 20.

Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the vetoed bill in the Senate.

HF2803/SF2532*/CH365



GAMBLING

Gambling proceeds and the ADA



A new law allows organizations to use legal gambling profits to bring their facilities into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Under previous law, gambling proceeds could be used for construction or repairs on only certain types of property. Legal uses included maintaining nonprofit facilities or replacing buildings lost to natural disaster or eminent-domain ruling.

But the new law allows any group that earns money from legal gambling — including pull tabs and lottery tickets — to use those funds to either improve handicapped access in a facility or to replace an out-of-compliance facility with one that meets ADA requirements.

Proponents said this will be useful for organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, which often can't afford to make handicapped-access improvements.

The new law also allows licensed gambling organizations to pay salaries and winnings via electronic transfer. Under prior law, gambling profits had to follow a paper check trail. Proponents said the new measure will increase efficiency in large gambling operations.

The law, effective March 24, 1998, was sponsored by Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

HF2920/SF2911*/CH322



GAME & FISH

Ice fishing season extended



Resort owners and anglers who were disappointed by an unusually mild winter were uplifted by the first bill signed into law this year.

The law, which took effect Feb. 13, 1998, extended the 1998 ice fishing season by two weeks.

Normally, the season closes on the third Sunday in February. The additional two-week window gave resort owners an opportunity to capture some lost revenue and gave anglers a chance to make up for lost time.

Another provision in the law extends the deadline for ice fishing houses to be removed from Minnesota lakes in some cases.

State law mandates that ice fishing houses be removed from the lakes by the end of February.

The new law stipulates that if the last day of February falls on a Saturday, as it did this year, the deadline is extended by one day.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the legislation.

HF2492/SF2111*/CH252



GOVERNMENT

State government finance



Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law a \$33 million state government finance package that includes funding for a study of animal feedlots, a compulsive-gambling treatment center in Granite Falls, Minn., and updates of the state's computer systems.

The new law also provides funding for the attorney general's office, although Carlson used his line-item veto authority to pare about \$1 million from the office's proposed 1999 budget. (See related story on page 21.)

Some items that were initially approved by the House were dropped from the legislation's final version in conference committee, including a provision that would have prohibited the Metropolitan Sports Facility from contracting with a professional sports team to play in the Metrodome for less than a seven-year period.

Supporters of that measure, including Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), said it would be the only way to ensure that a repeat of the 1997 stadium debate wouldn't dominate future legislative sessions.

Also stripped in conference committee was a provision that would have allowed lawmakers to receive gifts worth less than \$5 from lobbyists, and one that would have delayed implementation of a controversial fiber-optics program.

Here's a look at key provisions that did make it into law, under the legislation sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury). All provisions took effect April 7, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

HF3137/SF3354*/CH366

Attorney general's budget

The Office of the Attorney General will receive \$23 million for general operating expenses for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The \$1.1 million that Carlson line-item vetoed would have funded a program to educate senior citizens about telemarketing fraud, legal assistance to state agencies and counties, and gaming enforcement.

The office is still directed to set up an outreach program to help educate people about telemarketing fraud by January 1999, even though the proposed \$100,000 in funding for the project was vetoed. In fact, that's how the provision — with no money — was originally approved by the House.

The attorney general's budget was in question because last year Carlson line-item vetoed the office's entire proposed 1999 funding — about \$24 million — citing what he called unnecessary and excessive growth in the legal and law enforcement agency.

This year's law also calls for a task force to study the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the office. (Secs. 3, 69)

Studying feedlots

The law also provides \$1.2 million for the first year of a three-year study of the effects of the livestock industry on the state's economy and environment.

The study will be conducted by the Office of Strategic and Long Range Planning and will look at issues like government regulation of feedlots, potential ownership arrangements, and the impact of current feedlots.

A committee will be formed to advise the state's Environmental Quality Board on an environmental impact statement that will be submitted to the Legislature. (Secs. 5, 86)

Community-based planning

The new law also amends a much-debated 1997 program aimed at spurring planning partnerships between Minnesota Planning and local communities.

The 1997 program provides guidance, review, and funding on a voluntary basis for communities to develop planning goals.

At the request of several Greater Minnesota lawmakers — who said they were concerned the program would not remain voluntary for long — the law now limits the state's review of the plans to look only at the extent to which the plan promotes local citizen participation, spurs cooperation among communities, and demonstrates sound community-based planning goals.

The law also gives more time for a community to revise a plan after receiving comments

from Minnesota Planning, and prohibits the state from considering participation in the program when determining eligibility for other grants, loans, or funding packages.

A proposal to expand membership on the program's existing advisory council and to extend the life of the council for six months was voted out in conference committee. The council will sunset June 30, 1998. (Sec. 78)

Lottery changes

The law also gives \$750,000 from the Minnesota lottery prize fund to support Project Turnabout, a compulsive-gambling treatment center in Granite Falls.

But it specifies that, apart from this appropriation and ones approved in 1997, no more than \$340,000 may be used from that fund to support similar treatment or education programs in fiscal year 1999.

Effective July 1, 1998, the Minnesota State Lottery will be required to increase retailer commissions by 0.5 percent and ensure that each retailer receives at least 1 percent of the amount of each winning ticket sold at that location.

They are also allowed to pay a bonus to lottery retailers of up to 10 percent of a potential increase in lottery sales from one year to the next, and to increase the percent of revenue with which they can fund lottery expenses. (Secs. 13, 70, 71, 73)

Perpich's portrait

Also under the new law, the state must accept a portrait of former Gov. Rudy Perpich and wife, Lola, if a private donor provides funds for one. The state would have to substitute it for the portrait of Perpich currently hanging in the Capitol.

Near the end of his time in office, the former governor pushed to have his wife included in his official portrait, and the matter became the subject of significant controversy.

Portraits of each former Minnesota governor hang throughout the corridors of the Capitol, and each is pictured alone. The Perpich portrait now found on the ground floor of the Capitol shows the former governor standing in front of an iron ore mine. (Sec. 85)

Settling border disputes

The law also provides \$25,000 for the Council of State Governments to set up meetings between Minnesota and Canadian lawmakers to discuss boundary disputes, including fishing laws.

Many Minnesota residents living or owning businesses close to the Canadian border have complained for years about Canadian policies including fishing limits, user fees, and border

crossing permits that they say discriminate against U.S. anglers. (Sec. 2)

Future Olympians

Under the omnibus law, the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission will receive \$100,000 to fund development of a statewide winter sports program for females and at-risk youth.

The money will become a grant to the United States Olympic Committee's Minnesota Olympic development program. (Sec. 9)

Administration

The new law grants the Department of Administration money for the following programs:

- \$4.4 million to help update government computer systems to address problems associated with the year 2000;
- \$315,000 to Pioneer Public Television to build a tower in Otter Tail County, currently the only part of the state that does not receive a public television signal;
- \$150,000 to coordinate the Minnesota Alliance with Youth initiative;
- \$44,000 to make the *State Register* and the *Minnesota Guidebook to State Agency Services* available on the Internet free of charge; and
- \$20,000 for a portrait of Gov. Arne Carlson to hang in the Capitol. (Sec. 6)

Disaster relief on its way



Just 11 days after tornadoes wreaked havoc in south-central Minnesota, Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law a package that will bring the area \$27.6 million for disaster relief.

"The power that comes from hope is very well represented in this package," Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) said on the House floor when that body passed the legislation she sponsored.

Effective April 10, 1998, the relief law provides \$8 million to match federal disaster assistance. Johnson said the state will assume the 10 percent contribution normally funded by local governments under federal disaster relief. The federal government typically pays 75 percent while states pay 15 percent and local governments pay 10 percent.

Another \$3.5 million appropriation will go to people rebuilding their homes. Loans up to \$10,000 at no interest will go to those who stay in their homes for 10 years. Another \$500,000 will be provided in the form of forgivable loans for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of rental housing.

Businesses affected by the tornadoes will be eligible for \$4.8 million in grants to help re-



A storm relief law passed this year provides \$27.6 million to help tornado-stricken towns in Minnesota. St. Peter was one of the towns most affected by the March 29 tornadoes, which damaged many homes like the one shown here on North Fourth Street in St. Peter.

build. Legislators were told that Le Center, a town of 2,000, has 400 jobless residents because of the storm.

Another \$1 million will be set aside for local government to repair and replace publicly owned buildings, water systems, streets, bridges, and other infrastructure.

The law also includes \$250,000 for after-school child care and expanded day care services.

Farmers will be provided with \$4 million to

repair farm buildings and to obtain working capital operating loans.

Tim Nelson, the disaster coordinator for Brown County, said more than 32,000 acres of farmland and drainage ditches are strewn with debris, some of which is so heavy it will require removal by heavy machinery.

But he said most of the debris will have to be removed by hand, and groups of volunteers have begun the slow process of removing

chunks of wood, nails, and other debris from some fields.

"There are no machines that can do most of this work," Nelson said.

Legislators also were told farmers need loans for machinery and seed, but that there was relatively little livestock loss in the area.

Under the new law, another \$3.2 million will be set aside as a contingency fund that can be appropriated to the commissioner of finance for allocations made at the governor's request or for unanticipated needs.

Another \$1 million will go toward loans or grants needed for historic preservation.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the state needs to look into federal aid for the historic buildings.

"It would be a shame if we passed up the chance to rebuild this city the way it was," Kahn said.

St. Peter has 270 buildings that have been inventoried as possibly historic and 14 buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Johnson's home was among the 1,000 in St. Peter to receive minor damage in the March 29 storm. St. Peter Mayor Jerry Hawbaker told the House Ways and Means Committee via an interactive television connection that the city had another 200 homes destroyed, plus 600 others with major damage.

The town of Comfrey, with a population of about 450, was almost completely destroyed in the string of tornadoes that prompted Presi-

Tornadoes deface Comfrey, Le Center, St. Peter

It's a fact!

Was Comfrey, the town of about 450 people that was essentially demolished by a string of tornadoes March 29, really

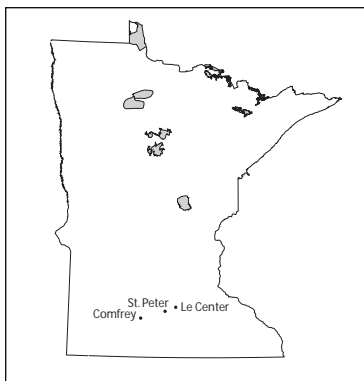
named after a plant?

Indeed, it was. The town is christened after the bristly, multi-colored vegetation. Here's a little history on the three communities hit hardest by the tornadoes — Comfrey, Le Center, and St. Peter.

Comfrey was named by the first postmaster of the settlement, A.W. Pederson, in 1878. At the time, the United States government was curious about having farmers raise comfrey as a forage crop.

Pederson, a farmer, decided to give the plant's popularity a lift by naming the local post office after the plant. When the town site was laid out in 1899, the post office was moved, and town officials went along with the name of Comfrey.

Le Center got its name from its location.



The Le Sueur County seat had moved more than once when businessmen decided to place the seat near the center of the county in the 1870s.

The businessmen acquired a tract of 160 acres at what is now Le Center. They then offered the use of a newly constructed two-story brick building to the county board for use as a courthouse, pending a referendum that would allow the moving of the

county seat to the new location which they called Le Sueur Center.

The referendum was held and passed. County offices were moved in 1876, and the offices have remained in what is now called Le Center.

St. Peter, one of the older cities in the state, was founded by Cpt. William B. Dodd in 1853. It has been home to five governors, including Henry Swift, who was the third governor after statehood, and John A. Johnson.

Among the 14 city sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places are Old Main at Gustavus Adolphus College, Nicollet County Courthouse, Governor John A. Johnson House, Borneman House, and Union Presbyterian Church.

It is estimated by current architectural experts that as many as 270 buildings in the town could be considered historic structures.

dent Clinton to declare four Minnesota counties a major disaster area.

Department of Commerce Commissioner Dave Gruenes said the tornadoes probably caused about \$200 million in damage, much of which is covered by private insurance.

Rev. Dennis Johnson, vice president for college relations at St. Peter's damaged Gustavus Adolphus College, told legislators the best way to help the wounded college would be to help the community, where much of the faculty and staff reside.

"We can not succeed in our mission at the college without a strong, vibrant community," he said.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF3862*/SF3411/CH383

Abolish treasurers' office?



Minnesota voters will decide in November whether to abolish the state treasurer's office, under a new law signed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

This year's ballot will contain a proposed constitutional amendment that would eliminate the elected office in January 2003. If the amendment is approved, the treasurer, along with the secretary of state and the commissioner of finance, would decide where to transfer the office's powers.

"Many studies over several decades have recommended abolishing the office because it's a shell of its former self in terms of policy-making," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), who sponsored the legislation in the House.

The state treasurer currently receives and issues receipts for all monies paid into the state treasury, handling about \$150 billion in transactions annually.

At one point the office was in charge of managing the state's permanent school fund and overseeing unclaimed properties, but those duties have been transferred to the State Board of Investments and the Department of Commerce, respectively.

Most of the remaining responsibilities of the office, Greiling said, are cash-management duties that do not involve policy-making.

Likely candidates to take over those duties include the secretary of state's office and the commissioner of finance.

Of the 13 current employees in the treasurer's office, two positions — those of the treasurer and the assistant treasurer — would likely be cut. The other positions would be transferred elsewhere. Greiling said an estimated \$150,000 would be saved in salaries.

But, she said, the purpose behind eliminat-



James Dunlop, the Reform Party candidate for state treasurer in 1998, told lawmakers this year that he would be happy to be the last person to hold the office. A measure passed this year will allow voters to decide whether the Minnesota Constitution should be amended to abolish the state treasurer's office in January 2003.

ing the office "is not to be saving money but to have one less elected figure."

The four-year term of the current state treasurer, Michael McGrath, expires at the end of 1998.

Voters will elect a new treasurer in November, at the same time they vote on the constitutional amendment. A majority of voters voting in the election would have to support abolishing the office in order to ratify the amendment.

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF103/SF161*/CH387

Claims against the state



The family of a 14-year-old girl killed in 1991 by a convicted sex offender on his way from prison to a halfway house will receive almost \$15,000, under a new law signed by the governor.

David and Gayle Johnson of Alexandria, Minn., filed a wrongful-death suit against the state after their daughter was murdered by a convict who had been released from St. Cloud prison five days earlier and ordered to report to a halfway house in Minneapolis. He was not assigned an escort and did not show up at the halfway house.

Following the murder, the Legislature changed the law to require that escorts be provided in similar situations, but the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected the parents' claim.

The Johnsons next turned for recourse to the Minnesota Legislature's Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims, which annually hears private restitution claims that have been refused by the courts or a state government department.

Effective April 7, 1998, this year's claims law authorizes payment of certain of those claims against the state, as recommended by the subcommittee.

A Benton County deputy who, in 1996, shot and killed a suspect in the murder of a St. Joseph police officer will receive about \$24,000. The deputy later suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome and was unable to work for eight months, but she was refused lost-wage payment by Benton County.

Several inmates or former inmates who suffered injuries while incarcerated, as well as some people injured while performing court-ordered community service, also will receive payments this year.

Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the claims legislation.

HF3830*/SF3393/CH362

Donating 'distressed' foods



Food handlers will be able to donate "distressed" foods to local governments or to the state, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Food is considered distressed when it cannot legally be sold but is still deemed safe — unspoiled milk that has not sold before the expiration date, for example.

Currently, food handlers can donate distressed foods to nonprofit organizations who supply the food to the elderly or needy. The new law will allow them to donate these foods to units of government.

The measure will remove liability for food handlers who choose to donate the distressed food, except in instances of gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

Bill sponsor Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said that the idea was brought to her by county commissioners who felt that it would be a good way to defray corrections costs.

"It's food that may not be marketable, but it is still safe for consumption," Harder said.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF176/SF154*/CH333

Gov. Carlson makes impromptu visit to House chamber

It was shortly after 9 p.m. on April 9, the last day of the session, when House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) interrupted Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka) for an unusual announcement. The governor had come to say goodbye.

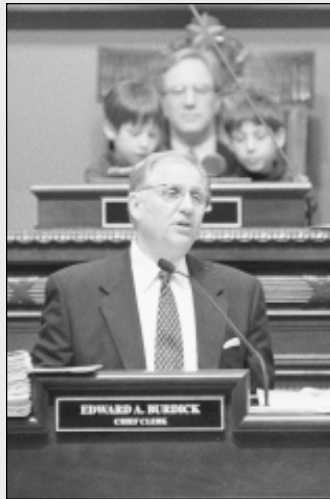
Gov. Arne Carlson appeared in the House chamber to make an unannounced visit — rare for any governor — and to address members. Carruthers asked lawmakers to pause for the state's chief executive.

Carlson is in his final year as governor, and after 30 years of holding political office, he is leaving public life. His impromptu address was a quick thank you, good luck, and goodbye.

Carlson said he has been lucky to serve throughout his career with people who care.

"I have met very honest, very dedicated, very concerned people," Carlson said, and he included the current Legislature high on that list.

He said that at times, partisan debate can become heated, but that's unavoidable.



Gov. Arne Carlson made a surprise appearance in the House chamber April 9 to say thank you, good luck, and goodbye.

"Clearly, this is precisely the essence of what democracy is all about. The fact that it exists and flourishes on this floor

is something for us to celebrate," he said. "I think the people of Minnesota are extraordinarily well-served. You've put in long days and long hours and you do it out of a commitment to the well-being of the people. On behalf of my wife and I, I extend a personal thank you for the kindness you have shown through the years."

Carlson left the chamber — shaking hands with members along the way — to a standing ovation.

The governor, 63, spent two years on the Minneapolis City Council from 1965 to 1967, then four terms in the House before being elected state auditor in 1978. He was elected governor in 1990 and re-elected in 1994.

Press Secretary Jackie Renner said that after his term is up, Carlson has considered teaching part time or working on the school choice issue, one of his key concerns as governor.

Red Cross volunteers



Although Gov. Arne Carlson allowed a bill granting full pay to state employees who volunteer for the American Red Cross to become law without his signature, he wrote that the legislation

"truly represents poorly thought-out public policy."

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1998, allows any state employee to receive 100 percent pay while volunteering for the Red Cross for up to 15 days per year.

"Clearly, the intent is noble . . . but this bill goes well beyond the normal parameters of good judgment," Carlson wrote.

He said the legislation was flawed for including only state employees and not private-sector or local government workers, and also for including volunteering with only the Red Cross and not other disaster-relief organizations.

"At the same time, how can a person be a 'volunteer' while receiving 100 percent pay?" he wrote. He added that he hoped the Legislature would consider altering the policy in the future.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the measure.

HF2673*/SF1946/CH356

State employee labor agreements



Employees of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension have a new reason to look into taking early retirement, under a new law.

Effective April 3, 1998, certain employees of that bureau who retire before age 55 will now be eligible for employer-paid health insurance.

The new law also ratifies labor agreements with state employment unions, compensation plans for state employees who are not represented by unions, and salaries for state agency heads.

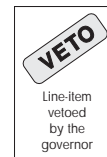
Those agreements, plans, and salaries had already been approved by a joint legislative subcommittee on employee relations, and have been in effect on an interim basis.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, a separate provision of the new law will make a small change to the salary of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board commissioner. That salary will be capped at 75 percent of the governor's salary and will be set by the governor. Under current law, the Legislative Coordinating Commission sets that salary.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the new measure.

HF3068*/SF2520/CH351

Attorney general's budget



Following through on his earlier criticism of the size of the attorney general's budget request, Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto to cut \$1.1 million from the office's 1999 budget.

Carlson said he was troubled by what he called misrepresentation by the attorney general's office concerning a 1995 budget appropriation. He said the office had requested \$3 million for one-time technology upgrades in 1996 and 1997 but had, in fact, spent about \$2 million of that money on salary increases.

That \$2 million then expanded the office's budget base and led to an increased request for future funding, according to the governor.

"Frankly, the Office of the Attorney General possesses a division that deals with consumer issues and insists on high standards of truthfulness," Carlson wrote. "Those standards were not applied to the 1996-1997 budget expenditures."

But the governor left \$23 million for the office's 1999 expenses in the new \$32 million omnibus state government law.

Last year, he used his line-item veto authority to strike the attorney general's entire 1999 budget of \$24.4 million, citing what Carlson called the enormous and unnecessary growth of the office since 1991.

This year's \$23 million appropriation will

go for core functions of the state's top legal and law enforcement agency for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The office is responsible for asserting and defending the state's legal interests, settling claims, and aiding other law enforcement agencies in prosecuting and solving cases.

The \$1.1 million line-item vetoed by Carlson would have provided: \$500,000 for legal services to state agencies; \$250,000 for gaming enforcement; \$250,000 for counties needing assistance with felony prosecutions and related tasks; and \$100,000 for a fund to educate senior citizens about telemarketing fraud.

Carlson also noted that the \$23 million appropriation represents a 13.6 percent increase over the office's previous base funding.

"Therefore, this line-item veto will do little more than return their service to normal," he wrote.

The new law also calls for a task force to study the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the attorney general's office.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury) sponsored the legislation.

HF3137/SF3354*/CH366



HEALTH

Prenatal alcohol abuse



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a bill into law which will authorize the voluntary reporting of prenatal alcohol abuse.

The legislation comes as a result of recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which was chaired by first lady Susan Carlson.

The task force was formed in July 1997 to formulate a comprehensive approach to the problem of alcohol abuse during pregnancy. Approximately 800 children are born each year in Minnesota with the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, according to the task force.

Effective Aug. 1, 1999, the new law will permit health care workers, counselors, and others working with pregnant women to report instances of suspected alcohol abuse to local welfare authorities.

The law will require that the local welfare agency then conduct an assessment and offer necessary services to the pregnant woman.

An earlier version of the bill would have made prenatal abuse of alcohol statutory grounds for civil commitment and required local welfare agencies to petition for commit-

ment in cases where the woman fails to follow treatment recommendations.

The civil commitment process is used to require individuals to accept health care when, because of mental illness or other reasons, they do not realize the need for treatment. Civil commitment usually prompts hospitalization, which allows the individual to be monitored and effectively treated.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the new measure.

HF3184*/SF3207/CH361

Improper use of DEA numbers



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) uses a numbering system that was established to identify medical professionals and others who are authorized to engage in business activities involving controlled substances.

But the insurance industry and health plan companies have sometimes used DEA numbers for other purposes, such as tracking the drug prescription practices of health care providers.

That will no longer be allowed under a new law, which will not take effect for at least two years. Its effective date is 24 months after a unique, alternative health identifier is adopted.

The identifier is expected to be adopted under the federal legislation dealing with health insurance portability and accountability. The status of that identifier is pending.

The DEA has tried to get national health

insurance associations to find an alternative to the industry use of DEA numbers and has asked its registrants to refuse to furnish DEA numbers to insurance providers for reimbursement purposes. The DEA claims misuse could weaken the registration system, and the agency has sought to restrict the registration numbers to use for drug enforcement purposes.

The new state law will limit the use of DEA numbers for law enforcement purposes, and thus prohibit insurance providers or health plan companies from monitoring the prescribing practices of a practitioner.

The law also stipulates a prescription that is not a controlled substance does not have to bear a DEA number.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure.

HF2401/SF2207*/CH316

Rendering emergency care



Volunteers and others who provide emergency medical care with an automatic external defibrillator without expectation of compensation will not be liable for civil damages under a new law effective

Aug. 1, 1998.

The law broadens the existing "Good Samaritan statute," which provides immunity to volunteers or untrained people who give emergency care, unless a patient objects.

Many airlines and businesses now carry automatic external defibrillators, which restore the heart's rhythm by delivering an elec-



A new state law will protect people who are not trained in medicine from litigation if they use an automatic external defibrillator in an attempt to save another's life. A dummy was used for a Capitol demonstration of such a device this year.

tric shock. To use an automatic external defibrillator, the rescuer places two pads on the victim's chest and the device measures the heart's rhythm. If the device detects ventricular fibrillation, the machine directs the user to push a button to deliver a shock.

Under the new law, any volunteer or other person who does not expect compensation will be able to render the emergency care without fear of civil liability, unless the person giving the care acts in a reckless manner.

The law will apply only to the scene of an emergency outside of a hospital or other facility where licensed practitioners are available.

Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure.

HF3138/SF2861*/CH329

Hepatitis B vaccinations



Children who enroll in kindergarten beginning in the 2000-2001 school year will have to be vaccinated against hepatitis B, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

The law also will apply to children enrolling in kindergarten through the seventh grade beginning with the 2007-2008 school term. But the law will exempt families who object to the vaccination for religious or other reasons.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus and is spread by contact with an infected person's blood or other body fluids. It can also be spread by sharing washcloths, razors or needles, and through tattooing. The vaccination process involves a schedule of three doses of the vaccine.

The disease causes liver inflammation that can lead to liver failure or cancer.

Roughly 80 percent of infants receive the vaccination in conjunction with other childhood vaccinations. The law's purpose is to inoculate those who now do not receive the vaccination.

The cost of the vaccination program for those entering kindergarten is covered under a federal program.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) and Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) sponsored the measure.

HF2681/SF2372*/CH305

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'Off-label' drug coverage



Cancer patients who find relief from certain treatments not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for their specific form of cancer no longer will have to wonder if their health plan will pay for the treatment.

A new state law will require health maintenance organizations and other health plans to pay for "off-label" use of drugs prescribed for cancer treatment. Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the law will stipulate that all health plans, including Medicare supplemental coverage, may not refuse to pay for cancer treatments involving drugs that are already on a plan's formulary.

"Off-label" drug use is the prescribing of drugs recognized as a treatment for at least one form of cancer in standard medical literature. Cancer specialists indicate about 10 percent of their patients respond to treatment that is not covered for their specific cancer under their insurance plan.

Drugs are often approved by the FDA for treatment of certain cancers, and further research sometimes finds the drug is beneficial for a wider range of cancers.

But drug companies rarely resubmit these medications for FDA approval because of the time and cost involved. Some health plans then refuse to pay for use of these prescription drugs if the medication is not FDA-approved for a specific cancer.

The law will not apply to drugs used in experimental cancer treatment.

There are 27 other states with similar laws related to off-label drug use.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure.

HF1306/SF1076*/CH301

'Critical access' hospitals



Closures and financial problems at rural hospitals nationwide have created concern in Minnesota, where up to 60 percent of the rural hospital patient population is on Medicare.

Effective Feb. 26, 1998, a new state law allows state designation of rural nonprofit or public hospitals and facilities as "critical to access." Such facilities can be certified by the state as necessary providers of health care services to residents in the area.

Necessary providers can be those 20 miles from the nearest hospital, those that are the sole hospital in a county, or those that meet certain federal criteria.

There is the potential for 39 such hospitals in the state to receive the special designation.

Under federal law, critical access hospitals receive enhanced reimbursement and regulatory flexibility in exchange for limiting their inpatient services while maintaining emergency medical services.

A study by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, indicates traumatic injuries are more common in rural areas. Rural areas also have a larger percentage of elderly people than urban areas and higher poverty rates, according to the agency.

The small, rural hospitals designated as "critical access" facilities will retain patients only for a limited time, but the hospitals will be able to arrange for transfers and referrals when longer hospital stays are required.

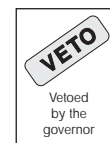
The bill was the first introduced by Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie), who won a special election last fall to replace her late husband, Ken.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

The new law also calls for the Minnesota Department of Health to develop a rural health plan within the current level of funding.

HF2550*/SF2261/CH257

Acquiring nonprofit hospitals



Gov. Arne Carlson used his veto authority to reject legislation that would have made purchase of nonprofit hospitals by for-profit chains more difficult.

The measure would have required that whenever a nonprofit hospital proposes to transfer more than 50 percent of its assets or financial control to a for-profit group, it must notify the state attorney general in writing.

The attorney general already has the power to investigate and stop such transactions, but the legislation would have ensured that written notice would go to the attorney general's office 45 days in advance of any deal.

Under the legislation, the attorney general could have made the notice accessible to the public if the office determined the public would benefit from the information.

The governor wrote in his veto statement, "I am persuaded that the office of the attorney general can adequately protect the public's interest in this area with the authority granted under current law."

Carlson also indicated he thought the bill "established a litigious, adversarial process for conducting business transactions which I find unnecessary."

"While I recognize the value of community hospitals, I cannot support the wholesale lock-

out of noncharitable business entities in the marketplace, which is the effect of the bill.”

He also said, “In some instances, particularly in the case of a financially struggling rural community hospital, the public may be best served by the noncharitable acquisition of the hospital, especially when the only alternative is closure of the facility.”

Nonprofit hospitals are generally viewed as charitable community assets, but from 1990 to 1996 a total of 192 nonprofit hospitals nationwide were converted to for-profit status.

Public funds are used for various projects at nonprofit hospitals. If the hospital is acquired by a for-profit company, the company likely acquires assets paid for with public dollars, possibly at less than fair-market value.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill.
HF381/SF695*/CH330



HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education funding



A new Minnesota higher education funding law will spend \$72.5 million — the largest supplemental budget increase for higher education in this decade — to improve the state’s colleges and universities.

Appropriations in the new law will target \$35.5 million for the University of Minnesota and \$36 million for the Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU) system.

Another \$1 million will go to the Higher Education Services Office to bolster work study programs on the state’s college campuses. All of the spending provisions are effective July 1, 1998.

Gov. Arne Carlson line-item vetoed a total of \$500,000 that would have gone to the U of M for two separate programs — an on-campus law clinic and an effort to address the shortage of school counselors in K-12 schools. (See related story on this page.)

Much of the remaining money for the U of M will go toward “strategic academic initiatives,” which are programs — such as molecular and cellular biology — that are considered crucial to ensure the university’s future as a leading academic institution.

The bulk of the appropriation for MnSCU’s seven state universities and 29 two-year colleges will go toward reduction of the wide variances in the amount of per-student funding the individual institutions receive.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) spon-

sored the higher education finance legislation.

Here’s a look at some highlights of the new law.

HFnone/SF3297*/CH384

Funding for MnSCU

A total of \$20 million will reduce variances in state funding per full-year equivalent student at the 36 MnSCU institutions.

Minnesota currently spends more per student at some two-year institutions than at some of its four-year campuses. Significant disparities exist in the amount of money the state’s institutions receive per full-time equivalent student.

For example, Southwest State University in Marshall, Minn., receives about \$2,000 more per student than Mankato State University.

The variance between the highest- and lowest-funded state universities for fiscal year 1998 is 54 percent, and the disparity between the highest- and lowest-funded two-year schools reaches 90 percent.

Under the new law, MnSCU will be expected to develop its own allocation model for fiscal year 2000 and beyond. The model will be required to minimize the variance in per-student funding between institutions and to reduce campus and system reliance on one-time funding.

The law also will provide \$10 million to enhance partnerships between MnSCU institutions and business and industry.

The appropriation will go toward efforts to increase the number of students enrolled in internships by providing incentives for businesses to train, place, and retain students. Also, the funding will support efforts to restructure degree and certificate programs so more of them require internships.

The new law also will provide \$3 million for MnSCU libraries to purchase materials and equipment.

Another \$3 million included in the law will help universities to redesign teacher education curriculum to ensure that would-be teachers are prepared to work with the state’s new K-12 graduation standards and to integrate technology into teaching methods.

University of Minnesota spending

A total of \$31.9 million of the new law’s \$35.5 million for the U of M will go toward improvement of key academic initiatives.

Fields specifically targeted for improvement include programs in digital technology and programs in molecular and cellular biology. The funds will be available for hiring faculty, purchasing equipment, or making other improvements.

Both the governor and the university requested \$41.5 million in supplemental appropriations for the U of M.

University President Mark Yudof has focused on investing in the school’s molecular and cellular biology programs and other key academic initiatives since he took over as president in 1997.

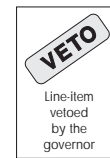
His goal is to create an institute for molecular and cellular biology with the aim of pushing the school into the top five public universities in biological sciences.

Yudof requested funds from the 1998 Legislature to recruit 11 blue-chip faculty members during the next three years and to provide them with equipment needed for research. The president also intends to hire another 15 junior faculty members by redirecting previous U of M funding.

The law also requires that an unspecified portion of the \$31.9 million to go toward agricultural research into problems affecting Minnesota farmers. Those problems include plant diseases that have damaged wheat and barley crops and respiratory diseases that have hit turkeys on many farms in the state.

A separate provision of the new law will provide an additional \$3.6 million for agricultural research and outreach programs.

Higher education funding cut



Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto authority to cut \$500,000 from a \$73 million higher education funding plan approved by the Legislature.

Funding for the University of Minnesota’s law clinic, which is essentially a free law firm on campus, was one of the items cut by the governor. Carlson struck down \$250,000 earmarked for the clinic.

“The law clinic appropriation is disturbing because it ought to be a self-sustaining program,” Carlson wrote in his veto message. “Promoting pro bono activities by law school students is a worthy goal and should be financially supported within the law school budget.”

The law clinic provided legal assistance to more than 700 low-income Minnesotans in 1997, according to law school officials. The recipients of the free legal services were represented by second- and third-year U of M law students, who work for clients under supervision of clinic instructors.

Law school officials said that with the \$250,000 from the state for fiscal year 1999 the school planned to add 80 more students to the law clinic. That would have translated into an additional 6,000 hours of legal services and another 200 clients.

The law school officials also said 50 percent of the clinic’s current \$900,000 annual budget comes from tuition, with 15 to 17 percent

from the state. The rest comes through private contributions and through a federal grant.

The governor also deleted a \$250,000 appropriation for the U of M-administered Project Inform, a program designed to address the shortage of high school counselors in Minnesota by providing outreach and information to K-12 students and their families.

"I believe that the Department of Children, Families and Learning should be involved in such important K-12 activities and object to [its] non-involvement in this proposed solution," the governor said.

The remainder of the new law represents the largest supplemental budget increase for higher education in this decade. The \$72.5 million in appropriations would target nearly \$36 million each for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the measure.

HFnone/SF3297*/CH384



HOUSING

Housing options for seniors



A new law seeks to create more affordable housing options for seniors.

Effective March 19, 1998, the law expands the statutory definition of elderly housing as it applies to the human rights law, bringing state law into compliance with federal statutes. The effect is that more facilities may classify as elderly housing exclusively.

The new law removes the requirement that elderly housing must provide facilities designed to meet social and physical needs, such as recreation and meeting rooms.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley), sponsor of the measure, said that the additional services provided to tenants mean additional cost in rent.

"These types of facilities often cause rent to be \$100 to \$300 higher than other facilities," he said.

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF2779/SF2230*/CH291

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Tenant security deposits



A new law, effective Aug. 1, 1998, will extend the current interest rate paid by property owners on tenant security deposits.

Current law sets the rate at 3 percent until May 1999, and after that time the rate was to be increased to 4 percent. The rate increase was supposed to parallel an increase in interest rates generally; however, interest rates have remained low.

Property owners said that after 1999 they would be paying a higher rate to hold deposit funds than most financial institutions would pay.

The new law will change the date of the increase to 4 percent from May 1, 1999, to May 1, 2001.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF2590*/SF2122/CH266

Selling abandoned homes



A new state law aims to help Minnesota's manufactured-home park owners rid their properties of abandoned homes.

Effective March 17, 1998, the law authorizes the owner of a manufactured-home park to obtain a limited dealer's license and to sell up to five used homes that are within the park's boundaries per year.

Previously, only real estate agents and licensed dealers were permitted to sell manufactured homes in Minnesota.

The legislation was introduced at the request of rural park owners who were having difficulties attracting agents to sell low-end homes.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF3148/SF2047*/CH280



HUMAN SERVICES

Health and human services bill

New abortion reporting requirements are part of a \$58 million health and human services finance bill passed by the House in the waning moments of the 1998 session. The vote was 99-34.

The bill, which awaits action by Gov. Arne Carlson, was the subject of a lengthy standoff over abortion-related provisions. The House had earlier approved a version of the bill that

called for a ban on late-term (or so-called "partial birth") abortions and for new reporting requirements.

The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), appeared to be in trouble after the House rejected a conference committee version of the bill that did not include any of the abortion-related provisions. However, a last-minute compromise on new abortion reporting requirements helped the bill to win final passage.

The abortion-related provisions make up just a small portion of an omnibus bill that would provide funds for salary increases for nursing home employees, prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, food stamps for legal non-citizens, and efforts to ensure food safety.

Also, the bill includes provisions that Minnesota must adopt to receive federal funds totaling \$58 million for welfare programs and \$28 million for health care for children.

The governor's 1998 supplemental budget proposal for health and human services called for a total appropriation of just under \$31.7 million.

Here's a look at key provisions of the health and human services bill (**HF2868/SF3346***).

Abortion reporting

The final version of the bill would require that medical practitioners provide the state with information about abortions they perform and that the Department of Health release an annual public report compiling Minnesota abortion statistics.

Physicians would be required to report a variety of factors related to each abortion procedure. Specifically, each physician would have to disclose the number of abortions he or she performed within the previous year, the method used for each abortion, the approximate gestational age at the time of the abortion, and the age of each woman who has an abortion.

Also, physicians would be asked to supply a specific reason for the abortion. The bill lists a range of reasons — such as the pregnancy poses a risk to the woman's health, the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, or the woman does not want children at the time — that could be listed, but the reasons that could be listed by doctors would not be limited to those listed in the bill.

The bill stipulates that the woman would not have to provide a reason.

The reporting requirements also would seek information about the number of previous abortions the woman has had and the method of payment for the abortion. And physicians would be required to provide information related to complications stemming from abortion procedures.



Controversy over abortion-related provisions in a health and human services finance bill brought out protesters from both sides of the issue. The final version of the bill would require physicians to meet new abortion reporting requirements.

The Department of Health would be required to release an annual report beginning in 2000 on abortion in Minnesota. The bill would mandate that the report protect the identity of doctors who perform abortions and women who undergo abortions.

If the department fails to produce the public report on time, any group of 100 or more citizens would be allowed to seek a court injunction to force timely release of the information, under the bill.

The bill also includes a provision that would slap a fine on physicians or medical facilities that fail to report on time. After a report is 90 days late, the physician or facility could be fined \$500 for each 30-day period the report is overdue.

Fighting Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

The bill includes \$5 million to fight Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, a series of birth defects that can result from alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

Minnesota first lady Susan Carlson co-chaired the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which last year estimated the disease costs Minnesota taxpayers at least \$45 million annually in health, judicial, and social services costs.

The \$5 million included in the omnibus funding bill matches the governor's request for the program.

Under the bill, the health department would design and implement a statewide program to raise public awareness about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The program would have to in-

clude a toll-free resource and referral line. A total of \$800,000 would be spent for the public awareness campaign.

Another \$400,000 would be used to develop a statewide network of regional Fetal Alcohol Syndrome diagnostic clinics, and to help train health care providers to deal with the problem.

The bill also would provide \$350,000 to fund creation of a fetal alcohol coordination board, which would review and coordinate existing state programs and integrate state and local prevention and intervention programs.

A total of \$850,000 would be for a Fetal Alcohol Syndrome community grant program. The commissioner of health would administer the program, which would finance work by community organizations on prevention and intervention.

Another \$850,000 would go to the Department of Human Services to expand treatment services for women who abuse alcohol during pregnancy.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reports Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the leading known cause of mental retardation.

Nursing home workers

The bill calls for a 3 percent wage increase for nursing home employees. The increase in per diem payments to long-term care facilities would cost the state about \$20 million.

The nursing home spending is part of an effort to stabilize the workforce at nursing facilities. Low wages among most nursing home employees, coupled with bountiful job

opportunities in other fields in the current booming economy, have made it difficult for nursing homes to attract and keep workers.

The state pays nursing homes a per diem for each resident based on location, property costs and taxes, case mix, and other operating costs. Case mix is determined by the extent of care needed for each patient.

Under the bill, per diem payments would increase by 3 percent and the money would be used to pay nursing home workers who provide direct care to patients, perform house-keeping, and handle other such duties. The increase would take effect July 1.

Nursing home workers told lawmakers this session that their work is emotionally stressful and often leads to occupational-related injuries such as back problems, the result of lifting patients.

Legislators also were told that understaffing leads to distress for patients and problems that include malnutrition, which can result from insufficient staff to handle all patients at meal times.

Helping legal immigrants

The bill includes funds for food stamps for thousands of legal immigrants in the state who are not eligible for the federal food stamp program. About \$5.4 million would go toward providing food stamps for legal noncitizens, under the bill.

The funds would be used to establish a one-year, state-funded program for legal noncitizens who, if not for their citizenship status, would otherwise be eligible for federal food stamp benefits.

The food assistance program was not part of the governor's health and human services spending recommendations.

The program would provide food assistance to legal noncitizens who are not on Minnesota Family Investment Plan-Statewide (MFIP-S), which allows families to accept lower-paying jobs and receive some state aid while working toward the goal of getting off public assistance.

The federal Welfare Reform Act of 1996 made noncitizens ineligible for the federal food stamp program, but the federal 1997 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act gives states the option to purchase food stamp benefits for those who are ineligible because they are not citizens.

That option requires states to pay for the value of the food stamp benefits, plus the federal government's cost for providing the option.

Counties would use the same income, budgeting, and benefit allotment regulations for the state program as for the federal food stamp program.

Twelve other states currently provide similar assistance.

Another nearly \$3.8 million would help extend the food supplement to legal noncitizen families on MFIP-S, which is the state's main welfare reform initiative.

A cash benefit equal to \$63 a month, which was designated to replace the value of the food stamps lost when noncitizens became ineligible for the federal food stamp program, was scheduled to end June 30, 1998. The bill would extend the benefit and also make eligible legal noncitizen families who are on MFIP-S, regardless of whether they became state residents as of July 1, 1997, as current law stipulates.

Food safety

There is also \$2.5 million in the bill for a food safety initiative. The money would be targeted toward state efforts to improve food safety. Some funds also would be used to study and protect against food-borne illness.

Increasingly, fruits and vegetable are imported, and roughly half of food dollars are spent eating in restaurants, where food can be improperly handled or stored.

Dr. Michael Osterholm, state epidemiologist for the Minnesota Department of Health, has told legislators this year that the supposed 6,000 to 8,000 annual deaths connected with contaminated food are underestimated.

Osterholm also has said that at certain times of the year nearly 100 percent of fresh fruits and vegetables available are grown in developing nations. He has said if that produce were purchased by Americans abroad, they would be advised to boil and peel it before eating.

Consumer health assistance

If you can't get referred to a chiropractor under your current health plan, where do you turn? Minnesota health plan companies and health care professionals are governed by more than 20 boards and oversight bodies.

People confused or unhappy about their health plan would have a one-stop place to call, under a \$100,000 provision in the bill that would go to establish an office of health care consumer assistance.

The office would have no regulatory power, but it would have a broad range of duties. It would assist consumers who have complaints or questions about their health plan or health care provider. It would also help them understand their legal rights and get appropriate health care referrals.

The state commissioner of health would appoint an executive director, and the office would have at least nine consumer advocates to perform the duties of the office.

Preceding this provision was a 1997 law, the Patient Protection Act, which aimed to pre-

vent health plan companies from interfering with the medical professional-patient relationship, and to provide patients with accurate information about their health plan and health plan companies.



INDUSTRY

Protecting telephone customers



A new law aims to protect Minnesota telephone customers from unauthorized switching of long-distance telephone carriers.

"While most long-distance providers conduct their business in an ethical, above-board fashion, there are some that unfortunately do not," Gov. Arne Carlson said in a news release. "In signing this legislation, we are now able to give Minnesotans protection from unscrupulous carriers."

A new provision, effective July 1, 1998, will require long-distance providers to give price information on specific calling patterns to consumers and will forbid the providers from the practice of "slamming," or switching customers without their knowledge.

The long-distance providers will have to provide proof that a customer authorized a change in carriers. If the provider is unable to produce a written statement or a tape recording indicating the customer authorized the change, the carrier will have to pay the cost of returning the customer to the original service and the cost of any of the customer's long-distance calls during the unauthorized period.

Long-distance companies also will have to provide upon request — or when soliciting customers — information on the price range of services, minimum volume requirements, termination charges, and other fees.

Biomass fuels

A separate provision effective April 1, 1998, provides an exemption to requirements of biomass-fueled power plants. Examples of biomass power sources are sawdust or wood chips, agricultural residues, and the organic portion of the solid waste stream.

Previous law provided that biomass-fueled power plants can use non-biomass fuels for up to 25 percent of their fuel. The new law provides an expansion so that when biomass fuel sources are not reasonably available to the facility because flood, fire, drought, disease or other acts of God, the power facility can exceed the exemption without penalty or a charge against its normal 25 percent exemption.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the legislation.

HF3042*/SF2797/CH345

Pipeline excavation notices



A new law will make a distinction between information needed before a pipeline excavation and information needed before a land survey when notifying the Gopher State One-Call excavation notice system. The provision is effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Current law requires these notices to contain the same information. The new law removes language pertaining to anticipated discharge of explosives when only a survey is being done.

The Minnesota Pipeline Safety Act of 1987 mandated the establishment of a one-call notification center for facility operators, which became the Gopher State One-Call. That act included definitions and requirements for notices given by excavators and underground facility operators.

Underground facility operators include those who deal with electricity, power, heat, gas, oil, and water.

The new law also requires, as of Jan. 1, 1999, that operators maintain maps, drawings, diagrams, and other records of any underground facility that was abandoned or out of service after Dec. 31, 1998.

And a provision effective June 30, 1998, will allow the commissioner of public safety to appoint a pipeline advisory committee.

This discretionary advisory committee would replace the Pipeline Safety Advisory Council, and it would be governed by the statute pertaining to advisory councils and committees rather than administrative boards and agencies.

The difference is that members on advisory councils and committees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Members of the current council may be removed for missing three consecutive meetings.

The new committee would consist of representatives of the hazardous liquid pipeline industry, the gas distribution industry, the gas pipeline industry, the pipeline design and construction industry, state or local government, and the general public.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the legislation.

HF3324/SF2445*/CH348

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

Using professional titles



Industrial hygienists — people hired to make work environments safer — will become members of a legally recognized profession under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

The law will prohibit people who do not meet certain requirements from using specific titles including industrial hygienist, certified safety professional, and construction health and safety technologist.

Only those who have attended an accredited college or university and received the proper certification will be allowed to use those professional titles. For instance, a certified industrial hygienist will have to pass a test by the nonprofit American Board of Industrial Hygiene and maintain that license in order to use the title.

The restrictions will not apply to properly supervised apprentices, or to employees of the state of Minnesota, who are already subject to strict standards.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), who sponsored the proposal in the House, said the law will not only protect the professionals, but will further public health and safety by ensuring quality work.

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF668*/SF668/CH288



INSURANCE

New investment options



A new law effective Aug. 1, 1998, will give insurance companies more flexibility in investing their assets.

Under the law, "financially strong" insurers will be allowed to choose to be governed by the new provisions rather than by current state insurance laws, which will remain in place.

To use the new investment options, insurers will be required to have a minimum of \$2 billion in total assets and a total capital and surplus of \$200 million.

Insurers who qualify and decide to invest under the new law could invest in anything within a standard considered by the company's board of directors, subject to an internal control system. The companies will have to have a written investment policy.

The commissioner of commerce will require information from insurers, and the commissioner could hire an expert to review an insurer's investments. The commissioner also will be able to order insurers to change their investments.

Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the measure.

HF3355/SF3032*/CH319

MCHA cap increased



The maximum lifetime benefit for people who get their health coverage through Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) increased from \$1.5 million to \$2 million, under a new law effective March 19, 1998.

The change was necessary to address the needs of a southern Minnesota boy who suffers from Melnick-Needles Syndrome, a bone and cartilage disorder. The boy requires a full-time nurse, specialized equipment, frequent hospital visits, and medications.

A 1995 law moved the cap on MCHA benefits from \$1 million to \$1.5 million because the boy's medical expenses were approaching the limit and he was at risk of being cut off from coverage.

This year, the child was closing in on the \$1.5 million maximum. Also, supporters of the new law said \$2 million is the standard limit for lifetime health benefits.

The Legislature created MCHA in 1976 to sell insurance to state residents who have been turned down for insurance due to pre-existing conditions.

The organization is not funded by the state. Premiums are collected from participants and from an annual assessment on insurance companies, health maintenance organizations, and other insurance providers.

The boy could have been forced onto the government-funded Medical Assistance program, had the MCHA coverage limit not been increased.

The new measure was sponsored by Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

HF3065/SF2608*/CH293

Medical equipment, supplies



A new law effective Jan. 1, 1999, will require health plans to tell clients what medical equipment and supplies are covered.

The law also will stipulate that any health plan that covers durable medical equipment may not exclude coverage of devices used in the home.

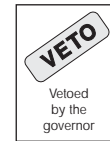
In addition, health plans will be required to tell members and prospective members the nature of the coverage for durable medical equipment, level of coverage available, proce-

dures for prior authorizations, and an address or telephone number of someone with the plan that the member can call to get information, either verbally or in writing, on what's covered and not covered.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) and Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Anoka) sponsored the new measure.

HF2814*/SF2130/CH334

No break on insurance premiums



Gov. Arne Carlson used his veto authority to strike down legislation that would have allowed drivers who successfully complete an accident prevention course to get a break on auto insurance premiums.

Drivers over 30 years old who passed the safety course would have received a 10 percent reduction in their auto insurance premiums, under the bill. Currently, drivers 55 and older who pass an accident prevention course every three years receive a premium reduction.

In his veto message, Carlson wrote, "Statistical analyses fail to provide evidence that successful completion of additional driver testing results in heightened safety rates on Minnesota roadways."

He said automobile insurance premiums ought to be determined by the market and individual driving records.

"Any mandated rate reduction to one class of citizen drivers would unfairly shift costs to those of the unprotected class," he said. "In this case, the shift would take place on those drivers who are already paying the highest premiums within this state, that is, those drivers under the age of 30."

Carlson also said while a driver safety course can be effective for those 55 and older, "I do not believe that the completion of this type of program would be effective on younger drivers."

The legislation was sponsored by Rep. Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington) and Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Tower).

HF2846*/SF2245/CH287

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.



Government data practices



Gov. Arne Carlson has allowed a measure calling for several changes in information policy to become law without his signature.

He took the opportunity to comment on the changes in a two-page letter he filed with the bill.

The new law makes several changes in Minnesota's Government Data Practices Act, which classifies information the state government collects as public or private.

The governor wrote that the law lacks the comprehensive reforms that are necessary to address the problems with the data practices law.

"The current bill does not address substantive reforms, but rather continues the legislative track of enacting complicating minutiae, and poorly balancing the public's 'right to know' with citizens' rights to privacy," Carlson wrote.

The most notable provision in the new law will allow the Legislature to subpoena county child protection workers.

The new law came as a result of legislators' attempt to reform the state's child protection system in the wake of three-year-old Desi Irving's death in Minneapolis.

Last year, Mildred Irving pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in her daughter's death. She admitted to the court that she repeatedly hit Desi with an extension cord, broke one of Desi's arms, and punched her in the abdomen so hard that the child's liver was lacerated. The autopsy results showed that Desi had suffered numerous broken bones, had cigarette burns and many other scars, and had been suffering from malnutrition before her death.

The brutality of Desi's death was accented by the fact that evidence shows that the Irving family had been in contact with Hennepin County's child protection services.

Legislators sought to make sure that children like Desi were protected in the future. Attempts to bring Hennepin County caseworkers to testify before the Legislature failed due to data privacy issues. Caseworkers expressed a desire to disclose the facts of the case. However, they feared losing their jobs if they broke the data privacy law.

The new provision, effective April 10, 1998, provides an exemption to current data privacy law for child protection in the case where the information is subpoenaed by a standing legislative committee. The provision is only to remain in effect until July 1, 1999.

The governor expressed concern in his letter about this provision.

"Although I am a staunch advocate of opening up court records for juvenile proceedings when necessary, the Legislature is simply not the government entity to conduct such investigations," Carlson wrote.

Carlson stated he is concerned that the Legislature has not outlined adequate safeguards to ensure the protection of this information. He wrote that he is also concerned that the provision sets a dangerous precedent and that it violates the separation of powers between the legislative and judicial branches of government.

The new law also contains several provisions, effective Aug. 1, 1998, which attempt to make the transition from welfare to work easier.

One such provision addresses Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide (MFIP-S) data. MFIP-S, instituted by last year's welfare reform legislation, allows families to accept lower paying jobs while receiving some public assistance. The new law authorizes the flow of information between agencies administering the program to provide the services more efficiently.

The new law also permits the Department of Economic Security to provide information on potential employers to the state's Workforce Centers. The information is to be used to help match potential employers with those seeking employment.

The law also authorizes, effective Aug. 1, 1998, the release of names and addresses from motor vehicle registration files to community-based nonprofit organizations for public safety purposes.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley).

HF1626/SF1378*/CH371

Attempted help for state firm

Gov. Arne Carlson announced a special session scheduled for April 20 to revive a bill which would assist a Minnesota company in a pending lawsuit.

The bill (**HF3872/SF3416***) passed the Senate but did not receive a vote on the House floor April 9. Supporters could not get enough votes to suspend constitutional requirements so the bill could be rushed through and brought up for consideration on the last day.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), the bill would affect a lawsuit between Marvin Windows and Doors in Warroad, Minn., and a Pennsylvania company. Marvin Windows is suing the company

for breach of contract and fraud relating to a wood preservative produced by the Pennsylvania company and used by the Minnesota manufacturer.

Among several claims made by Marvin Windows, the firm alleges that the other company engaged in intentional misrepresentation of its product. Attorneys for Marvin Windows are attempting to use Minnesota's tort law to address these claims in court.

The Pennsylvania company argues that this claim cannot be brought forward under Minnesota's tort law, and the company's argument is based on a 1991 law which outlines how the tort law can be used in contract disputes of this sort.

The proposed legislation would have expanded this provision of law to allow for claims to move forward in cases where fraud or negligent misrepresentation is evident.

Supporters of the bill argued that the change is a clarification of the 1991 law, which did not address the issue of fraud.

Opponents of the legislation said that the change would undermine the current law because all cases of breach of contract could be construed to contain an element of alleged misrepresentation.

Making health care decisions

A plan to consolidate the law regarding health care decision-making is on its way to the governor following final approval by the full House April 9. The vote was 75-58.

The bill (**HF2521/SF2050***), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), is based on the recommendations of a working group the Minnesota State Bar Association sponsored to review current law on health care decision-making and to suggest ways to make the laws more effective. The group is made up of government officials and representatives from health care organizations, consumer groups, and ethical and religious organizations.

Currently, a patient can create a document that designates the care to be received if he or she cannot communicate those wishes. The document is called a living will. In addition, a patient can name a person as his or her durable power of attorney, which authorizes that person to make health care decisions. The living will and durable power of attorney provisions are contained in two separate statutes.

The bill would combine the living will and the durable power of attorney into one document called a health care directive. The bill provides the criteria necessary for a directive to be valid.

Bishop said that he brought the proposal forward to make an already existing process

easier. He said his bill would encourage more people to outline their health care wishes before it is too late.

Opponents of the bill argued that the change would make it easier to withhold treatment that may prolong life from those who are terminally ill.

Special guardians, conservators



A new law will refine the special guardian and conservator hearing process to prevent potential abuse.

Guardians and conservators are appointed by the state courts to make decisions for adults who are incapable of making decisions for themselves, oftentimes the elderly in nursing homes.

Special guardianships and conservatorships differ in that they are temporary arrangements designed to respond to short-term situations.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law lengthens the time required to give notice of hearings related to special guardianships and conservatorships from 24 hours to 48 hours and requires that the hearing be held within two weeks of the notice.

The law also requires that petitioners show a clear need for the appointment. It also limits these appointments to 30 days.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), House sponsor of the new measure, said that the idea was brought to him by members of a family in his district who felt the process was being abused by a nursing home caring for their father.

Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1414/SF1151*/CH281

Protection for news media



Gov. Arne Carlson allowed a measure providing new protections for the news media to become law without his signature.

However, the governor did take the opportunity to comment on what he referred to as a "disturbing trend" in journalism in a letter filed with the bill.

Effective April 7, 1998, the new law expands the current media shield law by guaranteeing protection for reporters' notes and tapes except in extreme instances.

Carlson, in his two page letter, wrote that while the freedom of the press must be maintained, he is concerned about the lack of accountability in journalism, especially with investigative journalism.

"News organizations often justify their ac-

tivities based on the public's 'right to know,'" Carlson wrote. "It is ironic, however, that the media seldom extend that right to the way they do business."

Journalists have no boards of professional responsibility like lawyers, doctors, and accountants to ensure ethical behavior, according to the governor.

"Granting this law's special protection to the news media would be more palatable if it were a profession that adhered to a strict code of journalistic conduct," Carlson wrote.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the new measure.

HF1668/SF1480*/CH357



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Nonprofit corporations



A new state law permits Brown County and other political subdivisions to create nonprofit corporations to help with economic development.

The measure has been filed with the secretary of state without the governor's signature. It empowers such nonprofit corporations to issue bonds, make grants to companies, and to buy, sell, and develop property.

Gov. Arne Carlson allowed the measure to become law, but he clearly did not approve of its content.

"It gives local governments the power to create entities with broader powers than the entity itself," Carlson wrote, in a letter filed with the measure. "This is a dangerous precedent being established by the Legislature. Moreover, these local entities — while having greater powers than local governments — are not subject to some of the same legal requirements such as open meeting laws, competitive bidding, the Data Practices Act, and the Ethics in Government Act."

Carlson also was bothered by the expansion of power to many other nonprofit corporations, which he believes "has now opened the door to widespread misuse by these entities."

When introduced in the House, the measure applied only to Brown County, but it was amended to include similar corporations created elsewhere before June 1, 1997, by allowing them to continue to operate.

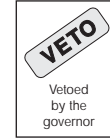
The budget of any such corporation must be made public, and if the corporation is going to spend \$100,000, it has to be approved by the county board.

The new law took effect April 8, 1998, except for the section devoted to Brown County, which is retroactive to July 10, 1990.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the measure.

HF2700/SF2192*/CH360

Real estate filing fees



A plan to create a uniform real estate filing fee structure for counties statewide was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson.

Carlson said he supports the idea of standardizing such processes across the state. However, he said that he could not support the proposal because it would have meant fee increases.

"Minnesotans already pay a substantial portion of their incomes to provide for local, state, and federal services," he wrote in his veto message. "With no demonstrated need for these fee increases, I cannot sanction this bill."

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. David Ten Eyck (DFL-East Gull Lake).

HF1882/SF1654*/CH311



METRO AFFAIRS

Innovative bike racks



Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law a measure that allows cities of the first class to place art and informational signs on bicycle racks and storage areas.

Effective March 17, 1998, the new law results from a desire by the Minneapolis City Council to place decorated bicycle racks on every block in the Uptown neighborhood of the city.

The city is trying to promote bicycle riding to ease parking and traffic congestion. City officials want to place art or signs on the racks that would blend with the Uptown area's atmosphere that caters to a young clientele.

The art and signs will be allowed only if placement does not create a hazard. That decision will be left to the road authority that authorizes the placement of the art or signage.

The new measure was sponsored by Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls).

HF3296/SF2729*/CH283

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MILITARY

NATO expansion resolution

Filed
without
signature



A new law requires the state to send a resolution asking President Clinton and Congress to support the admission of Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Hungary to NATO. The measure became law without the governor's signature.

A NATO expansion to include the three countries is anticipated in April 1999, pending U.S. approval. President Clinton supports the expansion, and the U.S. Senate is expected back the plan.

The Minnesota proposal was originally sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), who spent about two months translating for NATO troops in northeastern Bosnia last summer.

"My idea is that every country should join NATO, and then once everybody is joined in support of peace, we won't need any more armies," he said.

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2417*/SF2055/Res.5



TAXES

Omnibus tax bill

The 1998 omnibus tax bill includes some tax relief for almost everyone — including homeowners, renters, business owners, apartment owners, cities building convention centers, charitable gambling organizations, and senior citizens.

The House passed the bill in the final hours of the 1998 session April 9. The vote was 100-33.

The bill would provide \$500 million in rebates to Minnesota taxpayers, but critics said that wasn't enough and called for more of the \$1.9 billion state surplus to be returned to taxpayers.

Bill supporters said some surplus funds should be returned, some should be saved, and some should be used for major building projects.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), who chairs the House Taxes Committee and sponsored the tax bill, urged lawmakers to support the final bill produced by a House-Senate conference committee.

"We've worked long and hard. The bill is the result of compromise on both sides," she

said. "... In this bill, we provide about \$1.2 billion to be returned to the taxpayers of the state of Minnesota. This is a bill that will help all Minnesotans."

But Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), who was consistent throughout the session in calling for permanent income tax reductions, found fault with the bill.

"I think the straw that breaks the proverbial camel's back is not what they've done with the tax dollars that already have been paid," he said. "What the DFL is doing is erasing the hope. [The bill] prevents any future tax cuts. We've committed the dollars to be spent already. It's highly, highly unusual."

Van Dellen was referring to a clause in the bill that would direct that the first \$400 million of any surplus after the \$822 million designated for budget reserves and tax reform and reductions be used to reduce bonding to pay for capital projects.

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) tried to answer the bill's critics. The bill meets the needs of Minnesota families, he said.

"They said, 'We need some help,' and we're giving them some help," Winter said. "We're taking a long time to look at all the needs of the state of Minnesota. We've got bigger budget reserves than we've ever had."

Here are some highlights of the bill (HF3840*/SF2985), which Gov. Arne Carlson has indicated he will sign.

Property tax rebates

The bill would provide a rebate for homeowners and renters equal to 20 percent of the property taxes paid in 1998, similar to the rebate in effect for property taxes paid by homeowners and renters in 1997. The maximum rebate would be \$1,500. The rebate would be allowed as a refundable income tax credit to be claimed on the 1998 income tax return filed in 1999.

In the earlier version of the bill approved by the House, there was a proposal for an additional rebate to be sent out later this fall that would equal 50 percent of the regular 1997 rebate. The "no-wait rebate" is not part of the conference committee version of the bill.

Property tax reform

Property taxes for homeowners, businesses, and others would be reduced, under the final version of the bill.

The tax classification rate for the second tier of residential homestead property (value over \$75,000) would go from 1.85 percent to 1.7 percent.

The class rate of the first \$115,000 in market value of agricultural homestead property would go from 0.4 percent to 0.35 percent.

The class rate on the market value over \$115,000 and under 320 acres would go from 0.9 percent to 0.8 percent.

There also would be a break for owners of commercial and industrial property. Class rates on that property valued up to \$150,000 would go from 2.7 percent to 2.45 percent. The upper tier, over \$150,000, would go from 4 percent to 3.5 percent.

Owners of apartment buildings with four or more units would see their class rates go from 2.9 percent to 2.5 percent, and owners of rental houses would see their class rates go from 1.9 percent to 1.25 percent for the first tier of property value, and from 2.1 percent to 1.7 percent on the upper tier.

Property taxes, local bonding, levy authority

Counties that saw a reduction in the property tax base of at least 5 percent because of the 1997 floods would get "replacement aid" under the bill, equal to the tax base loss multiplied by the payable 1998 county government's average tax rate.

Owners of deteriorating homes needing at least \$20,000 worth of repairs in "marginal" neighborhoods, would get a five-year exemption on their property taxes if they undertake rehabilitation. The program would apply only to the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth, and would last until May 1, 2003.

Those homes would have to be in an area where the median home value is less than 80 percent of the median value for the entire city. Homes would be required to have an estimated market value of less than 60 percent of the median value for the entire city.

Senior citizens' property tax deferral

Seniors would no longer be required to complete a form every year to participate in a property tax deferral program for the elderly. Once enrolled in the program, seniors would need only to notify the state by July 1 if their income exceeds the limit for the program. Information alerting taxpayers of the availability of the senior deferral program will be in the property tax refund instruction booklet, beginning with those prepared in 1998 and on the property tax statements.

Under the program, seniors making less than \$30,000 a year can delay paying the portion of their property tax that is more than 5 percent of their income. The delay can last until they sell the property. Then, it has to be paid back with interest.

Sales and excise taxes

The 2.5 percent sales tax on farm machinery, which includes logging and fish farming equipment would be phased out.

The tax would go to 2 percent June 30, 1998,

to 1 percent June 30, 1999, and to nothing after June 30, 2000.

The bill provides for a variety of sales tax exemptions at various building projects throughout the state. It would extend the sales tax exemption for purchases of construction materials, supplies, or equipment that are used in any expansion at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. That exemption was to have expired Dec. 31, 1998.

The same sales tax exemption would go into effect for the expansion at the Minneapolis Convention Center and the RiverCentre in St. Paul.

The latter will be the new home of the National Hockey League's Minnesota Wild, which will begin play in 2000.

The city of Duluth also would be allowed to raise its local lodging and restaurant taxes from 1 percent to 1.5 percent to help pay for improvements at the city's convention center.

Budget reserves

The budget reserve would be brought to \$622 million, and the bill would establish a tax reform and reduction account. The governor would make suggestions to the Legislature on the tax reform and reduction account's use.

After the \$622 million in reserve, \$200 million of surplus funds would be put in that tax reform and reduction account for tax reductions. The next \$400 million of a future surplus would be used to help pay for capital projects in the 1998 bonding bill.

Gaming taxes

The bill would make several changes to the tax on lawful gambling.

The \$12 million exemption from pari-mutuel tax would not end June 30, 1999, as originally planned. Also, pari-mutuel license holders would not have to return the value of unredeemed tickets after Jan. 1, 2000.

The tax rate on lawful gambling operations, which applies to gross receipts less prizes paid, would drop 5 percent.

Federal update

The tax bill would adopt for the state, changes made by the federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

The bill would get state law in line with federal provisions that allow taxpayers to deduct interest from their state tax forms on student loans for the first five years interest is due on the loans. The maximum deduction is \$1,000 in 1998, \$1,500 in 1999, \$2,000 in 2000, and \$2,500 in 2001. Under the bill, those deductions could be claimed on state taxes as well as federal taxes.

The bill also would accommodate the fed-

eral Education IRA, a \$500 per beneficiary non-deductible IRA to be used for the beneficiary's higher education.

And, finally, the bill would shape state law to fit the federal government's new "Roth" IRA. Under the federal program, contributions are not deductible, but distributions are not taxed if it's distributed at least five years after the account was established and after age 59-and-a-half, death, disability, or a first-time home purchase.

Property tax rebate



Effective March 19, 1998, a new state law ensures homeowners who prepaid their 1997 property taxes can claim a rebate allowed under a law passed last year.

The 1997 Legislature, flush with a projected \$2.3 billion budget surplus, passed a one-time tax rebate to give some of that surplus back to homeowners and renters. The rebate was linked to property taxes paid in 1997.

However, that created a problem for those who paid their 1997 property taxes before Jan. 1, 1997. Homeowners sometimes pre-pay their taxes to claim an itemized deduction for the previous year's income tax.

Under the 1997 law, people who prepaid were out of luck, because the measure limited payment of the rebate to those who paid their property taxes in 1997.

The new law allows the property tax rebate to be paid to all taxpayers who paid their 1997 property taxes before Jan. 1, 1998.

The rebate is available to both homeowners and renters. For homeowners, it comes to 20 percent of their property taxes, and for renters, 3.6 percent of their rent paid. Although the rebate is a property tax rebate, it is claimed on the state income tax returns filed this year. The rebate is separate from the regular property tax refund that many renters and homeowners get in August of each year.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Tower) sponsored the new measure.

HF2294/SF2041*/CH304



TOURISM

Fishing dispute resolution



A resolution asking President Clinton and the U.S. Congress to help settle fishing-rights disputes between Minnesota and the Canadian province of Ontario has

been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State without the governor's signature.

The resolution urges the federal government to seek a solution to the border troubles that have spawned a proposal to allow Minnesota's Northwest Angle to secede from the United States.

The approximately 85 year-round residents of the Northwest Angle have complained for years about Canadian policies including fish limits, user fees, and border crossing permits that they say discriminate against U.S. anglers.

The Northwest Angle, the northernmost spot of the continental U.S., is actually a peninsula on Lake of the Woods that is attached only to Canada.

According to Canadian law, tourists fishing the two-thirds of the lake in Canada, and staying in Canadian resorts, may keep up to two walleye or sauger per day. But beginning this summer, anglers staying at U.S. resorts will not be allowed to keep either of those fish if pulled from Canadian waters. Canadians say the regulations are needed because the species are overfished, but Americans say they are driven by a desire to force tourists to stay at Canadian resorts.

U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) introduced a constitutional amendment in March that would let the Angle and nearby islands separate from the United States, allowing residents and tourists to enjoy the Canadian fishing privileges.

Peterson said he sees secession as a long shot but that he sponsored the proposal in order to bring attention to the plight of affected anglers. He also said the Canadian regulations violate a 1909 border-waters treaty and the North American Free Trade Agreement but that the federal government has not taken action to protect U.S. rights in the area.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the legislation.

HF3854*/SF3406/Res.8



TRANSPORTATION

Omnibus transportation



Gov. Arne Carlson got many of the extra state troopers he had wanted for two years when he signed a \$51 million omnibus transportation plan into law.

The new law also allows the Department of Transportation to spend up to \$40 million on new highway projects. And the law will create a task force designed to catch Minnesota residents who illegally register their vehicles in neighboring states.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the legislation.

Here is a look at major provisions of the new law. All of the provisions detailed below are effective July 1, 1998.

HF3057/SF3298*/CH372

State troopers

The governor had originally requested 47 additional state troopers and support staff at a cost of \$5.25 million. In 1996, the governor sought funds to hire an additional 46 state troopers, but the Legislature approved only enough funding for four state patrol dispatchers.

Under the new law, there will be \$2.7 million in funding for 29 new state troopers, and there is \$200,000 for additional state patrol helicopter flight time.

Legislators were told helicopter patrols, which are currently used only on Friday and Saturday nights, are perhaps the greatest single boost ground patrols receive in law enforcement efforts. The funding will allow the patrols to fly during weekday evenings as well.

The state patrol's current complement is 535 troopers, including 37 that are expected to shortly graduate from training. The new troopers would increase the allowable force limit to 564.

Highway projects

A total of \$40 million will be appropriated from the trunk highway fund for highway construction projects in fiscal year 1999.

Another \$6.8 million from the trunk fund will be available for design engineering and construction engineering.

Also, the new law stipulates that the town bridge account may be used to pay the cost of abandoning an existing bridge that is deficient but will not be replaced.

The account also will be used to pay to construct a road or street to facilitate the abandonment of a deficient bridge if it is determined the construction of the road or street is more cost-efficient than replacing the existing bridge.

Lake Street planning board

A provision in the new law will establish a 13-member board to help plan and coordinate development of the Lake Street corridor in Minneapolis. The board would have jurisdiction over one-half mile on either side of Lake Street.

The board's purpose will be to concentrate on economic development, transportation, and residential renewal in the area in coordination with local government, businesses, and other neighborhood entities.

If light rail transit becomes a reality in the state, this area is expected to be affected by the Hiawatha Corridor of the transit line.

The members will have a three-year term ending June 30, 2001.

Registration task force

A dealer licensing and motor vehicle registration enforcement task will be created, under the new law.

A total of \$50,000 from the highway user tax distribution fund will be allocated to the commissioner of public safety, who is to designate four state highway patrol members to investigate the incidence of vehicle registration evasion and dealer fraud.

It is believed countless Minnesota residents register their motor vehicles in neighboring states, which have lower licensing fees. Estimates indicate this costs the state millions annually, even though it is a gross misdemeanor for vehicles owned and operated in Minnesota to be registered in another state.

The task force's final report is to go to the governor and the Legislature by Feb. 15, 1999. The task force expires July 1, 2000.

Ignoring highway barricades

Driving on roads closed because of storms could become costly, under a bill the House passed April 9. The vote was 117-14.

The bill (HF2589/SF2592*) would stipulate that any motorist who becomes stranded after bypassing a barricade or law enforcement officer placed to restrict travel on a roadway during or after a storm could pay up to \$10,000 in expenses incurred during any rescue efforts.

The cost of such rescues has typically been about \$2,000. Law enforcement officers have sometimes put their lives at risk during such rescues.

Drivers would be liable if they failed to obey the instruction of authorized personnel at the roadway entrance, or if they drove around or through a barricade placed to stop travel on a closed portion of a roadway.

Another part of the bill would make it a misdemeanor to drive around a lowered railway gate. The bill stipulates all drivers must stop when railway gates are lowered and not continue until they are raised. Under current law, drivers who bypass a lowered railway gate face a misdemeanor charge only if it is determined it was unsafe to do so.

The bill also would establish criteria for a business that wants its name or logo posted on a roadway panel. Such panels are typically located near interstate freeway exits and indicate gasoline stations or restaurants are nearby.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) is the sponsor of the legislation, which awaits action by the governor.

Bowe Memorial Highway

For the first time in Minnesota history, a stretch of highway will be named after a slain state trooper.

Gov. Arne Carlson signed into law a measure that will rename a stretch of Trunk Highway 95 after Cpl. Timothy Bowe.

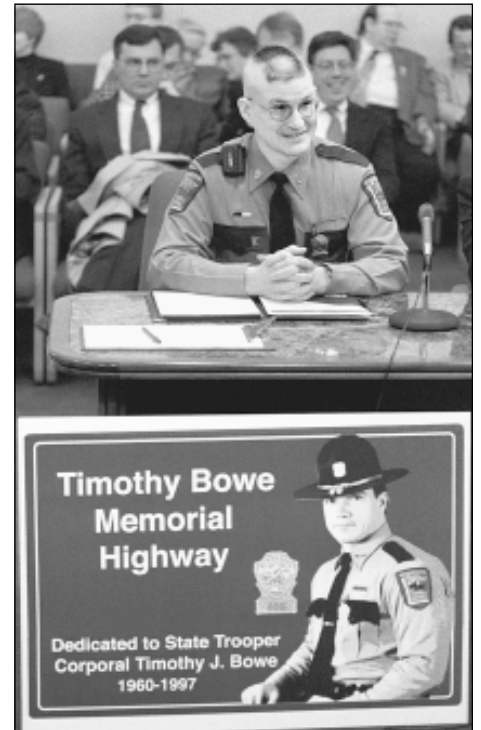
Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law requires the commissioner of transportation to adopt a design and to erect the signs to mark the memorial highway. The signs will be paid for by the community of Cambridge, Minn.

Last year, Bowe became the first Minnesota State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty since 1978. The 36-year-old Coon Rapids man was shot to death in Chisago County while answering a call about a shooting at a rural home.

Bowe, a 15-year veteran, was the seventh Minnesota trooper killed in the line of duty.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the measure.

HF2612*/SF2335/CH290



Minnesota State Patrol Sgt. Russell Wicklund supported a new measure passed this year that will honor his former colleague Timothy Bowe, the first Minnesota State Patrol officer killed in the line of duty since 1978. The new law will designate a stretch of Trunk Highway 95 as State Trooper Timothy Bowe Memorial Highway.

Making vehicles available



Nonprofit organizations that sell or lease inexpensive cars no longer need to apply for a motor vehicle dealer's license, under a new law that took effect March 19, 1998.

Certain charitable organizations repair and recondition older vehicles that are donated to them. These groups then sell the vehicles at low prices to people moving off public assistance or to other low-income people.

The new law exempts these organization from needing a dealer's license.

Under the law, the cash value of the vehicle being sold must be less than \$1,000 and the organization must meet the requirements of a nonprofit charitable group under the tax code to get the exemption.

The law could make more vehicles available for people at a time when welfare recipients are being encouraged to find employment under welfare reform measures that took effect in 1997. Many of these people do not have transportation, according to Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), who sponsored the measure in the House.

Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF3028/SF2163*/CH285

Sirens and flashing red lights



A new law will reinstate a safety requirement for ambulances.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will require all medical emergency vehicles to both sound an audible signal and activate red emergency lights while responding to emergencies. Medical vehicles that are transporting patients in non-emergency situations will not be required to sound their alarms.

In 1997, legislation to exempt law enforcement officers from the requirement to sound audible signals while responding to emergency calls included language that also exempted emergency medical vehicles.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), House sponsor of the new measure, said that after the 1997 law was approved, insurance carriers began telling owners of emergency medical vehicles that rates for coverage would rise if both audible and visible signals were not used while responding to emergencies.

Proponents argued that it is safer for ambulance drivers, other motorists, and pedestrians to have the audible warning in addition to flashing red lights.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2576/SF2028*/CH263

No more fingerprint checks



Those with direct management responsibility for a company's hazardous waste transportation no longer must submit a full set of fingerprints to determine if the person has a criminal record under a law effective March 24, 1998.

Ward Briggs, of the Minnesota Department of Transportation, said the hazardous waste transportation industry objected to the requirement, calling it a nuisance. He also said the background check involving fingerprints had been part of a national pilot program that had expired.

Briggs said the fingerprint checks were not proven to be the best method of evaluating the background of those involved with the intrastate transport of hazardous waste. He said some with a criminal record were slipping by despite the checks.

Briggs said other methods of accomplishing better background checks are currently under study, and a national system for such a process is expected soon.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure.

HF2665/SF2316*/CH310

Aircraft repair resolution



A resolution asking President Clinton and Congress to enact federal legislation called the Aircraft Repair Station Safety Act of 1997 has been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State without the governor's signature.

The resolution supports a congressional effort to force foreign repair facilities to use the same standards that apply to domestic aircraft repair procedures and parts.

Some aviation experts are concerned that airplane repair facilities in foreign countries use defective parts or do substandard repair work on U.S. airplanes.

Federal legislation before the U.S. Congress aims to tighten controls on repair facilities that service aircraft that operate in the United States. The act would revoke certification of any repair facility that purposely uses uncertified or substandard parts.

Rep. Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield) and Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the resolution.

HF3250*/SF2786/Res. 6



VETERANS

Gulf War veterans' bonuses



A new law effective Feb. 26, 1998, allows the state's Department of Veterans Affairs to consider documents other than a veteran's military discharge form in determining an applicant's eligibility for a state bonus program for Persian Gulf War veterans.

In 1997, the Legislature passed a law setting aside \$17 million to give Minnesota's approximately 44,000 Persian Gulf War veterans a bonus for their military service in Desert Storm. Veterans receive bonuses at three levels: Approximately 13,000 who served within a war zone are eligible to get \$600. Another 30,500 who were preparing to be shipped overseas can get \$300, and the families of the nine Minnesota soldiers killed in the war each are eligible for \$2,000.

Problems arose when the process used by the veterans affairs department to determine eligibility was causing benefit delays of up to six months.

Under the new law, the department can use — in the place of military discharge forms — other reliable documentation proving military service. The documents must be approved by the department.

Minnesota veterans who served in the military between Aug. 2, 1990, and July 31, 1991, are eligible. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 1999, and are available through groups such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) and Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF2338*/SF2167/CH258

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building

(612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides: committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* news magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

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

Rep. Ron Kraus . . .

House member returns home to create 'meaningful jobs'

By Matt Wetzel

After the regular 1998 Legislative Session, Rep. Ron Kraus (R-Albert Lea) stopped to assess things.

When he ran in 1994, Kraus said he would stay in office only for two or three terms, and last week he paused to consider running for a third term. He decided the answer is no.

"My business has grown and with the help of my family and friends I came to the decision," he said. The decision was reached over several days following the end of the session.

Kraus, 41, owns Kraus Foods, which operates Dairy Queen restaurants and convenience stores in Iowa and Minnesota. He said that on occasion, he'll even take his turn at dishing up the soft-serve.

"My family is important to me and I want to spend more time with them and my business," Kraus said. "Although it feels really good to help people by serving them in the Legislature, there is no better feeling than the one I get creating real, meaningful jobs here at home. That's where I'm going to focus my attention."

Successful legislation Kraus carried includes a law that requires school superintendent candidates to tell the hiring school board if they had ever been bought out of a previous job contract. He also was able to get \$800,000 for the Blazing Star Trail, \$250,000 for Albert Lea schools to develop a unique kindergarten and first-grade pilot program, and a \$250,000 "Mighty Ducks" grant for a second ice sheet in Albert Lea, Minn.

Kraus served on several House committees — Education, Taxes, Agriculture, and Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs — during his legislative career.

He said his favorite was the Taxes Committee, which was particularly busy this past ses-

sion, having to deal with a projected \$1.9 billion surplus in state coffers.

"In my two years [on that committee], I was proud of the way we did some reductions in commercial and industrial [property] tax rates," Kraus said. "I think the [property tax] rebates were a good idea. I would like to have gone deeper. When you compromise with the committee as a whole, I think both sides achieve some good things."

The 1998 omnibus tax bill, which Gov. Arne Carlson has indicated he will sign, includes \$500 million in property tax rebates and cuts in commercial and industrial tax rates. Kraus and other Republicans fought for deeper cuts.

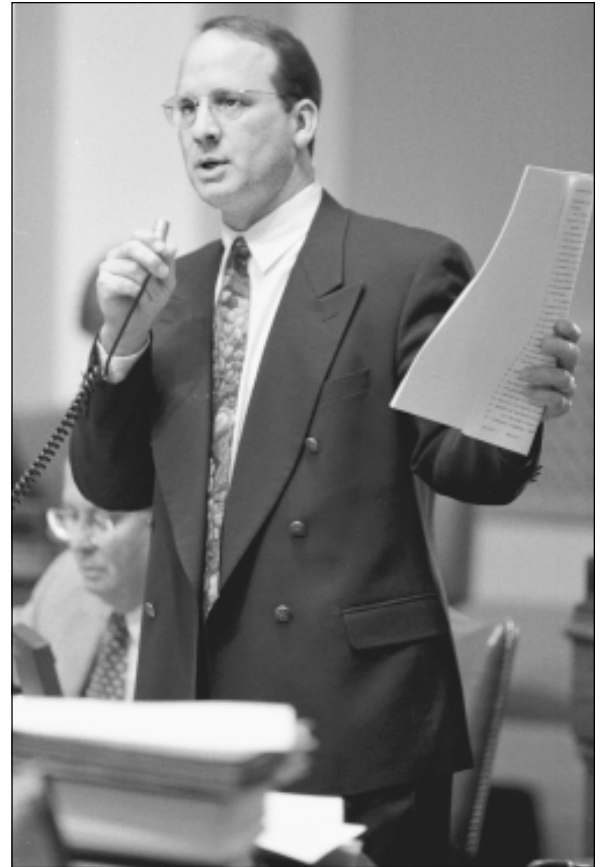
Kraus said he is leaving without regrets, despite the fact that he was in the minority caucus throughout his time in office.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to serve people. I would encourage anybody to serve this way. I don't leave with any bad feelings," he said.

Kraus said he will miss his fellow legislators, and after he made his announcement early on April 16, he got "pages of responses from . . . colleagues on both sides of the aisle."

"I leave feeling I have good friends on both sides of the aisle," he said.

Out of gratitude to his constituents, Kraus and his wife, Kathy, have pledged \$5,000 to the Youth in Government Program at the YMCA in Albert Lea.



Rep. Ron Kraus is leaving the House after two terms.

"We want young people to know that public service is something that is good," Kraus said.

One tradition Kraus is determined to keep alive is the annual Dilly Bar Day in the Legislature. As an owner of Dairy Queen franchises, he was able to supply his colleagues with the popular treat on the designated day — and he did it for four years.

Next year, he said, he'll encourage his successor to adhere to the same tradition.

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY*, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Internet provides one more place to find information



On the sixth floor of the State Office Building, the Legislative Reference Library offers the state's most complete collection of Minnesota state-agency documents.

By Sandy Donovan

It's safe to say that a library won't be the same once it's met the Internet, and the Legislative Reference Library is no exception.

"It's really a positive and a negative," Director Marilyn Cathcart said, though she's quicker to point out the advantages than the disadvantages of having World Wide Web access.

"Libraries are really good at organizing information and trying to think in an anticipatory way about what users will need," she said. "And we've applied that to the Internet, so philosophically it's not a new direction, but it's a big leap."

Cathcart and Deputy Director Robbie LaFleur agree that the Internet's greatest value is in simply providing one more place to find information.

"But not everything can be found on the Internet," LaFleur said.

Both women have stories to tell of people who have come to depend on the new technology.

"Most of our staff have had someone come up to them saying 'I'm sure what I'm looking for doesn't exist because I've looked all over the Web and can't find it,'" Cathcart said. "But library staff can lead them right to a book on the shelf with exactly the information they need."

Still, if a report that's germane to a particular public-policy issue is available on the Web, chances are it's available via links from the library's home page.

LaFleur says those simple online link connections have had a particularly big impact on the library's resource guides called Resources on Minnesota's Legislative Issues.

Each guide contains a list of related state

and national articles, reports, references to Internet materials, and other resources pertaining to a topic of legislative concern.

Before the library began publishing on the Web, the guides existed in paper form. "But the trouble is that as soon as you commit something to print, it's out of date," LaFleur said.

Now the guides can be accessed via the library's home page. They are updated frequently and, if referenced materials are available online, they can be reached via a quick click of the mouse.

Electronic publishing is changing the way the library builds its collection.

Cathcart says that within the past year, most state and federal agencies have begun offering much more information online. But, because of the sometimes temporary nature of Internet-published documents, she says, the library still makes every effort to secure a printed copy of all Minnesota state agency reports for its collection.

Providing the most complete collection available of Minnesota public policy documents is, after all, one of the library's roles.

But it's in the area of accessing those and related documents that the Internet has supplied the greatest boost.

"The most exciting and rewarding aspect is the ability to meet people's needs immediately," LaFleur said.

Cathcart tells the story of a legislator who called last year, needing a copy of a Texas report before a committee hearing convened in two hours.

"Not only could I find the report on the Web, but I was able to e-mail the author with my questions and get a reply," she said. "In the

past, I would have had to call to get the report, maybe send a letter to ask questions."

But despite the better accessibility, the increased scope of online resources continues to challenge library staff.

"The hard part is managing the information, because there's just so much more of it, and finding ways to let users know what we've got," said Cathcart.

There are plans in the works to streamline, via the Internet, one of the library's established systems for alerting users to resources.

The system is called Inside Issues, and it allows lawmakers and staff to submit a list of topics about which library staff, who regularly scan incoming periodicals, can alert them of related articles.

Currently, staff sends out a weekly list the old-fashioned, hard copy way, but Cathcart and LaFleur say they may have that converted to e-mail by next session.

"So far we haven't felt the timing was right for that — there just hasn't been that mass of legislators and staff who were familiar with the technology — but now we think the time is right," LaFleur said.

In fact, Cathcart says, the idea of putting the Inside Issues alerts on e-mail came up six years ago, when library staff drew up a fantasy list of all the things they hoped to coordinate online.

Also in the wings for online conversion is the series of notebooks containing information on all former legislators.

"That's our next big data project, creating that data base online," Cathcart said.

Already, staff is in the process of adding its extensive records of everything from gubernatorial vetoes to caucus-strength data to the library's Web page.

LaFleur says the library staff has accepted the role of being the Capitol Internet experts, and now offers both formal and informal Internet training classes.

Library staff members have long lent their talent and skills to organizing the Legislature's Web site. They have collaborated with House, Senate, and Office of the Revisor of Statutes staff since the site's 1994 inception.

"For example, we help staff from the revisor's office design the forms for searching the bills

and statutes," LaFleur said. "They know UNIX [operating system] and we know what people want UNIX to do."

And although Internet access has increased speed and resource possibilities for the library, the 20-member staff still has its hands full managing the library's print collection.

Managing the collection — sifting out outdated materials — takes up a big chunk of time. Both women say they have the experienced, dedicated staff to thank for that.

"We're very cognizant that we don't want to provide outdated material, and we're also very cognizant of remaining nonpartisan," Cathcart said. "We take that very seriously."

Library patrons will attest to the staff's knowledge and helpfulness. As Cathcart said, "We take every inquiry seriously. We know people aren't just coming in and asking idle questions."

Tape Listening Library rolls with the times

In a cramped room in the basement of the State Office Building, Paul VanCura is surrounded by overflowing stacks of books, journals, and tapes.

As senior reference assistant for the Legislative Reference Library, it's his day to preside over the Tape Listening Library, where the public has access to audio recordings of all House and Senate committee hearings and floor sessions since 1973.

Actually the older tapes are stored across the freeway in the Minnesota History Center, but copies of proceedings from about the past 10 years can be found in Room G-71 of the State Office Building.

VanCura says an average of eight to 12 people a day pay a visit to the tape room to hear or record a portion of past legislative activities.

"For the most part, people want to find out what the intent of the Legislature was when it passed a certain law," he said. "Most of our visitors are from the legal community — lawyers or law clerks."

While the service has been available for more than two decades, VanCura says recent Internet access has made researching via tapes a far less cumbersome activity than it used to be.

The process used to entail up to an hour of flipping through the Minnesota Statutes, the Laws of Minnesota, and the House and Senate journals. After cross-referencing bill numbers in those three volumes, researchers could determine which hearings or floor sessions they needed to hear.

Today, for accessing pre-1996 proceedings, the same process applies, but for recent years, a two-minute visit to the Legislature's home page on the World Wide Web will pull up a complete list of every hearing or floor session a particular bill went through.

An at-home researcher could then order tape copies by telephone from House or Senate supply offices.

Or they could pay a visit to staff in the basement tape library where a row of audio machines — both reel-to-reel machines for older years and cassette machines for newer recordings — allow patrons to listen to or tape recordings free of charge.

Constitutional Officers

Governor

Arne H. Carlson
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 296-3391

Lieutenant Governor

Joanne E. Benson
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 296-3391

Attorney General

Hubert H. Humphrey III
102 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 296-6196

Secretary of State

Joan Anderson Growe
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 296-2803

State Auditor

Judith H. Dutcher
Suite 400
525 Park St.
St. Paul 55103 296-2551

State Treasurer

Michael A. McGrath
303 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave.,
St. Paul 55155 296-7091

Hugs and handshakes . . .

House members say goodbye to



Rep. Charlie Weaver announced that after serving for 10 years he will run for attorney general in the election this fall. He joked with DFL members about his chances for victory. "To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it's been a privilege and a challenge. I respect all of you. I won't be far away," Weaver said, referring to the attorney general's office located in the Capitol.



Rep. Jim Farrell takes a long awaited opportunity to address the members of the House from the "well" at the end of his eight years to run for Ramsey County attorney.



Rep. Kevin Knight said he will miss working with political rivals. "We can put together our differences and take the things we have in common. That's the thing I'll miss most about this place." Knight will run for state treasurer in the fall. He has served in the House for six years.



Rep. Dee Long said that she will remember the times the two parties cooperated to achieve significant public policy goals. "When this place works, it is an institution at it's best," Long said. "I have been deeply honored to be a part of this institution." Long, who was the first woman elected speaker of the House, is leaving after 20 years to run for secretary of state.



Rep. Tim Commers joked that he is leaving because he is tired of being mistaken for Rep. Erik Paulsen. "We flipped a coin and I lost," Commers said. "So I'm leaving." Commers is stepping down after serving six years in the House.



"It certainly has been an honor and a privilege for me to be a member of this House," Rep. Eileen Tompkins said. "I will be leaving with fond memories." Tompkins is retiring after serving in the House for 14 years.



"Thanks for allowing me to work with you and to be your friend," Rep. Mark Mahon said in his farewell to the House. "Continue to keep up the good work." Mahon is retiring after six years.



"It's time to move on to another phase in my life," said Rep. Richard Jefferson. "I don't know what it's going to be — but I'm going to move there anyway." Jefferson is retiring after serving in the House for 12 years.



"It's been an honor to serve in this body," Rep. Edwina Garcia said. She told members that she is indebted to her political opponents for teaching her about the importance of strength and faith. Garcia is leaving after eight years to run for secretary of state.

Governor's Desk

CH252-CH408

Now it's up to the governor

Exactly 3,051 bills were introduced by the Legislature during the regular session — 1,629 by the House and 1,422 by the Senate. Of those, 157 bills (and four resolutions) were passed by both bodies during the 1998 Legislative Session and sent to the governor.

So what happened to the other 2,890 bills? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are dead, gone from the legislative process unless they are reintroduced next year. The biennium has ended, and bills do not carry over from one biennium to the next.

And what happened to the 157 bills (and four resolutions) that have been sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, some are awaiting the governor's action, and some were vetoed.

Here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the second year of the biennium.

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which at the end of the biennium, results in a pocket veto.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

If a bill was passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session, the bill will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

If a bill is passed during the last three days of the session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He/she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days of adjournment or the bill will not become law. Inaction by the governor results in a "pocket veto," and the governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he/she objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either 14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — unless it is re-introduced next year.

After each session, a comprehensive summary of all bills that were signed into law or vetoed is published. You can obtain a copy of *New Laws 1998* by calling or writing the House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298; (612) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.

Editor's note: The following chart includes the 157 bills (and four resolutions) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action is as yet incomplete on 25 of the bills. The bills are, for the most part, sorted according to the committee of origin.

Here are definitions of some of the terms used in the chart.

Governor's Options

- enactment

The date the governor signed the bill into law.

- line-item veto (liv)

The power or action of the governor to reject individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

- Veto

The governor did not approve the bill.

- *An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

Effective Dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

- Aug. 1, 1998

Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

- Upon local approval

A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.

- July 1, 1998

An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

- Day after enactment

The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.

- Various

Different parts of the act have different effective dates.

- with exceptions (we)

Act includes other effective dates.

- with qualifications (wq)

Act adds conditions to the effective date.

- retroactive (retro.)

Act goes into effect as of a specified date in the past.

1998 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of April 16, 1998)						Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH				
HF—House File SF—Senate File Res.—Resolution CH—Chapter						we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—filed without governor's signature			
liv—line item veto									
AGRICULTURE									
349	Kahn	1181*	Moe, R.D.	Industrial hemp use study.	394			x	
2065	Winter	816*	Dille	Veterinarians allowed to dock horses.	402			x	
2708*	Juhnke	2414	Frederickson	Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established.	373	4/9			8/1
COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS									
1116	Sekhon	1814*	Scheid	Board provisions modifications.	324	3/23			8/1
2308*	Slawik	2014	Oliver	Accountant licensing provisions modified.	340	3/31			8/1
2315*	Leppik	2344	Oliver	Trademarks and service marks regulated.	315	3/23			8/1
2425	Anderson, I.	2170*	Lessard	Watercraft trailers and ATVs exempt from motor vehicle sales on Sunday prohibition.	267	3/5			8/1 (Sec. 1); 3/6 (Sec. 2)
2601*	Mullery	2677	Wiener	Building and construction contract lien and claim waivers and subcontractor payments regulated.	289	3/18			8/1 (Secs. 1, 3); 8/1/97 (Sec. 2, retro.)
2641	Rest	2378*	Junge	Corporate professional and professional services definitions expanded.	309	3/23			3/24
2695	Tunheim	2274*	Solon	Omnibus liquor bill.	364	4/6			Various
2706	Kahn	2068*	Kelley	Electronic message reliability and certification authorities required.	321	3/23			8/1
2971	Entenza	2489*	Solon	Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.	344	3/31			8/1
2983	Tunheim	2966*	Scheid	Minnesota Residential Mortgage Originator and Servicer Licensing Act.	343	3/31			Various
3148	Kubly	2047*	Novak	Manufactured home park owners limited dealers licenses.	280	3/16			3/17
3841	Entenza	3397*	Spear	Air carriers agreements franchise law retroactive exemption application exclusions.	353	4/2			5/31/97 (retro.)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE*									
661*	Biernat	663	Higgins	Landlord and tenant law recodified, clarified, and relocated.	253	2/18			7/1/99
2417*	Jaros	2055	Pogemiller	Cong. memorialized to support admission of Poland, Czech Rep., Rep. of Hungary to NATO.	Res. 5	3/4 †			na
2700	Chaudhary	2192*	Novak	Local government units corporations creation clarification.	360	4/7†			4/8 (Sec. 1); 7/10/90 (retro.) wq
EDUCATION									
none		3297*	Stumpf	Omnibus higher education supplemental appropriations.	384	4/9	liv		4/10 (Sec. 6); 7/1 (balance)
2174	Kelso	2082*	Pogemiller	Omnibus K-12 education statutes recodification provided.	397			x	
2803	Kinkel	2532*	Piper	Omnibus family and early childhood education programs supplemental appropriations.	365		4/3		
2874*	Kelso	3378	Pogemiller	Omnibus K-12 education bill.	398			x	
ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES*									
113*	Munger	76	Morse	State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund.	342	3/31			Voter approval
1351	Hasskamp	1169*	Stumpf	Personal watercraft operation restrictions increased.	400			x	
2489*	Holsten	2381	Krentz	Ramsey and Washington counties state trail extended.	318	3/23			8/1
2492	Anderson, I.	2111*	Samuelson	Fish house restrictions and license periods modified.	252	2/12			2/13
2686	Munger	2269*	Stumpf	Board of Water and Soil Resources hearing and review provisions modified.	312	3/23			8/1
2696	Munger	2402*	Stevens	Merchandise pallets unauthorized possession or damage prohibitions.	282	3/16			8/1
2722*	McCollum	2756	Novak	Red tag issuance authorized for underground petroleum storage tank violations.	379	4/9			4/10 (Sec. 1); 12/31 (Secs. 1, 3, 4)
3140	Kalis	2351*	Vickerman	State park additions and deletions specified.	391			x	
3297*	Long	2296	Morse	MERLA: statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under MERLA.	341	3/31			Various
3524	Bakk	3016	Johnson, D.J.	Qualified landfills authorized to accept materials from closed dumps.	306	3/23			3/24
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE									
2016	Haas	2550*	Fischbach	Financial institutions mail loan solicitations regulation.	335	3/25			1/1/99
2309*	Leppik	2136	Wiener	Financial institutions consumer credit issuance and reporting equal treatment of spouses.	327	3/23			1/1/99
2500*	Rest	2540	Oliver	Customer loss or theft of a debit card limited liability provided.	295	3/18			8/1
2625	Tomassoni	2267*	Novak	Workers' comp. self insurance regulation provisions modification.	339	3/31			8/1 (Sec. 1); 4/1 (Secs. 2-12)
2750	Wenzel	2262*	Novak	Reinsurance intermediary brokers funds investment authority regulation.	323	3/23			8/1
2846*	Mahon	2245	Johnson, D.J.	Auto insurance program reduction provided for completion of an accident prevention course.	287		3/18		
2890	Tunheim	2478*	Samuelson	Savings Association Act maintained.	260	2/27			2/28
2895*	Tomassoni	2293	Solon	Township mutual insurance companies permitted investments expanded.	297	3/18			3/19
3065	Dorn	2608*	Wiener	Health insurance basic Medicare supplement plans coverage for diabetes equipment.	293	3/18			1/1/99 (Sec. 1); 3/19 (Sec. 2)
3355	Rest	3032*	Wiener	Investments of Insurers Act adopted.	319	3/23			8/1
3402	Davids	2928*	Hottinger	Insurance company affiliates rebating activities prohibition.	375	4/9			8/1
3432	Wenzel	2659*	Wiener	Life insurance company investments and transactions regulations modified.	328	3/23			3/24
3748	Anderson, I.	908*	Oliver	Trust companies regulation provisions modification.	331	3/25			8/1
GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS									
103	Greiling	161*	Wiener	Constitutional amendment to abolish office of state treasurer.	387	4/9			First Monday in January 2003 (if amendment approved)
2293	Jefferson	2118*	Higgins	Minneapolis absentee voting pilot project.	370		4/9		

* See also Way & Means

1998 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of April 16, 1998)						Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title					
HF—House File SF—Senate File Res.—Resolution CH—Chapter					we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—filed without governor's signature				
					liv—line item veto				
2338*	Folliard	2167	Metzen	Gulf War vet bonus program modified.	258	2/25			2/26
2387	Folliard	2149*	Scheid	Voter record address change updates.	346		3/31		
2485	Greiling	2256*	Marty	Elections provisions modifications for constitutionality purposes.	376	4/9			4/10
2526	Osthoff	2148*	Scheid	Absentee voting eligibility expansion.	352		4/2		
2567	McCollum	2221*	Wiger	Ramsey County open absentee ballot system pilot program extension.	347		3/31		
3095*	Rhodes	2688	Terwilliger	Chaplain Sunday designation.	272	3/6			3/7
				GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS*					
none		2379*	Metzen	Local government unit aid distribution clarification in township annexation.	264	3/4			3/5
384	Kahn	726*	Knutson	State agencies procurement process modification.	386			x	
2043	Greiling	1583*	Hottinger	Rules, programs policy and obsolete, unnecessary or duplicative rules regulation.	303	3/18			8/1
2673*	Rest	1946	Stumpf	Compensation increase for state employees on leave serving as Red Cross disaster volunteers.	356	4/6†			8/1
2777	Jefferson	2516*	Stevens	Employee relations department experimental or research projects authority expansion.	286	3/18			3/19
2811	Kahn	2315*	Robertson	Director of Office of Technology membership to various organizations clarified.	270	3/5			7/1/97 (retro.)
2866	Kinkel	2477*	Stumpf	CFL and Economic Security reorganization codified.	273	3/9			8/1
2947	Hilty	2730*	Robertson	Administration department provisions modifications.	359	4/3			4/4 (Secs. 1, 19, 20, 21)
2970*	Kahn	2555	Morse	Omnibus pensions bill.	390			x	
3068*	Solberg	2520	Flynn	Public employee labor agreements ratified.	351	4/2			4/3 (Secs. 3, 5)
3593	Larsen	2457*	Flynn	Rural finance authority and housing finance electronic meetings authority permanency.	279	3/16			6/30 (repealed)
3734	Mares	2354*	Kiscaden	Public employees insurance program expansion.	271	3/6			8/1
				HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES					
381	Greenfield	695*	Berglin	Nonprofit health care trust agreements or transactions regulation.	330		3/25		
668*	Seagren	668	Kiscaden	Industrial Hygienist and Safety Professional Title Protection Act adopted.	288	3/18			8/1
1306	Hausman	1076*	Sams	Health plan coverage for off label use of drugs.	301	3/18			1/1/99
2401	Huntley	2207*	Hottinger	Federal drug enforcement admin. registration number requirement exemption provided.	316	3/23			Federal contingency
2550*	Otremba	2261	Sams	Rural hospital flexibility program.	257	2/25			2/26
2681	Slawik	2372*	Lourey	Hepatitis B immunization required for children.	305	3/23			8/1
2786	Wejcman	2447*	Sams	Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, physical therapists, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure req. modified.	317	3/23			3/24 (Secs. 1-4, 9-29); 11/1 (Secs. 5-8)
2814*	Tomassoni	2130	Foley	Health plan companies durable medical equipment coverage requirement.	334	3/25			1/1/99
2828*	Tingelstad	2345	Morse	Commissioner of health public water supply approval authority modified.	261	3/4			8/1
2868	Greenfield	3346*	Samuelson	Omnibus health and human services bill.	407			x	
2992	Greenfield	2669*	Hottinger	Day training, rehab services business arrangements use, rate variance mechanism flexibility.	284	3/16			8/1
3040*	Johnson, R.	2355	Lourey	Long-term nursing care facility payroll documentation procedures modified.	274	3/16			8/1
3138	Evans	2861*	Hottinger	Emergency medical care automatic external defibrillators use liability immunity.	329	3/23			8/1
3258	Greenfield	2699*	Lourey	A resolution to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities.	Res. 7	3/18†			na
				JUDICIARY					
none	Murphy	3345*	Kelly, R.C.	Omnibus crime bill.	367	4/6			Various
176	Harder	154*	Frederickson	Food donors' liability limit.	333	3/25			8/1
1207	Paymar	330*	Spear	Nonprofit corrections treatment facilities liability limit.	336	3/25			8/1
1414	Leighton	1151*	Piper	Guardians and conservators appointment provisions modifications.	281	3/16			8/1
1554	Dawkins	1440*	Ranum	Uniform Certification of Questions of Law Act adopted.	255	2/19			8/1
1626	McGuire	1378*	Betzold	Government data classification and dissemination provisions.	371	4/10†			Various
1668	Entenza	1480*	Cohen	MN free flow of information act disclosure provisions.	357	4/6†			4/7
1882	Murphy	1654*	Van Eyck	Real estate document filing and recording fees modified.	311		3/23		
2326	Bishop	2586*	Kelly, R.C.	Sex offender treatment and release notification requirements modification.	377				Recalled by author
2390	Pugh	2031*	Betzold	Real property conveyance provisions modified.	262	3/4			8/1
2521	Bishop	2050*	Junge	Advanced health care directive provisions modified.	399			x	
2524*	Chaudhary	2134	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	254	2/18			8/1
2590*	Jennings	2122	Metzen	Tenant security deposit interest rate increase.	266	3/4			8/1
2615	Pugh	2252*	Wiener	DWI repeat offenders sentencing to intensive supervision and incarceration.	332	3/25			3/26
2734	Bishop	2498*	Kelly, R.C.	Sex offender registration law expanded.	396			x	
2779	Chaudhary	2230*	Wiener	Elderly housing definition modification for discrimination prohibition exemption purposes.	291	3/18			3/19
2784	Dawkins	2276*	Knutson	Child support enforcement provisions modifications.	382			x	
2785	Entenza	2373*	Betzold	Civil commitment release on provisions modified.	313	3/23			8/1
2861	Entenza	2040*	Foley	Child and medical support enforcement administration process modification.	338	3/31			8/1
2985*	Entenza	2682	Ranum	Child welfare reform.	406			x	
3184*	Skoglund	3207	Knutson	Prenatal alcohol abuse voluntary reporting and legislative report provided.	361	4/6			8/1/99 (Secs. 2, 3)

* See also Way & Means

1998 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of April 16, 1998)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title					
HF—House File SF—Senate File Res.—Resolution CH—Chapter					we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—filed without governor's signature				
liv—line item veto									
3332*	Skoglund	2949	Ranum	Open adoption agreements modified.	354	4/3			4/4 (Secs. 1-7); 7/1/97 (Sec. 8, retro.)
3389	McGuire	2493*	Junge	Financial institutions liability immunity for stolen or fraudulent checks information release to criminal alert networks or law enforcement agencies.	337	3/25			8/1
3442	Wenzel	2945*	Stumpf	Interstate emergency management assistance compact.	298	3/18			8/1
3808	Milbert	41*	Lessard	Hunting and fishing rights confirmed and constitutional amendment proposed.	392			x	
3839	Skoglund	3396*	Ranum	Revisor's bill.	408			x	
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS									
1693	Pugh	1074*	Kelly, R.C.	Public safety dispatchers as essential employees under PELRA.	355	4/3			8/1
2642*	Jefferson	2280	Higgins	Standard collection procedure exemption provided to overpaid reemployment insurance benefits.	275	3/16			3/17
2646	Jefferson	2621*	Scheevel	Re-employment insurance technical changes.	265	3/4			Various
3459	Greiling	2751*	Anderson	Employers nursing mothers accommodations requirement.	369	4/9			8/1
3465	Tomassoni	3084*	Janezich	Hibbing taconite company employees additional reemployment insurance benefits.	358	4/6†			4/7
3532	Bettermann	3068*	Runbeck	Workers comp benefits special compensation fund reimbursement requirement elimination.	294	3/18			7/1
LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS									
680	McElroy	535*	Wiger	Metropolitan Council and agency contractors affirmative action plan requirements.	381			x	
2222*	Juhnke	1973	Johnson, D.E.	Cartways established by town boards upon owner petition.	296	3/18†			3/19
2357	Wejzman	2346*	Flynn	Minneapolis civilian police review authority provided.	393			x	
2372*	Lieder	2017	Moe	Norman County Medical Center bid exemption.	256	2/25			2/26
2499*	Stanek	2156	Higgins	Hennepin County board small purchase limit increased.	259	2/27			2/28
2508	Bishop	2581*	Kiscaden	Olmsted County auditor/treasurer made an appointed position.	307	3/23			Upon local approval
2616*	McElroy	2255	Metzen	Dakota County dangerous dog registration system city administration provided.	277	3/16			Upon local approval
2635	Skare	2574*	Ten Eyck	Headwaters Regional Develop.Commission nonprofit housing corp. establishment authority.	292	3/18			8/1
2667	Rest	2429*	Wiener	Local gov. services advisory council membership increase, appointment process clarification.	325	3/23			3/24
2736*	Hilty	2205	Lourey	Counties authorized to provide grants to nonprofit community food shelves	368	4/9			4/18
2774	Kuisle	2302*	Scheevel	County optional forms of government adoption referendum procedure clarification.	349	4/2			4/3
2790	Jennings	2384*	Johnson, J.B.	Chisago County recorder appointment; Rush City easements.	302	3/18			3/19 (Sec. 5); upon local approval (Secs. 1-4)
2809*	McElroy	2791	Wiener	Audited financial statement copies provided to members of the local unit of government.	276	3/16			8/1
2824	Pugh	2281*	Pariseau	Dakota County Housing and Redevelopment Authority employees not deemed county employees without county board consent.	308	3/23			Upon local approval
2927	McCollum	2525*	Wiger	Ramsey County purchases from health care cooperatives.	268	3/5			Upon local approval
3119	Olson, E.	2685*	Vickerman	Public officers contract interest authority clarification.	269	3/5			3/6
3254	Kahn	2725*	Betzold	County recorder and registrar functions provided additional methods.	314	3/23			8/1
3268	Dawkins	2645*	Wiger	Metropolitan Council and agency contractors affirmative action plan requirements	385			x	
REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY*									
2920	Delmont	2911*	Vickerman	Lawful gambling revisions.	322	3/23			3/24
3042*	Jennings	2797	Novak	Long-distance telephone provider slamming and loading disclosure requirements expanded.	345	3/31			7/1
3070*	Wolf	2847	Ourada	Decorative gas lamp prohibition variance provided.	350	4/2			8/1
3071*	Wolf	2849	Ourada	Petroleum product specifications modified.	278	3/16			8/1
3324	Ozment	2445*	Novak	One call excavation notice system modification.	348	4/2			6/30 (Secs. 7, 8)
3644*	Sviggum	3170	Moe	Combined school districts extended area telephone service voting requirements modification.	326	3/23			3/24
3654*	Jennings	3189	Novak	Electric industry restructuring comprehensive study required.	380	4/9			4/10
TAXES*									
2294	Long	2041*	Johnson, D.J.	Property tax rebate for tax pre-payments.	304	3/18			3/19
2507	Macklin	3036*	Betzold	Limited partnership withdrawals regulated.	320	3/23			8/1
2523	Johnson, R.	2266*	Belanger	Gasoline and special fuels tax provisions recodification and clarification.	299	3/18			Various
2659	Olson, E.	2570*	Belanger	Tax provisions technical corrections and administrative changes.	300	3/18			Various
3145*	Rest	2719	Novak	Low income housing tax credit allocation and compliance monitoring review provided.	363	4/6			Fiscal years 1999 and later
TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT									
none	Lieder	3298*	Johnson, J.B.	Omnibus transportation bill.	372	4/7			Various
2532	Chaudhary	2407*	Junge	Drivers license provisions modifications.	388			x	
2576	Juhnke	2028*	Sams	Emergency vehicle signal operation modification.	263	3/4			8/1
2589	Wagenius	2592*	Johnson, J.B.	Department of transportation housekeeping bill.	403			x	
2612*	Jennings	2335	Johnson, J.B.	Trunk highway #95 designated as State Trooper Timothy Bowe Memorial Highway.	290	3/18			8/1
2654*	Mahon	2318	Sams	License provisions clarified.	405			x	
2665	Juhnke	2316*	Murphy	Intrastate hazardous material carriers provided continuation of uniform reg., permit. program.	310	3/23			3/24

* See also Way & Means

1998 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of April 16, 1998)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
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SF—Senate File		wq—with qualifications							
Res.—Resolution		*—bill the governor signed or vetoed							
CH—Chapter		†—filed without governor's signature							
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH				
3028	Pawlenty	2163*	Knutson	Motor vehicle dealers licensing requirements exemption for charitable organizations.	285	3/18			3/19
3250*	Garcia	2786	Pappas	President and Congress memorialized to enact the Aircraft Repair Station Safety Act of 1997.	Res. 6	3/18†			na
3296	Long	2729*	Spear	Bicycle racks and storage facilities advertisements, public art and informational signs placement and maintenance authority.					
				WAYS & MEANS	283	3/16			3/17
none	Trimble	3367*	Beckman	Omnibus jobs, housing and economic development.	374		4/7		
none	Rukavina	3354*	Price	Omnibus state departments bill.	366	4/6	liv		Various
3064	Clark, K.	2718*	Kelley, S.P.	Telephone assistance plan provisions modifications.	378		4/9		
3799	Osthoff	3353*	Morse	Omnibus environment and natural resources bill.	401			x	
3830*	Olson, E.	3393	Kelly, R.C.	Payment of claims against the state.	362	4/6			4/7 (Secs. 1-7); 4/7 (Sec. 8 wq)
3840*	Long	2985	Johnson, D.J.	Omnibus tax bill.	389			x	
3843*	Kalis	0	Langseth	Omnibus bonding bill.	404			x	
3853*	Tunheim	3409	Stumpf	Farmer-lender mediation act provisions modified.	395			x	
3854*	Anderson, I.	3406	Stumpf	U.S. memorialized to resolve differences between province of Ontario and the state of MN regarding Canadian waters and the taking of fish.	Res. 8	4/2†			na
3862*	Johnson, R.	3411	Hottinger	Tornado relief bill.	383	4/9			4/10 (generally)

Lumber baron leaves pine forests for governor post

It's a fact!

Minnesota's 13th governor, the "hard-working and hard-sweating" David Marston Clough, was a self-made lumber baron

who ascended the ranks of state government despite his roughneck ways.

In the mid- to late-1800s, the timber industry was paramount in Minnesota.

"Pine became the synonym of wealth and power. These, with the Falls of St. Anthony as an operating center, held sway over every pine-fringed stream and lake that flowed from the north, and with their virile force floated into the politics of the state," wrote James H. Baker in his book *Lives of the Governors of Minnesota*.

Clough was born in New Hampshire in 1846. His father, a lumberman and a farmer, was drawn westward by the promise of Minnesota's vast white pine forests. In 1857, the family settled at Spencer Brook in Isanti County.

One of 14 children, Clough spent his summers on the farm and winters at the lumber camps; there wasn't much time for school. What he lacked in formal education, he made up for with common sense, ambition, and a good smile.

In 1868, he married his childhood sweetheart and moved to Minneapolis where he and his oldest brother established a lumber company at St. Anthony Falls.



Gov. David Marston Clough

An active Republican since his youth, Clough spent several terms on the Minneapolis City Council and in the Minnesota Senate. He also served as Gov. Knute Nelson's lieutenant governor. In 1895, Nelson was elected to the U.S. Senate and Clough settled into the big chair.

"Certainly no man not possessed of talent and tact could, in so short a time, with but little education, have vaulted from the pineries of the north into the gubernatorial chair," wrote one early biographer.

Clough's administration, though noted for few laws, approved several important constitutional amendments: Women gained the right to vote for and serve on library boards. The pardon board was created. And an amendment was passed to make it more difficult to amend the constitution.

The cornerstone for the third and current state Capitol was set in place during the Clough era, but perhaps his most lasting accomplishment was the establishment of a constitutionally protected state fund to assist in constructing county roads and bridges.

"Men of all classes perceive that the continued prosperity of the state, and especially of the agricultural sections, demands the early adoption of efficient measures for improving the condition of our highways," he said in his first biennial message.

Lingering resentments from three decades of Minneapolis politics resulted in the only blemish on Clough's political record: He turned on a fellow Republican during the 1898 governor's race.

Clough so despised the Republican candidate, William H. Eustis, of Minneapolis, that he openly supported John Lind, a Democrat. When Lind won, Clough sent him a telegram: "Allow me to congratulate you from the bottom of my heart. There is still a God in Heaven."

Clough left politics for pine trees in 1899. He moved west in search of virgin forests and lived out the remainder of his days building an international lumber empire on the Washington coast.

Minnesota House of Representatives 1998 Members

List as of January 28, 1998

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934	37B	Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063	40A	Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	575	2190	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714
10B	Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219	55B	McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192
53B	Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	287	8872
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336
47B	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262
52A	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331	7A	Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282
23A	Clark, James (R)	211	9303	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344
38A	Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293	2B	Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808	60B	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281
51A	Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	545	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	247	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199
67A	Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	583	6828
63B	Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	417	5375	46A	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515	28A	Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368
62A	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240	18A	Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	517	5377
12A	Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308	50A	Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439
56A	Holsten, Mark (R)	345	3018	4A	Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807
58B	Jefferson, Richard (DFL)	577	8659	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	591	0518	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	445	2365
48B	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	267	2273
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	389	4315
35B	Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534	5B	Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	593	0172
4B	Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)	537	2451	36A	Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506
40B	Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218	67B	Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	207	6316	25A	Tuma, John (R)	301	4229
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231	1A	Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635
27A	Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216	34B	Van Dellen, Todd (R)	291	5511
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	303	2907	51B	Vandever, Ray (R)	255	4124
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378	49A	Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729
56B	Larsen, Peg (R)	307	4244	61B	Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	407	7152
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	527	4193	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247
45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	393	7026	9B	Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	225	6829
2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	515	5091	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929
33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505
60A	Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185
47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1998 Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (612) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537	8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293
26 Beckman, Tracy L. (DFL)	124G Cap.	5713	54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
13 Berg, Charles A. (Ind.)	G-51 SOB	5094	2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	32 Morse, Steven (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5649
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	149 SOB	2084	34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	7-8061
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	117 SOB	3826	35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	151 SOB	4123
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419	11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
46 Junge, Ember Reichgott (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	127 SOB	2159			

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2 A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-DFL B • Rep. Edgar Olson-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-DFL B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-R Sen. Dave Kleis-R	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-R B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-R Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-R	44 A • Rep. Betty Follard-DFL B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-R Sen. Steve Kelley-DFL	58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-DFL B • Rep. Richard Jefferson-DFL Sen. Linda I. Higgins-DFL
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A publication outlining the new laws of 1998 will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1998* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1998*? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please place this form (**with the mailing label on the back**) in an envelope. Mail it by May 22, 1998, to:
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Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

1. Where do you live? (Please check one.)

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2. What is your occupation? _____

3. How often do you read the *Session Weekly*? (Please check one.)

☐ Once a month ☐ Twice a month ☐ Three times a month ☐ Every week

4. Which sections of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Reflections (page 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Desk
<input type="checkbox"/> First Reading (page 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Closer Look	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Introductions
<input type="checkbox"/> Once in the House (page 4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Member Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Schedule
<input type="checkbox"/> Highlights	<input type="checkbox"/> It's a Fact	<input type="checkbox"/> Information (i.e., lists)
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5. Do you have any comments (positive or negative) on any of the sections in Question 4? _____

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Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard to understand	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat understandable	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand
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9. Do you have any questions about the Minnesota House of Representatives or the legislative process that could be answered in a Q & A column? _____



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

Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

1998 Legislative Session

House files introduced during the 1998 session	1,629
Total for biennium	3,884
Senate files introduced during the 1998 session	1,422
Total for biennium	3,425
Total number of bills introduced, 1997-98	7,309
in 1995-96	6,185
Bills sent to the governor (resolutions excluded), 1998	157
in 1996	206
Two-year total of bills sent to the governor, 1997-98	408
in 1995-96	471
Bills that became law, 1995-96	439
Resolutions adopted by the 1998 Legislature	4
Number filed without the governor's signature	4
Number of pages in the 1998 omnibus tax bill	334
in 1997	396
in 1996	272
Maximum number of legislative days the lawmakers can meet in	
regular session during a biennium	120
Number used in 1997-98	109
Number used in 1995-96	113
Number used in 1993-94	106
Legislative days used in 1998	46
in 1997	63
in 1996	48
in 1995	65
Time the Legislature will convene Jan. 5, 1999	12 p.m.
Governors who have vetoed more bills than Gov. Arne Carlson	0
Year Carlson was first elected the House 1970	
Years served	8
Year Carlson was first elected state auditor	1978
Years served	12
Year Carlson was first elected governor	1990
Number of House speakers since Carlson took office	4
Number of House majority leaders since Carlson took office	5
Number of House minority leaders since Carlson took office	2

Sources: Legislative Reference Library, House Index Department, House Public Information Office, Senate Information Office, and Office of the Governor.

For more information



For general information, call:
House Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
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(612) 296-2314

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(612) 296-6646

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(612) 296-9283



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