

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-Long Prairie) and Barb Vickerman (R-Redwood Falls), both of whom died last year after battling cancer, were gone.

Rep. LeRoy Koppendrayer (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 Koppendrayer, 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>



Rooted in program, Rodosovich continues to cultivate youth

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, 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

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



D 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.

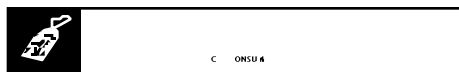
The measure would allow an exception for prospective borrowers who already have an open-end credit arrangement, such as a credit card account, with the lender.

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."

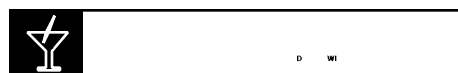
Under the bill, retailers would have to limit their purchase agreements' ancillary charges — such as set up, delivery, and finance fees — to an amount equal to the original cash price of the item.

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.

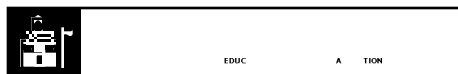
“By shifting the focus away from the alcohol abuser to the moderate, social drinker, we are shifting resources from the real problem,” he said. “Changing the legal limit to 0.08 does not get at the problem of the chronic offender, because they ignore the 0.10 limit.”

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.

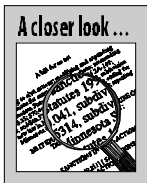
The university has adhered to a self-imposed cap of 22,000 parking spots since 1992.

Continued on page 17

Projected \$1.3 billion budget surplus . . .

Governor calls for top investment in state facilities

By Nick Healy



Lawmakers arrived at the Capitol for the beginning of the 1998 Legislative Session to find the state still solidly in the black and the governor calling for a record investment in state construction projects.

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.

The governor also hopes to use the forecast budget surplus for tax relief, state savings, and new spending.

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.

A total of \$172 million of the new spending would add to the bonding funds for capital projects.

"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."

With the governor away on a trade mission, Benson took his place to unveil the budget plan at a press conference days before the opening of the session.

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.

"It is a large bonding bill," Benson said. "However, it is within the restraints we set on ourselves for the state."

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.

"While there are many things in his budget



Department of Finance Commissioner Wayne Simoneau said Minnesota's "economy and finances are in good shape" during a Jan. 14 press conference to unveil the administration's supplemental budget proposal. However, Simoneau also warned that the state is "looking at a potential risk because of the Asian economy" and expressed support for Gov. Arne Carlson's plan to set aside \$200 million to guard against reverberations from shaky Asian markets.

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."

Carlson's proposal to spend \$1.02 billion on improvements to state buildings and infrastructure would require this year's bonding bill to be the largest ever. Higher education figures largely in the governor's bonding and budget plans. His proposal also focuses on the environment and economic development.

Building campuses

The governor's plans call for \$420 million in capital improvements at higher education institutions around the state. A total of \$252 million would go to the University of Minnesota, and \$168 million would go to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

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-

ings, including the Architecture Building and Murphy Hall, home of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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.

Environmental improvements

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

Much of the money — about \$114 million — would be devoted to the governor's "access to the outdoors" initiative, and significant amounts of money also would be marked for environmental protection and infrastructure improvements.

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.

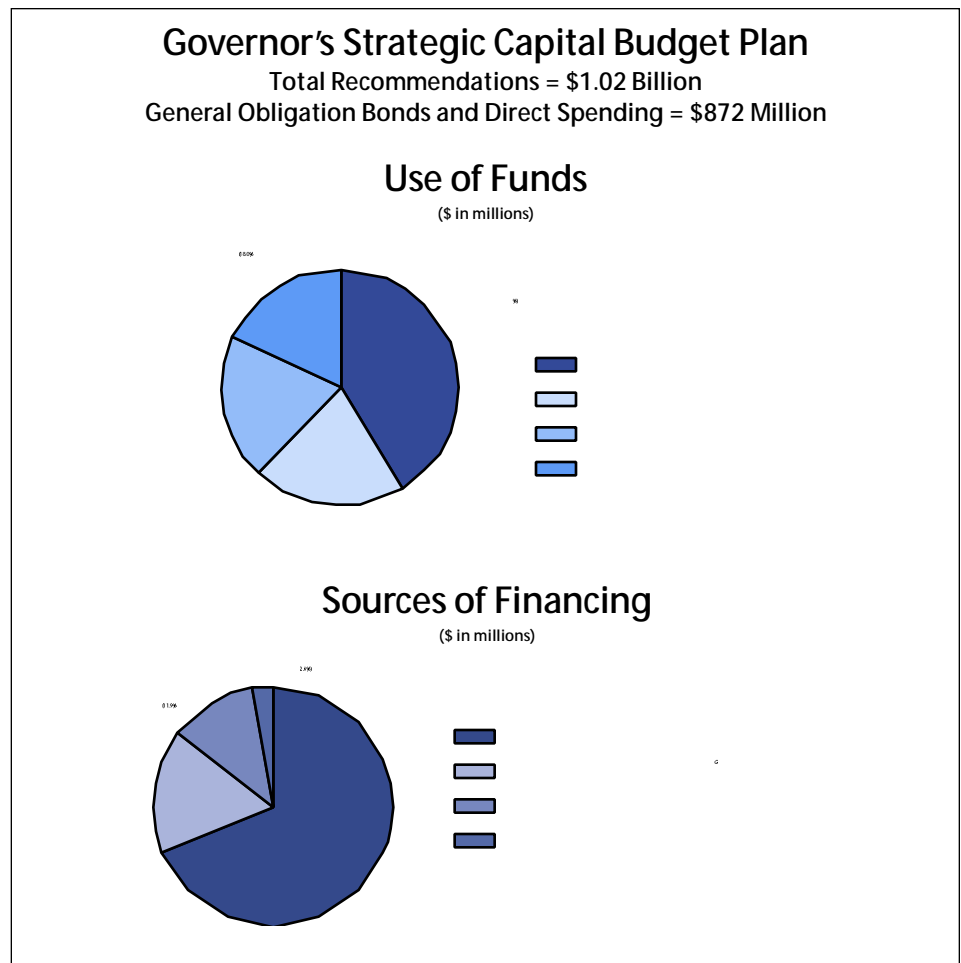
New spending plans

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

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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?"

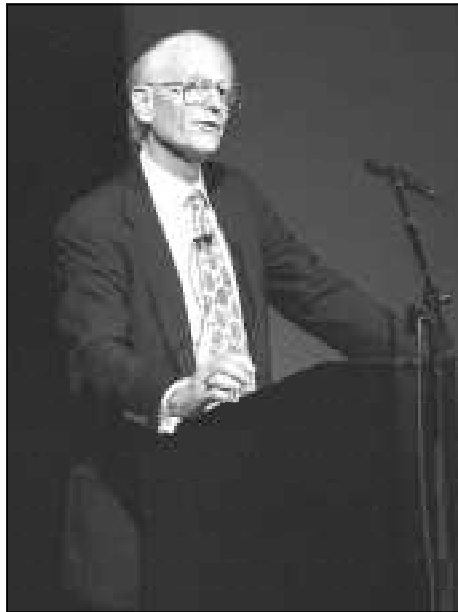
He said robotics can ease the crunch of repetitious work done by human labor. With proper education, human workers can then ascend the ladder to replace retiring, skilled workers.

"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.



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

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

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

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." 🙏

Send e-mail comments
regarding *Session Weekly* to:
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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.

HF2536—Juhnke (DFL)
Education
School district youth recreation levy provided.

HF2537—Juhnke (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Kandiyohi County alternative care and elderly waived programs reimbursement rates increased.

HF2538—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Pollution Control Agency's annual performance report required to contain additional emissions information.

HF2539—Goodno (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Historical Society appropriated money for expansion of the Red River Valley Center, and bond issuance authorized.

HF2540—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Counties appropriated proceeds from mortgage registry and deed taxes.

HF2541—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Gunn Lake dam construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2542—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Charitable contributions subtraction authorized for individuals who do not itemize deductions for federal income tax purposes.

HF2543—Hasskamp (DFL)
Education
Crow Wing and other counties provided additional family visitation centers, and money appropriated.

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.

HF2545—Rostberg (R)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 65 in Cambridge designated as State Trooper Timothy J. Bowe Memorial Highway.

HF2546—Osskopp (R)
Transportation & Transit
U.S. Highway No. 61 speed limit established from Wabasha to Kellogg.

HF2547—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Anti-paper terrorism act; public official and employee protection provided, fraudulent lien filing prohibited, and remedies and penalties provided.

HF2548—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
State park permit provisions modified for nonprofit, volunteer groups.

HF2549—Winter (DFL)
Taxes
Regional development commissions levy limit modified.

HF2550—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Rural critical access hospitals designated to establish a Medicare rural hospital flexibility program.

HF2551—Tunheim (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
First haul definition modified relating to farm trucks.

HF2552—Jennings (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Safety provisions enacted relating to persons on amusement rides.

HF2553—Rukavina (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
St. Louis County caller identification and blocking services provided.

HF2554—Marko (DFL)
Taxes
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2555—Rostberg (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Low-income persons with chemical sensitivities assisted, and money appropriated.

HF2556—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary
Ramsey County appropriated money for breaking the cycle of violence pilot project.

HF2557—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Truck tractor wheel flaps required, vehicle axle weight restrictions regulated, and technical changes provided.

HF2558—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Driver's license agent effective date provision corrected.

HF2559—Farrell (DFL)
Judiciary
Ramsey County juvenile crime prevention pilot program provided, and money appropriated.

HF2560—Luther (DFL)
Education
Local government facility grants provided for regular enrichment activities during nonschool hours, and money appropriated.

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.

HF2562—Peterson (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Montevideo recreational trail completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2563—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Licensed part-time peace officers provided eligibility under the soft body armor reimbursement program.

HF2564—McCollum (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Municipal state-aid street system mileage determination modified.

HF2565—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services claim error notification required.

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.

HF2567—McCollum (DFL)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Ramsey County open absentee balloting pilot program extension authorized.

HF2568—Broecker (R)
Judiciary
Minors prohibited from engaging in body piercing without parental permission, and penalties provided.

HF2569—Broecker (R)
Transportation & Transit
Flexible highway and metropolitan road accounts created, and highway user tax distribution fund proceeds distribution formula modified.

HF2570—Broecker (R)
Governmental Operations
State agency retainage payment options modified.

HF2571—Kelso (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Scott County workforce center construction in Valley Green industrial park provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2572—Kelso (DFL)
Taxes
Counties with Indian casinos payment conditions modified relating to revenues under tribal tax agreements.

HF2573—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Emergency medical services communications needs assessment conducted outside the seven-county metropolitan area, and money appropriated.

HF2574—Molnau (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Licensed game and fish subagent bonding required.

HF2575—Hasskamp (DFL)
Taxes
Gravel, equipment, and certain vehicles purchased by a town for road maintenance sales tax exemption provided.

HF2576—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Medical emergency vehicles required to sound both audible signal and display lighted red light when responding.

HF2577—Stang (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Richmond annexed to the Paynesville area hospital district.

HF2578—Stang (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Water main improvement assessment payments to the city of Freeport required.

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.
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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 license 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



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

Rod Grams (R)

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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

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

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Speaker of the House: Phil Carruthers
Majority Leader: Ted Winter
Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA HOUSE 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



For general information, call:
House Information Office
(612) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

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