

SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 30, 1998 ♦ Volume 15, Number 2



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

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Session Weekly (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Session Weekly, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled, 20% post-consumer content.



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Minnesota House of Representatives • January 30, 1998 • Volume 15, Number 2

Reflections



Gov. C. Elmer Anderson

Former Gov. C. Elmer Anderson, died on Thursday, Jan. 22, 1998, at the age of 85.

Not to be confused with two other governor Andersons (Elmer L. and Wendell R.) in recent decades, C. Elmer came to public office when he was only 26 years old as the lieutenant governor to 31-year-old Gov. Harold Stassen.

When Stassen and Anderson took office in 1939, the two were the considered "boy wonders" of the statehouse.

Anderson's political career began as the chair of the Young Republican League at the age of 24. He made his first trip to the state Capitol when he came to St. Paul to be sworn in as lieutenant governor.

Clyde Elmer Anderson was born in Brainerd, Minn., on March 16, 1912, the seventh of nine children and son of Swedish immigrants. He began school in the second grade, passed a high school entrance examination after grade seven, and skipped eighth grade.

Earlier, Anderson carried newspapers, worked on a farm, and worked for a news and magazine distribution center. Some time later, he bought the newspaper company and owned it for 26 years.

Anderson served with Stassen for two terms, but in 1942, the governor endorsed Edward J. Thye, from Northfield to run as lieutenant governor. Stassen had already decided to resign after he was re-elected, and then join the U.S. Navy to fight in World War II.

Thye defeated Anderson, serving as lieutenant governor for only three months before becoming the state's new chief executive.

Anderson ran again for the office in 1944 and won. He won again in 1946 and 1948, serving for a total of 11 nonconsecutive years — unmatched by any other lieutenant governor before or since. In this role, he served as the presiding officer of the Senate. Serving as lieutenant governor in 1951, Anderson moved up to become the state's 31st governor after Gov. Luther Youngdahl resigned.

In 1952, Anderson defeated DFL candidate Orville Freeman by amassing 785,125 votes — more votes than any other governor before him. Anderson completed a full two-year term as governor and left office after losing the November 1954 election to Freeman.

Anderson is remembered by some for a directive he once made to the Legislature as chief executive. He convinced the Legislature not to hide the clock to stretch the final day of the session. Covering the clock is no longer a procedure, but it did occur commonly back then. Even after Anderson's term in office and prior to the early 1970s, members often worked past midnight to enact one last law or two on the constitutionally mandated last day of the session. If the clock was not seen, then it was not necessary to adjourn by midnight. Anderson urged an end to the practice, and eventually it died out.

Anderson is survived by his wife, Lillian, two daughters, a son, two sisters, one brother, and many friends who respected his contributions to the state.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: An abstract image is created where Capitol dome lights reflect off the polished stone floor.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

University of Minnesota . . .

Yudof details \$252 million capital funding request

By Jim Thielman

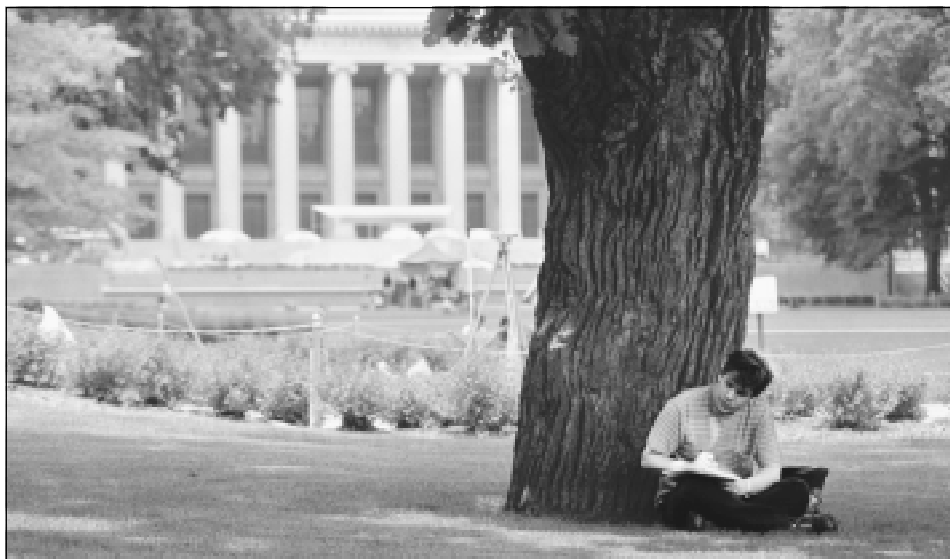
University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof is urging lawmakers to provide the resources to fulfill his ambitious vision to link campus building improvements with the development of vital educational programs.

Yudof told the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee about his plans to spiff up most of the older Twin Cities campus buildings. He combined that goal with the aim to make the university one of the nation's top five research institutions.

He asked lawmakers at the Jan. 26 meeting to approve his \$252 million capital funding request for 1998.

"Previously, 70 percent of our bonding requests have gone into new buildings and 30 percent have gone into benefiting existing buildings. This four-year proposal reverses those designations," Yudof said. "Seventy percent of the money will go into restoring the historic buildings on the north and south mall and elsewhere, and only 30 percent of the money will go into new buildings."

Yudof's "Capital Plan for the Support of Academic Programs in the 21st Century" calls for a total investment of \$776 million during the next four years. The funds would be used



The historic campus mall at the University of Minnesota would get a facelift under the \$252 million bonding proposal advanced by Mark Yudof, the school's new president.

Entering what will be his last legislative session, Gov. Arne Carlson already has called his support of the University's budget request "non-negotiable."

In a statement from the governor's office, Carlson said, "A central principal of this administration has been to focus on quality jobs for Minnesotans. In order to achieve that goal, you need to provide citizens with the educa-

million would be used to restore the Walter Library and to create a digital technology center and a science-engineering library in the building.

Also, \$29.5 million would build a new science and math center on the Morris campus, upgrade the heating plant there, and make health and safety improvements.

The Duluth campus would use \$25.8 million to upgrade science labs, build a new library, make code improvements and renovate classroom and other academic space.

Yudof, in his first year as president of the university, explained how his plan differs from requests made by earlier administrations.

"The idea here was, in large measure, to tie renovation, to tie the bonding package to specific investments in key academic programs," Yudof said. "[It was] not to just fix up buildings for their own sake, but to say, 'How does this advance the academic interdisciplinary program of the University?'"

Yudof called the \$70 million request for the molecular and cellular biology building a "tremendous, tremendous investment." The program has been identified as the university's top academic priority.

"If any of you are thinking of turning to an academic career," he told the representatives, "this is where the big money is. These people are very difficult to recruit."

"Seventy percent of the money will go into restoring the historic buildings on the north and south mall and elsewhere, and only 30 percent of the money will go into new buildings."

— University of Minnesota
President Mark Yudof

to preserve historic areas of the university campuses and to modernize classroom and lab space.

The \$252 million request for 1998 is much more than the U of M has received in recent bonding measures. Major bonding legislation is usually passed only in even-numbered years. In 1996, \$93.8 million was approved for construction and repairs involving the U of M system. In 1994, \$69 million went to the university.

tional opportunities needed to succeed in the working world."

Yudof described overall themes of his plan for the university, and he emphasized preservation of the historical buildings and districts on campus and enhancement of the school's academic reputation.

Under this year's bonding proposal, \$70 million would be used to build the institute for molecular and cellular biology. Another \$53.6

Yudof said regardless of the program, it is a struggle to pursue and retain blue-chip faculty without first-rate facilities.

"Let me just make the case in the strongest possible terms," he said. "In my judgment, many parts of this investment should have been made in 1987. That's one part. The second part of it is this is the critical area in science in the coming century, and not just in my judgment but the judgment of knowledgeable academicians across the country."

He quoted from experts who insist there are more than 1,200 physical and psychological disorders that have been tied to single genes.

"This research is absolutely critical," Yudof said. "We're doing a great deal of it, and we'll be doing more under this proposal. There are some who think virtually every disease will be shown to have some sort of connection to genes."

Yudof said other states that have invested in facilities and staff to conduct such research "have profited enormously, particularly in the pharmaceutical area." He said Minnesota's public-private partnerships would benefit from such and investment.

Yudof said the university already brings in \$150 million in grant funding, mostly through the National Institutes of Health. He said the university is thus "not starting at ground-level zero," but from a position of strength. And he said President Clinton has asked to increase the federal budget in molecular and cellular biology.

"We need to position ourselves to compete for this money," Yudof said.

The 53-year-old former executive vice-president at the University of Texas-Austin has also termed the Minnesota campus one the top five mall areas on the nation's college campuses. He says he is intent on preserving the historic value of the setting.

The 11 buildings on the mall area are among the older campus structures and all need major or minor work, he said. In the revitalization process, Yudof said he wants to modify Coffman Union and demolish the parking ramp that blocks a sweeping view from Northrop Memorial Auditorium to the banks of the Mississippi River.

Yudof said these changes would restore the concept of renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who designed the mall in 1907. The goal is to accomplish the work before the University's 150th anniversary in 2001.

The finance division took no action on the U of M's bonding proposal. The matter will be considered again later this session. 🐸



By Matt Wetzel

Gov. Arne Carlson said at the Jan. 29 installation of Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz that she brings to the state's highest court not only supreme legal skills but also important personal attributes.

"[She has] a sense of being the person to bring us all together. She has been given much — superb education, a superb opportunity to serve from her community — but as all true leaders, she has paid us back," Carlson said in remarks at the swearing-in ceremony at the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

Blatz, 43, Bloomington, a former member of the House of Representatives and now a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court, was sworn in by outgoing Chief Justice A.M. (Sandy) Keith. She becomes the 19th chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"It's with extreme gratitude I stand before you today. The journey of life is not a journey traveled alone," she said.

Also in attendance was her husband, Tom Berkelman, her sons, Hunter, Carter and Max, several Minnesota legislators, and judges from both the federal and state level.

Blatz said a judge's responsibility is not only listening to testimony, studying precedents, and then ruling, but serving on panels, on task forces, and in other roles that can help people and, ultimately, society.

"A judge can reach out to the community and prevent bad things from happening. That's a judge's responsibility," she said. Blatz said she found her work on a task force that addressed Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to be very rewarding.

A native of Bloomington, Blatz was in the Legislature from 1978 to 1994, and as a lawmaker, she built a reputation for leadership on family and children's issues.

She worked closely with current House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), and the two were first elected in the same year. Sviggum was on hand for the swearing-in.

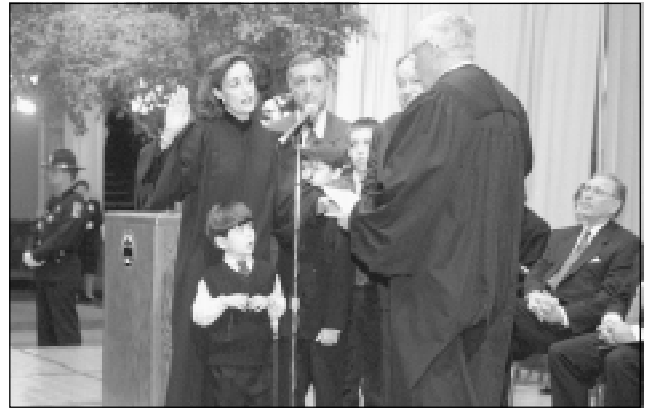
Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz served House from '78 to '94

"I felt proud for Kathleen," he said. "I'm comfortable that a person of her quality will be heading to the Supreme Court, whether it's family issues or getting tough on crime. I know she's a dear friend, extremely talented, and well-qualified."

Blatz holds a master's degree in social work, and she graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984. She served in the Legislature and worked as an attorney and as a prosecutor until 1994, when Carlson appointed her as a judge in the Fourth Judicial District Court, which includes Hennepin County.

She married Berkelman in 1984, and Berkelman, who now works for AT&T, spent seven years in the House as a DFLer from Duluth. Blatz's father is Jerome Blatz, a longtime state senator from Bloomington. He provided the family Bible used to swear in Blatz.

She said a major difference between be-



Former House member Kathleen Blatz is sworn-in as the first woman and the nineteenth chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court by outgoing Chief Justice A. M. (Sandy) Keith, right, during ceremonies Jan. 29 at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Joining Chief Justice Blatz during the swearing-in are her husband, Tom Berkelman, and sons, left to right, Max, Carter, and Hunter. Her father, Jerome V. Blatz, holds the Bible as his daughter is sworn in.

ing a legislator and being a judge is the feedback sought from the public in each position.

"When I was a legislator, you could go out and you could be asked several questions. You are expected to take a position. That's what voters expect," she said.

However, a judge cannot take a position until it's time to rule on a case, and that position must be based on the law, not on personal preference, she said, and she tries to explain that when she talks to people about the law and being a judge. 🐸

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Feedlots and the environment

Gov. Arne Carlson has recommended that \$1.2 million be spent to pay for a generic environmental impact statement (GEIS) for animal feedlots to assess their impact, both on the economy and on the environment.

Carlson's plan was discussed Jan. 26 in a meeting of the House Agriculture Committee.

Feedlots have become a critical agriculture issue in rural Minnesota, because they have grown in size, and they are unpopular with some rural residents.

Many are afraid of what the large corporate farms containing large feedlots will do to family farmers. Concern also is focused on what the sometimes-noxious odors that emanate from the feedlots will do to the health of the people living nearby.

Each of the estimated 45,000 to 55,000 feedlots in the state produces millions of gallons of manure that has to be taken care of, and critics worry that earth-walled basins that hold the waste leak and may eventually burst.

"The hope is the GEIS will help all interested groups sift through the controversy and, hopefully, together develop plans for animal agriculture into the 21st century," said Susan Schmidt, policy liaison for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The first step is to develop an "inventory" of feedlots, according to the recommendation which is part of the governor's 1998 supplemental budget.

The project would be managed by the MPCA, the Environmental Quality Board, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Health.

The GEIS would outline the types and locations of the feedlots, describe the overall characteristics of animal farming in the state, and assess the impact on air and water. The study also would describe the related economic issues and trends.

The governor hopes the long-term impact is that people will use the GEIS to develop and revise land-use plans and that state agencies and counties will use the findings to make or change laws based on the potential risks to people's health and the environment.

The GEIS will cost \$2.3 million and take up to two-and-a-half years to complete, said

Schmidt. Permitting for new feedlots would continue while the GEIS is conducted.

The committee took no action on the matter, and testimony on the plan is expected to continue this session.



BANKING

ATM transaction fees

A bill that would eliminate transaction fees assessed by banks on automatic teller machines (ATMs) they own met opposition from the banking industry during a Jan. 28 hearing before a House panel.

HF2292, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), would prevent banks that own and operate more than two ATMs from assessing a surcharge for use of the machines.

The bill was debated by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, which Anderson chairs. The committee took no action on the bill, but the matter is expected to come up again this session.

ATM users often are hit with two fees for each transaction. One fee is assessed by their bank; the other is by the bank that owns the machine. Anderson's bill would address only the fee from the bank that owns the ATM.

That fee usually comes in the form of a charge at the time of a transaction at an ATM that is not owned by the consumer's bank network. Consumers are warned by the machine that they will be charged a certain fee and are given the option to discontinue the transaction.

Consumers often find a separate fee assessed at the end of the month on their bank statement.

"I don't like to be charged twice for the same transaction. By the way, the chair uses ATMs all the time," Anderson said.

Speaking in favor of the bill was Lea Schuster, a consumer advocate for the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group. Banks have encouraged the use of ATMs, Schuster said, because they are cheaper for banks than paying tellers.

One group hit hard by the surcharges are college students who often have to work and study beyond bank hours, Schuster said. And for that, they get hit with costly ATM surcharges.

"In today's economy, students are needing to pay cash. [They] should have the same access to the same services as all consumers," she said.

Schuster also said ATM owners are compensated by the consumer's bank with an "in-



Rod Nelson, president of First American Bank in Crookston, Minn., testifies against a bill that would prohibit certain types of fees charged for the use of automated teller machines. Joining him to testify before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Jan. 28, is Joan Archer, *right*, vice president of governmental relations for the Minnesota Bankers Association.

terchange fee," so the fee charged by the ATM owner is unnecessary.

The attorney general is supporting the bill. Eric Swanson, of the attorney general's consumer enforcement division, said the state's three largest banks own most of the ATMs. Customers of those large banks are not charged for use of ATMs owned by their bank.

What could happen, Swanson said, is that people may move their business to those large banks to avoid the ATM surcharges. That would be anti-competitive, he added.

"We're opposed to price gouging and anti-competitive behavior, which is going to hurt consumers," Swanson said.

Critics of the bill said it could reduce the availability of ATMs and hurt competitiveness in the banking business.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) said a \$1 fee for an ATM transaction is not out of line.

"If you go to TCF with a check and ask them to cash it, either they would charge you a substantial fee or they would not cash it," he said.

Joan Archer, of the Minnesota Bankers' Association, said the Legislature should not interfere with bank pricing. ATMs are a convenience that are paid for by user fees, she said.

Archer also said the legislation is unfair because it targets only banks, not retailers. In some cases, ATMs are owned by retailers.

John Corbett, of the Minnesota Savings League, which represents community banks, also expressed opposition to the bill. "What you're paying for is the convenience of having your money transferred to another bank so you can have access to it," he said. "Fees are one way to generate a profit. We are better off with financial institutions that make a profit."



BUDGET

Budget resolution approved

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a budget resolution Jan. 27 that calls for a maximum of \$1.36 billion in new appropriations for the 1998-1999 biennium.

The \$1.36 billion figure is the total amount of general fund money that is available to the Legislature this year for any purpose, whether it's new spending, tax relief, or new reserves.

Some of the money is already earmarked for specific programs. According to legislation enacted in 1997, education tax credits and some property tax reform measures were contingent on a surplus in the Department of Finance's November 1997 forecast.

To arrive at the \$1.36 billion figure, the committee added the projected \$1.33 billion

budget surplus to the \$32 million that was an end-of-session balance from 1997.

There's a story behind that \$32 million. The majority of the leftovers, \$24.5 million, can be attributed to the governor's veto of the attorney general's office operating budget for 1999. The governor is now recommending to give the attorney general's office \$22.5 million in his most recent budget proposal.

At the beginning of each session, the governor proposes a budget to the Legislature. Essentially, the governor sets the terms of the budget debate and then the Legislature responds according to its wishes.

This year, the governor and the Legislature seem to be in agreement on the desired level of total spending.

The governor wants to use the projected \$1.3 billion surplus for \$373 million in new spending, \$841 million in property tax rebates and rate reductions and tax breaks for education expenses, and \$207 million for a so-called "Asian market fund" to brace for potential fallout from instability in Asian stock markets.

Due to a desire to protect against any future economic downturn, the committee's resolution contains a clause that allows them, if needed, to revisit the budget resolution after the February 1998 forecast. The Department of Finance has announced that the February forecast will be available to the committee Feb. 27.



CHILDREN

Child care challenges

Can I get it? Can I afford it? Can I trust it? These are the three questions a parent asks when it comes to child care, according to Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood).

Slawik is sponsoring a comprehensive child-care bill (HF2459) that was discussed by the Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Jan. 28.

"There are three challenges in child care: availability, affordability, and quality," she said.

The panel also discussed another bill (HF2283), sponsored by Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington), that aims to make more child care available during hours beyond the usual working day. The bill calls for grants to go to referral services for recruiting such after-hours providers.

Slawik said three out of four women with a child under the age of six are in the workplace. The number of parents seeking child care is projected to increase dramatically with new welfare reforms.

Recent findings about the importance of early brain development also lend credence to the cause for better child care, she said.

Slawik understands the dilemma of a working parent. Her second child is almost a year old, she said, and she agonized over finding good child care before the legislative session started.

Among the many goals of her proposal are a support system for child-care providers, incentives for low staff turnover, outreach into communities of color, and a loan forgiveness program.

Pat Gannon, of Starting Out Successfully, an Anoka County program that provides child-care operators with monthly phone contact, home visits, and training workshops, spoke about the importance of sound business advice.

"Providers are often isolated," Gannon said. "Home visits give them a connection to the infrastructure of the child care community."

Margaret Boyer, from the Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals, addressed the reasons for the high rate of turnover in the field. The biggest reason, she said, is low wages. Another contributing factor is emotional exhaustion.

Child-care workers often need two jobs to



Louis Alemayehu, project director of Cultural Beginnings, testifies before the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Division Jan. 28 in favor of a bill for quality child care. Alemayehu stressed the need for children to be exposed to child care that suits their particular cultural heritage.

support themselves and on top of that, she said, "behavior management" becomes more difficult every day.

"There are a lot of children coming into day care whose families are very stressed and who are not receiving good care at home," Boyer said.

The early childhood division took no action on the two bills, but lawmakers on the panel did agree to form a child-care working group.



CRIME

Arson data system

An arson fire is reported in Minnesota every three-and-a-half hours, according to the state fire marshal. A bill approved Jan. 26 by the House Judiciary Committee would help investigators and prosecutors by establishing a statewide database to track these crimes.

"Arson is not a free crime when it comes to human beings," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill. "Firefighters risk their lives every time they fight a fire."

The bill (HF2313) was initiated at the recommendation of the Attorney General's Arson Task Force, which was created in 1995 to develop methods to combat the problem of arson in Minnesota. The task force is made up of investigators and prosecutors as well as representatives of the insurance industry.

Last year, the Legislature followed a task force recommendation and passed a law establishing the Minnesota Arson Strike Force, a team of investigators and experts who assist local authorities in arson investigations.

Skoglund's bill calls for the creation of an arson data system that would contain only basic information at the state level but would provide links to local criminal justice agencies for more detailed information on specific cases. The database would be maintained by the state fire marshal.

The Judiciary Committee approved the bill for inclusion in the omnibus crime bill to be assembled later this session.



DRUGS

Penalties and methamphetamine

A bill that would increase the penalties for manufacturing, possessing, or selling methamphetamine was approved Jan. 28 by the House Judiciary Committee.

The bill (HF2312) would raise methamphetamine to the same status as cocaine and heroin and would make the manufacture of any amount methamphetamine a first-degree controlled substance offense.

Law enforcement officials who testified at the committee hearing said the manufacturing provision is necessary because of the dangers inherent in the production of the drug.

"There are people involved in these operations who are subject to life-threatening activities without knowing what's involved," said Dennis Boser, sheriff of Mille Lacs County. "December of 1996 was the first time we had any knowledge of a meth operation in our county, and that was because of an explosion."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), the bill's sponsor, told the committee that the drug is made by mixing potentially explosive materials and, if it's done wrong, can be extremely dangerous.

"This is a product that is different from most of the chemicals that people abuse in that it doesn't come from across our borders," Skoglund said. "People can make it in their kitchens. And they do in this state."

Skoglund told the committee that in California, a state that has seen a dramatic increase in methamphetamine trafficking, one in five methamphetamine production labs is discovered because they explode.

Margaret Chutich, of the attorney general's office, compared the drug to "moonshine" because the ingredients can be purchased at drug stores.

"We believe that methamphetamine is equally as harmful as cocaine, maybe more because of the dangers of production," Chutich said. "They're cooking these things, and if

they do it wrong, they're making some very dangerous gases."

She told the committee that law enforcement is seeing an increase in methamphetamine activity. She said that in 1996, methamphetamine accounted for 8 percent of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lab work; in 1997, it accounted for 20 percent.

Four young people from Teen Challenge, a drug treatment program, spoke to members of the committee. The young people, who chose not to give their names, described their experiences as users of the drug.

"It's very easy to get," said a 19-year-old former user who suffered heart damage from methamphetamine. "It's as easy to get as marijuana, and because I'm underage, it's easier to get than alcohol."

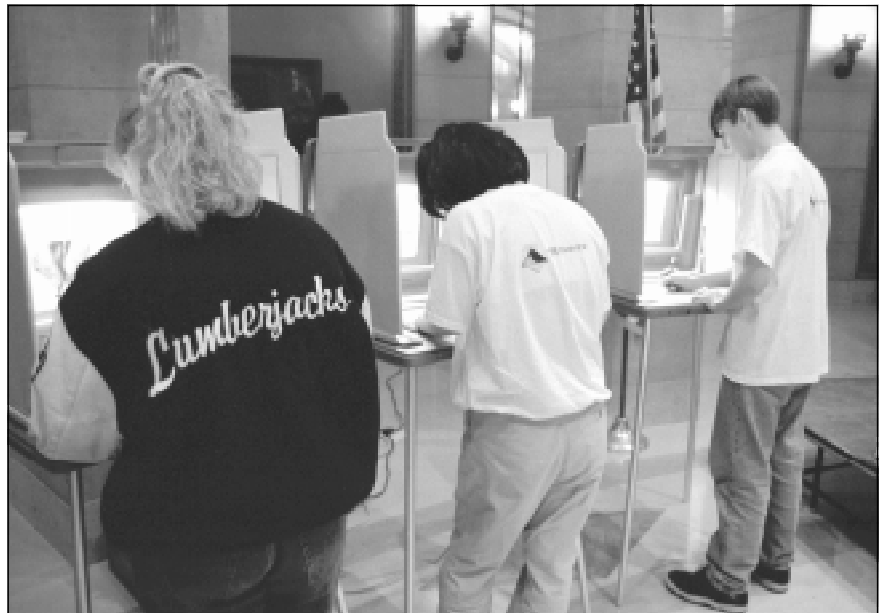
A 25-year-old woman from St. Cloud, Minn., said, "I was injecting anywhere from a gram to a half a gram every three hours. I bought a camcorder and sat in a hotel for three days filming outside because I thought the police were chasing me. I thought they were hiding in the trees."

One of the former users told the committee that he had considered making his own methamphetamine to save money.

"After you use it for a while it gets expensive, and you think you can make your own," he said. The former user said he was dissuaded by a friend who told him how dangerous manufacturing could be.

The committee approved the bill for inclu-

Youth summit



Youth delegates vote on a bill that would create a graduated driver's license system. The youths were part of the fourth annual Minnesota Youth Summit on Violence Prevention, a program that educates young people about the legislative process. The students come to the Capitol for a day to study legislation that affects young people. This year, 200 students participated in the Jan. 27 event.

sion in the omnibus crime bill to be assembled later this session.



EDUCATION

Gifted and talented students

Minnesota's gifted and talented students — how much attention they need, how much attention they're getting, and how much money should be spent on them — are the focus of two bills considered Jan. 23 by a House panel.

During a hearing before the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, one legislator said that "profoundly gifted" students who aren't getting the proper challenges are being placed at-risk by the public schools.

The finance division discussed two bills — **HF2319**, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), and **HF2318**, sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) — that aim to improve services for gifted and talented students. No action was taken on the proposals.

Greiling's bill would expand state funding for its gifted and talented program from \$1.5 million in 1998 to \$8.5 million in 1999, and the bill would remove the requirement that local school districts provide matching funds.

Currently, districts can get state grants of \$25 per student each year for local gifted and talented instruction, but the districts have to match that dollar for dollar. And the funds are not always available in a tight school district budget.

"We've heard from districts who didn't have time to actually apply [for the grant]," Greiling said. "Even with all the constraints, the money was used up last year."

Greiling's bill also would direct the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to designate a specific department staff member to serve schools and parents by being a resource on the gifted and talented program.

Bill Keilty, coordinator for gifted services at the Forest Lake Public Schools, said the state's current program is valuable, and with Greiling's proposed changes, would be even better.

"We've seen programs expand; we've seen programs that have not even existed in the past evolve," he said. "We're also very concerned about the need for a resource person for gifted and talented programs."

Keilty said the students and teachers in gifted and talented programs are frustrated by the inability to talk to someone at the state level about their concerns.

"Gifted programs have changed in time and are being requested to address a broader spectrum of students," he said. "The step to increase the funding seems appropriate."

Leppik's bill would direct school districts to pick up the pace of instruction to high-scoring students in elementary and secondary grades. Schools would have to ensure gifted pupils each have a written individual learning plan developed by a group that includes the student's teachers, parents, and counselors.

The plan would state the desired outcomes for the student and the curriculum and teaching methods to be used.

"If they are not doing this, the students are not getting an education appropriate to their above-average ability and are not being served by the school district," Leppik said.

Gifted and talented students who are not challenged eventually run into problems, she added.

"They will become extremely bored; they get into trouble," Leppik said.

Both bills were laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill to be assembled later this session.

School lunch program funding

A proposal to increase state aid for the school lunch program stalled in the House last year, but lawmakers are considering the matter again.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), sponsor

of **HF2345**, said his bill would make up for losses due to inflation that school districts have been forced to absorb. The Legislature appropriates a fixed amount for school lunch and food storage aid, and that amount was last increased in 1991.

"As school enrollment increases, the amount available per pupil to districts decreases," Entenza said. His bill would increase the 1999 state appropriation for school lunches from \$7,254,000 to \$9,035,000.

Polly Podpeskar, director of food and nutrition programs at Grand Rapids Public Schools, testified that the program is in need of additional funding, especially considering the high percentage (about 33 percent) of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

"We are constantly striving to strike a balance between nutritious meals and ones that are appealing to children," she said. "We're very sensitive about passing on price increases to paying students, who are often the children of the working poor."

Linda Skrian, president of the Minnesota School Food Association, said that while the national school lunch program is often cited as one of the most successful federal programs, federal funding has not been keeping pace with rising costs to districts.

While the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee did not vote on the issue during the Jan. 26 hearing, many members voiced support for the bill.

New member



Newly sworn-in Rep. James Clark, a Republican from Springfield, gets a congratulatory kiss from his wife, Cara, who is holding their daughter Claire. Sister-in-law Cori Gunnels and nephew Ben Gunnels share in the moment.

"This is one of the things that has been shown to make a difference," Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) said. "We should really grab it and run with it."

The division is considering the proposal for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 finance bill.

Tax credits for education

Minnesota parents whose income puts them just over the eligibility level for taking advantage of tax breaks in a 1997 education law may get some good news in 1998.

The House Education Committee approved a bill Jan. 27 that would replace the specific income-level cutoff for claiming education tax credits with a gradual phase-out of the amount of credit a family can claim.

A law passed in the Legislature's 1997 First Special Session allowed families with incomes of up to \$33,500 to claim up to \$1,000 per child and \$2,000 per family as a tax credit for education-related expenses such as tutoring or educational summer camps. Families with incomes of \$33,501 and higher are currently not eligible for any credit.

"We're doing a disservice to Minnesota families by creating a cliff," said Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope). "We don't do this in any other tax policy that involves a credit in this state."

Rest is the sponsor of **HF2364**, which calls for gradually phasing out the education credit for taxpayers with incomes between \$30,500 and \$34,500. For each \$4 of income over \$30,500 that a family earns, the maximum per-child credit would decrease by \$1, under Rest's bill. At an income level of \$34,501, families would be ineligible to receive a credit.

Although the bill would decrease the amount of the credit for families who earn between \$30,500 and \$33,500, Rest said it would "treat Minnesota families fairly" by eliminating the cliff effect.

"It's unfair for families to get their expectations up about being able to spend extra money for a child's education, only to find out they're a few dollars over the limit," she said. She added that an unexpected \$200 bonus from a boss at the end of the year or interest from a savings account could cost families up to \$2,000.

But Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) said that the proposed change would be unfair to families whose benefit would be reduced.

"The message has long been out that at \$33,500 you get the full credit," she said. "People may already be looking at computer purchases or tutoring to take advantage of that credit."

An amendment introduced by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) proposed to begin the phase-out at incomes of \$33,500 and extend it to \$37,500. Such a change would require an additional \$6.5 million from the state.

The amendment was voted down by committee members who said they did not want to sink more education money into what several called "inefficient and unaccountable" tax credits.

Under Rest's bill, the state would not have to increase spending above what is anticipated for the current tax-credit payments. More families would be eligible for the credit, but fewer would receive the maximum amount. With the current law, about 200,000 families are expected to receive credits.

The bill was referred to the committee's K-12 Education Finance Division to be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus K-12 funding bill.

Residential boarding schools

When former Minnesota Vikings tight end Joe Senser appeared before lawmakers Jan. 28, he assured them that "at no time will I be asking you to build me a new stadium."

Instead, Senser was testifying before the



Joe Senser, a former tight end for the Minnesota Vikings, tells the K-12 Education Finance Division about his positive experience growing up at the Milton Hershey Academy, a privately endowed academy for fatherless boys in Pennsylvania. The committee heard testimony on a bill Jan. 28 that would appropriate money to create residential academies for at-risk students.

K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee on the merits of residential boarding schools for at-risk youth.

Senser attended a school for fatherless boys in Hershey, Penn., after his father died.

"My mother worked 80 hours a week, and she knew this was a way out for me, a way for a better life," he said.

By the time he went to the school, at age 11, he said he was "already started on that wrong path in life. My talents . . . to play football would never have shown through had [I not gone to that school]."

A bill to provide \$12 million to establish three such schools in Minnesota is before lawmakers this session (See *Session Weekly*, Jan. 23, 1998, page 7). **HF2321**, sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), is being considered for inclusion in the omnibus K-12 finance bill.



ELECTIONS

Updating eligible voter lists

A bill advancing in the House would provide an efficient way of updating the lists of eligible voters and might make it more convenient for the people who move to vote in the next election, according to supporters.

The bill (**HF2387**), sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), would allow the secretary of state to periodically get names and addresses of Minnesota registered voters who have moved within the state and have given the U.S. Postal Service a change of address.

The secretary of state then would provide the names to county auditors, who would update their records and send the new resident a voting card with the location of their new polling place.

The House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee approved the bill Jan. 26.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) questioned if the bill might ask government to go too far out of its way to accommodate voters who move, when those people could easily take care of the necessary paperwork for voting along with all of the other change-of-address paperwork.

"Isn't that my responsibility rather than having the state trying to track [me] down? It seems like we have a good system in place," he said. "It's a responsibility to take the time to report that. It's that important."

Currently, people who move have to report their change of address to the local voting authority to get their new card.

"I don't think all citizens automatically take care of that," Folliard said. "It would be a convenience to citizens."

“... I get disappointed when I see the low voter turnout. Anything we can do at the Legislature to increase voter turnout, I’m for.”

Joe Mansky, director of the election division of the secretary of state’s office, said half the people registering on election day are doing so because they’ve moved and 20 percent of Minnesotans move during an average year.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



EMPLOYMENT

Employment contracts

A bill requiring written employment contracts to be in an employee’s main language received approval Jan. 26 from the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

HF216, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), was laid over at the end of the 1997 legislative session in part because of concerns that requiring such contracts would be an unmanageable burden to employers.

But after hearing disturbing testimony last March from a poorly treated Spanish-speaking worker, several lawmakers pledged to support the bill this year.

The bill would expand a current disclosure law, which applies only to the meat-processing industry, to protect non-English speaking employees in all jobs. It also calls for funding for the Department of Labor and Industry to translate disclosure forms and to launch a public awareness campaign.

“As a result of not understanding the terms and conditions of employment... workers are abused,” said Margarita Zalamea, executive director of the Chicano-Latino People’s Affairs Council.

Isabelle Martinez, who said she was unfairly fired from her job at a home for the elderly, testified through an interpreter that her employer verbally misrepresented employment terms to her in Spanish and then forced her to sign an English document that contradicted the oral job description.

Also testifying in favor of the bill were representatives from the Urban Coalition, the AFL-CIO, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

But officials from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Employment Law Council, and Retail Merchants and Employers Association all spoke against the measure.

The critics said they would support tougher penalties for employers who violate current laws — including one prohibiting employers from falsely representing job conditions or terms to prospective employees — but were

opposed to requiring written non-English contracts because of the obligation placed on employers.

“If [employers] are already violating the law on false representation, they’re probably not going to obey a new law requiring disclosure forms,” said Tom Hesse, of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. He also noted that Mariani’s bill does not provide for sanctions against employers who do not provide the translated forms.

But the committee rejected an amendment offered by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) that would have eliminated the disclosure-form requirements, increased penalties for violations of relevant current laws, and kept the plan for a public-awareness campaign in Mariani’s bill.

The bill now moves to the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.



ENVIRONMENT

Minnesota Zoo faces shortfall

Due to a serious shortfall in gate receipts last summer, the Minnesota Zoological Gardens is asking the Legislature for \$1.5 million in supplemental funding for 1998.



Don Mereen, a volunteer for the Minnesota Zoo since 1991, holds a North American opossum for members of the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. Mereen and his companion were there to support Kathryn Roberts, general director of the Minnesota Zoo, who presented the agency’s supplemental and capital budget requests to the committee Jan. 27.

Kathryn Roberts, the Apple Valley zoo’s director, attributes the shortfall to bad luck, bad weather, and bad press. She presented the zoo’s supplemental and capital budget requests Jan. 28 to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Roberts said 75 percent of the zoo’s yearly attendance occurs between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The summer of 1997 was a disappointment.

“Attendance failed in the summer months,” she said. “No matter how well we do in the winter months, we’re unable to catch up with those 90 days in the summer.”

In June, Roberts said, the new Discovery Bay building opened a month late facing serious competition from Underwater World at the Mall of America. Discovery Bay is a marine education center that features a shark exhibit and an indoor dolphin amphitheater. The zoo had been counting on a projected boost in attendance from the new exhibit, she said.

To make matters worse, Roberts said, several of the sharks in the Discovery Bay exhibit died, and the subsequent media coverage caused people to wonder if the exhibit had been closed.

July brought 17 days of rain and attendance continued to lag, Roberts said.

But the worst assault on attendance occurred in August, when an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis struck many children who had played in one of the zoo’s fountains. Cryptosporidium is a one-celled organism that causes diarrhea, stomach cramps, and fever when it infects people. The outbreak likely was caused by a child with a soiled diaper playing in the fountain.

Roberts said the zoo endured three more weeks of bad press related to the health scare.

The zoo will celebrate its 20th birthday this spring, she said, and this is the first time it has ever had to come to the Legislature for supplemental funding to cover operating costs.

Jeffrey Higgins, the zoo’s financial officer, said if the zoo doesn’t receive the money, it may have to lay off 25 percent of its workforce, close several trails, and shut down the conservation office.

The committee took no action on the matter. The zoo’s funding request will be considered again later this session.

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Funding frog research

Research into the cause of deformities found in frogs across the state would receive an infusion of fresh cash under a bill sponsored by Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth).

Munger's proposal would appropriate \$500,000 to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for continued research and monitoring of frog deformities.

"The frogs are the most sensitive of the creatures in our environment," Munger said. "I think they are telling us a story."

His bill (HF2427) was approved Jan. 26 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Under the proposal, the research funding would have to be shared with several other agencies and organizations studying the issue, including the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota, and Hamline University.

The proposed \$500,000 appropriation matches the amount included in Gov. Arne Carlson's supplemental budget request.



Terry Fredin, of the Minnesota Frog Watch and A Thousand Friends Of Frogs project at Hamline University, listens as the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee approves a \$500,000 appropriation to continue the frog research. The research project was established to discover the reason why deformed frogs have been found around the state. Others testifying at the Jan. 26 hearing are Margaret Velky, *top left*, and Judy Helgen, *top right*, both of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Rep. Willard Munger, sponsor of the bill.

Munger said the issue is one of the governor's top environmental concerns.

The MPCA's first confirmed sighting of deformed frogs was in 1993. Interest in the issue increased after August 1995, when a group of students from LeSueur's New Country School discovered a large group of frogs with missing or deformed legs. After the students' discovery hit the press, there were similar reports from across the state.

Initial research was funded by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources in cooperation with the MPCA. Research has been carried out in conjunction with several partners, including the U of M, Hamline University, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the National Wildlife Health Center.

The 1997 Legislature authorized an additional \$200,000 for further frog research.

Currently, researchers are speculating that groundwater contamination or possibly ultraviolet radiation may be the cause of the deformities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also has begun to examine the issue.

"We had better find out what's causing this environmental degradation," Munger said. "Or else, we're next."

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing privileges

A bill that aims to amend the Minnesota Constitution to protect hunting and fishing privileges stirred controversy Jan. 26 in the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), the bill (HF326) would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters in the 1998 general election: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to declare a privilege of legal residents to take game and fish in accordance with law and regulations?"

During the committee hearing, Holsten said, "According to my belief system, the constitution is a list of values that we, as citizens, want to protect."

By placing this particular privilege in the constitution, he said, the state would officially recognize the "cultural heritage" of hunting and fishing.

Members of the committee agreed to send the bill along without recommendation.

Holsten sponsored a similar bill in 1996. It passed the Senate but stalled in the House that year, in part because of dissatisfaction with the wording of the proposed amendment.

The 1996 bill sought an amendment protecting the "right" to hunt and fish.

Holsten has altered the proposed amendment to read "privilege" rather than "right." He said that "privilege" is more accurate because it implies that one still must be held to certain standards.

"The language has evolved, and the issue has matured," he said.

Supporters said the bill would be a first step in standing up to anti-hunting and animal rights groups who seek to curtail the activities of hunting and fishing enthusiasts.

Jim Klatt, of the Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance, said he is concerned about the situation in some states with initiative and referendum where voters have outlawed certain hunting seasons and activities such as sport fishing after heavy-duty campaigning by animal rights groups.

Minnesota is not an initiative and referendum state, but Klatt said he wants to make it difficult for those same activists to target Minnesota in the future.

"We are far better stewards of the land because we participate rather than watch from afar," Klatt said in defense of hunters and anglers.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources, said the agency supports the bill because it aims to protect hunting, fishing, and trapping.

"It also affirms the way the state regulates the harvest of our natural resources," he said. "If it passed as a constitutional amendment, it may make our jobs easier."

Critics argued that there is no need for such an amendment and, if approved, it would only serve to clutter the constitution.

Linda Hatfield, representing Friends of Animals and Their Environment, the National Fund for Animals, the National Humane Society of the United States, and the Minnesota Humane Society testified against the bill.

"The constitution provides the basic framework for protecting basic liberties," she said. "It is not intended to protect recreational pursuits."

Joan Harp, of rural Isanti County, said that as a landowner she is concerned about hunters who trespass on private property. She said the language may give hunters the false sense that hunting privileges take precedence over property rights.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), who chairs the committee, said that while he, too,

is a hunter and fisherman, he opposes the bill. "I feel that it is directed against one group of citizens in Minnesota," he said. "I don't relish that particular motive."

The bill now moves to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.



GOVERNMENT

Tobacco investments

A bill that would require the State Board of Investment to divest 5 percent of its tobacco stock sparked debate Jan. 29 on the merits of Legislature-mandated social engineering and the demerits of smoking.

But Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), sponsor of **HF2453**, said the tobacco issue is not even his top concern in the bill. His proposal calls for the proceeds from the sale of that stock to be invested in the Minnesota Technology Equity Fund, a program that assists development in rural Minnesota by offering investment capital.

"It's been historically difficult for small rural companies to find debt-free capital," he said in testimony before the House Governmental Operations Committee. "I'm saying that I know of a really good use for about \$15 million, and I'd like to take it out of tobacco investments."

The investment board manages more than \$27 billion in public money, in large part, the retirement funds for state employees, teachers, and public employees.

Some lawmakers, including Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington), said they would support selling off the tobacco-related investments, but felt it was not the job of the Legislature to tell the board where to relocate the funds.

But others said they supported the idea of investing in pro-Minnesota programs, but for varying reasons, were not in favor of discriminating against tobacco stocks.

"I know I was a co-author of this bill originally," said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City). "But that must have been the day I quit smoking — I couldn't concentrate."

"It's a stupid thing to do investment-wise, when all testimony from the experts is that tobacco stocks are good investments."

Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul) said he does not want to engage in setting social policy through legislation.

"I'm worried about our system," Farrell said. "I don't really care about the investment."

Former Rep. Marc Asch testified as the vol-

unteer chair of the public advocacy committee of the American Heart Association's Minnesota chapter.

He called for the state to fully divest of all tobacco-related stocks, saying the drug is the nation's top killer.

"Minnesota is one of 10 states that have the most investments in tobacco," he said, adding that the state has more money invested in tobacco than do any of the tobacco-producing states.

The bill was sent to the committee's State Government Finance Division.

An evenly divided House

For the first time in its history, Minnesota may soon have a contingency plan in place for electing a speaker in an evenly divided House.

A bill that would establish a policy to be followed under such rare circumstances was approved Jan. 29 by the House Governmental Operations Committee.

Across the 50 states, there have been 24 occasions when the seats in a state Senate or House of Representatives have been evenly divided between two political parties.

And just about every instance has yielded a different method for choosing the speaker or majority leader. Some states deferred to the governor's party, while others came up with more creative plans. (Wyoming elected to hold a coin toss.)

When Minnesota found itself in that position after the 1978 elections, the two parties negotiated a bipartisan leadership. Rep. Rod Searle (IR-Waseca) became speaker, but Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) was named chair of the powerful Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. Other standing committee chairs were selected from both parties.

"It took an awful long time to resolve that situation," Anderson said.

Twenty years later, the former speaker has introduced a bill that would dictate how to proceed when there is a tie vote for speaker or any other office in the House.

"I want to say that the introduction of this bill in no way indicates that I expect the House to be evenly divided in the near future," Anderson said. Currently, DFLers hold a six-seat majority, with elections coming up in November.

Under Anderson's bill, the candidate nominated by the caucus of the governor's party would be elected speaker in an evenly divided House. But all committee appointments would then be equally divided from each party.

"If the people of the state have spoken [and said] that they want an even distribution of

political parties, we should abide by that," Anderson said. "If a speaker is chosen in this manner, then he's still not going to dominate the House because you need 68 votes to pass a bill."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

State treasurer's office

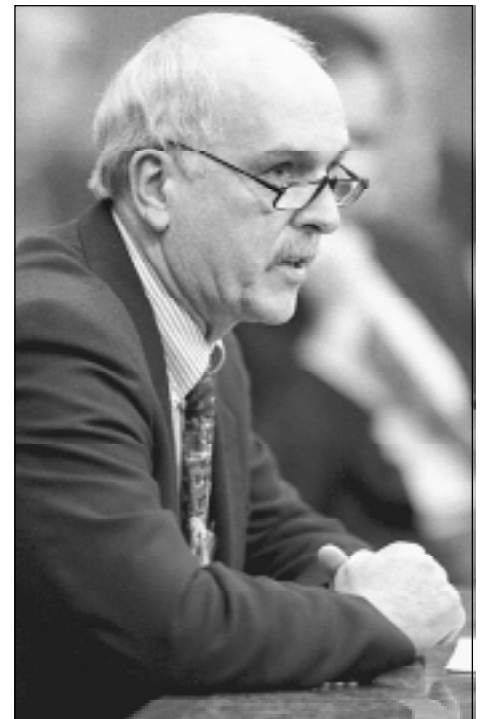
Minnesotans may get the opportunity in the November polls to decide whether the office of state treasurer should be abolished.

A bill (**HF2355**) that would do away with the office and transfer the treasurer's responsibilities to the commissioner of the Department of Finance was approved by the House Governmental Operations Committee Jan. 27.

Bill sponsor Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and co-sponsor Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) said the bill's goal is to streamline government.

"Such a statewide office should have significant policy ramifications to justify [maintaining it]," Knoblach said. "And we all know that most people don't even know who [the current state treasurer] is."

Proponents estimate that eliminating the office would save the state as much as \$2.5 million per year, in addition to increasing efficiency.



James Dunlop, the Reform Party candidate for state treasurer in 1998, tells the House Governmental Operations Committee that he would be happy to be the last person to hold the office. Dunlop, a deputy state treasurer from 1983 to 1987, testified before the committee Jan. 27. The committee approved a bill that would provide a vote on a constitutional amendment to abolish the office in 2002.

But opponents, including Rep. Kevin Knight (R-Bloomington) and Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), said transferring duties to the commissioner of finance would concentrate too much power in one department, which is under the governor's authority.

"Does it excite anyone here to have all financial power rest on the governor?" Knight asked.

The bill calls for putting the necessary constitutional amendment to eliminate the office on the November ballot, at which time voters would also elect a final state treasurer. The office would be abolished in January 2001, at the conclusion of that officer's two-year term.

Greiling said the recurring discussion of whether to eliminate the office began in the 1940s.

The last time the issue came before lawmakers was in 1996, when a bill passed the Senate 54-1 but stalled in the House. That 1996 House proposal, also sponsored by Greiling, was approved by the House Governmental Operations Committee but did not come up for a vote on the House floor.

Greiling's current bill now moves to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Honoring Nellie Stone Johnson

Minnesota activist Nellie Stone Johnson may soon be honored as the first woman to have a sculpture of her image displayed in the state Capitol.

It took about two minutes for the House Governmental Operations Committee to approve a bill Jan. 27 that calls for a bust of the labor organizer and civil-rights activist to be placed in the Capitol.

The same bill was passed by the House last year, but because its Senate companion stalled, the House will need to repass the bill this year.

Since the 1930s, Johnson, who is now in her 90s, has been an active advocate for labor and human rights in Minnesota.

In the early 1930s, when her wages as an elevator operator at the Minneapolis Athletic Club were slashed, she helped organize the Minneapolis Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, serving as the group's first female vice president.

A decade later, she was instrumental in orchestrating the merger of the state's Democratic and Farmer-Labor parties. In 1945, she was the first black Minneapolis resident elected to citywide office.

She also helped create the office which later became the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission and the state Human Rights Department; helped win desegregation of the armed

forces; and was twice a representative to the Democratic National Committee in the early 1980s.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring the bill, said Johnson continues to be an important activist.

HF1583 now goes to the State Government Finance Division of the Governmental Operations Committee.



HEALTH

Hepatitis B immunizations

Vaccinating a small segment of young children could help eliminate the serious liver disease hepatitis B, which can lead to cancer or liver failure.

Dr. Deborah Wexler, executive director of the Immunization Coalition, told the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 27 that a bill to immunize the state's students would make Minnesota the 33rd state to enact such legislation.

The bill (HF2681) was approved and sent to the floor.

Sponsored by Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), the bill would require children enrolling in schools or child care facilities to receive hepatitis B immunizations. The immunization requirement would apply to kindergarten students beginning in the 2000-01 school year.

Hepatitis B is caused by a virus and spread by contact with an infected person's blood or other body fluids. It can also be spread by sharing washcloths, razors, toothbrushes, or needles, or in the process of tattooing.

Aggie Leitheiser, director of the Minnesota Health Department's Division of Disease Prevention and Control, said from 1990 to 1995, there were 591 known cases of hepatitis B in Minnesota, with 30 of those cases occurring in children 17 or younger.

But she said those who suffer from the disease are often without symptoms for years, so the exact number of people carrying the disease is unknown.

Wexler said about 80 percent of infants are now being vaccinated for the disease.

"This bill just catches those kids who have fallen into the cracks. It's a checkpoint," she said.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said the bill likely would come at no cost to the state.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

MnSCU seeks \$185.6 million

A severe 1997 winter followed by massive spring flooding took an abnormally high toll on buildings in the Minnesota State College and University (MnSCU) system, according to officials from the schools.

That weather-related stress is part of the reason MnSCU is seeking \$185.6 million for capital projects this year, said Morrie Anderson, MnSCU chancellor, during a Jan. 28 hearing of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee.

MnSCU's bonding request exceeds the \$162.8 million recommended by Gov. Arne Carlson, and is nearly twice as large as in 1996, when the Legislature earmarked \$86.5 million for MnSCU capital projects.

The largest item included in the current MnSCU request is for \$91 million in system-wide repair and maintenance projects. The request covers 335 individual projects for repair and replacement of buildings, equipment, and mechanical systems.

The largest proposed repair and maintenance projects at individual schools are \$16.2 million at Moorhead State University, \$11 million at Mankato State University, and \$9.6 million at St. Cloud State University.

The expenditures would be designated as Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) projects, which fit into a capital request category that includes health and safety improvements, other projects that update the exterior, interior, mechanical or electrical systems, and other infrastructure repair.

As was the case at the division's hearing involving University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof earlier in the week, lawmakers wanted to ensure the funds were to be used for projects specified under HEAPR and not for new construction.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) wondered if the state had not been "too loose" in its previous interpretation of HEAPR projects.

Moorhead State University President Roland Barden presented a detailed account of all the school's repair needs so lawmakers could judge the nature of the individual HEAPR requests. Barden and Anderson both stressed that the cost to defer HEAPR projects would exceed price of doing them now.

"We think it is important to take care of our existing asset base now," Anderson said.

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

reduced from 45 to the current 36, plus a campus in Akita, Japan.

Members of the finance division also discussed the need for an alternative to the cyclical need to repair flat roofs on many of the MnSCU buildings.

"It's beyond my comprehension why we build flat roofs in Minnesota," said Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), who chairs the higher education panel.

Robert Erickson, chair of the MnSCU facilities committee, said pitched roofs are more expensive to build and are difficult to engineer on current larger buildings. Construction of pitched roofs requires additional support because of the design and weight of the roofs, he said.

Pelowski said the initial cost might be greater but ultimately money likely would be saved by constructing buildings with pitched roofs.

Selecting U of M regents

A bill aimed at improving what many call a cumbersome and flawed process for selecting University of Minnesota regents was approved by the House Education Committee Jan. 29.

Under the plan, regents for the 12-member board would be selected based on rural and urban lines rather than congressional district lines, as they are currently chosen.

Five regents would have to reside in the seven-county metropolitan area, five would be required to live outside that area, and the remaining two would be at large. Currently, one regent is chosen from each of the state's eight congressional districts, and four at-large members are selected.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin), sponsor of HF2741, said the greatest benefit of the proposed change would be eliminating the district caucuses from the selection process.

"The issue has been scrutinized by [members of a joint House and Senate subcommittees], the media, alumni, students, faculty, former candidates for regent seats," he said. "It became crystal clear that the single biggest concern was that [the process involving] congressional district caucuses is very time consuming."

The proposal also addresses an issue faced last year when the 7th Congressional District yielded two very desirable candidates for regent seats and legislators had to choose between them.

"I think that almost everyone who met those candidates understood that both should have been on the board," Leighton said. "Under this proposal, they both could have been elected."

The bill also reorganizes the 24-member

Regent Candidate Advisory Committee to increase input from both the governor and the minority parties of the House and Senate. Currently, 12 members of that committee are chosen by the speaker of the House and 12 by the Senate Rules Committee.

The advisory committee interviews candidates and recommends finalists, who are then considered by the House and Senate education committees. Those committees endorse candidates before the full House and Senate vote on the finalists.

Under the bill, the advisory committee would be reduced to 15 members to be chosen as follows: four each by the House speaker and the Senate majority leader, one each by the House and Senate minority leaders, and three by the governor.

Typically, four regent seats come up for election in each odd-numbered year; the 12 regents serve staggered six-year terms.

Legislators next will vote on regent candidates in 1999.

The bill will move to the House floor.



HOUSING

Housing discrimination

A proposal to provide grants to help solve the problem of housing discrimination was approved Jan. 27 by the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

The bill (HF2431) is sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), who said that he was motivated to action by reports of housing discrimination in his legislative district.

The bill would provide \$400,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations experienced in housing issues to deal with the problem of housing discrimination. The grants could be used to provide investigative and legal services to victims of discrimination or for fair housing testing and education.

Lawrence Winans, director of the Minnesota Fair Housing Center, testified in support of the bill. His organization does audits of landlords and property managers to study ways in which discrimination occurs.

"Discrimination in the field of housing is never blatant," he said. "A person does not come to the door and say, 'I do not rent to black people,' or 'I don't rent to Hispanics.'"

Christy Snow, who is the testing coordinator with the Fair Housing Center, described how audits are done. Two testers are sent to a housing agent. Both testers have the same scripted characteristics, such as income status and rental history, but differ on the characteristic being tested, most often race.

Larry Haqq and Shalia Lindsey, both testers who are African-American, read audit transcripts of exchanges they had with landlords. Snow read transcripts provided by white testers to show the differences in the behavior of the housing agents.

In one case, Lindsey said, she was asked to leave her driver's license in the rental office, and she was told it was necessary so that the property manager would have her identification in case something happened during the tour. A white tester with the same qualifications did not receive the same request.

"In one out of two audits, the person of color is treated less favorably than the person who is white," Snow said. "While neither tester was told they would not be welcome, the evidence is there that the African-American testers received different treatment."

The fair housing grants would be distrib-

Real brain



Robert Elde plopped a Tupperware container on the table, and quickly gained the attention of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee. The container held a human brain. It was among the props Elde brought to help educate committee members about the work done at the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences. Elde, a neurobiologist, is the dean of the college. Mike Martin, dean of the university's School of Agriculture, was last on the Jan. 26 agenda to make a pitch for his school. "Following Dean Elde and his traveling brain is a tough act for me," Martin said.

uted by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

The bill now goes to the full committee.



HUMAN SERVICES

Hospital ownership

Nonprofit hospitals are generally viewed as charitable community assets, but from 1990 to 1996, a total of 192 nonprofit hospitals converted to for-profit status. In 1996, 60 nonprofit hospitals were converted.

A bill that would require nonprofit hospitals to provide 45 days of notice to the attorney general before making transfers involving 50 percent or more of hospital assets was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Jan. 28.

The bill (**HF381**) is sponsored by Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls). It would authorize the attorney general to make the transaction notices accessible to the public and to obtain public comment on any pending transaction.

While the attorney general's office already has the ability to investigate and stop such transactions that are not in the public interest, the bill ensures written notice would go to the attorney general's office well in advance of the deal.

Greenfield said it is easier to examine such deals before they are complete, rather than to "unscramble the egg" later.

"Often it's only after the deal is done that the public has any awareness that this transaction has taken place," said Cindy Jesson, of the attorney general's office. "The public learns afterward that maybe it was a sweetheart deal and the nonprofit seller did not get fair market value for the hospital. And that's important because if you get fewer dollars in the sale, then fewer dollars go into charitable trusts that help communities promote health care."

Before California adopted similar legislation, Greenfield said that state lost about \$2 billion in public investment. Greenfield said the law would help ensure that "a publicly owned hospital cannot just come in, take funds, and disperse them any way they want to. They have a responsibility to use this money in the public good in the health arena."

Greenfield also said the legislation would not prohibit companies exploring for-profit ownership in Minnesota.

"It's going to make for-profits think twice, but I don't think it's a prohibition," he said.

The bill now moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

Nursing home salaries

Emotional testimony accompanied a committee discussion of a bill that would provide a 5-percent salary adjustment to nursing facility employees.

Jeanette Hanson, of Stillwater, her voice tense with emotion, told of understaffing, lack of supplies, and frequent falls during her mother's 30-month stay in a nursing home.

She said on the last night of her mother's life, a caring staff member gave her mother "an old-fashioned back rub, and you could almost hear my mom purr." But Hanson said understaffing precluded that type of attention routinely.

The measure would allow certified nursing facilities to apply to the state for a 5-percent salary adjustment for employees starting Oct. 1, 1998. Low wages in the field and a general shortage of workers in the state has made it difficult for nursing homes to attract and retain workers.

The House Health and Human Services Committee sent the bill (**HF2684**), sponsored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), to the committee's finance division Jan. 29.



LAW

Medical malpractice lawsuits

A bill to extend the time allowed to file a medical malpractice case from two years to six years has stalled on a tie vote. A similar bill, however, which would extend the limit in certain instances has received initial approval.

Both bills were heard in the Civil and Family Law Division of the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 28.

Current law requires that lawsuits dealing with medical malpractice must be initiated within two years of the occurrence of the malpractice in all cases.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) is sponsoring a bill (**HF1151**) which would make an exception to the statute of limitations in certain instances.

Troy Donahue, a member of the public, testified for Van Dellen's bill. He said that his wife had a mole removed in 1993 and it was misdiagnosed as benign. By the time they discovered that an error had been made, the statute of limitations had passed, and attorneys told them that they did not have a malpractice claim.

Donahue was told that if the case had occurred in Wisconsin, he would still have a claim. His wife died of cancer in 1996, a month after the cancer was found.

"Had this been caught at the time, maybe she'd still be alive. It's just terrible," he said.

William Stoeri, an attorney who represents doctors in malpractice cases, spoke in opposition to the bill. He said that the statute of limitations strikes a balance between the rights of plaintiffs and defendants.

"A statute of limitations exists because it is unfair for defendants some years down the line to come in and defend themselves," he said.

Stoeri said that it is difficult to build a defense based on a doctor's memory of what he or she did years ago. He said that they have to go back and review the standard of care from the year of the claim. They have to research what the correct response should have been in order to establish that the doctor did not act negligently.

"The difference in medical cases is that medicine advances extremely quickly. To go from two years to six years is an exponential expansion," he said. "I don't think that any patient would want to be treated with the standard of care from six or eight years ago."

Bob Tracy, of the Minnesota AIDS project, testified against one of the provisions in **HF1151**. The provision would extend the statute of limitations in cases where the HIV virus is passed from a health care worker to a patient.

Tracy said that there have been no cases of this sort in the state. He said that there has only been one case in the United States, and that case has been recently called into question.

"Particularly with the HIV provision, we are looking at a solution that is trying to find a problem," he said.

Van Dellen's bill received the division's approval and now goes to the full committee.

The division also heard a bill (**HF2491**) sponsored by Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) that would increase the statute of limitations to six years for all medical malpractice cases.

When the bill came up for a vote, there was a tie, and the bill did not advance.

Making health care decisions

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) told the House Judiciary Committee Jan. 28 why he is sponsoring a bill to rework legislation he helped write dealing with durable power of attorney and living wills.

"I had the unique opportunity as the author of a bill to go to my attorney with estate planning issues and have my own lawyer say, 'You know what? I don't like your durable power of attorney law, and if you don't like

that, find another lawyer,” Bishop said, whose bill was approved by the committee.

HF2521 is based on the recommendations of a working group the Minnesota State Bar Association sponsored to review current law on health care decision-making and to suggest ways to make the laws more effective. The group is made up of government officials and representatives from health care organizations, consumer groups, and ethical and religious organizations.

Currently, a patient can create a document that designates the care to be received if he or she cannot communicate those wishes. The document is called a living will. In addition, a patient can name a person as his or her durable power of attorney, which authorizes that person to make health care decisions. The living will and durable power of attorney provisions are contained in two separate statutes.

“What we now have as a result is too confusing, and lawyers are choosing one or the other,” Bishop said.

The bill would combine the living will and the durable power of attorney into one document called a health care directive. The bill provides the criteria necessary for a directive to be valid and directs the commissioner of health to appoint an advisory task force to create a uniform health care directive form.

Barbara Blumer, an attorney from the working group, said the convenience of the new language would encourage all people to make decisions about their health care before it is too late.

“Our goal is to give Minnesotans a tool to express their wishes on health care decisions,” Blumer said. “This is a bill for young and old Minnesotans; it’s a bill for all Minnesotans.”

Helen Johnston from the Minnesota Board on Aging testified for the bill. She told the committee that last week a 97-year-old friend of hers was given medical treatment and that there were questions about whether the treatment was consistent with the friend’s wishes.

Johnston said if her friend had a health care directive on file with the doctor, the situation could have been avoided.

Jackie Schwiets, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, told the committee that her organization has objections to the bill, especially a provision recognizing living wills from other states. She said if doctor-assisted suicide is made legal in other states, those living will documents may have to be honored in Minnesota.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

War against mosquitoes

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District would have to let affected communities know when the agency’s soldiers are coming with their pickup trucks and their chemical sprayers to wage war against mosquitoes, under a bill sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville).

The bill (HF2320) was considered Jan. 27 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee. It would require mosquito control to notify the local residents, affected property owners, and local government units before spraying mosquito-killing chemicals.

“The mosquito control district claims that everything they use is very safe,” Greiling said. “Over time in history, there have been chemicals that people thought were safe, and we found out they’re not so safe.”

The bill would require mosquito control to provide a minimum 48-hour notification before an insecticide treatment on public land or water by posting signs.

And the bill would require a minimum 48-hour notice when the spraying will be within 300 feet of farmland or within 1,000 feet of a home. That notification must be made in person or in the form of an information card on the door at each residence.

The bill also would require a notice of seven to 14 days to any city or town where spraying would occur within its limits.

Judy Bellairs, legislative director for the Sierra Club, told the committee of an experience last summer when a spraying truck from mosquito control came into her neighborhood emitting a fine mist which seemed to have an oily smell. No one knew the truck was coming.

“People cannot object if they do not know when their property is being sprayed,” she said.

The spray was made up primarily of chemicals that are toxic to fish and other forms of aquatic life, she said.

She also questioned the effects of residue left in the area. “People who are chemically sensitive should know about the spraying,” she said, acknowledging that mosquito control has a hotline with updates on spraying.

“People don’t know about the hotline,” she said.

Some committee members wondered if the bill might become another “unfunded mandate” handed down from the state.

Washington County Commissioner Dave Engstrom said it would, but that that’s part of doing business.

“We in local government look at anything as unfunded, but we do them. I think it’s really critical to know what kind of environment [homeowners] are getting into,” he said.

Joe Sanzone, director of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, said the district tries to “conduct a proactive notification program. We are open to change and to improve the way we do it.”

The bill, which was laid over, is expected to be taken up again later.



METRO AFFAIRS

Trolley for tourists

A plan to promote south Minneapolis neighborhoods with a trolley to transport tourists to the area rolled easily through the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Jan. 28.

HF2339, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), calls for developing a transit system to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with the Cedar-Riverside, Central, Phillips, Powderhorn, and Whittier neighborhoods in Minneapolis.

“This is a whole undiscovered part of the city that both tourists and residents don’t patronize or know about,” Clark said. She said the neighborhoods are full of ethnic restaurants and shops but the lack of accessibility keeps tourists away.

“By bringing some of the tourism into south Minneapolis, we generate added revenue for the state,” she said.

The bill calls for \$400,000 for planning and operational costs for starting the program and another \$40,000 for promotional costs. Those funds would be expected to be matched by sources such as the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and private businesses. A separate bill requests bonding for buying the buses.

The project is slated to include regular routes between the convention center and other areas, as well as chartered routes.

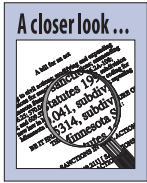
“This is a good investment in our economic development and in our inner city,” Clark said. “It’s the first attempt to develop inner-city tourism in Minneapolis.”

Several lawmakers at the hearing said they used to live or work in some of the neighborhoods in question and are in favor of development efforts.

“I always got the feeling that this was one of those neighborhoods that could just tip either way,” said Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul), who used to work in south Minneapolis.

The bill now moves to the committee’s Economic Development Finance Division.

Homeowners, renters collect on budget windfall



By Nicole Wood

In an effort to return some of the state's budget surplus — then projected at a hefty \$2.3 billion — to homeowners and renters, the 1997 Legislature authorized a one-time property tax rebate.

Now it's time to collect on the budget windfall, but questions about eligibility and filing procedures abound.

To qualify for the rebate, homeowners must have paid 1997 property taxes on a homestead that was their principal residence. The taxes may have been paid directly, indirectly through an escrow arrangement with a mortgage lender, or under a purchase agreement for the property.

Likewise, renters must have paid rent in 1997 on a dwelling that was their principal residence.

The rebate amounts to 20 percent of property taxes paid for homeowners. Renters will be able to get a rebate of 3.6 percent of the rent they paid in 1997. That's about 20 percent of the estimated portion of rent that pays property taxes, according to the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

There is no dollar cap on the rebate, and its availability does not depend on income. Here's the tricky part: Although it is a *property* tax rebate, it must be claimed on the 1997 state *income* tax returns filed in 1998. The rebate is essentially a refundable credit against the state income tax.

The revenue department estimates that the rebate will cost the state \$500 million. Average individual rebates are expected to be \$300 for homeowners and \$175 for renters.

To collect the rebate, homeowners and renters — even those who are normally exempt from filing income taxes — must file Minnesota's individual income tax Form M-1.

In an attempt to make Form M-1's rebate section easy to identify, the companion booklets to Form M-1 have been updated with the slogan "Look for the Frog."

The revenue department has added a smiling frog symbol on Form M-1 that clearly marks the rebate section. It's a play on words that only an accountant could love. Get it? A frog says "rebate, rebate."

Homeowners will need their property tax statements issued by counties in 1997. A copy of the statement will have to be attached to the tax form to receive the rebate.

Landlords must supply renters with the documentation they will need to claim the rebate. The paperwork should be in the hands of renters before the end of January.

A rebate schedule on the back of the form details eligibility requirements. Many college students will be disappointed to read the fine print; renters who are listed as dependents on another person's income tax return do not qualify for the rebate.

At the moment, those who prepaid their 1997 property taxes in 1996 do not qualify, either. The law states that the rebate is based on a "percent of qualified property tax paid in calendar year 1997."

However, things could change for those who prepaid in 1996. The House Taxes Committee has approved a bill, **HF2294**, that would grant the rebate to early birds, too. The bill is headed for a vote on the House floor.

In the past, income tax refunds took anywhere from three weeks to two months to receive, depending upon when they were filed.

This year, the revenue department predicts that refunds may take twice as long — up to four months — because they expect to process

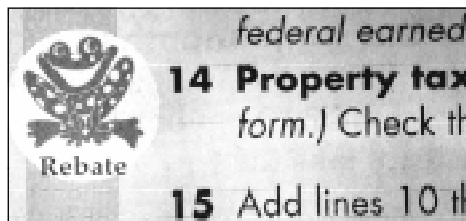
an additional 600,000 refunds more than the 1.2 million refunds handled last year.

It's a good idea to file early, and it's an even better idea to do so electronically. By electronic filing, the figures are automatically transferred

to the department's computer system, saving tedious data entry time and accelerating the rate of return.

In fact, electronic filers who arrange for direct deposit can expect a refund within 10 days.

For more information, contact the Department of Revenue Taxpayer Hotline at 296-3781 (Metro) or 1-800-652-9094 (Greater Minnesota), or to catch a bright green animated version of the rebate frog in action, visit the department's web page: www.taxes.state.mn.us.



The Minnesota Department of Revenue has added this frog symbol to the M-1 income tax form to mark the rebate section.

How to do the paperwork for your property tax rebate

The property tax rebate approved by lawmakers will return an average of \$300 to homeowners and \$175 to renters. Here are some hints for completing the paperwork necessary to get the money.

Homeowners will find the qualifying amount of property taxes paid indicated on Line 1 of the 1997 property tax statement issued by counties last year. Homeowners who have misplaced the statement should call their county treasurer's office for a new copy. Property tax statement stubs and Truth in Taxation statements are not acceptable substitutes.

To calculate the rebate, homeowners should multiply the figure on Line 1 of the property tax statement by 20 percent.

Renters will get the paperwork they need from their landlord. Landlords must present renters with two copies of a 1997 Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) no later than January 31, 1998. Line 1 of the CRP indicates the total amount of rent paid last year. To calculate the rebate, renters should multiply the figure on Line 1 of the CRP by 3.6 percent.

Why 3.6 percent and not 20 percent? For renters, the rebate equals 20 percent of "rent constituting property taxes," or the portion of rent that covers property taxes.

After calculating the rebate amount, there are three easy steps to complete the rebate section of Form M-1:

- 1) Check the homeowner or renter box on Line 14 (Look for the frog!)
- 2) Fill in the rebate amount on Line 14.
- 3) Attach a copy of your property tax statement or CRP.

The Department of Revenue expects to receive an additional 230,000 forms from people who are seeking the rebate but who don't qualify to file income taxes. People in that situation should write, "Do not meet filing requirements - rebate only," at the top of Form M-1, fill their name, address, and social security number, write in "0" for the amount of federal taxable income on Line 1, and complete the rebate section on Line 14.

Early Taft visit inspires Erickson's political career

By Nicole Wood

Newly elected Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) has been a Republican since she was 10 years old growing up in Taft, N.D.

Her political awakening occurred in 1952 when the late President William Taft's son, U.S. Sen. Robert Taft, came through town. The younger Taft was seeking the GOP nomination for president, and he had vowed to visit every town named Taft in the country. Erickson's Taft was the smallest — population seven, with one sibling on the way.

Dwight Eisenhower got the nod from the Republican Party and went on to win the presidential election that year, but Taft's visit had a lasting effect on Erickson.

"That was my first real knowledge that there was a political process," she said. "My parents had already been proclaiming themselves Republicans, but it was my introduction to politics."

Erickson maintained her ties to the Republican Party when she grew up and moved to Princeton, Minn. Her first real campaign work, she said, was for John Zwach's congressional campaign in the 1960s. Zwach happens to be the father of one of Erickson's new House colleagues, Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior).

More recently, Erickson managed all four of former state Rep. LeRoy Koppendray's House campaigns.

"The experience of running his campaigns was absolutely essential," she said. "It paid off."



Rep.
Sondra Erickson

Erickson is quick to credit her predecessor and the supporters they had gathered over the years for their assistance in what was a whirlwind campaign — she had less than a month to get organized and to campaign before the Jan. 6 special election.

"I spent my holiday door knocking," Erickson said.

The decision to run for the District 17A House seat was by no means an easy one, Erickson said, because of her commitment to Princeton High School, where she teaches English, advises the school newspaper, and oversees the yearbook staff.

She has taken a leave of absence, she said, but with so many responsibilities, it has been difficult for her to wrap up things at the high school.

"It has been my life to teach, and I love it," she said. "I teach with a passion."

Rep. Erickson brings this enthusiasm for teaching to the House Education Committee, where she hopes to continue down the path toward increased accountability and emphasis on outcomes.

"It's so important, having been in the classroom for 30 years, that we all know, whether we're teachers, parents, or communities, that our children are learning something that they can take with them in life," she said. "The community at large has found out in employing and further educating our students that they are not at the standard they expect. Thus, we started this reformation."

Erickson's legislative agenda isn't limited to education. She also serves on the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee and the Economic Development and International

Trade Committee and its Housing and Housing Finance Division.

In language typical of a teacher, Erickson said she did her "homework" immediately after the election, and already she is sponsoring several bills. She hopes to address other key legislative topics, such as animal feedlots, soon.

Erickson adamantly opposes a proposed moratorium on feedlots in the state.

"I don't want to see the family farmer face another roadblock," she said.

She also has definite ideas about what to do with the state's projected \$1.3 billion budget surplus.

"I would like to see the surplus given back to the people," she said. "That means property tax reform and possible income tax reform."

Erickson said she comes from a "property poor" district.

"Property tax reform is major in District 17A because we have little to no industry, a low tax base, and a lot of land that is tax-free because it is a reservation," she said. "I would hope that eventually the Legislature would understand that there are some districts that face that dilemma."

District 17A

1995 population: 35,100

Largest city: Princeton

Counties: Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison

Location: east-central Minnesota

Top concern: "To continue to promote quality education in Minnesota that has accountability."

— Rep. Sondra Erickson

Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate ... 296-8088

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building 296-4860

Counsel and Research, Senate

G-17 Capitol 296-4791

Research, House

600 State Office Building 296-6753

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-9208

Capitol Security

B-4 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

TTY*, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1216

TTY*, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Jennifer James: 'Our favorite stories have grown stale'



By Sandy Donovan

Everybody loves a good story.

But the trouble with stories, says cultural anthropologist Jennifer James, is that too many of us don't recognize when our favorite ones have grown stale.

"Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is a prime example," James

told a group of lawmakers at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 28. "It took such a long time for people to even see that story. Most of us have walked by alcohol for our whole lives, but despite all the evidence, we were unwilling to believe it could be as damaging as marijuana [or] cocaine."

The reason, she said, is that people were too comfortable with the old story of alcohol as a relatively safe drug.

"It's not the evidence or the data that makes a difference, but how long we've been telling ourselves the story," she said. "There's nothing more painful than having your story invalidated."

James was addressing legislators and their staff as the second of two speakers in this year's Capitol Forum Series, sponsored by the McKnight Foundation and Minnesota Technology Inc.

She is a Seattle-based lecturer, writer, commentator, and former professor of psychiatry. Her books include *Thinking in the Future Tense* and *Success is the Quality of Your Journey*.

Her message to lawmakers was clear: Those who get stuck clinging to the parameters of old stories will be left in the dust.

"The key way to have influence is to be able to tell a compelling new story about the way things are or should be," she advised.

It's the speed at which society is changing that makes the invention of those new stories so difficult, she said.

One of the more compelling stories this decade, according to James, is welfare reform.

"Under the guise of welfare reform we have one of the most compassionate moves our society has made," she said. "Liberals are going crazy because the story they've been telling forever is changing."

But changing the welfare system, she insists, is a giant step forward.

"We finally understand in this increasingly sophisticated world that it is unacceptable to buy off a portion of society and move them to the side," she said. "We finally have to say that we do want these people in our society."

But while she praised the instigators of welfare reform as visionaries, she said there are many times in government when legislators need to stand back while the story writes itself.

In Minnesota, she said, the current proposal for hunting and fishing rights falls under that category.

"Give them the constitutional amendment to protect hunting," she said. "But understand that in the long run it doesn't matter — that story is already written."

"We've had far too many bunny books influencing the kids. Fourteen percent of adolescents claim to be vegetarian. Hunting is not in the future."

Having grown up on a farm and lived most of her life in a hunting and logging state, James says she's sympathetic to those interests, but, "the writing is on the wall."

"You can make far more money by protecting the environment than by not [protecting it]," she said. "In Washington, we lose federal

money every year for logging, which we continue in order to keep people employed.

"But at what time do you start to follow the new story?" she asked.

Lawmakers said they were particularly impressed with James, who spoke as part of the same series here last year, because she included so many Minnesota-specific topics in her talk.

However, she said she couldn't resist sharing her views on the recent, widely publicized news involving President Clinton.

"Of course we know the story we're all thinking about this week," she said. "It's really too soon for an anthropologist to talk about it, but heck, that'll never stop me."

She said polls showing that women overwhelmingly support Clinton this week indicate that gender is rewriting its own story.

"Women have increasingly less support for stupid women, for women who are unwilling to use their education, unwilling to do the decent thing," she said. "Women [are] waking up another notch."

James said that in the long run the story about Monica Lewinsky and Clinton won't have anything to do with character.

"Nobody really cares if he did it or not," she said.

But she did draw some chuckles from the audience for her opinion on the matter.

"It's probably true, and I say that only because she's his type — big hair and obviously not too bright," she said. "But the real story to come out of this will be that you can't have a private investigator pursuing your president."

She left the audience with some thoughts on how the story of lawmakers is being rewritten.

"The ways we divide politicians are becoming increasingly ineffective," she said, using herself as an example of the new constituent: fiscally conservative, but socially liberal.

She said leaders are having to address these new constituents.

"We're looking at a public that's going to make it increasingly difficult to hold leadership positions for a long time if there's no substance," she said.

At a reception following the talk, lawmakers said they found the evening inspirational.

"She really does stretch us and make us think," Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) said. "Unfortunately, sometimes it doesn't take long for us to slip back into the old routine." 🐾



Dr. Jennifer James, cultural anthropologist, presents her perspectives on public policy issues. James lectured at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 28 as part of the 1998 Capitol Forum Series.

Bill Introductions

HF2647-HF2999

Monday, January 26

HF2647—Tomassoni (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Environment and natural resources trust fund grants to local governments provided for upgrading individual sewage treatment systems and wells.

HF2648—Tomassoni (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Taconite mining program appropriated money.

HF2649—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

HF2650—Jennings (DFL)
Taxes
Sales and use tax capital equipment definition expanded to include central office and transmission equipment used for telephone service.

HF2651—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Housing with services establishments licensing requirements modified.

HF2652—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving below the average, and money appropriated.

HF2653—Leighton (DFL)
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF2654—Mahon (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Personalized license plates authorized for vehicles resembling pickup trucks, juvenile age provisions clarified relating to DWI-related driver's license revocation, and license reinstatement provisions modified.

HF2655—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Lake Crystal area recreation center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2656—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Nicollet County treaty site historic center grant provided, land acquisition and capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2657—Schumacher (DFL)
Education
Public library accessibility grant amounts modified, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2658—Jaros (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Family anti-poverty program created, previous and welfare reform provisions modified.

HF2659—Olson, E. (DFL)
Taxes
Income, franchise, sales, excise, property, healthcare provider, gambling, and administrative tax provisions technical changes provided.

HF2660—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Education
Public libraries and school media center database access program established, and money appropriated.

HF2661—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical education and research trust fund, rural physician education account, mobile food unit, restaurants and food stands, and health report provisions modified, public health core functions established, and money appropriated.

HF2662—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance and General Assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.

HF2663—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare fraud prevention finger imaging project created, and money appropriated.

HF2664—Delmont (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health plan company equal access required to include direct access to chiropractors, optometrists, and advanced practice nurses.

HF2665—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Intrastate hazardous material carriers provided continuation of the uniform registration and permitting program, criminal background check requirements eliminated, and fees imposed.

HF2666—Tomassoni (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Uninsured motorist identification database program established, and criminal penalties prescribed.

HF2667—Rest (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local Government Services Advisory Council member added, and appointments clarified.

HF2668—Kubly (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Passing on the Farm Center appropriated money.

HF2669—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Funds transfer to game and fish fund provided in cases of deer hunting area closure.

HF2670—Solberg (DFL)
Education
Itasca County school-to-work technology center project provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2671—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Provider payment modified relating to assisted living home care and medical assistance.

HF2672—Bakk (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Ely business technology center provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2673—Rest (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Compensation increase provided for state employees serving as certified disaster service volunteers of the American Red Cross.

HF2674—Peterson (DFL)
Judiciary
Big Stone County provided funding for emergency shelter and support services for battered women and their children, and money appropriated.

HF2675—Pelowski (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Winona bond issuance and sales and use tax authorized to finance dredging of Lake Winona.

HF2676—Skoglund (DFL)
Judiciary
Prosecution of certain juvenile offenses in adult court without a court ruling authorized.

HF2677—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Home visiting program grant requirements specified, and money appropriated.

HF2678—Gunther (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Tourism office competitive bidding exemption provided, contaminated cleanup grant application requirements clarified, Job Skills Partnership Board compensation provided, and wastewater infrastructure funding modified.

HF2679—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Enhanced sentencing expanded to include crimes motivated by involvement with a criminal gang.

HF2680—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Permanent school fund advisory committee membership and duties expanded.

HF2681—Slawik (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Hepatitis B immunization required for children.

HF2682—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes
Use tax liability payment on individual income tax return authorized.

HF2683—Huntley (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Improvements to St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center in Duluth authorized.

HF2684—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home staffing ratios and facilities reimbursement modified.

HF2685—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing home staffing ratios and facilities reimbursement modified.

HF2686—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Board of Water and Soil Resources hearing provisions clarified, and wetland replacement approval required.

HF2687—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
County treasurer mortgage registry tax receipt payment obligations modified relating to multiple county mortgages.

HF2688—Macklin (R)
Taxes
Tax disclosure provisions clarified and technical changes provided.

HF2689—Huntley (DFL)
Taxes
Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF2690—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare disenrollment time period modified for failing to apply for medical assistance.

HF2691—Huntley (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Canosia permitted the off-sale of intoxicating liquor until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

HF2692—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public rights-of-way rule adoption deadline for the Public Utilities Commission extended.

HF2693—Skare (DFL)
Education
Old Bemidji High School combination with Northwest Technical College provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2694—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Income, franchise, and property tax policies modified, and Commissioner of Revenue provided additional powers.

HF2695—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Malt liquor sampling regulated.

HF2696—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Unauthorized possession or damage of merchandise pallets prohibited, and penalties and remedies provided.

HF2697—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health maintenance organizations permitted maximum financial reserves increased.

HF2698—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
MinnesotaCare disenrollment based on income provided.

HF2699—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Major projects account created in the Trunk Highway Fund, and motor vehicle sales tax revenues dedicated.

HF2700—Harder (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Brown County nonprofit economic development corporation authorized, and local approval required.

HF2701—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Nursing facility salary adjustment per diem modified.

HF2702—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Obstructing legal process offense felony penalty scope expanded.

HF2703—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services
Welfare reform; caregiver grant garnishment protection provisions modified.

HF2704—Mulder (R)
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Membership organizations required to notify members of their right to reduce dues by the same percentage the organization expended on political activities, and report to the Ethical Practices Board required.

HF2705—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Electronic *State Agency Guidebooks* and Internet availability of the *State Register* required, and money appropriated.

HF2706—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Electronic message reliability and certification authorities required, licensing and enforcement powers specified, and definitions and rulemaking provided.

HF2707—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Electronic message authentication and reliability regulated, and government keys exempted from public inspection and copying under the government data practices act.

HF2708—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established, dispute resolution procedures provided, and association of producers defined.

HF2709—Sykora (R)
Education
Early childhood and family education programs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2710—Kalis (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Farmamerica visitor's center at the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center provided funding, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2711—Weaver (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Walleye, sauger, northern pike, muskellunge, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass angling season extension authorized.

HF2712—Bettermann (R)
Education
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities supplemental appropriations provided.

HF2713—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Flood protection plan review provisions modified, flood hazard mitigation grant limits increased, and water use permit processing fee provisions modified.

HF2714—Leighton (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Mower County; land acquisition adjacent to the Ramsey Mill Pond Wildlife Management Area authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2715—Kalis (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Free highway maps made available for distribution in other states.

HF2716—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minneapolis Fire Department Relief Association survivor benefit options made retroactive.

HF2717—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Disposition of interest on prepaid child support or maintenance specified.

HF2718—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Snowmobile nonresident state trail sticker required.

HF2719—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Student grant provisions modified, and EdVest appropriation extended.

HF2720—Mares (R)
Transportation & Transit
Study of use of blue lights on emergency and road maintenance vehicles provided, and money appropriated.

HF2721—Farrell (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2722—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Red tag issuance authorized for underground petroleum storage tank violations, and penalties provided.

HF2723—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Certain child abuse information release restricted, citizen review panels established relating to child protection services, and child welfare reform provided.

<p>HF2724—Milbert (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Commercial netting provisions, minnow retailer provisions, and turtle license provisions modified, critical aquatic habitat acquisition provided, and catfish removal in certain waters authorized.</p>	<p>HF2735—Hilty (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Underground storage tank replacement loan and grant eligibility modified relating to small gasoline retailers.</p>	<p>HF2745—Evans (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Housing Finance Agency's bridges program appropriated money.</p>	<p>HF2756—Jennings (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Railroad charges to utilities for right-of-way access provided alternative dispute resolution.</p>
<p>HF2725—Mulder (R) Health & Human Services Certain public pools exempted from standards for pools with diving.</p>	<p>HF2736—Hilty (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Counties authorized to provide grants to nonprofit community food shelves.</p>	<p>HF2746—Luther (DFL) Transportation & Transit School bus safety provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF2757—Entenza (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.</p>
<p>HF2726—Slawik (DFL) Education Family and community services assistance grant program authorized, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2737—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Welfare reform; work first and other programs modified, and nonresidential child care program licensure modified.</p>	<p>HF2747—Peterson (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Montevideo historic railroad depot, related parking, and facilities capital improvement grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2758—Mullery (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Hennepin County Humboldt Avenue Greenway Project grant provided, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2727—Mulder (R) Governmental Operations Transferred employees of Luverne Community Hospital and Arnold Memorial Hospital provided pension coverage.</p>	<p>HF2738—Trimble (DFL) Education Metropolitan State University, St. Paul campus, library facility construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2748—Tomassoni (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2759—Mares (R) Education School district gifted and talented program grant local match requirement eliminated.</p>
<p>HF2728—Goodno (R) Taxes Border city development zones established, and enterprise zone incentive recapture modified.</p>	<p>HF2739—Trimble (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade St. Paul indoor tennis center construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2749—Bishop (R) Judiciary Judiciary finance and Department of Corrections supplemental appropriations bill.</p>	<p>HF2760—Knight (R) Judiciary Covenant marriages established, and grounds for dissolution specified.</p>
<p>HF2729—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Temporary licensure waiver authorized for certain dietitians.</p>	<p>HF2740—Greiling (DFL) Education Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriation.</p>	<p>HF2750—Wenzel (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Reinsurance intermediary-brokers regulated, and held or collected fund investment provided.</p>	<p>HF2761—McGuire (DFL) Judiciary Gang prevention and intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2730—Davids (R) Health & Human Services Human cloning prohibited, and criminal penalties provided.</p>	<p>HF2741—Leighton (DFL) Education Regional distribution of University of Minnesota regents established, and Regent Candidate Advisory Council membership and recommendation procedures modified.</p>	<p>HF2751—McCollum (DFL) Health & Human Services Emergency assistance funds made available to individuals meeting the hardship exception.</p>	<p>HF2762—McGuire (DFL) Health & Human Services Social worker licensure requirements modified.</p>
<p>HF2731—Harder (R) Economic Development & International Trade Windom area multi-purpose center bond issuance provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2742—Juhnke (DFL) Health & Human Services Willmar Regional Treatment Center buildings 3 and 14 renovated, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2752—Jefferson (DFL) Education Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, North Star neighborhood early learning center established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2763—Wagenius (DFL) Education Full day kindergarten phase-in provided, first grade preparedness program expanded, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF2732—Wejcman (DFL) Health & Human Services Commissioner of Human Services appropriated money for the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.</p>	<p>HF2743—Solberg (DFL) Governmental Operations Mt. Itasca ski area facilities expansion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2753—Anderson, B. (R) Governmental Operations Elk River amateur sports hall of fame construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2764—Trimble (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy St. Paul authorized to conduct lottery games for youth educational and recreational program funding.</p>
<p>HF2733—Weaver (R) Judiciary Violent crime conviction, sentencing, and arrest disposition report established.</p>	<p>HF2744—Mullery (DFL) Education Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2754—Anderson, B. (R) Transportation & Transit Registration tax on passenger automobiles worth less than \$30,000 abolished.</p>	<p>HF2765—Evans (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Metropolitan Airports Commission limit on revenue use clarified and expanded relating to air facility expansion or upgrade.</p>
<p>HF2734—Bishop (R) Judiciary Sex offender registration expanded.</p>		<p>HF2755—Broecker (R) Economic Development & International Trade Youth Intervention Program grants provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2766—Orfield (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Metropolitan Council made an elective body, candidate and member economic interest statements and</p>

contributions to candidates regulated, policy advisory committee created, and levy authority modified.

HF2767—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Data Practices Act modified relating to the statewide Minnesota Family Investment Program and child support obligees.

HF2768—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Statewide comprehensive land use planning coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF2769—Pugh (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile insurance age threshold lowered for retirees declining wage loss reimbursement coverage.

HF2770—Pugh (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile accident victim right to bring a negligence action to recover for noneconomic detriment clarified.

HF2771—Koskinen (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Health plans required to provide coverage for eyeglasses and hearing aids.

HF2772—Orfield (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Affordable defined under the metropolitan livable communities act, affordable and life-cycle housing goal progress required, metropolitan system plans expanded to include housing policy plan, and inclusionary zoning program required.

HF2773—Tunheim (DFL)
Judiciary
Private property protection act adopted.

HF2774—Kuisle (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County referendums conducted by county auditors clarified.

HF2775—Clark (DFL)
Education
Early childhood learning and protection facility grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2776—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
State departments supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2777—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Department of Employee Relations experimental or research project provisions modified.

HF2778—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Governor authorized to enter into agreement with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

HF2779—Chaudhary (DFL)
Judiciary
Housing for the elderly definition modified relating to human rights.

HF2780—Evans (DFL)
Education
Basic sliding fee child care self-employment exception eligibility modified.

HF2781—Jennings (DFL)
Health & Human Services
County crisis nursery technical assistance program established, and money appropriated.

HF2782—Evans (DFL)
Judiciary
Domestic abuse definition expanded, and order for protection violation penalties clarified.

HF2783—Carruthers (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Brooklyn Center tax-increment financing districts class rates specified.

HF2784—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support enforcement provisions modified.

HF2785—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Release on pass provisions modified relating to mentally ill and dangerous persons, temporary jail confinement authorized for sexually psychopathic personalities and sexually dangerous persons, and technical changes provided.

HF2786—Wejcman (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Speech-language pathologist, unlicensed mental health practitioner, alcohol and drug counselor, and hearing instrument dispenser licensure requirements modified.

HF2787—Dawkins (DFL)
Judiciary
Medical malpractice action statute of limitations modified.

HF2788—Dawkins (DFL)
Education
Youth Works Program repealer removed.

HF2789—Huntley (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Mental illness crisis housing assistance program appropriated money.

HF2790—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Chisago County recorder appointment permitted.

HF2791—Carlson (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
High-occupancy vehicle lanes prohibited on I-394, and reversible one direction lanes designated.

HF2792—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education
Minnesota library for the blind and physically handicapped provided funding for the purchase of online catalog software, and money appropriated.

HF2793—Hilty (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center youth alcohol treatment wing construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF2794—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Telecommunications commerce regulated, telemarketing fraud outreach advocacy network established, and money appropriated.

HF2795—Jaros (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Integrated service network health care providers required to cover care provided by any licensed provider willing to serve the insurer's enrollees.

HF2796—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Dealer licensing and motor vehicle registration enforcement task force established.

HF2797—Daggett (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle title secure reassignment provided.

HF2798—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture
Eminent domain pipeline easement compensation requirements provided.

HF2799—Juhnke (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Municipalities authorized to issue two temporary on-sale licenses for official community festivals.

HF2800—Rostberg (R)
Education
Cambridge Community College master facilities plan second phase completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2801—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Consolidated Department of Natural Resources area field office in Warroad construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2802—Slawik (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Public Employee Retirement Association special surviving spouse benefit eligibility requirements prescribed.

HF2803—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Child care program transition year families definition clarified, employment and training assistance eligibility expanded, human services order review provisions modified, program costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF2804—Slawik (DFL)
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

HF2805—Wejcman (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Sale of alcohol to under age persons provided minimum mandatory civil penalties, regular compliance checks for licensees required, home delivery regulated, under age purchasers provided minimum fines, and 50 milliliter bottle ban allowed.

HF2806—Slawik (DFL)
Judiciary
Indecent exposure felons required to register as predatory offenders.

HF2807—Juhnke (DFL)
Judiciary
Commissioner of public safety provided funding to hire four additional full-time forensic scientists for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and money appropriated.

HF2808—Knoblach (R)
Governmental Operations
Elected local units of government authorized to petition for amendment or repeal of agency rules, and petition consideration procedures established.

HF2809—McElroy (R)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Audited financial statement copies provided to members of the local unit of government, and town meeting presentment required.

HF2810—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Office of Technology authorized to designate additional unclassified positions, and payment of accumulated vacation leave upon layoff allowed.

HF2811—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Director of the Office of Technology membership to various organizations clarified, and technical changes provided.

HF2812—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Repeat violent crime offenders mandatory minimum sentences and lifetime probation required.

HF2813—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Omnibus juvenile and crime prevention bill.

HF2814—Tomassoni (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Durable medical equipment minimum definition established, and health plan companies required to disclose covered medical equipment and supplies.

HF2815—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Political subdivision audit information provided confidential data classification.

HF2816—Knoblach (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Sale or lease of property by a housing and redevelopment authority public notice requirements modified.

HF2817—Opatz (DFL)
Education
College campuses allowed to withdraw from statewide student associations, and campus representation modified.

HF2818—Chaudhary (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2819—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Dental services medical assistance reimbursement rates increased.

HF2820—Orfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Patient protection act expanded, and independent health coverage dispute resolution process established.

HF2821—McElroy (R)
Taxes
Tax-increment financing district decertification responsibility and duration of reporting requirements clarified, and remedies provided for failure to file required reports.

HF2822—Kuisle (R)
Education
School district reimbursement grants authorized for additional construction expenditures relating to state prevailing wage statute expansion, and money appropriated.

HF2823—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
St. Peter wastewater treatment plant construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2824—Pugh (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Dakota County; housing and redevelopment authority employees not deemed county employees without county board consent.

HF2825—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services
Employment and training service provider definition expanded relating to the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

HF2826—Evans (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Manufactured home park conditions studied by the Department of Health.

HF2827—Workman (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design Board abolished.

HF2828—Tingelstad (R)
Health & Human Services
Commissioner of health public water supply approval authority modified.

HF2829—Murphy (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Proctor community activity center provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2830—Seifert (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agricultural Finance
Marshall flood control project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2831—Leppik (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Environmental supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2832—Solberg (DFL)
Education
Grand Rapids regional learning resource center funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2833—Leighton (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Austin wastewater treatment plant completion funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2834—Bakk (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Wastewater infrastructure loan program funded for eligible municipalities within the Northshore management zone, and money appropriated.

HF2835—Peterson (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Montevideo downtown redevelopment project funded, and money appropriated.

HF2836—Opatz (DFL)
Education
Home school defined relating extracurricular activities, and school boards required to allow full participation of all students.

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HF2837—Tomassoni (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Open bottle law exemption provided to persons designated by a licensed alcoholic beverage manufacturer or wholesaler.

HF2838—Tuma (R)
Taxes
Senior owned homestead estimated market value increase prohibited.

HF2839—Seagren (R)
Education
Minnesota Council on Economic Education provided funding for state graduation standards teacher training, and money appropriated.

HF2840—Rhodes (R)
Taxes
Sale of gold and silver coins and bullion sales tax exemption provided.

HF2841—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Motor vehicle emission inspection requirement waived for vehicles less than seven years old.

HF2842—Tuma (R)
Transportation & Transit
License plate display of illegally obtained tab or stickers prohibited.

HF2843—Rifenberg (R)
Health & Human Services
Southeastern Minnesota Crisis Intervention Project provided funding for developmentally disabled persons in home and community based services, and money appropriated.

HF2844—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture
Board of Animal Health provided funding for expansion of the bovine paratuberculosis control program, and money appropriated.

HF2845—Folliard (DFL)
Judiciary
Grandparent visitation rights provisions modified, certain visitation rights of parents of custodial parents eliminated, mediation and payment of expenses required, and best interests of the child defined.

HF2846—Mahon (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Automobile insurance premium reduction provided for completion of an accident prevention course.

HF2847—Kraus (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Albert Lea to Myre-Big Island Blazing
Star State Trail extension provided,
bonds issued, and money appropri-
ated.

HF2848—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Diabetes control and prevention ser-
vices funding provided, and money
appropriated.

HF2849—Garcia (DFL)
Labor-Management Relations
Public employer definition expanded
to include the Legislative Coordinat-
ing Commission.

HF2850—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary
Harassment statutes clarified and ex-
panded to include faxes and messages.

HF2851—Paulsen (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Beer brewer and wholesaler agree-
ment termination provided.

HF2852—Ness (R)
Education
Hard-to-place employee training pro-
gram proposal developed by the Min-
nesota State Colleges and Universities
in partnership with private industry.

HF2853—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Concurrent incarceration provisions
clarified for separate crimes or be-
havioral incidents, and concurrent
and consecutive sentences specifica-
tion requirements modified.

HF2854—Jefferson (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Science museum east building reno-
vated for the Minnesota Labor Inter-
pretive Center, bonds issued, and
money appropriated.

HF2855—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services
Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Cen-
ter facilities upgrade provided, bonds
issued, and money appropriated.

HF2856—Nornes (R)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Consolidated Department of Natural
Resources area headquarters con-
structed in Fergus Falls, bonds issued,
and money appropriated.

HF2857—Nornes (R)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Fergus Falls convention and civic cen-
ter construction provided, bonds is-
sued, and money appropriated.

HF2858—Munger (DFL)
Taxes
Wastewater treatment facilities
biosolid processing equipment sales
tax exemption provided.

HF2859—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance and General
Assistance medical care ambulance
services payments increased.

HF2860—Erickson (R)
Education
Residential academies for at-risk stu-
dents provided program grants, and
money appropriated.

HF2861—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child support orders or maintenance
enforcement administrative hearing
procedures modified, and terminol-
ogy modified to agree with court rules.

HF2862—Sykora (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Watershed district administrative
fund provisions modified.

HF2863—Hasskamp (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 371 Brainerd
bypass fully grade-separated inter-
change construction required.

HF2864—Broecker (R)
Taxes
Property tax rebate to include rebate
for prepaid taxes.

HF2865—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Nuclear waste; transport of high-level
radioactive waste readiness evalua-
tion and report required.

HF2866—Kinkel (DFL)
Education
Departments of children, families,
and learning and economic security
reorganization codified.

HF2867—McGuire (DFL)
Education
Transition year families child care
assistance requirements modified,
and extensions provided.

HF2868—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance, Medicare, and
MinnesotaCare provisions modified,
Medical Assistance elderly waiver pro-
gram modified, nursing facility cost
report procedures modified, and
health maintenance organizations
surcharge offset provided.

HF2869—Delmont (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Administrative expense provisions
modified for various public pension
plans.

HF2870—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health care cost information system
provisions modified, filing fee estab-
lished, and money appropriated.

HF2871—Carlson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Interim superintendents earning limi-
tations and annuity payment reduc-
tions exemptions provided.

HF2872—Greiling (DFL)
Education
School district superintendents per-
formance contracts and salary in-
creases authorized.

HF2873—Molnau (R)
Transportation & Transit
Transportation and public safety
supplemental appropriations bill.

HF2874—Kelso (DFL)
Education
Education Finance Act of 1992
repealed.

HF2875—Greiling (DFL)
Education
Interagency services for children with
disabilities act adopted.

HF2876—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Surface transportation fund estab-
lished, motor vehicle sales tax per-
centage dedicated, and money
appropriated.

HF2877—Lieder (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Fertile; Agassiz Environmental Learn-
ing Center improvements provided,
bonds issued, and money appropri-
ated.

HF2878—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No.
2609, Win-E-Mac, fund transfer au-
thorized.

HF2879—Lieder (DFL)
Education
Flood-affected school districts aver-
age daily membership modified.

HF2880—Finseth (R)
Judiciary
Private property protection act
adopted.

HF2881—Dawkins (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Metro area driver license examina-
tion central reservation system imple-
mented, driver license examiners
increased, and money appropriated.

HF2882—Entenza (DFL)
Education
Full day kindergarten phase-in pro-
vided, first grade preparedness pro-
gram expanded, and money
appropriated.

HF2883—Kubly (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Granite Falls project turnabout ap-
propriated money.

HF2884—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Abortion data reporting provisions
modified, and criminal penalties pro-
vided.

HF2885—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
St. Louis County; private sale of sur-
plus state land in Mountain City au-
thorized.

HF2886—Biernat (DFL)
Judiciary
Department of Economic Security
data collection provisions modified.

HF2887—Luther (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Local government correctional
service retirement plan created.

HF2888—Evans (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
New home and home improvement
statutory warranty period doubled.

HF2889—Paymar (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
Ramsey County provided funding for
Ford Bridge improvements, bonds
issued, and money appropriated.

HF2890—Tunheim (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Savings association act maintained.

<p>HF2891—Kubly (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Farm tractor clock-hour meter tampering prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties prescribed.</p>	<p>HF2902—Osthoff (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Metropolitan greenways and natural areas established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2912—Juhnke (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade Pennock appropriated money for wastewater infrastructure funding, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2923—Evans (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, appropriated money for renovation of Island Lake elementary school.</p>
<p>HF2892—Peterson (DFL) Agriculture Value-added agricultural livestock processing and marketing grant program expanded to include other commodities, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2903—Tomassoni (DFL) Education Regional public library systems appropriated money.</p>	<p>HF2913—Koskinen (DFL) Health & Human Services Home-sharing program appropriated money.</p>	<p>HF2924—Luther (DFL) Governmental Operations State board purchase of tobacco stock prohibited.</p>
<p>HF2893—Jennings (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Small gasoline retailer petroleum fund reimbursement modified.</p>	<p>HF2904—Kahn (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade St. Anthony heritage education center appropriated money, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2914—Evans (DFL) Education Health and safety revenue authorized for use in certain new construction relating to schools.</p>	<p>HF2925—Evans (DFL) Judiciary Criminal penalties provided for possession of marijuana plants regardless of weight.</p>
<p>HF2894—Jennings (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Wyoming and Chisago City orderly annexed property reimbursement duration limit exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF2905—Juhnke (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Sibley State Park sanitation building appropriated money, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2915—Evans (DFL) Education Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, funds usage authorized.</p>	<p>HF2926—Tunheim (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses authorized for state universities.</p>
<p>HF2895—Tomassoni (DFL) Financial Institutions & Insurance Township mutual insurance companies permitted investments expanded.</p>	<p>HF2906—Juhnke (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Prairie Woods residential and environmental learning center appropriated money, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2916—Seifert (R) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance Lazarus Creek floodwater retention project construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2927—McCollum (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Ramsey County authorized to purchase from or through health care cooperatives on behalf of Ramsey nursing home.</p>
<p>HF2896—Rukavina (DFL) Health & Human Services Increased incidence of respiratory disease in northeastern and central Minnesota studied, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2907—Wolf (R) Regulated Industries & Energy Replacing public utility capital structure approval with security issuance relating to public utilities, and clarifying definition of a telephone company.</p>	<p>HF2917—Weaver (R) Environment & Natural Resources Anoka County land conveyance authorized.</p>	<p>HF2928—Pugh (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Establishing do-not-call procedures relating to commercial telephone solicitation, and providing penalties.</p>
<p>HF2897—Rukavina (DFL) Labor-Management Relations Union organizations rights and duties established, unfair labor practices provisions expanded, and equal time requirements provided.</p>	<p>HF2908—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations Grants provided for noncommercial television stations, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2918—Jennings (DFL) Health & Human Services Nursing home bed licensure and certification moratorium exception provided.</p>	<p>HF2929—Pugh (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Use of automatic dialing system regulated.</p>
<p>HF2898—Gunther (R) Economic Development & International Trade Economic development supplemental appropriations bill.</p>	<p>HF2909—Jennings (DFL) Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs Contractor's recovery fund provisions modified, and access expanded to include subcontractors.</p>	<p>HF2919—Biernat (DFL) Education Metropolitan Council authorized to contract to transport students in independent school district nos. 625, St. Paul, and 1, Minneapolis.</p>	<p>HF2930—Daggett (R) Taxes Motor vehicle lessor tax and fee exemption provided.</p>
<p>HF2899—Swenson, H. (R) Taxes Road construction or maintenance machinery, equipment, and vehicles purchased or used by political subdivisions provided sales tax exemption.</p>	<p>HF2910—Koskinen (DFL) Transportation & Transit Highway nos. 242 and 10 upgrade provided, money appropriated, and bonds issued.</p>	<p>HF2920—Delmont (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Electronic funds transfer authorized for certain transactions by lawful gambling organizations.</p>	<p>HF2931—Daggett (R) Judiciary Law enforcement agencies authorized to sell forfeited firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories.</p>
<p>HF2900—Krinkie (R) Taxes Income tax rates and brackets modified, property tax reform account repealed, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2911—Seifert (R) Taxes School buses exempted from motor vehicle sales tax.</p>	<p>HF2921—Delmont (DFL) Regulated Industries & Energy Employee eligible to make sales on behalf of a distributor definition provided, powers and duties specified, and licensure provisions specified.</p>	<p>HF2932—Tomassoni (DFL) Judiciary Life insurance policy proceeds and annuities payable upon death of a spouse exempted from attachment, garnishment, or sale.</p>
<p>HF2901—Murphy (DFL) Judiciary CHIPS; children in need of protective services definition expanded to include certain juvenile petty offenders.</p>		<p>HF2922—Goodno (R) Taxes Sales and use tax exemption provided for the state, its agencies, and political subdivisions, and reporting procedure established.</p>	<p>HF2933—Leighton (DFL) Judiciary State corrections administration, judicial district corrections coordinator, and local corrections advisory</p>

board created, and annual comprehensive plan required.

HF2934—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Taxes

Federal tax conformity provided relating to education expenses.

HF2935—Kielkucki (R)

Agriculture

Commissioner of agriculture granted rulemaking authority in warehouse and grain storage laws.

HF2936—Wolf (R)

Education

Energy conservation account and liquefied petroleum gas account funds transferred to the commissioner of children, families, and learning for low-income energy programs.

HF2937—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Human services programs rate adjustment provided, legislative intent established, and money appropriated.

HF2938—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Case mix scores used to assess persons with mental retardation eliminated, employee rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF2939—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Federally required toxic chemical release reporting state requirements eliminated.

HF2940—Bakk (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

International Wolf Center improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2941—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Teachers Retirement Association part-time teacher provisions modified.

HF2942—Jennings (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Alcohol derived cider subject to taxation.

HF2943—Murphy (DFL)

Judiciary

Juvenile dispositional residential treatment facility temporary bed moratorium imposed, and out-of-home placements studied.

HF2944—Long (DFL)

Taxes

Internal revenue code references updated.

HF2945—Rest (DFL)

Judiciary

Work reporting and income withholding transmittal time lines modified relating to child support enforcement.

HF2946—Bettermann (R)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance

Sauk River Watershed District appropriated money for dam improvements.

HF2947—Hilty (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Department of Administration technical corrections bill.

HF2948—Jennings (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2949—Wagenius (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Motor vehicle antifreeze disposal prohibition provisions modified.

HF2950—Chaudhary (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Anoka County Regional Railroad Authority grant provided for construction of a transit hub in Columbia Heights, and money appropriated.

HF2951—Tomassoni (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

St. Louis County private sale of tax-forfeited peat land authorized.

HF2952—Garcia (DFL)

Local Government

& Metropolitan Affairs

Cities permitted to review Metropolitan Council capital projects for consistency.

HF2953—Otremba, M. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

County grants provided for children's mental health services, and money appropriated.

HF2954—Wagenius (DFL)

Taxes

Metropolitan transit expenditures levy reduced or eliminated with property tax reform account funds.

HF2955—Mares (R)

Education

Full year equivalent student funding increased for colleges and universities receiving below the average, and money appropriated.

HF2956—Wejcman (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Board of Podiatric Medicine licensing provisions modified relating to national and regional testing, and technical corrections provided.

HF2957—Erickson (R)

Economic Development & International Trade

Kanabec County Courthouse improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2958—Otremba, M. (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Ottertail County; pioneer public television grant provided for construction of a noncommercial television translator tower, and money appropriated.

HF2959—Kahn (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Fort Snelling international hostel improvements and hazardous material abatement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2960—Stanek (R)

Judiciary

Minnesota State Patrol additional helicopter flight time provided, and money appropriated.

HF2961—McCollum (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Ramsey County grant provided for family service center improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2962—Clark, K. (DFL)

Education

Lead abatement program appropriated money.

HF2963—Clark, K. (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Homeownership zones program established, and money appropriated.

HF2964—Slawik (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

ATM; automated teller machine use fees limited.

HF2965—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Second set of license plates issued for physically disabled persons.

HF2966—Workman (R)

Transportation & Transit

Truck axle weight limits clarified and regulated.

HF2967—Rifenberg (R)

Education

Independent School District No. 299, Caledonia, management assistance study authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2968—Jefferson (DFL)

Labor-Management Relations

Prevailing wage rate definition modified, terms defined, and construction project truck drivers subject to prevailing rental rates.

HF2969—Entenza (DFL)

Education

Postsecondary state grant student share reduction decreased.

HF2970—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Salary increase provided for judges, and employee and employer contribution rates for certain judges retirement plans modified.

HF2971—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism

& Consumer Affairs

Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.

HF2972—Seifert (R)

Taxes

Student loan interest deduction federal conformity provided.

HF2973—Evans (DFL)

Local Government

& Metropolitan Affairs

Corridor planning pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF2974—Huntley (DFL)

Economic Development

& International Trade

Glensheen Mansion in Duluth improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2975—Kelso (DFL)

General Legislation,

Veterans Affairs & Elections

Vietnam war veterans' bonus additional payments authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2976—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation & Transit
County state-aids funds transfer to revolving loan account prohibited until gas or vehicle registration tax rates are increased, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2977—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Temporary on-sale liquor license restrictions modified.

HF2978—Olson, E. (DFL)
Local Government
& Metropolitan Affairs
Town consolidation provided.

HF2979—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Telephone company depreciation deregulation conditions established.

HF2980—Jennings (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Small telephone company telecommunications service competitor service area obligations prescribed.

HF2981—Stang (R)
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle gross weight based licenses written application requirement abolished, and civil penalties provided.

HF2982—Stang (R)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Lawful gambling organizations lawful purposes definition expanded to include Americans with disabilities act compliance expenditures.

HF2983—Tunheim (DFL)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Minnesota residential mortgage originator and servicer licensing act adopted.

HF2984—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
School counselor need assessed, school-to-work pilot programs funded, upward bound programs expanded, postsecondary planning efforts enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF2985—Entenza (DFL)
Judiciary
Child welfare reform; certain child abuse information release restricted, citizen review panels established relating to child protection services, and money appropriated.

HF2986—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes
Minnesota Working Family Income Tax Credit calculation assistance required for certain families.

HF2987—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Minnesota State Retirement System service credit purchase authorized for a certain person.

HF2988—Smith (R)
Education
School district facilities used for recreation programs provisions modified.

HF2989—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Two and three unit nonhomestead property class rates reduced, class 4bb property target class rate eliminated, and city noncompliance provisions extended.

HF2990—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Welfare programs providing an education choice provisions modified.

HF2991—Long (DFL)
Economic Development
& International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF2992—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Day training and habilitation services provisions modified.

HF2993—Paymar (DFL)
Judiciary
Order for protection/minor respondent violations provided criminal penalties, firearm possession prohibited, and harassment restraining order service of notice clarified.

HF2994—Jefferson (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement actuarial cost allocation modified.

HF2995—Orfield (DFL)
Governmental Operations
Advisory council on official publications created.

HF2996—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources
& Agriculture Finance
Rosemount experiment station improvements provided for a Minnesota turf and grounds research and education center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2997—Knoblach (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Water quality standards cost-benefit model study required, and task force created.

HF2998—Westrom (R)
Education
University of Minnesota, Morris campus, improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2999—Molnau (R)
Commerce, Tourism
& Consumer Affairs
Municipalities with a population of 5,000 or less exempt from certain temporary liquor license restrictions.

HF3000-HF3088 were not available at press time.



During a Jan. 23 meeting of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) questioned an item in the governor's bonding proposal calling for money for a women's athletic field at the University of Minnesota.

"I think we're going down the wrong track when we assign a men's soccer field or a women's soccer field," Dehler said. "There shouldn't be titles on a men's facility or a women's facility. We do that with bathrooms. 'Is there a difference between a men's soccer field and a women's soccer field?' he asked.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) answered, "It's pink."

Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), committee chair, noted for the record that a female had uttered the sarcastic response.

A heavy hitter was on hand Jan. 28 when light rail transit was discussed by the House Transportation and Transit Committee.

Former Minnesota Viking safety Paul Krause, now a Dakota County commissioner, attended the meeting. He is also a member of the Light Rail Transit Joint Powers Board. Krause played for the Vikings from 1968-1979.

A week earlier, Krause received the highest honor a former National Football League player can get. The league's career leader in interceptions with 81, he was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

Morrie Anderson, chancellor of the Minnesota State College and University System, began the Jan. 28 meeting of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee by congratulating the chair.

Anderson told Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), who is rather strict about starting hearings on time, that "House time is much better than Senate time."

"Chancellor," Pelowski said, "I think you'll find the House bills are much better, too."

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Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Feb. 2

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget briefings, Penumbra Theater, Public Utilities Commission, Council on Black Minnesotans.

Higher Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education bonding bill.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Recommendations of the Government Efficiency and Oversight Subcommittee.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Repealing the Labor Day school start limitation.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Extending interim contracts for retired superintendents and principals.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Repealing the cap on superintendent salaries.

Discussion of principles related to education budget categoricals, natural disaster related requests from schools, school district fund transfer requests.

HF772 (Evans) Health and safety revenue program expanded to include indoor air quality, school construction project information requirements modified, indoor air quality task force established, and money appropriated.

K-12 capital bonding recommendations.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources capital budget proposal.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HF349 (Kahn) Hemp; industrial hemp classified as an agricultural product, hemp growers license required, and regulatory authority transferred.

HF2382 (Rukavina) Indoor housing facilities temperature rule exemption provided to a certain kennel.

HF2708 (Juhnke) Regulation of contracts between farmers and processors.

HF2798 (Juhnke) Providing certain requirements for compensation to landowners for pipeline easements.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2485 (Rukavina) New snowmobiles required to be equipped with auxiliary light power and switches.

HF2484 (Anderson, I.) All-terrain vehicle operation provisions modified.

HF1690 (Hasskamp) Personal watercraft operation requirements modified.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Consideration of capital budget requests for human services and veteran's nursing homes. Presentation of the governor's supplemental budget. Recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: Continuation of any bill not completed at the Jan. 30 meeting.

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

HF2288 (Mullery) Consecutive sentences allowed when offender commits additional crimes prior to sentencing, and guidelines modified.

HF2702 (Weaver) Expanding the scope of certain felony penalties for the crime of legal process.

HF2679 (Biernat) Expanding the enhancement

of penalties for crimes committed for the benefit of a gang to include crimes that are motivated by involvement with a gang.

HF2305 (Mullery) Gang-related felony crime penalties increased, mandatory minimum sentences provided for witness tampering, and witness and victim protection fund appropriated money. Additional bills will be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Department of Administration continuation of capital requests including those for the Department of Revenue, Department of Transportation and BCA buildings.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: Review of Office of Community Services administrative costs, Barbara Yates, assistant commissioner.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert

Agenda: HF2293 (Jefferson) Senate District 58 pilot project created authorizing absentee voting without qualification.

HF2567 (McCollum) Ramsey County open absentee balloting pilot program extension authorized.

HF2277 (Tunheim) Candidates required to obtain written permission from an organization prior to campaign material statements of support for a candidate or ballot question.

HF2338 (Folliard) Gulf War veterans bonus program modified to facilitate eligibility verification.

HFXXXX (Kelso) Authorizing payment of Vietnam veteran bonus.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson

Agenda: SF1074 (Kelly, R.);

HF1693 (Pugh) 911 system and police and fire department public safety dispatchers, essential employees.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: HF2654 (Mahon) Relating to public safety; allowing personalized license plates to be issued for certain trucks resembling pickup trucks.

HF690 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle compulsory insurance law violation minimum fine imposed.

HF719 (Rhodes) Motor vehicle registration suspension authorized in certain circumstances, and registration provisions modified.

HF2589 (Wagenius) Snowfence easements, high-

way closures, and signs regulated, state transportation plan revised, private carriers regulated, flexible highway account created, town highways and bridges funded, and conveyances to public bodies permitted.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m. or After Session

**Subcommittee on Licensing &
Scope of Practice/
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Linda Wejcman

Agenda: HF668 (Seagren) Industrial hygienist and safety professional title protection act adopted.

HF885 (Greenfield) Physical therapy board established, and license requirement provided.

HF1135 (McCollum) Massage and Oriental bodywork therapist licensure requirement established, and penalties provided.

HF396 (Wejcman) Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and criminal penalties provided.

5:30 p.m.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF1278 (Clark, K.) Financial institution reasonable account fees required.

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

HF2721 (Farrell) Financial institutions; regulating fees and charges imposed on account holders and others.

HF2292 (Anderson, I.) ATM; Automated teller machine use fees charged to other banks' customers prohibited.

7 p.m.

**Subcommittee on Agriculture Finance
& Rural Development/
AGRICULTURE**

Creekview Park Neighborhood Center
5001 Irving Ave. N, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Chr. Rep. Gary Kubly

Agenda: Local bug infestation; testimony by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, state and local officials and local citizens.

TUESDAY, Feb. 3

8 a.m.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: HF2214 (Murphy) High school pupils enrolled in postsecondary courses allowed to participate in high school activities, and post-sec-

ondary course grades excluded from pupil's grade point average.

HF2404 (Bakk) Snowmobile safety training provided to K-12 students.

HF2836 (Opatz) Home school students participation in public school extracurricular activities.

HF2276 (Biernat) School districts authorized to require summer school attendance.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Supplemental budget requests for Board of Judicial Standards, Department of Corrections, Ombudsman for Corrections, Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, Public Defense Board, Department of Public Safety.

(This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.)

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

Agenda: HF2561 (Hausman) Hiawatha, Riverview, Northstar, Cedar, and Northwest transit corridors design and construction authorized, St. Paul to Hastings commuter rail developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources capital budget proposal.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

Agenda: HF2303 (Dawkins) Public libraries and multicounty, multitype library systems sales tax exemption provided.

HF2804 (Slawik) Expanding the dependant care credit.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HFXXXX (Kinkel) Department of Administration bill covering the 1997 reorganizational orders pertaining to the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

HF2705 (Kahn) Making the state register available on the Internet.

HF2673 (Rest) Salaries for state employees on disaster leave.

HF800 (McElroy) Legislative capital investment commission established, and duties specified.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF885 (Greenfield) Physical therapy board established, and license requirement provided.

HF668 (Seagren) Industrial hygienist and safety professional title protection act adopted.

HF1306 (Hausman) Health plan coverage required for off-label drug use, and advisory council established.

HF2786 (Wejcman) Relating to health professions; modifying provisions relating to speech-language pathologists, unlicensed mental health practitioners, alcohol and drug counselors, and hearing instrument dispensers.

HF2767 (Entenza) Relating to human services; modifying the Data Practices Act.

HFXXXX (Greenfield) Health care cost information systems.

HF2649 (Wejcman) Relating to health; creating an office of health care consumer assistance; advocacy, and information; amending the enrollee complaint system for health maintenance organizations; extending the date of establishing an informal complaint resolution process.

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

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: Limited sales license for manufacturing homes.

HF2555 (Rostberg) Low-income persons with chemical sensitivities assisted, and money appropriated.

HF2344 (Clark, K.) Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided, and money appropriated.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: HF2659 (Olson, E.) Technical bill, Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Explanation of assumptions used in capital budget detail sheets, Tom Ulness, Department of Administration.

HFXXXX (Kalis) Unified contingency fund created.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HFXXXX (Tunheim) Relating to mortgages; enacting the Minnesota residential mortgage originator and service licensing act; establishing licensing and enforcement mechanisms; amending 1996 Minnesota Statutes.

HF2757 (Entenza) Relating to commerce; regulating residential mortgage loans; establishing table funding requirements; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 82.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
& METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

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

Agenda: HF2700 (Harder) Authorizing the formation of a nonprofit corporation by Brown County.

HF2627 (Winter) Appropriating money for regional planning.

HF2610 (Bishop) Rochester authorized to impose permanent sales, use, and excise taxes, proceed expenditures specified, and referendum required.

HF2357 (Wejcman) Age ceiling for new firefighters in Minneapolis eliminated.

HF2566 (Hausman) Commissioner of transportation and the Metropolitan Council required to seek comments of the Light Rail Joint Powers Board on metro transit and transportation issues, and joint board membership and authority expansion provided.

HF2608 (Johnson, A.) Anoka County; bond issuance authorized for library building construction and an annual debt levy retirement.

HF2790 (Jennings) Permitting appointment of the Chisago County recorder.

HF2774 (Kuisle) Clarifying the conduct of certain county elections.

HF2736 (Hilty) Counties; authorizing gifts to certain food distribution organizations.

HF2667 (Rest) Legislative auditor; adding a member to the local government services advisory council.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Providing additional antislamm and disclosure requirements on long-distance service providers.

HFXXXX (Kulby) Minnesota Agri. Power Project/ Cost Recovery and acts of God.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Department of Public Service technical bill.

HFXXXX (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission regulatory requirement reduction.

Additional bills may be added.

3 p.m.

Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives/ EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Matt Entenza

Agenda: HF2522 (Greiling) K-12 education policy changes and rulemaking.

Additional bills may be added.

4 p.m.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, continuation of capital bonding requests.

HF2739 (Trimble) St. Paul indoor tennis center construction grant money provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF2753 (Anderson, B.) Elk River amateur sports hall of fame construction provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF2502 (Rukavina) Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Giants Ridge cross-country ski event facility enhancement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 4

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: Budget Briefings for Centers for Independent Living, Department of Commerce, Department of Public Service.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education bonding bill.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HFXXXX (Opatz) School site accountability.

HFXXXX (Seagren) Education accountability system.

HFXXXX (Jefferson) Education reform and accountability.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF2284 (Kubly) Noncontiguous land classification provisions modified for the purposes of agricultural homestead determination.

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

HF2509 (Johnson, A.) Metropolitan special taxing districts budget and levy public hearing dates modified.

HF2591 (Rifenberg) Vacant platted property assessment provided.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF2074 (Jaros) Duluth Hartley Nature Center improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF2075 (Munger) Duluth Lake Superior Zoo improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2367 (Rukivina) Mountain Iron and Virginia flood projects provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2368 (Rukivina) St. Louis County; Fayal sewer system provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2408 (Sekhon) Anoka County; Linwood Township surface water drainage system provided, and money appropriated.

HF2361 (Sekhon) Anoka County; Linwood Township surface water drainage system provided, and money appropriated.
Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2515 (Bakk) Minnesota Forest Resources Council membership expanded to include a representative from the Indian Affairs Council.

HF2231 (Tuma) BWCA; motorboat use prohibited in Boundary Waters Canoe Area, and civil penalty provided.

HF2418 (Rukavina) BWCA; permanent school fund funded through Boundary Waters Canoe Area campsite fees.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF2748 (Tomassoni) Relating to families; establishing the Minnesota family asset initiative for education, housing and economic development.

Additional bills may be added.

Health & Human Services

Finance Division/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Continuation of presentation of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HFXXXX (Biernat) Failure to appear after release penalty increased; failure to honor subpoena made a crime of being accomplice after the fact.

HF2409 (Stanek) Procedures for compelling material witness attendance at hearings provided.

HF2806 (Slawik) Requiring individuals convicted of felony indecent exposure to register as predatory offenders.

HF2734 (Bishop) Registration of sexual offenders; requiring certain offenders moving into Minnesota to register within five days; authorizing adult and juvenile offender registration information to be maintained together; expanding prosecutorial jurisdiction.

Additional bills will be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: Assembly of bonding recommendations to Capital Investment Committee. If necessary, this meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

12 noon

Governor's State of the State Address.

12:30 p.m.

Civil & Family Law Division/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Andy Dawkins

Agenda: HF2390 (Pugh) Real and personal property conveyances and transactions regulated, and technical changes provided to the uniform partnership act.

HF2233 (Clark, K.) Landlords not required to store tenant's personal property after abandonment or eviction.

HF2363 (Clark, K.) Abandoned property five-week mortgage redemption period clarified relating to trespassers.

HF2439 (Mullery) Nuisance cases and tenant remedies provided.

HF2530 (Wejcman) Putative father's adoption registry provisions modified.

HF2590 (Jennings) Security deposit interest rates provided.

HF2779 (Chaudhary) Housing for the elderly definition modified.

HFXXXX (Chaudhary) Modifying the required contents of petitions seeking judicial review of driver's license revocations and petitions seeking expungement orders.

1 p.m. or Immediately Following
Governor's Speech

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Jaros

Agenda: HF2678 (Gunther) Department of Trade and Economic Development housekeeping bill. HFXXXX (Huntley) Providing for on the job training in skilled trades and money appropriated.

HF2339 (Clark, K.) Circulator vehicle pilot project and grant developed to connect the Minneapolis Convention Center with other locations, and money appropriated.

HF2282 (Clark, K.) Individual development account demonstration project established, and money appropriated.

Family & Early Childhood Education

Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

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

HF2752 (Jefferson) Neighborhood center bonding.

HF2465 (Clark, K.) Authorizing spending to acquire and to better public land and buildings and other public improvements of a capital nature; providing for early childhood learning facilities; authorizing issuance of bonds; appropriating money.

Time and Room to be Announced

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Transportation bonding bill.

Additional bills may be added.

3:30 p.m. or After DFL Caucus

Higher Education

Finance Division/EDUCATION

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski

Agenda: Higher education bonding bill.

4 p.m.

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

Agenda: Transportation bonding bill.

Additional bills may be added.

THURSDAY, Feb. 5

8 a.m.

Economic Development

Finance Division/

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2287 (Mullery) Youth intervention program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2456 (Clark, K.) Appropriating money for the Youthbuild program.

HF2454 (Trimble) Appropriating money for the 50th Conference of the Interstate Indian Council.

HF2648 (Tomassoni) Relating to appropriations, appropriating money for the taconite mining grant program.

EDUCATION

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

Agenda: Bonding recommendations from finance divisions.

**Judiciary Finance Division/
JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

Agenda: Minnesota Center for Crime Victim's Services: Introduction, governor's executive order, budget request, plan for the future, roundtable disposition, testimony. This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.

8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT,
NATURAL RESOURCES
& AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: Metro greenways, trail connections, parks bonding request.

Additional bills may be added.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

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

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn

Agenda: HF2502 (Rukavina) Bonding recommendations of the State Government Finance Division.

Continuation of Feb. 3 agenda if necessary.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Dorn

Agenda: HF2723 (Entenza) Child welfare, Department of Human Services.

HFXXXX (Greenfield) Relating to human services; changing provisions in Medical Assistance, Medicare, and MinnesotaCare; Department of Human Services.

Additional bills may be added.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dee Long

Agenda: To be announced.

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

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HFXXXX (Long) Preservation of federally assisted housing.

12:25 p.m.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tour

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

Agenda: Tour of University of Minnesota capital projects. (University of Minnesota bus will be departing from in front of the State Office Building at 12:25 p.m.)

12:30 p.m.

**COMMERCE, TOURISM
& CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Tunheim

Agenda: HF2706 (Kahn) Relating to commerce; providing for the reliability of electronic mes-

sages; providing for certification authorities; providing licensing and enforcement powers; defining terms; providing rulemaking; amending Minnesota Statutes 1997 Supplement. HF2221 (Entenza) Service station business operating hours regulated, and motor fuel retailer fuel purchase options provided.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: HF2588 (Orfield) County commissioners to serve as metropolitan council members, candidate and member economic interest statements regulated, contributions to candidates regulated, and study required.
HF2809 (McElroy) Requiring copies of audited financial statements to be provided to elected officials.
HF2824 (Pugh) Clarifying the employment status of certain employees in Dakota County.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings
Agenda: HFXXXX (Jennings) Relating to telecommunications; requiring competitive local exchange carriers to provide service to all consumer classes.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Requiring parties to a telephone or telecommunications proceeding of the Public Utilities Commission or Department of Public Service to pay costs.
Additional bills may be added.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

1/2 Hour After Session

Subcommittee on Government Efficiency & Oversight/ ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Betty McCollum
Agenda: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, continuation meeting regarding fee.

3:30 p.m. or After Session

Subcommittee on Data Practices/ JUDICIARY

400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire
Agenda: To be announced.

4 p.m. or After Session

Subcommittee on Gaming/ REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mike Delmont
Agenda: Gaming bills to be announced.

Subcommittee on Health Care Access/ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Huntley
Agenda: HF875 (Tunheim) Health plan enrollee health care services provider choice required.
HF2664 (Delmont) Relating to health; clarifying the equal access requirements on health plan companies.

FRIDAY, Feb. 6

8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: University of Minnesota supplemental budget request.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF2763 (Wagenius) Expanding all-day kindergarten.
HF2483 (Jefferson) Driver safety education pilot program for students established, and money appropriated.
HF2252 (Olson, M.) Statewide educational testing grant program established, and money appropriated.
HF2613 (Luther) Independent School District No. 279, Osseo, levy authorized to fund instructional services for at-risk children.
HF2614 (Luther) School district low-income concentration levy program established.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/ TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: HF2270 (Winter) Air ambulance registration exemption provided.
HF2612 (Jennings) Trunk Highway No. 95 designated as State Trooper Timothy J. Bowe memorial highway.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger
Agenda: To be announced.

Health & Human Services Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
Agenda: Continuation of presentation of the governor's supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health.

JUDICIARY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund
Agenda: HFXXXX (Skoglund) Expanding the stalking and harassment law to include certain types of harassment committed against a peace officer in retaliation for the officer's performance of official duties in connection with a criminal investigation.
HFXXXX (Biernat) Authorizing state correctional investigators to use force to apprehend fugitives from state prison.
HF2285 (Skoglund) Firearms offenses provided increased minimum sentences.
Discussion of Judiciary Finance Division's bonding recommendations.
Additional bills to be announced.

10:30 a.m.

Subcommittee on Agriculture Finance & Rural Development/ AGRICULTURE

Ledeboer Hog Farm
Prinsburg, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Gary Kubly
Agenda: Tour of hog farm, discussion of feedlot issues. (Van leaving the East doors of State Office Building at 8:30 a.m. Expected to return to Capitol by 3:30 p.m.)

Legislative Audit Commission

118 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener
Agenda: Review of the program evaluation report on transit services.

12:30 p.m.

Higher Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski
Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

1 p.m.

Regent Candidate Advisory Council

400N State Office Building
Agenda: Report on status and plans of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, William E. Hogan, II, chair, Board of Regents. Discussion of regent candidate recruitment strategies in 1998, Nedra Wicks. Discussion of RCAC document revisions for 1998-99.

2 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

112 Capitol Building
Chr. Sen. Steven Morse
Agenda: To be announced.

'Cyber-employment' in Minnesota

It's a fact!

Minnesota is the "cyber-employment" leader in its seven-state region, and the state's high-tech workers earn about 50 percent more than their

lower-tech counterparts, according to a recent report by the American Electronics Association.

But that's not to say that high-tech workers in Minnesota are on top of the employment barrel: The same report shows that the wages earned by the state's high-tech employees ranked only 22nd in the nation.

The report by the country's largest high-tech trade association tracks the industry's rates of employment, salaries, and exports by state from 1990 to 1995 by using federal labor statistics.

According to the report, 55 of every 1,000 private-sector employees in the Minnesota were working in a high-tech field in 1995. Only five states had a higher ratio (California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Jersey).

While Minnesota's total population is 20th nationwide, the state came in 13th for the number of workers employed by high-tech firms.

Computer developing, manufacturing, and servicing accounted for almost one-half of Minnesota's 109,000 high-tech jobs in 1995, while the others were mostly in telecommunications, industrial electronics, and electronic-component manufacturing for companies such as Honeywell and 3M.

On average, Minnesota high-tech workers earned \$42,618 in 1995 — far more than the statewide average salary of \$27,050. But in several other states, salaries for high-tech workers compared even more favorably with wages for the rest of the workforce, leaving the Minnesota with a rank of 22nd for high-tech salaries.

However, Minnesota did rank high — 13th — for its amount of high-tech exports. In 1995, a full 53 percent of the state's total exports were defined as high-tech. That amounted to \$4.6 billion in exports.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Title of Publication	Session Weekly	Publication No.	Date of Filing
		1 0 4 9 - 8 1 7 6	10-15-97
Frequency of issue	Weekly during legislative session	No. of Issues Published	Annual Subscription Price
		Annually 22 odd yr.; 12 even	No Charge

Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication
100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN Ramsey Co., 55155-1298

Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher
100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN Ramsey Co., 55155-1298

Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor

Publisher LeClair G. Lambert, 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN 55155

Editor Peg Hamerston, 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN 55155

Managing Editor Position vacant

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Full Name	Complete mailing Address
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Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities. If none, check here. ☒

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None	

For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates. The purpose, function and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: (Check one)

☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

(If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

Publication Name	Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
Session Weekly	1/30/98	
Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published nearest to Filing date
a. Total No. Copies	16,706	18,575
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales (Not Mailed)		
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies)	13,388	15,516
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	13,388	15,516
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free)		
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	2,931	3,255
f. Total Distribution	2,931	3,255
g. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	16,319	18,771
h. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office use, left over, Spoiled	387	804
2. Return from News Agents		
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))	16,706	19,575
Percent paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c/15g x 100)	82%	83%

This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the 1/30/98 issue of this publication.

Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Date

Oct. 1, 1997

LeClair G. Lambert

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Minnesota House of Representatives 1998 Members

List as of January 28, 1998

District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (612) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
45A Abrams, Ron (R)	209	9934		37B Macklin, Bill (R)	349	6926	
19B Anderson, Bruce (R)	281	5063		40A Mahon, Mark P. (DFL)	401	7158	
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	563	4936		55A Mares, Harry (R)	239	5363	
6A Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	575	2190		65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	403	9714	
10B Bettermann, Hilda (R)	243	4317		57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	439	3135	
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	429	4219		55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	501	1188	
30B Bishop, Dave (R)	343	0573		36B McElroy, Dan (R)	259	4212	
25B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	327	8237		54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	379	4342	
30A Bradley, Fran (R)	233	9249		39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	579	4192	
53B Broecker, Sherry (R)	321	7153		35A Molnau, Carol L. (R)	287	8872	
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	365	4255		21B Mulder, Richard (R)	283	4336	
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	463	3709		58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	359	4262	
52A Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	507	4331		7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	479	4282	
23A Clark, James (R)	211	9303		8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	557	2676	
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	503	0294		20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	289	4344	
38A Commers, Tim (R)	217	3533		10A Nornes, Bud (R)	357	4946	
11A Daggett, Roxann (R)	253	4293		2B Olson, Edgar (DFL)	565	4265	
31B Davids, Gregory M. (R)	371	9278		19A Olson, Mark (R)	323	4237	
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	409	5158		16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	473	6612	
14A Dehler, Steve (R)	203	7808		60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	521	9281	
51A Delmont, Mike (DFL)	433	4226		29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	329	9236	
29A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	251	8635		66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	585	4224	
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	571	3248		11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	545	3201	
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	421	8799		37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	317	4306	
42A Erhardt, Ron (R)	237	4363		42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	221	7449	
17A Erickson, Sondra (R)	247	6746		38B Pawlenty, Tim (R)	231	4128	
52B Evans, Geri (DFL)	413	0141		64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	529	4199	
67A Farrell, Jim (DFL)	491	4277		32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	549	8637	
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	377	9918		13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	569	4228	
44A Folliard, Betty (DFL)	523	3964		39A Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	583	6828	
63B Garcia, Edwina (DFL)	417	5375		46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	485	4176	
9A Goodno, Kevin (R)	369	5515		28A Reuter, Doug (R)	241	5368	
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	381	0173		44B Rhodes, Jim (R)	309	9889	
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	553	5387		32B Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	215	1069	
26A Gunther, Bob (R)	337	3240		18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	311	5364	
48A Haas, Bill (R)	201	5513		5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	471	0170	
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	277	5373		17B Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	517	5377	
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	453	4333		41A Seagren, Alice (R)	315	7803	
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	449	3824		21A Seifert, Marty (R)	213	5374	
8B Hilty, Bill (DFL)	525	4308		50A Sekhon, Kathleen (DFL)	451	2439	
56A Holsten, Mark (R)	345	3018		4A Skare, Gail (DFL)	431	5516	
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	533	2228		62B Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	477	4330	
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	559	4246		57A Slawik, Nora (DFL)	551	7807	
58B Jefferson, Richard (DFL)	577	8659		34A Smith, Steve (R)	353	9188	
18B Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	591	0518		3B Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	445	2365	
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	539	5510		33B Stanek, Rich (R)	351	5502	
24B Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	567	7065		14B Stang, Doug (R)	223	4373	
15A Juhnke, Al (DFL)	531	6206		28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	267	2273	
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	367	4257		23B Swenson, Howard (R)	331	8634	
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	543	4240		43B Sykora, Barb (R)	389	4315	
35B Kelso, Becky (DFL)	415	1072		50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	295	5369	
20B Kielkucki, Tony (R)	313	1534		5B Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	593	0172	
4B Kinkel, Anthony G. (Tony) (DFL)	537	2451		36A Tompkins, Eileen (R)	245	5506	
40B Knight, Kevin (R)	229	4218		67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	597	4201	
16B Knoblach, Jim (R)	207	6316		25A Tuma, John (R)	301	4229	
49B Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	411	4231		1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	509	9635	
27A Kraus, Ron (R)	279	8216		34B Van Dellen, Todd (R)	291	5511	
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	303	2907		51B Vandever, Ray (R)	255	4124	
15B Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	423	4346		63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	437	4200	
31A Kuisle, William (R)	375	4378		49A Weaver, Charlie (R)	261	1729	
56B Larsen, Peg (R)	307	4244		61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	407	7152	
27B Leighton, Rob (DFL)	527	4193		12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	487	4247	
45B Leppik, Peggy (R)	393	7026		9B Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	225	6829	
2A Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	515	5091		13A Westrom, Torrey (R)	273	4929	
33A Lindner, Arlon (R)	227	7806		22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	459	5505	
60A Long, Dee (DFL)	443	0171		41B Wolf, Ken (R)	387	5185	
47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	581	3751		43A Workman, Tom (R)	335	5066	

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

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Minority Leader: Steve Sviggum

MINNESOTA INDEX

Higher education in Minnesota

Total enrollment in Minnesota public and private universities and community and technical colleges, 1996	242,000
in 1990	258,000
in 1986	215,000
Percent of Minnesota high school graduates who attend a postsecondary institution within one year	71
Annual tuition at state universities, 1997	\$2,852
in 1982	\$1,350
Annual tuition at U of M's College of Liberal Arts, 1997	\$4,549
in 1982	\$2,128
Minnesota's 1997 spending on higher education, in billions	\$1.1
Percent of state budget	12
Percent of 1997 state higher education funds that went for instruction	66
Per capita state and local spending for higher education in Minnesota, 1995	\$181
U.S. average	\$148
Minnesota's rank among states	14
Percent of instructional costs at Minnesota public postsecondary institutions paid by students, 1994	37
in 1982	26
Institutions in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system	37
Number of two-year colleges	29
Number of state universities	7
MnSCU-operated campuses in Akita, Japan	1
Enrollment at all MnSCU campuses, fall 1996	145,000
Enrollment at all U of M campuses, fall 1996	48,690
Additional enrollment in extension classes, fall 1996	18,522
International students enrolled at U of M, fall 1996	2,751
Countries represented	126
Undergraduates as percentage of total enrollment at state universities, 1996	92
Undergraduates as percentage of total enrollment at the U of M, 1996	73
Undergraduates as percentage of total enrollment at Minnesota private colleges, 1996	76

Sources: *Annual Report, 1997*, University of Minnesota; *Higher Education Enrollments: Current Conditions and Recent Trends, 1998*, House Research Department; *Degrees of Excellence: Higher Education in Minnesota, 1997*, Minnesota Planning.

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