

SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

Teresa Kittridge is leaving the House. She is one of those rare individuals one cannot help but respect and care about. After 20 years of dedicated service to the House in many responsibilities, she steps down as 2nd assistant chief clerk to go to work in the private sector.

When her departure was announced on the House floor during session on April 7, the members were startled. With a loud gasp expressing astonishment, then regret, they stood and gave Teresa and Charlie Ward, the other staff member leaving, one of the longest ovations heard in the chamber in years.

An informal duty during her tenure was to serve as a "pacifier" for first-termers who always started out being confused by the process. Teresa's duties included serving as the official liaison for chaplains who come to give the invocation.

"I will miss her," said House Chaplain Rev. Ronald A. Smith. "The chamber can be intimidating, but Teresa made you feel at home with her perennial smile. She also helped you understand the process."

Teresa's work in public service did not begin with her stint as the intern for former Rep. John Brandl (DFL-Mpls) in 1978.

As long as she can remember, "public service in my family was as automatic as brushing your teeth," she said.

Her grandfather, Leonard Keyes, was a district judge in Anoka for 35 years. Her deceased father, Gerald Kittridge, worked 35 years for the State Highway Patrol and later was a lobbyist for the Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association.

"But the real politician was my grandmother, Cecilia Keyes. She instilled a dedication to public service in us," said Teresa. "She was a DFL associate chair and a close friend of Hubert H. Humphrey."

All the Kittridge siblings work in the public sector. Sister Colleen Landkamer is a commissioner for Blue Earth County. Brother Kevin is former chief of the State Highway Patrol. He now is a district commander. Teresa's other brother, Patrick, is a Ramsey County public defender. Their mother, Martha Keyes Kittridge, although retired more than once, does chemical dependency and gambling assessments for Ramsey County.

Darlene Keran, DFL supervisor of administrative support staff, said, "Over the years, Teresa's communications and negotiating skills have been a major asset in support of staff in both caucuses."

Chief Clerk Ed Burdick finds it very difficult to think of not having Teresa around. Since 1987, he has served as her mentor and good friend. For Teresa, it has been a privilege and honor to have worked for the Legislature and Mr. Burdick.

"The most difficult part about leaving, she said, "is to know that I will no longer be working with him, [1st Assistant Clerk] Al Mathiowetz, and the other main desk and clerk's staff. Also, my last few years here would not have been possible without my devoted husband, Kurt." Kurt Findorf has been the full-time "stay at home parent" with their daughter, Cecilia, for all of her five years.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Some people wave flags and others carry signs as several hundred protesters gather on the Capitol steps April 4 to urge legislators to cut taxes and authorize rebates.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

On the last day . . .

Major initiatives win approval; some hit rough waters

By Nick Healy

Major legislative initiatives won approval in the waning hours of the legislative session April 9, as Gov. Arne Carlson's record veto total continued to swell during his final year in office.

After weeks of often-difficult conference committee negotiations, major bills related to taxes, state building projects, and K-12 education emerged for action on the House floor.

Emergency relief for tornado victims sped to passage, but several major spending bills — including human services, economic development, and early childhood education measures — ran into rough times.

The House passed an omnibus tax bill that would provide \$500 million in property tax rebates for homeowners and renters and would make reforms in the property tax system.

"We've worked long and hard," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the House Taxes Committee. "This bill is the result of compromises on both sides."

Long and her Senate counterpart, Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower), demonstrated an unusual level of camaraderie when they wrapped up conference committee work on the tax bill with a friendly little kiss — just a peck for the cameras.

All lawmakers did not respond so warmly to the bill produced by the conference committee Long and Johnson led. Opposition to the measure came from legislators who called for more of the state's projected \$1.9 billion surplus to be returned to taxpayers. Critics were not satisfied with the proposed \$500 million in rebates.

"It's not enough. It's \$500 million out of \$1.9 billion," said Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth). "There's no permanent tax cut that you permanently give back to taxpayers. It's very reasonable for us to expect that taxpayers have a permanent tax cut."

But supporters said the bill would provide sizable rebates and significant reform, and Long defended the tax plan.

"If you knew what was in the bill, you couldn't make the statements you continue to make. There are permanent property tax cuts for all Minnesota businesses and apartment owners in the bill," she said.

The House also passed a \$124 million K-12 funding bill on the session's final day. The



Sen. Doug Johnson and Rep. Dee Long, co-chairs of the conference committee on omnibus tax legislation, seal a \$1 billion tax agreement with a kiss. The tax compromise, reached April 8, includes another \$500 million in property tax rebates for homeowners and renters next year and permanent property tax cuts for businesses and apartment owners.

vote was 105-28. The bill would allow school districts to phase in the Profile of Learning, a portion of the state's Graduation Standards initiative that would measure student achievement on a broad range of skills in many subject areas.

The Profile of Learning is currently set to be implemented statewide in the 1998-1999 school year, but the bill would allow districts up to three years to fully implement the new requirements.

The bill would provide \$70 million to help districts implement the Profile of Learning. Funds could be used to update curriculum and to train teachers to work with the new requirements.

The bill also includes a provision that would abolish the State Board of Education, a nine-member board that sets a limited range of policies and regulations for K-12 education and community education.

The close of the legislative session also saw a break in the standoff over an omnibus bonding bill that was the subject of great controversy related to funding for a new St. Paul arena to house the Minnesota Wild professional hockey team.

The bonding bill, which would provide for nearly \$1 billion in capital projects, emerged

from conference committee including a plan that would provide a \$65 million interest-free loan from the state to the city that would support construction of the \$130 million St. Paul arena. The bonding bill also includes funds for expansion of the Minneapolis Convention Center and for convention and community center projects in cities including Duluth and St. Cloud.

The House passed the bill late April 9. The vote was 86-47.

The emergency tornado relief bill quickly assembled and passed before the close of the session would provide \$27.6 million to help residents and businesses in south-central Minnesota towns struck by a recent storm.

"The power that comes from hope is very well represented in this package," said Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter), who sponsored the bill.

Johnson's home was among the 1,000 in St. Peter to receive minor damage in the March 29 storm. Another 200 homes were destroyed, and 600 others in the historic Minnesota River town had major damage.

The state funds would provide the state and local matching contributions required to receive federal aid for the four Minnesota counties declared a major disaster area. And the

state money will fund a variety of other initiatives to help recovery in affected areas.

Other significant measures passed by the Legislature in the final days of the session would let voters in the November 1998 general election decide the fate of proposed constitutional amendments that would eliminate the state treasurer's office and would protect hunting and fishing rights.

If a proposed amendment were approved by voters, the treasurer's office would be eliminated in January 2003 and its duties would be transferred to the Office of the Secretary of State.

"Many studies over several decades have recommended abolishing the office because it's a shell of its former self in terms of policy-making," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of the bill.

Another proposed amendment would declare that "hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good."

"I believe the people of the state of Minnesota will take this with open arms and ratify it," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), a co-sponsor of the bill.

While many significant legislative initiatives found approval, several other noteworthy bills ran into trouble.

House members rejected a \$58 million omnibus health and human services bill April 8 by voting to send the legislation back to conference committee.

A battle over abortion-related provisions jeopardized the bill, which also would fund programs for legal immigrants, children, and the elderly, make changes in child-protection, and provide raises for nursing home workers.

The House had earlier approved a version of the bill that would have banned late-term or "partial-birth" abortions and would have established new reporting requirements for medical professionals who perform abortions. But those provisions did not survive a House-Senate conference committee.

The governor also vetoed several major pieces of legislation, including a \$38 million economic development bill, a \$14.9 million family and early childhood education spending bill, and a handful of elections-related bills.

Prior to Carlson's election, the record for career vetoes by one governor was held by former Gov. Al Quie, who shot down 31 bills during his one term in office. Carlson had already vetoed 164 bills at the outset of the 1998 session, and he showed no sign of stopping as the session drew to a close.



By Nicole Wood

The clock is ticking on the 80th Legislative Session and former Rep. Mary Forsythe sends her condolences from Sun City, Ariz., to her old colleagues in St. Paul.

"I feel sorry for them," she said during a recent telephone interview. "They're probably working until two in the morning."

"That was one thing I got out of the Legislature — I don't even get jet lag when I go to Europe because I'm used to being up all night."

Forsythe, a Republican, served District 42B in Edina from 1972 to 1990. She was the first woman elected to the Legislature from her district and the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee.

"I always said [Edina] was the best town in the state," she said. "I had a lot of people who cared and a lot of well-educated people with an interest in politics."

Plus, she said, it was a town full of Republicans, so she fit right in.

"The most outstanding thing about Mary, other than her intellect, was that she had this wonderful voice," said friend and former Rep. Sidney Pauly, who served a district bordering Forsythe's in the 1980s. "She was a music major at St. Olaf and when she would talk in a normal voice, it would just boom out. It wasn't high and squeaky — it was a voice of authority."

In 1986, Forsythe sponsored the state's first mandatory seat belt law. It was the

Forsythe spends winters in Arizona; remembers seat belt law with pride

toughest piece of legislation she ever sponsored, she said, and it is the bill of which she is most proud.

"I was damned from one part of the state to the next," she said. "It finally passed, but it was an awful lot of work. I still think it was the right thing to do."

Forsythe was just shy of her 70th birthday when she left the House. The breakdown of relationships between DFLers and Republicans that she observed toward the end of her 18 years in office was regrettable, she said.

"When we first came in, you could be friends with the opposition," she said.



Former Rep. Mary Forsythe poses outside the theater in her hometown, Edina, in 1990. Forsythe was the chief sponsor of Minnesota's first mandatory seat belt law.

"When I left, there was far more partisan politics involved, which wasn't pleasant for those of us who had been in office for a while."

Today, Forsythe and her husband, Robert, divide their time between Sun City and Longville, Minn., although she is quick to

Forsythe continued on page 18

Carlson, who made a surprise appearance on the House floor April 9, had vetoed or line-item vetoed 10 bills as of that time.

He called the spending in the omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations bill "clearly excessive" and he reminded legislators of his vision of what even-year legislative sessions should be.

The \$38 million development bill included about \$20 million in appropriations for housing issues and \$18 million in appropriations for statewide economic development and job training.

"As I stated in my prior veto message, even-year legislative sessions were not created to

enact large appropriation bills such as this," Carlson wrote in his veto message. "Outside of bonding and emergency financing, the Legislature should significantly limit all spending proposals during these sessions."

In the veto message that accompanied the family and early childhood education bill, Carlson included a simple request of lawmakers.

"How about considering limiting even-year sessions to three weeks and giving the public a constitutional amendment that will allow them to create a unicameral legislature?" Carlson asked. 🐼

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Help for grain farmers

The House passed a bill April 9 that would provide \$8.8 million in assistance for struggling grain farmers in 16 Minnesota counties, mostly in the northwest portion of the state. The vote was 95-32.

Wheat and barley farmers during the past five years have lost significant parts of their crops to a plant disease called "scab," a problem linked to the persistent wet weather experienced in the northwestern part of the state.

Farmers have seen catastrophic drops in yields as the result of scab and other wet-cycle plant diseases. At the same time, federal crop insurance has risen in cost and dropped in coverage.

The bill (**HF3853**), sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would provide aid to help affected farmers get insurance coverage. Under the measure, farmers whose losses have reached a specific threshold could receive up to \$4,000 apiece to help pay crop insurance premiums.

The 16 counties included in the bill fall near Minnesota's entire western border, but the most widespread losses have been in the northwest.

The eligible counties would be Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau, and Wilkin.

There are fears that many farmers whose crops are affected by scab — also known as *Fusarium head blight* — could fold this spring after years of difficulty.

During a House committee hearing on Tunheim's bill, a Kittson County farmer told lawmakers that Minnesotans have lost \$1.5 billion to scab and that the problem could wipe out many farms in northwestern Minnesota.

The bill goes to the governor.

Studying industrial hemp

A bill that would allow the study of industrial hemp and its uses — an idea earlier rejected by the House — was resurrected and narrowly passed April 9. The vote was 68-64.

Bill sponsor Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) added a successful amendment stating that

concerns of law-enforcement officials must be taken into consideration in the study.

Kahn said the bill might open new financial opportunities for farmers in Minnesota because hemp can be used for a variety of products, such as paper, clothing, fiber board, twine, birdseed, and oil.

The bill would direct the University of Minnesota, working with the Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, to study issues related to hemp production.

"Industrial hemp was never banned legally. The U.S. Congress never passed a bill banning industrial hemp. The [Drug Enforcement Administration] has no authority to override Congress. What we're trying to do is get the DEA and The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in sync," she said.

The bill has attracted controversy because hemp is in the same family as marijuana, an illegal controlled substance in the United States since 1937.

Marijuana and industrial hemp carry the scientific classification of *cannabis sativa*, but they are significantly different plants, according to information supplied by the North American Industrial Hemp Council.

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the intoxicating drug in both marijuana and hemp. Marijuana contains 3 percent to 20 percent THC, while hemp contains .05 percent to 1 percent THC. Hemp-based finished products have no THC in them.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, has consistently spoken against the bill.

"The bill has not changed that much," he said. "I urge you to vote the bill down again tonight. We all know that industrial hemp has the same active ingredients as marijuana."

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) agreed.

"The last thing the state of Minnesota needs is one more product that we can heavily subsidize," she said.

But Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said the bill is about economic development, not marijuana.

"For the people watching us, they'd think we were smoking dope, but we're not. We're talking about an economic development bill," he said. "This is a bill similar to what was proposed in North Dakota. Get rid of the idea that it's a project that's going to frighten you and your constituents."

The bill (**HF349/SF1181***) would call for

the university to report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 1999.



BUSINESS

Alcohol sales on campus



The sale of alcohol on state university grounds will be allowed on a limited basis, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 1998.

The law will allow issuance of temporary on-sale liquor licenses for events sponsored or approved by the university requesting the permit. The law will not apply to campus sporting events, fraternity or sorority parties, or other functions geared toward students.

Legislators were told the permits will be for social functions at universities, such as plays held on campus, where wine sales have been requested. The temporary licenses also could be used for on-campus alumni functions.

Legislators also were told that community functions are sometimes held on campuses and that some civic organizations have requested to serve liquor on campus.

The law also will allow on-sale liquor licenses to be issued for Giants Ridge Golf and Ski Resort and for Ironworld Discovery Center. A state agency, the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, owns and operates Ironworld in Chisholm, Minn., and Giants Ridge near Biwabik, Minn.

The fee charged for a license issued for Ironworld or Giants Ridge will have to be comparable to the fee charged in the surrounding area.

The law also will exempt towns of 5,000 or less from a restriction that allows the sale of only one temporary license to a municipality within a 30-day period. The exemption also applies to licenses issued in connection with community festivals.

Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the new measure.

HF2695/SF2274*/CH364

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<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Franchise law exemption



Northwest Airlines will be unable to use a 1997 law to its advantage in a court battle, under a new law signed by the governor April 2.

The 1997 Legislature passed special legislation for Northwest Airlines that retroactively exempted the airline from Minnesota's franchise law.

The state franchise law provides franchisees with some degree of protection against unwarranted termination of agreements with their parent companies.

Legislators discovered this year that the retroactive exemption had an effect on pending litigation against Northwest Airlines.

A \$30 million lawsuit filed in Maine in 1994 by Northeast Express Airlines and Precision Valley Aviation claims that Northwest Airlines violated Minnesota's franchise law when it dropped the two commuter airlines, forcing them into bankruptcy.

The new law clarifies that the 1997 franchise exemption does not apply to any agreements that were subject to litigation prior to passage of the law. The new law is effective retroactively to May 31, 1997.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure.

HF3841/SF3397*/CH353



CRIME

Omnibus crime prevention bill



Gov. Arne Carlson signed omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention legislation that includes several provisions aimed at lengthening penalties for certain crimes April 6.

One such provision in the new law will classify murder committed in the course of a kidnapping a heinous crime, effective Aug. 1, 1998. A person convicted of such a crime could be sentenced to life without parole, Minnesota's toughest sentence. (Art. 2, Sec. 6)

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), who backed the provision, said that measure comes in response to the 1996 murder-kidnapping of Paul Antonich, a Two Harbors teen-ager taken from his father's car in Duluth after a minor traffic accident.

Another provision in the new law will make murder committed during a drive-by shooting a first-degree murder crime, increasing the prison sentence for the offense. (Art. 2, Sec. 7)

The new law also will raise the maximum penalty from a five-year prison term to a 10-year term for firing into an occupied vehicle. Both drive-by shooting provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998. (Art. 2, Sec. 22)

The measure also will increase penalties for felons convicted of violent offenses who are found illegally in possession of a firearm. Currently, the mandatory minimum prison sentence is 18 months. Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the mandatory minimum will be increased to five years. (Art. 2, Sec. 4)

Another provision in the law will increase penalties generally for soliciting a prostitute or receiving profit from prostitution. This provision, effective Aug. 1, 1998, also will increase the penalties for engaging in prostitution in a school zone or in a residential area. (Art. 2, Secs. 1, 12)

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

Here are some other highlights of the new law.

HFnone/SF3345*/CH367

Prosecuting gangs

Prosecutors told legislators this year that they are having difficulties bringing gang members to trial and making the penalties stick. Several provisions in the new law seek to address such concerns.

One provision will expand a current law that provides increased penalties for crimes done for the benefit of a gang to include crimes "motivated by involvement with" a gang. The provision also will increase these enhanced penalties. (Art. 2, Sec. 9)

The new law will increase penalties for witness tampering and will add witness tampering to the list of crimes that can receive enhanced penalties if done for the benefit of a gang. (Art. 2, Sec. 5)

The measure also seeks to get people to show up for court, both offenders and witnesses. One provision will increase the penalty for failure to appear in court if charged with a felony level crime. (Art. 2, Sec. 16)

Another provision will increase penalties for individuals who knowingly and willingly defy a court subpoena to appear in relation to a violent crime. (Art. 2, Sec. 3)

These provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Charging burglars

A provision of the new law will make it easier to prosecute people who illegally enter a property by expanding the definition of burglary to include accomplices. The new definition is effective Aug. 1, 1998. (Art. 2, Sec. 21)

Prosecutors said the new language would

make the law more explicit and allow them to bring charges against anyone who illegally enters a dwelling, even if they don't actually break in or steal something.

Fighting drugs

The new law will increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine. Law enforcement officials said that Minnesota is seeing a dramatic increase in use of the drug.

Effective Jan. 1, 1999, the drug will be raised to the same status as cocaine and heroin and the manufacture of any amount of methamphetamine will be a first-degree controlled substance offense. (Art. 4, Secs. 1-3)

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will make the drug ephedrine a controlled substance, to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances. The targeted over-the-counter products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teen-agers and others looking to achieve a legal high. (Art. 4, Secs. 5, 6)

Protecting police officers

Several provisions in the new law seek to make it easier and safer for police officers to do their jobs.

One such provision comes as a result of an incident where two Richfield police officers were accused of sexual assault. Although the allegations were proven false, the incident greatly disrupted the criminal justice process, not to mention the lives of the two officers.

The provision will make it a criminal violation to harass police officers because of the performance of official duties by expanding the state's stalking law. (Art. 2, Sec. 23)

In addition, the new law will make it easier to prosecute people who interfere with officers making an arrest by expanding the legal definition of obstruction of justice. (Art. 2, Sec. 17)

The two provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Another provision, effective April 7, 1998, authorizes officers to conduct pat-down searches on juveniles taken into custody.

Under previous law, pat-down searches could be performed only on adult offenders. Proponents of the change argued that police officers need to be protected from juveniles, as well as adults, carrying concealed weapons. (Art. 10, Sec. 10)

Conditional release

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law will make several changes to the state's probation and conditional release law.

The measure also will allow peace officers to detain for eight hours a person on conditional

release if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that the individual has violated the terms of his or her release. (Art. 7, Sec. 12)

The law also allows probation officers to impose community service on people who violate the conditions of their parole. (Art. 7, Secs. 1, 2)

The new law also authorizes the use of remote electric alcohol monitoring for offenders who agree to abstain from alcohol as a condition for pretrial release or probation. Offenders who can afford the program are required to pay the costs. (Art. 11, Sec. 6)

Juvenile criminals

A version of the legislation earlier approved by the House would have opened some juvenile court records and proceedings to the public. For juveniles under 14 years old, the bill would have made court records available to the public if the juvenile was found guilty of a third felony or gross misdemeanor level offense. For juveniles who are 14 years old or older, the bill would have opened all court hearings to the public, regardless of the offense.

These provisions were removed by the conference committee. However, juvenile court proceedings and documents will be open to the victim of the crime, under the new law. (Art. 10, Secs. 7, 8)

The measure also will increase penalties for contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile. Another provision will create a civil penalty for this crime, requiring a person found liable for the delinquency of a juvenile to provide restitution to victims. (Art. 10, Secs. 11, 12)

The new law also will make it easier to get juveniles who are participating in prostitution into the state's child protection system. (Art. 10, Secs. 4-6)

These provisions are effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Right to ride

A provision of the new law will prohibit owners of public accommodations, such as restaurants and hotels, from discriminating against motorcyclists.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, the new law provides exceptions if the owner feels that the person's conduct poses a risk to property or the safety of other patrons, or if the clothing worn by the motorcyclist is obscene or includes the symbol of a criminal gang. (Art. 11, Sec. 18)

Reporting crime

Several provisions within the new law authorize reports to the Legislature regarding crime in Minnesota.

One provision requests that the legislative auditor study the cost of crime in the state,

including direct costs to state and local governments for criminal justice and indirect costs placed on individuals, businesses, and neighborhoods. (Art. 1, Sec. 14)

Another measure authorizes the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and the Hennepin County District Court to provide data on criminal justice in the city of Minneapolis. This study must be approved by both the Minneapolis City Council and the Hennepin County Board. (Art. 2, Sec. 29)

Another provision seeks more accurate information on prostitution in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The new law mandates that city attorneys in the two cities and county attorneys in Hennepin and Ramsey counties report on investigation and prosecution of prostitution within the jurisdictions. (Art. 2, Secs. 30-31)

Financing justice

The measure contains \$7.9 million in supplemental appropriations, a majority of which will go to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the state courts.

Of the total amount, \$3 million will be recouped in revenue from increased criminal justice fees and criminal fines.

The Department of Corrections will receive \$2.1 million, much of which will go to reducing the caseload for probation officers. Grant programs that fund community corrections also will be funded through these dollars.

The Department of Public Safety will be appropriated \$1.6 million. Of these funds, the office of the Crime Victim Ombudsman will receive \$300,000 to fund its services; the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will receive \$133,000 to add forensic scientists to its crime lab; and the department will get \$750,000 for law enforcement and community crime prevention grants.

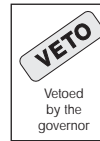
The state fire marshal will receive \$170,000 of public safety money for the creation of an arson data system. The data base will contain only basic information at the state level but will provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases of arson.

The measure will appropriate \$1.1 million to the state courts for law clerk salaries. The state public defender will receive \$1 million for defense attorney salaries. Another \$375,000 will be given to Legal Aid to provide legal service to low-income individuals. (Art. 1)



DEVELOPMENT

Jobs, housing, development



Citing what he referred to as "clearly excessive" spending,

Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the omnibus jobs, housing, and economic development appropriations bill April 7.

The \$38 million bill included about \$20 million in appropriations for housing issues and \$18 million in appropriations for statewide economic development and job training.

In his veto message, the governor restated his belief that the even-year legislative session should focus on bonding and emergency issues.

"As I stated in my prior veto message, even-year legislative sessions were not created to enact large appropriation bills such as this," Carlson wrote. "Outside of bonding and emergency financing, the Legislature should significantly limit all spending proposals during these sessions."

The governor said that the bill contained several worthwhile appropriations which should be revisited by the Legislature, including funds to the Department of Economic Development for a vocational rehabilitation program and appropriations for various housing programs.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Tracy Beckman (DFL-Bricelyn) sponsored the bill.

The vetoed bill included a provision that would have provided \$10 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to assist in maintaining existing low-income housing. That provision was the centerpiece of the \$20 million housing portion of the bill.

The provision was in response to a situation occurring statewide. In the 1970s, the federal government set up a program where developers received reduced-rate mortgages and financing incentives to build low- and moderate-income housing. Rent rates were subsidized by the federal government and rent increases were regulated.

Owners of many such complexes are now taking advantage of a provision that allows them to prepay the remaining portion of their mortgage and to begin charging market-rate rent.

The \$10 million in the bill would have funded the equity takeout loan program administered by the MHFA. The fund is used to provide financial incentives to maintain existing subsidized housing. The incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

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(612) 296-2314

The bill also would have provided \$5 million to the MHFA for production of new multi-family, low-income housing.

And the bill included \$9 million in appropriations to the Department of Economic Security for job training and assistance, including \$3.2 million for summer youth employment and \$1.4 million for the State Services for the Blind to develop a digital communication center for its Radio Talking Book program.

The bill would have appropriated \$6.2 million to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for statewide projects. Of that amount, \$3.3 million would have gone to the Minnesota Film Board to provide support for the state's \$250 million film and video industry.

The appropriation would have been used to create a revolving loan fund to be administered by the film board and the Department of Trade and Economic Development. The governor had originally requested that \$5 million be appropriated for the fund.

HF3806/SF3367*/CH374



EMPLOYMENT

Hibbing workers' benefits



About 125 workers, temporarily laid off from the Hibbing Taconite Co. in St. Louis County, will receive extended re-employment benefits, under a new measure Gov. Arne Carlson allowed to become

law without his signature.

Effective April 4, 1998, the workers will be eligible for up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits.

They were laid off between July and September 1997 because of lack of work. The company says it expects to have them back to work by the end of May, but the workers' regular unemployment benefits ran out over the winter.

Under previous law, extended benefits were granted only to workers affected by large, permanent layoffs in counties with high unemployment.

The new law exempts the Hibbing workers from three requirements: that the layoff be of a certain size, that it be permanent, and that it occur in a county where the unemployment rate is more than 10 percent. The workers still need to meet requirements specifying that they be otherwise eligible for unemployment and that they have exhausted all other rights to benefits.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) said the average benefit of the affected workers

is \$331 per month and the total extra benefits will be about \$128,000. He also said that the company, since it is still in business, will end up paying for most of that amount in taxes.

Tomassoni and Sen. Jerry Janezich (DFL-Chisholm) sponsored the legislation.

HF3465/SF3084*/CH358

Workplace breast-feeding



Employers will be required to make a "reasonable effort" to provide adequate private space and unpaid breaks for new mothers to pump breast milk, under a new law signed by the governor April 9.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, employers must provide "a room or other location, in close proximity to the work area, other than a toilet stall," where a woman can privately pump breast milk.

But employers will not be held liable if they have made a "reasonable effort" to comply, and the law does not contain penalties.

The law will stipulate the break times can run concurrently with any other provided breaks. Employers will not have to provide the breaks if doing so would "unduly disrupt the operations of the employer."

The law also will exempt breast-feeding from indecent exposure laws.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF3459/SF2751*/CH369

Emergency dispatcher status



Emergency dispatchers will be classified as essential employees under a new law signed by the governor April 3.

Effective Aug. 1, 1998, police, fire, and 911 dispatchers will join law enforcement personnel, health care workers, prison guards, and others as essential employees.

Under that status, workers give up the right to strike, but they can still request arbitration in a labor dispute.

Supporters of the new measure said it was needed because a dispatchers' strike would threaten public safety.

Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF1693/SF1074*/CH355



FAMILY

Omnibus family law bill

The omnibus family law bill returned from conference committee April 8 without the ambitious parenting plan provisions earlier approved by the House. The bill won final passage on a 126-2 vote.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said the Senate members of the conference committee could not accept the new concept in marriage dissolution he pushed for this session.

"It was unfortunate that the Senate just

Student rally



Students from Spring Lake Park High School rally in front of the Capitol April 6 in support of more educational funding.

didn't want to talk about reform this year," he said.

The omnibus family law bill (**HF2784/SF2276***) contains several provisions that would adjust the way that child support is decided. Most notably, one provision would require that courts consider financial obligations to subsequent children of current marriages when figuring increases in support payments for children of a previous marriage.

Dawkins' parenting plan proposal would have restructured state law to focus on joint decision-making between the two divorced parents.

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

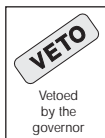
Under Dawkins' proposed language, parents involved in marriage dissolution proceedings would have been provided the option to compose a plan that would ensure significant participation by both parents in all decision-making. The document would have outlined visitation and custody issues for the child.

Parenting plans could possibly be revisited by the Legislature in the future. Language for the creation of a parental cooperation task force was included in the omnibus judiciary finance and crime prevention bill (**HFnone/SF3345*/CH367**) signed by the governor April 6.

The task force will explore the use of parenting plans and other means to decrease the conflict between parents involved in marriage dissolution, and will make recommendations to the Legislature and the Minnesota Supreme Court.

The omnibus family law bill now goes to the governor.

Family, early childhood bill



Gov. Arne Carlson vetoed the \$14.9 million family and early childhood education spending bill April 3.

The bill would have appropriated money for programs such as Head Start and Early Childhood Family Education, child care assistance, emergency services grants to homeless shelters, gang prevention, and lead abatement projects.

"The spending in this bill far exceeds the budget that I had submitted to the 1998 Legislature in this area," Carlson wrote in his veto message.

And he reminded the legislators of last year's "historic budget increase for child care, Head

Phone home



Rep. Rob Leighton's 18-month-old son, Taylor, discovers a new toy called a telephone in the House retiring room April 3.

Start, and other children and family programs."

The bill would have appropriated \$5 million for a program that helps low- and moderate-income working families pay for child care using an income-based, sliding-fee scale. The basic sliding-fee child-care program already received an increase of more than 130 percent over the last biennium, Carlson said.

Under the bill, an additional 17,000 families would have qualified for the Minnesota dependent care tax credit program. The bill would have raised the maximum income threshold from \$31,000 to \$38,000 at a cost of \$4.9 million to the state.

The governor closed his veto message with a general suggestion for lawmakers.

"Even-year legislative sessions should not be allowed to become full-blown tax and spend sessions," he wrote. "How about considering limiting even-year sessions to three weeks and giving the public a constitutional amendment that will allow them to create a unicameral legislature?"

Rep. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) and Sen. Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) sponsored the bill.

HF2803/SF2532*/CH365



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing heritage

Minnesota voters would decide in November whether hunting and fishing should be constitutionally protected, under a bill that won final passage in the House April 9. The vote was 124-7.

The bill (**HF3808/SF41***) would submit the following amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to affirm that hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good?"

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul), the bill's sponsor, said it is not his intent to interfere with treaty rights, gun control laws, or property rights.

"I believe the people of the state of Minnesota will take this with open arms and ratify it," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), a co-sponsor of the bill.

The right to hunt and fish is under attack in a lot of states, said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook). A constitutional amendment would send a message — "you're not welcome here" — to animal rights groups who seek to curtail the activities of hunting and fishing enthusiasts, he said.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said the bill's potential positive environmental impact has turned him into a proponent.

"This amendment is as green an amendment as we're ever going to see," he said.

The bill now goes to the governor.



GOVERNMENT

Disaster relief bill approved

Wearry officials from tornado-stricken south-central Minnesota told legislators via video conference April 6 that "any help you can give us would be welcome."

The House responded by approving a \$27.6 million disaster relief bill April 8 that Department of Commerce Commissioner Dave Gruenes termed "very generous." The vote was 131-0.

"The power that comes from hope is very well represented in this package," Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) said on the House floor. She sponsored the bill (**HF3869/SF3411***).

Johnson's home was among the 1,000 in



Members of the House Ways and Means Committee listen to testimony April 6 from Comfrey Mayor Linda Wallin (shown on left monitor) on the extent of tornado damage from the March 29 storm and her community's need for matching funds for federal disaster relief.

St. Peter to receive minor damage in the March 29 storm. St. Peter Mayor Jerry Hawbaker told the House Ways and Means Committee via the interactive television connection the city had another 200 homes destroyed, plus 600 others with major damage.

The town of Comfrey, with a population of about 450, was almost completely destroyed in the string of tornadoes that prompted President Clinton to declare four Minnesota counties a major disaster area.

Gruenes told the Ways and Means Committee the tornadoes probably caused about \$200 million in damage, much of which is covered by private insurance.

The legislation would provide \$8 million to match federal disaster assistance. Johnson said the state would assume the 10 percent contribution normally funded by local governments under federal disaster relief. The federal government typically pays 75 percent while states pay 15 percent and local governments pay 10 percent.

Another \$3.5 million appropriation would be designated to those rebuilding homes. Loans up to \$10,000 at no interest would go to those who stay in their homes for 10 years. Another \$500,000 would be provided in the form of forgivable loans for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of rental housing.

Businesses affected by the tornadoes would be eligible for \$4.8 million in grants to help rebuild. Legislators were told that Le Center, a town of 2,000, has 400 jobless residents because of the storm.

Another \$1 million would be set aside for local government to repair and replace publicly owned buildings, water systems, streets, bridges, and other infrastructure.

The bill also includes \$250,000 for after-school child care and expanded day care services.

Under the legislation, farmers would be

provided with \$4 million to repair farm buildings and to obtain working capital operating loans.

Tim Nelson, the disaster coordinator for Brown County, said more than 32,000 acres of farmland and drainage ditches are strewn with debris, some of which is so heavy it will require removal by heavy machinery. But he said most of the debris will have to be removed by hand.

"There are no machines that can do most of this work," he said.

Legislators also were told farmers need loans for machinery and seed, but that there was relatively little livestock loss in the area.

Under the bill, another \$3.2 million would be set aside as a contingency fund that can be appropriated to the commissioner of finance for allocations made at the governor's request or for unanticipated needs.

Another \$1 million would go toward loans or grants needed for historic preservation.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) told the Ways and Means Committee the state needs to look into federal aid for the historic buildings.

"It would be a shame if we passed up the chance to rebuild this city the way it was," Kahn said.

St. Peter has 270 buildings that have been inventoried as possibly historic and 14 buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rev. Dennis Johnson, vice president for college relations at St. Peter's damaged Gustavus Adolphus College, told legislators the best way to help the wounded college would be to help the community, where much of the faculty and staff reside.

"We can not succeed in our mission at the college without a strong, vibrant community," he said.

The bill now goes to the governor's desk.

State treasurer's office

Minnesota voters would decide whether to abolish the state treasurer's office, under a bill the House passed April 7. The vote was 88-44.

The bill would place a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot asking whether the elected office should be eliminated in January 2003 and its duties transferred to the Office of the Secretary of State.

"Many studies over several decades have recommended abolishing the office because it's a shell of its former self in terms of policy-making," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of the bill (**HF103/SF161***).

The office used to be in charge of managing the state's permanent school fund and overseeing unclaimed properties. Those duties have been transferred to the State Board of Investments and the Department of Commerce, respectively.

Most of the remaining responsibilities of the office, Greiling said, are cash-management duties that do not involve policy-making.

Greiling said the purpose behind eliminating the office "is not to be saving money but to have one less elected figure."

Of the 13 current employees in the treasurer's office, two positions — those of the treasurer and the assistant treasurer — would likely be cut. The other positions would be transferred to the secretary of state's office. An estimated \$150,000 would be saved in salaries.

An earlier version of the bill called for the office's remaining duties to be transferred to the commissioner of finance. However, House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) offered an amendment during an April 3 hearing before the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee that changed it to the secretary of state's office.

"Then you still have an elected person who's independent from the governor's administration to look at the state's financial system," Carruthers said.

Under the bill, voters would vote twice more for treasurer: once in November, at the same time they would vote on the constitutional amendment, and once again in 2000 for a final two-year term.

The Senate passed the House-amended version April 8, so the bill will become law. The governor has no power to veto proposed constitutional amendments.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Attorney general's budget



Following through on his earlier criticism of the size of the attorney general's budget request, Gov. Arne Carlson used his line-item veto to cut \$1.1 million from the office's 1999 budget.

Carlson said he was troubled by what he called misrepresentation by the attorney general's office concerning a 1995 budget appropriation. He said the office had requested \$3 million for one-time technology upgrades in 1996 and 1997 but had, in fact, spent about \$2 million of that money on salary increases.

That \$2 million then expanded the office's budget base and led to an increased request for future funding, according to the governor.

"Frankly, the Office of the Attorney General possesses a division that deals with consumer issues and insists on high standards of truthfulness," Carlson wrote. "Those standards were not applied to the 1996-1997 budget expenditures."

But the governor left \$23 million for the office's 1999 expenses in the \$32 million omnibus state government finance bill he signed April 6.

Last year, he used his line-item veto authority to strike the attorney general's entire 1999 budget of \$24.4 million, citing what Carlson called the enormous and unnecessary growth of the office since 1991.

This year's \$23 million appropriation will go for core functions of the state's top legal and law enforcement agency for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The office is responsible for asserting and defending the state's legal interests, settling claims, and aiding other law enforcement agencies in prosecuting and solving cases.

The \$1.1 million line-item vetoed by Carlson would have provided: \$500,000 for legal services to state agencies; \$250,000 for gaming enforcement; \$250,000 for counties needing assistance with felony prosecutions and related tasks; and \$100,000 for a fund to educate senior citizens about telemarketing fraud.

Carlson also noted that the \$23 million appropriation represents a 13.6 percent increase over the office's previous base funding.

"Therefore, this line-item veto will do little more than return their service to normal," he wrote.

The new law also calls for a task force to study the availability, effectiveness, and cost of legal services provided by the attorney general's office.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) and Sen. Len Price (DFL-Woodbury) sponsored the legislation.

HF3137/SF3354*/CH366

Claims against the state



The family of a 14-year-old girl killed in 1991 by a convicted sex offender on his way from prison to a halfway house will receive almost \$15,000, under a new law signed by the governor April 6.

David and Gayle Johnson of Alexandria, Minn., filed a wrongful-death suit against the state after their daughter was murdered by a convict who had been released from St. Cloud prison five days earlier and ordered to report to a halfway house in Minneapolis. He was not assigned an escort and did not show up at the halfway house.

Following the murder, the Legislature changed the law to require that escorts be provided in similar situations, but the Minnesota Supreme Court rejected the parents' claim.

The Johnsons next turned for recourse to the Minnesota Legislature's Joint House-Senate Subcommittee on Claims, which annually hears private restitution claims that have been refused by the courts or a state government department.

Effective April 7, 1998, this year's claims law authorizes payment of certain of those claims against the state, as recommended by the subcommittee.

A Benton County deputy who, in 1996, shot and killed a suspect in the murder of a St. Joseph police officer will receive about \$24,000. The deputy later suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome and was unable to work for eight months, but she was refused lost-wage payment by Benton County.

Several inmates or former inmates who suffered injuries while incarcerated, as well as some people injured while performing court-ordered community service, also will receive payments this year.

Rep. Edgar Olson (DFL-Fosston) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the claims legislation.

HF3830*/SF3393/CH362

State employee labor agreements



Employees of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension have a new reason to look into taking early retirement, under a new law effective April 3, 1998.

Certain employees of that bureau who retire before age 55 will now be eligible for employer-paid health insurance.

The new law, signed by the governor April 2, also ratifies labor agreements with state employment unions, compensation plans for state employees who are not represented

by unions, and salaries for state agency heads.

Those agreements, plans, and salaries had already been approved by a joint legislative subcommittee on employee relations, and have been in effect on an interim basis.

The new law also makes a small change to the salary of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board commissioner. That salary now is capped at 75 percent of the governor's salary and is to be set by the governor. Previously, the Legislative Coordinating Commission set that salary.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) and Sen. Carol Flynn (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the new measure.

HF3068*/SF2520/CH351

Red Cross volunteers



Although Gov. Arne Carlson allowed a bill granting full pay to state employees who volunteer for the American Red Cross to become law without his signature, he wrote that the legislation "truly represents poorly thought-out public policy."

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 1998, allows any state employee to receive 100 percent pay while volunteering for the Red Cross for up to 15 days per year.

"Clearly, the intent is noble . . . but this bill goes well beyond the normal parameters of good judgment," Carlson wrote.

He said the legislation was flawed for including only state employees and not private-sector or local government workers, and also for including volunteering with only the Red Cross and not other disaster-relief organizations.

"At the same time, how can a person be a 'volunteer' while receiving 100 percent pay?" he wrote. He added that he hoped the Legislature would consider altering the policy in the future.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the measure.

HF2673*/SF1946/CH356



HEALTH

Prenatal alcohol abuse



Gov. Arne Carlson signed a bill into law April 6 which will authorize the voluntary reporting of prenatal alcohol abuse.

The legislation comes as a result of recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol

Syndrome, which was chaired by first lady Susan Carlson.

The task force was formed in July 1997 to formulate a comprehensive approach to the problem of alcohol abuse during pregnancy. Approximately 800 children are born each year in Minnesota with the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, according to the task force.

Effective Aug. 1, 1999, the new law will permit health care workers, counselors, and others working with pregnant women to report instances of suspected alcohol abuse to local welfare authorities.

The law will require that the local welfare agency then conduct an assessment and offer necessary services to the pregnant woman.

An earlier version of the bill would have made prenatal abuse of alcohol statutory grounds for civil commitment and required local welfare agencies to petition for commitment in cases where the woman fails to follow treatment recommendations.

The civil commitment process is used to require individuals to accept health care when, because of mental illness or other reasons, they do not realize the need for treatment. Civil commitment usually prompts hospitalization, which allows the individual to be monitored and effectively treated.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the new measure.

HF3184*/SF3207/CH361



HIGHER EDUCATION

Omnibus higher education bill

The House passed an omnibus higher education bill April 8 that aims to stabilize tuition and represents the largest supplemental budget increase for higher education in this decade. The vote was 99-34.

The \$73 million in appropriations would target \$36 million each for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU) system. The remaining \$1 million would go to the Higher Education Services Office.

Opponents of the funding bill argued the appropriations would be too high in the non-budget year of the biennium. The appropriation is \$10.5 million below the governor's request for higher education.

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said enough operating money was appropriated last year and the Legislature "ought to be looking at only cleanup matters and emergency issues."

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), chair

of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee and sponsor of the bill, said in the last decade higher education funding has decreased from 15 percent to 11 percent of the overall state budget.

He also said the Legislature has previously funded higher education with "one-time money, but colleges go on two- and four-year cycles."

Here's a look at some highlights of the bill.

Funding for MnSCU

A total of \$20 million would reduce funding variances in state appropriations for full-year equivalent students at the 36 MnSCU institutions.

MnSCU was created in 1995 by the merger of Minnesota's technical, community, and state colleges.

Minnesota currently spends more per student at some two-year institutions than at some of its four-year campuses. Significant disparities exist in the amount of money the state's institutions receive per full-time equivalent student.

For example, Southwest State University receives about \$2,000 more per student than Mankato State University. The variance between the highest- and lowest-funded state universities for fiscal year 1998 is 54 percent, and the disparity among two-year schools reaches 90 percent.

Legislators expect MnSCU to develop its own allocation model beginning with fiscal year 2000. The model is supposed to minimize campus and system reliance on one-time funding, and reduce the variation in per student funding.

Another \$10 million would enhance partnerships between campuses and the private sector. The appropriation contains money to increase the number of students enrolled in internships by providing incentives for businesses to train, place, and retain hard-to-place individuals.

There is also \$3 million projected for libraries, although neither the governor nor MnSCU officials requested funds for the acquisition of library materials.

Another \$3 million was included in the bill so colleges could redesign their curriculum and train would-be teachers for implementation of the state's new K-12 Graduation Standards.

The governor's budget had requested \$42 million for the MnSCU system.

University of Minnesota spending

More than \$25 million of the appropriation for the U of M would be set aside for academic initiatives and equipment in digital technology and molecular and cellular biology.

Both the governor and the university had asked for \$41.5 million in total appropriations.

U of M President Mark Yudof has focused on investing in the school's molecular and cellular biology initiatives in his first year as president.

His goal is to create an institute for molecular and cellular biology with the aim of pushing the school into the top five public universities in biological sciences.

In his supplemental budget request, Yudof requested funds to recruit 11 blue-chip faculty members during the next three years and to provide them with expensive equipment needed for research. The president also intends to hire another 15 junior faculty by redirecting current U of M funding.

The legislation would provide \$9.8 million for faculty and staff compensation, \$6.6 million for equipment, and \$700,000 for design of a digital computation laboratory.

Another \$7.9 million would be targeted for molecular and cellular biology, and \$3 million for research of industries based on renewable natural resources. There is also \$250,000 for law clinic programs operated by the U of M law school.

No grade 13

A proposal intended to create a tax credit for the first year of postsecondary school costs for Minnesota high school graduates was removed from the higher education bill by a House-Senate conference committee.

The plan would allow families of high school graduates to deduct \$500 when they filed their state tax return if the child enrolled in a Minnesota postsecondary school in the fall and if the family fit certain income limits.

The federal government recently established the Hope Scholarship Credit, which calls for a \$1,500 credit for those who come under the same income guidelines.

The one-time state credit would have applied to tuition and education-related expenses.

Regent elections unchanged

A House provision stipulating a change in the University of Minnesota regent election process was also removed by the conference committee.

The provision, which would have set new residency requirements, was the result of a joint House and Senate subcommittee recommendation to have the board's membership reflect various parts of the state.

Currently, candidates are selected from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts. The measure would have required at least five regents to live in the seven-county metropolitan area.

HFnone/SF3297* now moves to the governor's desk.



HUMAN SERVICES

Health, human services bill

House members rejected a \$58 million omnibus health and human services bill April 8 by voting to send the legislation back to conference committee.

A battle over abortion-related provisions jeopardized the bill, which also would fund programs for legal immigrants, children, and the elderly, make changes in child-protection, and provide raises for nursing home workers.

The House voted 84-48 to return the bill to conference committee. The House also voted 79-53 to appoint new conference committee members.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) had earlier replaced two House members of the conference committee in an effort to get the votes required to move the bill to the floor.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill sponsor and chair of the finance division of the House Health and Human Services Committee, remained on the conference committee. The new members were Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), who is the Health and Human Services chair, and Reps. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), Bill Haas (R-Champlin), and Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul).

Seventy-five House members had previously

signed a pledge to not support the bill (**HF2868/SF3346***) if it returned from conference committee without a ban on late-term or "partial-birth" abortions and without abortion reporting requirements.

The version of the bill earlier passed by the House included the ban and the reporting requirements, but the Senate version of the bill did not. The bill that emerged from conference committee also did not.

The Senate has adopted the conference committee bill, but it would stall without House approval.

The bill contains a provision for revamping the child-protection system. It would reduce, in most cases, the time a child spends in foster care, and would consider the best interest of the child when reuniting the child with his or her family. Without the provision, the state could lose more than \$50 million in federal money.

The bill included a 3 percent wage increase for nursing home employees, along with funds for food stamps for about 10,000 legal immigrants in the state who will no longer be eligible for federal food stamps.

Minnesota also could lose millions in federal funds targeted to buy health care coverage for uninsured children in the state. Under a federal "KidCare" program, Minnesota could receive \$28 million annually. But the money has been withheld from Minnesota because most children eligible for the federal program already receive MinnesotaCare health insurance for low-income workers.



INDUSTRY

Telephone Assistance Plan

A new surcharge on cellular telephones would help pay for expansion of the Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP), under legislation the House passed April 3. The vote was 74-55.

The bill would add about 150,000 Minnesota households to the TAP, which currently provides assistance for basic telephone service to about 50,000 low-income senior citizens and people with disabilities.

The version of the bill the Senate approved earlier would have exempted cellular phones from any surcharge to fund the program and would have increased the monthly 6-cent surcharge on standard lines to 12 cents per line in 1999 and to 16 cents in the year 2000.

Under the compromise worked out by a House-Senate conference committee, cellular phones would be included, but the surcharge could not exceed 10 cents a month on cellular, business, and residential lines.

The new surcharge would begin in 1999 and would not apply to telephone pagers.

The bill (**HF3074/SF2718***), sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), resulted from an expansion of the program under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission.

The new version of the TAP makes no reference to age or disability; it simply broadens the program to include single-person households at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level and multiple-person households at or below 150 percent of the level. A family of three with an income just under \$20,000 annually would qualify.

Until recently, the federal government and the state each paid \$3.50 per program recipient monthly, for a total of \$7. As of Jan. 1, the federal share rose to \$5.25, with an additional \$1.75 if each state contributes \$3.50. If Minnesota continues to contribute \$3.50, the total assistance for eligible households would reach \$10.50 a month.

Clark's bill would provide the additional revenue the state needs to cover the growth in enrollment in the program.

A residential household that participated in the TAP prior to Aug. 1, 1998, is entitled to receive continued telephone assistance credits whether or not the household meets the new income criteria.

Health and human services rally



Heidi Myhre of West St. Paul holds her sign from the second floor railing of the Capitol rotunda as several hundred supporters of social programs included in the omnibus health and human services bill rally April 7. The bill became bogged down in controversy over abortion-related provisions.

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

Pipeline excavation notices



A new law will make a distinction between information needed before a pipeline excavation and information needed before a land survey when notifying the Gopher State One-Call excavation notice system. The provision is effective Aug. 1, 1998.

Current law requires these notices to contain the same information. The new law removes language pertaining to anticipated discharge of explosives when only a survey is being done.

The Minnesota Pipeline Safety Act of 1987 mandated the establishment of a one-call notification center for facility operators, which became the Gopher State One-Call. That act included definitions and requirements for notices given by excavators and underground facility operators.

Underground facility operators include those who deal with electricity, power, heat, gas, oil, and water.

The new law also requires, as of Jan. 1, 1999, that operators maintain maps, drawings, diagrams, and other records of any underground facility that was abandoned or out of service after Dec. 31, 1998.

And the new measure will allow the commissioner of public safety to appoint a pipeline advisory committee. The new provision is effective June 30, 1998.

This discretionary advisory committee would replace the Pipeline Safety Advisory Council, and it would be governed by the statute pertaining to advisory councils and committees rather than administrative boards and agencies.

The difference is that members on advisory councils and committees serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Members of the current council may be removed for missing three consecutive meetings.

The new committee would consist of representatives of the hazardous liquid pipeline industry, the gas distribution industry, the gas pipeline industry, the pipeline design and construction industry, state or local government, and the general public.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the legislation.

HF3324/SF2445*/CH348

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



INSURANCE

No rebate on coverage

The House passed a bill April 3 that would prohibit insurance companies from "rebating," or selling identical coverage to one policyholder at a lower price than other policyholders. The vote was 109-20.

The bill was sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), who owns and operates an insurance agency. He said insurance rebating does not help the consumer.

"It really disrupts the process. Insurance is not something you just go give away free," he said.

He said the bill has the support of the insurance industry.

"It basically says you can't be an insurance agent enticing people by giving away free policies or by rebate," Davids said.

Insurance is an important commodity that ought to be bought with careful consideration, and the insurance agent is supposed to explain parts of it the client doesn't understand, he said.

The bill (**HF3402/SF2928***) goes to the governor.



LAW

Protection for news media



Gov. Arne Carlson allowed a measure providing new protections for the news media to become law without his signature April 6.

However, the governor did take the opportunity to comment on what he referred to as a "disturbing trend" in journalism in a letter filed with the bill.

Effective April 7, 1998, the new law expands the current media shield law by guaranteeing protection for reporters' notes and tapes except in extreme instances.

Carlson, in his two page letter, wrote that while the freedom of the press must be maintained, he is concerned about the lack of accountability in journalism, especially with investigative journalism.

"News organizations often justify their activities based on the public's 'right to know,'" Carlson wrote. "It is ironic, however, that the media seldom extend that right to the way they do business."

Journalists have no boards of professional responsibility like lawyers, doctors, and accountants to ensure ethical behavior, according to the governor.

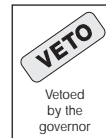
"Granting this law's special protection to

the news media would be more palatable if it were a profession that adhered to a strict code of journalistic conduct," Carlson wrote.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the new measure.

HF1668/SF1480*/CH357

Absentee ballots without 'reason'



A bill that would have established an absentee ballot pilot project for Hennepin County was vetoed April 9 by Gov. Arne Carlson.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), called for a pilot project that would have allowed voters to vote by absentee ballot without having to give a reason, as long as they supply their name, address, signature, and other basic information.

It's the fourth bill relating to election law that Carlson has vetoed in the past two weeks, including a bill that would have extended a similar absentee ballot pilot project in Ramsey County, and he noted that in his veto message.

"What do we hope to learn from the Minneapolis project that was not demonstrated in Ramsey County? We know what the benefits and drawbacks of an open ballot system are — if it is a good idea, then take it statewide," he wrote.

Under present law, people wanting to vote absentee must have a reason, such as an illness, disability, observance of a religious holiday, or service as an election judge.

Carlson noted that changes to election law are too important to be "laced with partisanship. I cannot support changes to our election laws when not a single Republican in the House, and relatively few in the Senate, supported the bill," he wrote.

"Increasing voter turnout, especially in our large cities, is an admirable goal; but simplifying the process is only a very small part of the solution. Issues and candidates move people to vote. I suggest we focus on those critical parts to move the citizens of Minneapolis to the polls," Carlson concluded.

Jefferson and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the bill.

HF2293/SF2118*/CH370



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Nonprofit corporations

A new state law permits Brown County and other political subdivisions to create nonprofit corporations to help with economic development.

The measure has been filed with the secretary of state without the governor's signature. It empowers such nonprofit corporations to issue bonds, make grants to companies, and to buy, sell, and develop property.

Gov. Arne Carlson allowed the measure to become law, but he clearly did not approve of its content.

"It gives local governments the power to create entities with broader powers than the entity itself," Carlson wrote, in a letter filed with the measure. "This is a dangerous precedent being established by the Legislature. Moreover, these local entities — while having greater powers than local governments — are not subject to some of the same legal requirements such as open meeting laws, competitive bidding, the Data Practices Act, and the Ethics in Government Act."

Carlson also was bothered by the expansion of power to many other nonprofit corporations, which he believes "has now opened the door to widespread misuse by these entities."

When introduced in the House, the measure applied only to Brown County, but it was amended to include similar corporations created elsewhere before June 1, 1997, by allowing them to continue to operate.

The budget of any such corporation must be made public, and if the corporation is going to spend more than \$100,000, it has to be approved by the county board.

The new law took effect April 8, 1998, except for the section devoted to Brown County, which is retroactive to July 10, 1990.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the measure.

HF2700/SF2192*/CH360



TAXES

Omnibus tax bill

It took weeks of conference committee negotiations, but the omnibus tax bill, which includes \$500 million in property tax rebates and more than \$400 million in property tax reform, won final passage in the House April 9. The vote was 100-33.

"We've worked long and hard," said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls), chair of the House Taxes Committee. "This bill is the result of compromises on both sides."

Opposition to the bill ran pretty much along party lines, with Republicans insisting that more of the state's projected \$1.9 billion surplus should go to the taxpayers, and DFLers maintaining that the bill would provide rebates for taxpayers and significant reform.

Rep. H. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth)

urged that the bill be returned to the conference committee. He said he is not satisfied with the proposed \$500 million in rebates.

"It's not enough. It's \$500 million out of \$1.9 billion," he said. "There's no permanent tax cut that you permanently give back to taxpayers. It's very reasonable for us to expect that taxpayers have a permanent tax cut."

Long responded by defending the tax plan.

"If you knew what was in the bill, you couldn't make the statements you continue to make. There are permanent property tax cuts for all Minnesota businesses and apartment owners in the bill," she said.

Here's a look at some highlights of the bill (**HF3840**).

Property tax rebates

The bill would provide a rebate for homeowners and renters equal to 20 percent of the property taxes paid in 1998, similar to the rebate in effect for property taxes paid by homeowners and renters in 1997. The maximum rebate would be \$1,500. The rebate would be allowed as a refundable income tax credit to be claimed on the 1998 income tax return filed in 1999.

In the earlier version of the bill approved by the House, there was a proposal for an additional rebate to be sent out later this fall that would equal 50 percent of the regular 1997 rebate. The "no-wait rebate" is not part of the conference committee version of the bill.

Property tax reform

Property taxes for homeowners, businesses, and others would be reduced, under the final version of the bill.

The tax classification rate for the second tier of residential homestead property (value over \$75,000) would go from 1.85 percent to 1.7 percent.

The class rate of the first \$115,000 in market value of agricultural homestead property would go from 0.4 percent to 0.35 percent. The class rate on the market value of over \$115,000 and under 320 acres would go from 0.9 percent to 0.8 percent. The class rate on market value over \$115,000 and 320 acres would go from 1.4 percent to 1.25 percent.

There also would be a break for owners of commercial and industrial property. Class rates on that property valued up to \$150,000 would go from 2.7 percent to 2.45 percent. The upper tier, over \$150,000, would go from 4.0 percent to 3.5 percent.

Owners of apartment buildings with four or more units would see their class rates go from 2.9 percent to 2.5 percent, and owners of rental houses would see their class rates go from 1.9 to 1.25 percent for the first tier, and from 2.1 to 1.7 percent on the upper tier.

The bill also would require that the state's budget reserve (now \$522 million) be \$622 million in November of odd-numbered years, and would establish a tax reform and reduction account, with the governor proposing to the Legislature how the account would be used.

Any surplus in the state's November economic forecast would be used as follows: A total of \$200 million of that surplus would go to the tax reform and reduction account for tax reductions, and the next \$400 million would go to reduce the amount of bonding to pay for capital projects in the 1998 bonding bill. Any amount above that would become a balance in the general fund.

The bill which, passed the Senate on a 66-1 vote, now goes to the governor.



TOURISM

Fishing dispute resolution

A resolution asking President Clinton and the U.S. Congress to help settle fishing-rights disputes between Minnesota and the Canadian province of Ontario has been filed with the Office of the Secretary of State without the governor's signature.

The resolution urges the federal government to seek a solution to the border troubles that have spawned a proposal to allow Minnesota's Northwest Angle to secede from the United States.

The approximately 85 year-round residents of the Northwest Angle have complained for years about Canadian policies including fish limits, user fees, and border crossing permits that they say discriminate against U.S. anglers.

The Northwest Angle, the northernmost spot of the continental U.S., is actually a



Minnesota's Northwest Angle



peninsula on Lake of the Woods that is attached only to Canada.

According to Canadian law, tourists fishing the two-thirds of the lake in Canada, and staying in Canadian resorts, may keep up to two walleye or sauger per day. But beginning this summer, anglers staying at U.S. resorts will not be allowed to keep either of those fish if pulled from Canadian waters. Canadians say the regulations are needed because the species are overfished, but Americans say they are driven by a desire to force tourists to stay at Canadian resorts.

U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) introduced a constitutional amendment March 18 that would let the Angle and nearby islands separate from the United States, allowing residents and tourists to enjoy the Canadian fishing privileges.

Peterson said he sees secession as a long shot but that he sponsored the proposal in order to bring attention to the plight of affected anglers. He also said the Canadian regulations violate a 1909 border-waters treaty and the North American Free Trade Agreement but that the federal government has not taken action to protect U.S. rights in the area.

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the legislation.

HF3854*/SF3406/Res.8



TRANSPORTATION

Omnibus transportation



Gov. Arne Carlson got many of the extra state troopers he had wanted for two years when he signed a \$51 million omnibus transportation bill into law April 7.

The new law also allows the Department of Transportation to spend up to \$40 million on new highway projects. And the law will create a task force designed to catch Minnesota residents who illegally register their vehicles in neighboring states.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch) sponsored the legislation.

Here is a look at major provisions of the new law. All of the provisions detailed below are effective July 1, 1998.

HF3057/SF3298*/CH372

State troopers

The governor had originally requested 47 additional state troopers and support staff at a cost of \$5.25 million. In 1996, the governor sought funds to hire an additional 46 state troopers, but

the Legislature approved only enough funding for four state patrol dispatchers.

Under the new law, there will be \$2.7 million in funding for 29 new state troopers, and there is \$200,000 for additional state patrol helicopter flight time.

Legislators were told helicopter patrols, which are currently used only on Friday and Saturday nights, are perhaps the greatest single boost ground patrols receive in law enforcement efforts. The funding will allow the patrols to fly during weekday evenings as well.

The state patrol's current complement is 535 troopers, including 37 that are expected to shortly graduate from training. The new troopers would increase the allowable force limit to 564.

Highway projects

A total of \$40 million will be appropriated from the trunk highway fund for highway construction projects in fiscal year 1999.

Another \$6.8 million from the trunk fund will be available for design engineering and construction engineering.

Also, the new law stipulates that the town bridge account may be used to pay the cost of abandoning an existing bridge that is deficient but will not be replaced.

The account also will be used to pay to construct a road or street to facilitate the abandonment of a deficient bridge if it is determined the construction of the road or street is more cost-efficient than replacing the existing bridge.

Lake Street planning board

A provision in the new law will establish a 13-member board to help plan and coordinate development of the Lake Street corridor in Minneapolis. The board would have jurisdiction over one-half mile on either side of Lake Street.

The board's purpose will be to concentrate on economic development, transportation, and residential renewal in the area in coordination with local government, businesses, and other neighborhood entities.

If light rail transit becomes a reality in the state, this area is expected to be affected by the Hiawatha Corridor of the transit line.

The members will have a three-year term ending June 30, 2001.

Registration task force

A dealer licensing and motor vehicle registration enforcement task will be created, under the new law.

A total of \$50,000 from the highway user tax distribution fund will be allocated to the commissioner of public safety, who is to designate four state highway patrol members to investigate the incidence of vehicle registra-

tion evasion and dealer fraud.

It is believed countless Minnesota residents register their motor vehicles in neighboring states, which have lower licensing fees. Estimates indicate this costs the state millions annually, even though it is a gross misdemeanor for vehicles owned and operated in Minnesota to be registered in another state.

The task force's final report is to go to the governor and the Legislature by Feb. 15, 1999. The task force expires July 1, 2000.

Driver's licenses and teens

The House passed a three-tiered driver's licensing system for teen drivers April 8 that would require Minnesota's younger drivers to acquire a learner's permit and then a provisional driver's license before receiving a full driver's license. The vote was 68-64.

People under 18 could not apply for a full driver's license unless they had driven one year free of certain driving convictions and had at least 10 hours of supervised driving with a licensed driver 21 or older, under the bill.

Currently, 15-year-olds can receive a learner's permit (which they must hold for six months) and 16-year-olds can apply for a full license.

The bill stipulates that the teen would have to be free of conviction in a crash-related moving violation and have no more than one driving conviction unrelated to a crash to be eligible for a full license. Parking and equipment violations or warning citations would not count against the teen.

Under the bill (**HF2532/SF2407***), if a teen were convicted of a traffic violation, the teen could face not only the penalties that apply to the offense but also be required to attend a youth-oriented driver improvement clinic.

The clinics would be designated for traffic violators age 18 and under to assist them in correcting improper driving practices and review provisions of traffic law. The clinics would focus on driving problems common to novice drivers.

The holder of a provisional license would be able to drive only when every occupant under the age of 18 has a seat belt or child passenger seat properly fastened. There would be a \$25 fine for violating the provision, but a citation could be issued for the seat belt violation only if a law officer stopped the car for a moving violation.

A total of \$295,000 would be appropriated from the trunk highway fund for fiscal year 1999 to the commissioner of public safety for the implementation of the licensing system and for youth-oriented driver clinics.

Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the legislation.

Underground expansion . . .

Grand Space designed to convey 'open government'

By Grant Martin

It is strangely appropriate that a significant plan to expand the Capitol complex in the Gopher State would center on a proposed underground facility.

A national competition to design a Capitol annex was authorized by the Legislature in 1973. The competition, called Minnesota II in reference to the first Capitol design competition in 1893, was administered by the newly formed Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB).

The proposed facility was to have legislative hearing rooms, museum space for the Minnesota Historical Society, a cafeteria, and parking — almost 400,000 square feet total.

And the proposed facility had to fit entirely under the Capitol mall.

Most parties agreed that an expansion was necessary for several reasons. Hearing rooms in the state Capitol were inadequate, partly due to the new demands of annual legislative sessions. Open meeting laws passed in 1973 also increased the demand for facilities that could accommodate larger numbers.

In addition, the Minnesota Historical Society, which was at that time located east of the Capitol in what is now the Judicial Center, was also strapped for space. The agency had room for only 1 percent of its total collection in that facility.

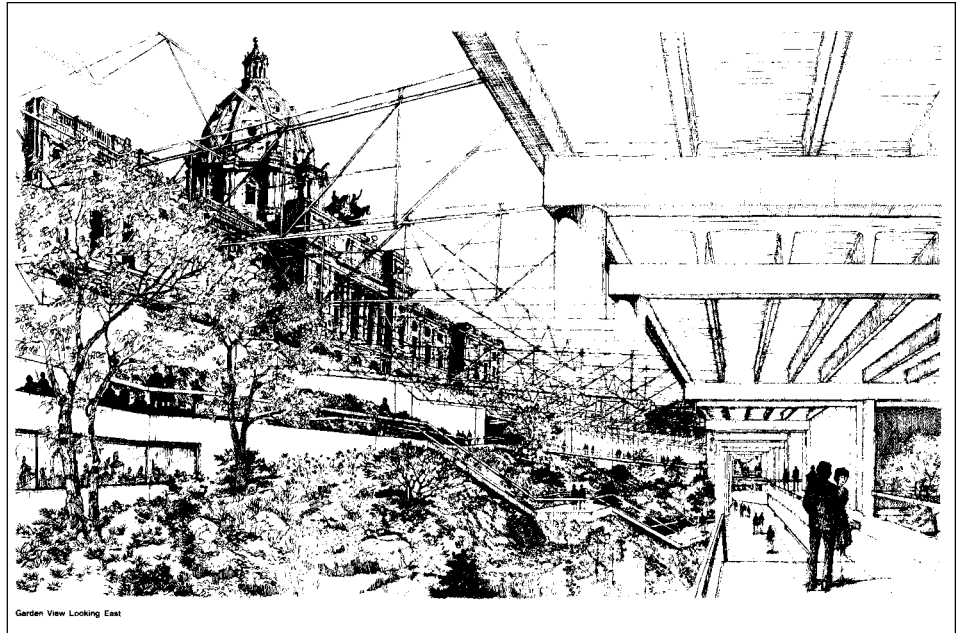
The mall was selected among three sites near the Capitol mainly because of its proximity between the Capitol and the Historical Society. The location promised to provide the easiest access for legislators, staff, and visitors. Disruption to the mall would be minimized because the facility would be underground.

"By providing a central, easily accessible location for legislative and executive branch meetings, the new facility will be a practical and logical manifestation of [the] open meeting law as well as an expression of the values of political openness and honesty of its people," the CAAPB explained in the competition rules it sent out.

Members of the legislative planning committee were told that an underground facility would save the state 50 percent in heating costs and 22 percent in air conditioning costs. In a time of growing energy concerns, the option was obviously appealing.

Members of the committee also were swayed by arguments that a new underground annex would not impede the historic view of the Capitol.

The competition began in full force in the

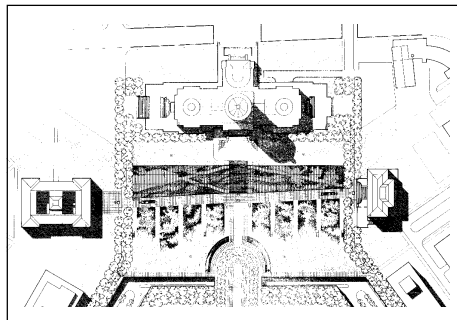


"At all times the Capitol and the open space can be viewed in ever-changing vistas," architect Helmut Jahn wrote in his proposal for an underground addition to the Capitol complex. "The south wall of the Capitol becomes the northern space defining element of the underground space. The closest interaction possible between interior and exterior is achieved." Shown here the view looking east along the proposed "Grand Space."

Drawings from C. F. Murphy Associates, Chicago.

fall of 1976. During the first stage of the Minnesota II competition, the CAAPB received 261 entries. From these entries, a jury made up of architects and public figures selected five finalists to submit more detailed designs. The finalists submitted both drawings and models to the jury in the spring of 1977.

The jury awarded the final prize to Helmut Jahn of C.F. Murphy Associates in Chicago on March 8, 1977. The winner was awarded \$100,000, which was to be considered a down payment on the project, had it been authorized.



The plans for an underground addition to the Capitol complex called for a large skylight that the architect said would relate "the terratectural structure to the Capitol and its environs and [create] a spatial composition between above and below grade." This is the artist's sketch of the proposed facility viewed from above.

Jahn, who is probably best known for the United Airlines Terminal Complex at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, is considered one of the most influential living American architects.

The winning design was a three-level structure with historical exhibit space, legislative hearing rooms, a cafeteria, an auditorium, and a parking facility for 450 cars.

The centerpiece of the design was what Jahn referred to as the "Grand Space," a two-story terraced tropical garden leading from the main floor up to the Capitol level. The garden would have been covered by a 690-foot glass skylight, providing natural light to the complex. Pedestrian traffic would have been allowed on the outside of the skylight.

Jahn wrote in his proposal that the Grand Space would symbolically communicate the feeling of open government to all who visited the Capitol.

"The Grand Space is a terraced skylight tropical garden with gentle ramps forming the circulation grid," Jahn wrote. "This space is visible from all levels, creates a spatial unity, furthers close interaction and facilitates openness and orientation. Every person coming to the Capitol complex shares this spatial experience."

Jahn's design received an award from an

architecture journal in 1979.

The cost of the construction was estimated at \$35 million, including furnishings, equipment, and landscaping. Construction was set to begin in 1978, pending approval from the Legislature.

After the final selection of the design, opposition to the plan mobilized as critics realized that the project was moving from the planning stages to the appropriation phase.

Several editorials appeared referring to the projects as the "Meginot Line" and the "Capitol Bunker." A poll conducted by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* showed that 59 percent of those questioned were opposed to the plan.

Opposition also solidified in the Legislature, including an announcement from a younger Arne Carlson, then a Republican

House member from Minneapolis, that he would campaign against the plan. Opponents questioned the need for the facility, argued that the project could be built on other sites more economically, and questioned whether the project would violate the integrity of the mall.

Opponents also questioned whether a facility could be built given the presence of water under the mall.

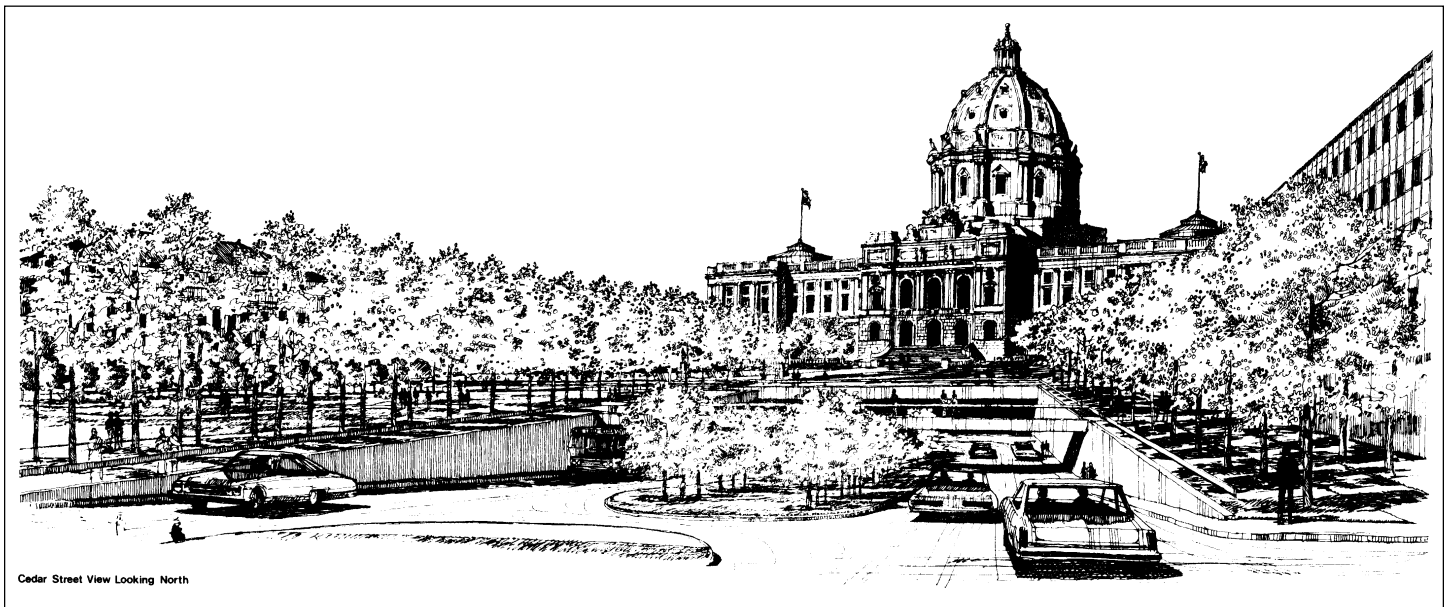
Senate Majority Leader Nick Coleman (DFL-St. Paul), the chief proponent of the plan, argued that the state could no longer ignore the problems at the Capitol complex.

"I just can't see how we can continue to say we are encouraging public participation in the governmental process and then turn around and say, 'Sorry, there's no place to park, there

isn't room for you, and bring your own lunch.' Improving public access is the only way to facilitate public access," Coleman said, as quoted in a Senate publication.

The three-year process to build a Capitol annex came to an abrupt end in April 1977. Following a two-to-one vote against the plan by the House DFL Caucus, Coleman tabled the bill in the Senate. Subsequent attempts in 1978 and 1979 to provide funding for the Capitol annex also failed.

The space concerns of the Capitol complex were eventually eased through a more piecemeal process, including the construction of the new Minnesota History Center, a large addition to the current Judicial Center, and the renovation of the hearing rooms in the State Office Building.



The artist's plans called for Cedar Street and John Ireland Boulevard to converge in a large underground traffic loop, providing access to the facility. This is the artist's drawing of the view from Cedar Street into the loop.

Drawings from C. F. Murphy Associates, Chicago.

Forsythe continued from page 4

mention that she would never give up her Minnesota residency.

"We just come down here for the weather," she said. And they have a nice group of friends from college and Edina who also spend their winters in Arizona.

Forsythe said she'll be back in Minnesota for Mother's Day. She intends to spend her summer reading biographies and volunteering for the Longville Friends of the Library. She joked about her unique library fund-raising approach: Friends who make donations to the Longville library are welcome to stay in her Arizona guest room for free. 🐾



Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) brought a bill (HF3191) before the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee asking the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to halt its plan to put St. Paul in a new telephone area code.

Paymar has argued the change will greatly inconvenience St. Paul businesses and residents.

PUC Chair Edward Garvey went before the committee to testify, and keeping with protocol, announced his name and affiliation to the committee. "... [A]nd [I'm] from St. Paul," Garvey added with a wry smile.

"You did this to yourself?" replied Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), who chairs the committee.

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) were removed from the health and human services conference committee April 7. House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) replaced the pair after controversy over abortion language had stalled work on the omnibus health and human services bill.

When Winter bounded into the April 8 House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, which he chairs, Goodno asked, "Rep. Winter, you still have this job?"

"You never know," Winter said with a laugh. "We'll see what the day brings."

Rep. Richard Jefferson . . .

Retiring lawmaker recalls legislative accomplishments

By Nicole Wood



After six terms in the House, Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls) is looking forward to his second retirement.

"I retired 12 years ago, and then I got a job at which I spent more time than I did at my original job," he said during a recent interview.

Jefferson's first retirement came after 32 years with the U.S. Bureau of Mines. As the head of research services, he used his chemistry background to oversee research into mining techniques and the use of resources — projects that the private sector would not do or couldn't afford.

The federal government has since closed the Bureau of Mines.

"I like to tell people there was no need to have it after I left," he joked, "but that's not exactly how it happened."

Jefferson has been a key negotiator on several Minneapolis public facilities financing deals, including the 1994 Target Center buyout and this year's proposed Minneapolis Convention Center expansion. Of the 12 House members from the Minneapolis delegation, Jefferson was the only one to vote for a new Twins stadium during the November 1997 Special Session.

"I saw [those initiatives] primarily as job opportunities, as much as anything," he said.

Jefferson said the most important piece of legislation he sponsored was a 1993 measure setting residency requirements for public employees of the city of Minneapolis.

"It had the greatest impact and the most far-reaching effect on the city of Minneapolis of anything I've ever done," he said.

Another bill that remains close to his heart but did not receive as much attention provided for the testing of newborn babies for sickle-cell anemia, a genetic blood disease that primarily strikes those of African descent.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said that besides the important role Jefferson plays as the only black member of the Legislature, his capacity for deciphering complicated state



Rep. Richard Jefferson, who has announced his retirement from the House after six terms, looks forward to a little more time both on the golf course and with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

purchasing and pension policies will be missed.

"It's so hard to find legislators who are willing to deal seriously with complex technical issues," she said. "One of his great triumphs was the Target Center bill, which he was able to pass all by itself, not tucked in with something else. That takes an enormous amount of legislative credibility and ability."

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) recalls that she once had a legislative assistant who analyzed the makeup of the House in search of "normal" people.

"Jefferson was one of the few normal people," Long said. "He's very solid, very down-to-earth, and a heck of a good golfer."

Besides more time on the links, Jefferson is looking forward to fishing, downhill skiing (which he took up at the age of 60), and spending time with his five children, 14 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

He has more than 60 cactus plants to attend to, as well. He and his wife, Mary, like to travel to Texas and Arizona during the winter and, through a process of elimination, they have

developed an appreciation for the hearty cactus.

"The first time we went away for three weeks — we came back and all the cactus plants were fine and the other plants were in bad shape," he said. "So, we specialize in cactus because we don't have to make arrangements like we do for the dog."

One of the things Jefferson said he has enjoyed the most as a legislator is helping people who were tied up in the bureaucracy of local government.

"That's the power of this office," he said. "It can be, when used properly, a very important tool for helping people."

But he made it clear that he has no illusions about how long the power to get phone calls returned quickly lasts.

"The power is seated in the position, not in the individual," he said. "Because the day that I leave here, that will no longer exist for me, and the young man who comes in behind me will be able to do those things." 🐉

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate
231 Capitol 296-0271
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343
Chief Clerk of the House
211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate
110 Capitol 296-2887
Index, House
211 Capitol 296-6646
Information, Senate
231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House
175 State Office Building 296-2146
TTY, Senate 296-0250
Toll free 1-888-234-1112
TTY, House 296-9896
Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Hot dogs, ice cream . . .

Manager of Capitol's popular food stop steps down

By Sandy Donovan

There was a time, before Roger and Shirley Larson took over operations at the Ulcer Gulch, when you couldn't get ice cream on the second floor of the Capitol.

"Today, we have people asking for ice cream even on the coldest day of the year," said Roger, who's stepping down at the end of this session after 15 years of running the Capitol's most prominent food stop. "Bringing in the ice cream freezer was the biggest thing we've done here."

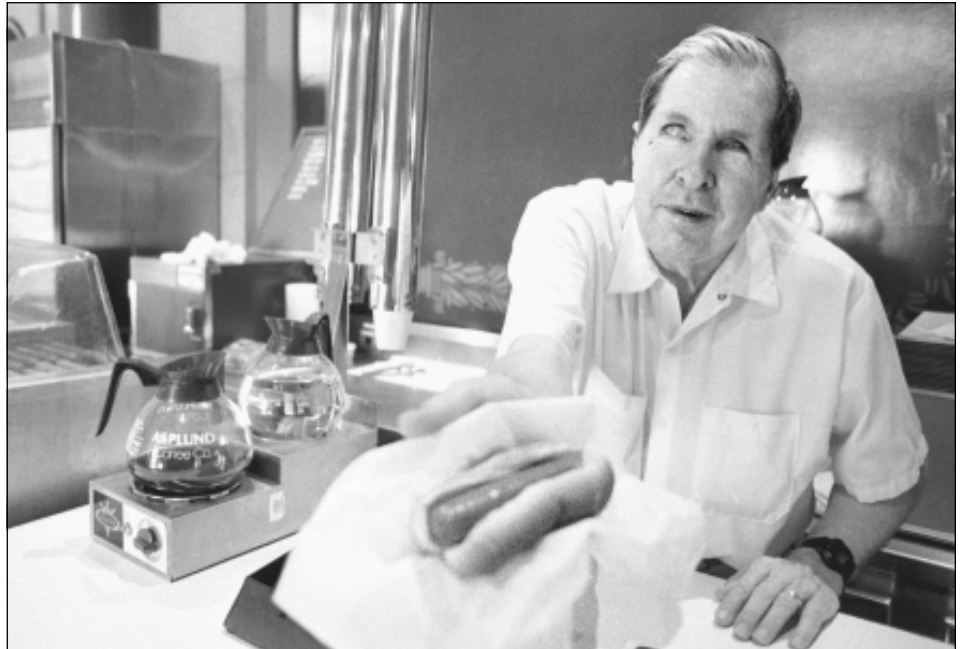
But the Larsons offer more than ice cream to the lobbyists and lawmakers milling outside the House and Senate chambers. It's not a well-kept secret that the snack bar is the best place to find a friendly ear and a chance to unwind from lawmaking proceedings.

"I enjoy the camaraderie, the teasing and kidding around with these guys," Roger said.

The Larsons have been running the snack bar and stocking the Capitol-area vending machines since 1983. They're independent contractors through Business Enterprises for the Blind, so they've enjoyed creative control over the business.

Besides ice cream, they've also introduced sandwiches and more low-fat snacks to the traditional hot-dog menu.

"We just try to have whatever we think people will like," Shirley said. Some items, like pizza (you had to wait 10 minutes for it to cook) and soup (too hard to eat while stand-



After 15 years of serving up hot dogs and friendship, Roger Larson is retiring as manager of the Capitol's second-floor snack bar.

piano tuner, often having his mother drive him around western Wisconsin to make house calls.

"But people don't really have pianos like they used to, and I never really earned enough to live on," he said.

So in 1981, both Larsons started with a training program in the Veterans Building through State Services for the Blind. Two years

manager comes on board. Roger, with some help from his son, will also continue to stock the vending machines through the interim.

"So if you see me still around this summer, don't have me arrested," he said.

He added that he'll miss the many friends he's made at the Capitol, but plans to enjoy a well-deserved rest.

Roger said he feels proud to have accomplished what he said was his biggest goal when he and Shirley started out in the Capitol.

"We just wanted to show people that blind people can do a lot more than you might think." 🐶

"We just wanted to show people that blind people can do a lot more than you might think."

—Roger Larson, snack bar manager

ing), didn't take off like the sandwiches and ice cream.

For Roger, 67, running the food service has really been a second career.

Although he was born in St. Paul, he went to the State School for the Blind in Janesville, Wis., at age 14. His parents also soon moved to Wisconsin.

In 1956, he moved back to St. Paul and three years later met Shirley, a Fargo, N.D., native, when they were both in a Minneapolis-based training program for blind adults. They married in 1961 and their son, Daryl, was born five years later.

For the next 25 years, Roger worked as a

later, they got the contract to manage the Capitol snack bar, and they haven't had an uneventful spring since.

They've been working together daily for those 15 years, arriving at 7 a.m. to stock the vending machines.

"A lot of husbands and wives just plain couldn't do it," Roger said. "When we started they told us it wouldn't work; they said they'd had other couples try to do it and it never worked. But we're different, and we proved that to them."

Although Roger's retiring mostly because of advancing Parkinson's disease, Shirley may be back next session when a new snack bar

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (612) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk's Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

House Index Department

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.

Governor's Desk

CH354-CH387*

Bills await governor's action

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills

and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either

14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

Internet access to this information is available at: <http://www.governor.state.mn.us> (select "legislative issues" folder)

Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File
Res.=Resolution

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
354	3332*	2949	Open adoption agreements modified.	4/3/98	
355	1693	1074*	Public safety dispatchers as essential employees under PELRA.	4/3/98	
356	2673*	1946	Compensation increase provided for state employees on leave serving as Red Cross disaster volunteers.	Filed without signature	
357	1668	1480*	Minnesota free flow of information act disclosure provisions.	Filed without signature	
358	3465	3084*	Hibbing taconite company employees additional reemployment insurance benefits.	Filed without signature	
359	2947	2730*	Administration department provisions modifications.	4/3/98	
360	2700	2192*	Local government units corporations creation clarification.	Filed without signature	
361	3184*	3207	Prenatal alcohol abuse voluntary reporting and legislative report provided.	4/6/98	
362	3830*	3393	Payment of claims against the state.	4/6/98	
363	3145*	2719	Low income housing tax credit allocation and compliance monitoring review provided.	4/6/98	
364	2695	2274*	Omnibus liquor bill.	4/6/98	
365	2803	2532*	Omnibus family and early childhood education programs supplemental appropriations.		4/3/98
366	none	3354*	Omnibus state departments bill.	4/6/98	Line item
367	none	3345*	Omnibus crime bill.	4/6/98	
368	2736*	2205	Counties authorized to provide grants to nonprofit community food shelves.	4/9/98	
369	3459	2751*	Employers nursing mothers accommodations requirement.	4/9/98	
370	2293	2118*	Minneapolis absentee voting pilot project.		4/9/98
372	none	3298*	Omnibus transportation bill.	4/7/98	
373	2708*	2414	Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established.	4/9/98	
374	none	3367*	Omnibus jobs, housing and economic development.		4/7/98
375	3402	2928*	Insurance company affiliates rebating activities prohibition.	4/9/98	
376	2486	2256*	Elections provisions modifications for constitutionality purposes.	4/9/98	
377	2326	2586*	Sex offender treatment and release notification requirements modification.	Recalled by author	
379	2722*	2756	Red tag issuance authorized for underground petroleum storage tank violations.	4/9/98	
380	3654*	3189	Electric industry restructuring comprehensive study required.	4/9/98	
383	3862*	3411	Tornado relief bill.	4/9/98	
387	103	161*	Constitutional amendment to abolish Office of State Treasurer.	4/9/98	

*(non-consecutive)

Bill Introductions

HF3869-HF3884

Friday, April 3

HF3869—Long (DFL)
Ways & Means

Disaster relief provided for 1997 flood loss and areas affected by tornado and other weather damage, special levy authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3870—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health occupations regulation criteria modified.

HF3871—Westrom (R)
Taxes

Proposed property tax notices required to separately list taxes imposed by each special taxing district.

HF3872—Tunheim (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Uniform Commercial Code fraud actions clarified relating to economic loss arising from the sale of goods.

HF3873—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Tornado damage relief provided, temporary program waivers authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3874—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Housing infrastructure and economic development relief provided for tornado damages, and money appropriated.

HF3875—Rest (DFL)
Judiciary
Surrogate parentage agreements considered void and unenforceable, and arrangement prohibited.

Monday, April 6

HF3876—Schumacher (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Passenger motor carrier provisions modified, and money appropriated.

Tuesday, April 7

HF3877—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Midwife licensure exemption provided, and parent disclosure statement and informed consent required.

Thursday, April 9

HF3878—Wenzel (DFL)
Ways & Means
Tornado disaster relief expanded.

HF3879—Trimble (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Gift certificate sales regulated, and civil penalties imposed.

HF3880—Abrams (R)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health care provider reimbursement through capitation and similar payment methods prohibited.

HF3881—Hausman (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Prairie Island nuclear generating plant operator required to provide a renewable development account expenditure plan.

HF3882—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watershed and drainage district provisions modified.

HF3883—Olson, M. (R)
Judiciary
Juvenile programming grant program developed, eligibility criteria specified, and money appropriated.

HF3884—Olson, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State lottery proceed dedication to environment and natural resources trust fund duration extended until 2025, and constitutional amendment proposed.

Need a copy of a bill?
Call the Chief Clerk's Office at
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St. Paul 55155 296-7091

Order Form: *New Laws 1998*

A publication outlining the new laws of 1998 will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1998* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1998*? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Please place this form (**with the mailing label on the back**) in an envelope. Mail it by May 22, 1998, to:
Session Weekly, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Readership Survey: *1998 Session Weekly*

Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

1. Where do you live? (Please check one.)

☐ Minneapolis/St. Paul ☐ Greater Minnesota ☐ Twin Cities Suburban Metro Area ☐ Other _____

2. What is your occupation? _____

3. How often do you read the *Session Weekly*? (Please check one.)

☐ Once a month ☐ Twice a month ☐ Three times a month ☐ Every week

4. Which sections of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Reflections (page 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Features	<input type="checkbox"/> Governor's Desk
<input type="checkbox"/> First Reading (page 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Closer Look	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Introductions
<input type="checkbox"/> Once in the House (page 4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Member Profiles	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Schedule
<input type="checkbox"/> Highlights	<input type="checkbox"/> It's a Fact	<input type="checkbox"/> Information (i.e., lists)
<input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota Index		

5. Do you have any comments (positive or negative) on any of the sections in Question 4? _____

6. Please rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly* by checking one answer in each set.

Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard to understand	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat understandable	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand
Story Length	<input type="checkbox"/> Too short	<input type="checkbox"/> Too long	<input type="checkbox"/> Just right
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7. What do you like about the *Session Weekly*? _____

8. Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*? _____

9. Do you have any questions about the Minnesota House of Representatives or the legislative process that could be answered in a Q & A column? _____

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota governors and veto power

Year Territorial Gov. Alexander Ramsey became the first Minnesota executive to use the authority to veto a bill	1849
Couples forced to remain legally wed by Ramsey's 1851-52 vetoes of bills to allow their marriages to be dissolved	2
Earliest year for which full records of vetoes are available	1939
Total number of vetoes 1939 to 1990	178
Vetoes by Gov. Arne Carlson 1991 to 1997	164
Most vetoes by a single governor before 1991 (Gov. Al Quie)	31
Vetoes by Gov. Rudy Perpich during first term (1977-78)	0
Perpich vetoes during remaining years in office (1983-90)	20
Veto override attempts since 1939	28
Successful overrides	4
Attempts to override Carlson vetoes (1991-97)	12
Successful overrides	0
Year Minnesota Constitution was amended to allow line-item veto of spending provisions in appropriations bills	1876
Year the line-item veto was first used by a Minnesota governor	1929
Amount saved by Gov. Theodore Christianson's 1929 line-item veto of an appropriation to the Crippled Children's Hospital	\$1,000
Minnesota governors who have used the line-item veto	6
Bills line-item vetoed by Gov. Wendell Anderson (1971-76)	1
Bills successfully line-item vetoed by Carlson (1991-97)	48
States where the governor has line-item veto authority	43
States that allow the governor to reduce spending provisions	9
Year Minnesota voters considered a constitutional amendment to allow the governor to reduce appropriations	1916
Votes in favor of amendment	136,700
Votes against amendment	83,324
Total votes in 1916 election	416,215
Percent of those voters who voted for amendment (majority needed)	33
Bills vetoed by President George Washington	2
by President Millard Fillmore	0
by President Abraham Lincoln	2
by President Franklin D. Roosevelt	372
by President George Bush	29

Sources: *History of the Item Veto*, 1992, House Research Department; Legislative Reference Library; *Vital Statistics on American Politics*, 1997-98, Congressional Quarterly Inc.; and *The Book of the States*, 1996-97, The Council of State Governments.

For more information



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For up-to-date recorded message giving committee meeting times and agendas, call:
Committee Hotline
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Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired. To ask questions or leave messages, call:
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