Reflections

The governor’s State of the State message to state officials and lawmakers is one of the many governmental duties guided by the tradition of protocol.

In Minnesota’s bicameral Legislature, the constitutionally mandated “... message to each session of the Legislature...” becomes a joint meeting of 201 members, with both the speaker of the House and the president of the Senate presiding. The governor, other constitutional officers, and judges are invited guests.

Protocol dictates that on the day of the governor’s speech, around 11:45 a.m., senators, led by their chief sergeant-at-arms, and other officials are escorted to the House chamber by designated legislators and by representatives of the military.

The House chief sergeant-at-arms announces each arrival, then is given permission by the speaker for the guests to enter the chamber. The governor is the last dignitary to enter, and begins the message promptly at noon.

Gov. Henry H. Sibley, the state’s first chief executive, and the six governors who served over the next 21 years gave an annual address during each year of their two-year terms in office. Legislators met on an annual basis. From 1881 to 1971, the Legislature met biennially, so the governor gave only a biennial report of progress in the state. Since 1973, the governor has once again reported annually to the legislators who meet each year of a two-year session.

In 1969, Gov. Harold LeVander added “State of the State” as the name of the official report to Minnesotans.

For 140 years, most governors’ messages or inaugural addresses have been given in the legislative chambers under protocol. But Gov. Rudy Perpich, in 1983, delivered a separate inaugural address at Hibbing High School.

Likewise, in 1988, he had legislators and other officials load onto four buses at the Capitol, and travel 110 miles away for an evening State of the State speech at Winona State University.

In 1990, Perpich’s last message occurred at Bloomington Jefferson High School. His speech did not focus on the state’s condition, the budget, or even revenue forecasts. The 15-minute message focused on building a drug-free environment. Again breaking protocol, the address was written by David Carr, a free-lance writer and recovering cocaine addict.

Gov. Arne Carlson made his final State of the State address on Feb. 4 in the House chamber (See related story, page 17) but his 1996 message was given to the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce at a hotel miles from the Capitol in the near southwest suburbs. A different audience. And for the first time, State of the State guests ate dinner and paid $60 per person for chamber members and $80 for nonmembers.

Carlson’s final message to the state this week was given to a more traditional audience of legislators, state officials, school groups, and the general public.

Once again, protocol prevails.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Evergreen needles covered with frost add a glittery softness to the Capitol grounds.

— Photo by Laura Phillips
Proposed personal watercraft restrictions resurface

By Nicole Wood

The Land of 10,000 Lakes is being overrun by 27,000 personal watercraft (PWC) operators, according to supporters of a bill that would strictly limit use of the increasingly popular watercraft.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) is sponsoring the bill, which she has dubbed the personal watercraft safety and courtesy act.

Lakeshore property owners, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), PWC manufacturers, watersport enthusiasts, and others brought their disparate opinions on personal watercraft to the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 2.

“In a democracy, it is unacceptable that such a small and noisy minority have such a negative impact on others,” Jeff Brown, of Minnesotans for Responsible Recreation, told the panel.

Proponents of the bill said that the foremost problem with PWCs is the noise.

Dr. Peter Arny, who has lived on Turtle Lake in Shoreview since 1953, said he has stopped fishing because of the PWC noise which he described as analogous to swarming bees.

“It’s incessant. It drives you inside,” he said.

“People who use them should think about how they invade other people’s privacy.”

Supporters of HF1690 also accused PWC operators of reckless disregard for boaters, swimmers, and wildlife.

Helen Wilkie, representing Polaris Industries, a Minnesota manufacturer of snowmobiles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and personal watercraft, gave the industry’s response to the proposed legislation.

Wilkie said the real problem is a lack of enforcement of existing laws.

She said Polaris has updated their engines and mufflers and is working on sound-deadening materials.

Bombardier of Canada — “a major player in the industry” — has introduced a PWC that reduces noise by 50 percent, Wilkie said, and the rest of the industry is close on Bombardier’s heels.

Wilkie said while Polaris supports “user-friendly” education and an age requirement, they do not agree with the proposed ban on lakes up to 200 acres.

“Should people who are fortunate enough to own lakeshore property have the ability to ban something on public waters simply because they don’t like it?” she asked.

Well-known Twin Cities businessman Irwin Jacobs was among those who stepped up to testify in favor of the bill. Jacobs is the chair of Genmar Holdings Inc., a manufacturer of several boat lines including Lund, Larson, and Crestliner.

He has recently withdrawn his membership from the National Marine Manufacturers Association in protest against industry support of personal watercraft.

Jacobs said he believes PWCs are bad for the boating industry. In fact, he said, they shouldn’t be considered boats in the first place.

Some on the panel questioned his motives.

“There’s no question I have a lot invested in the boat business,” he said. “I don’t need any help for my business. I believe in free enterprise.”

Jacobs, who lives on Lake Minnetonka, said he has witnessed the personal watercraft problem firsthand while cruising the lake on his pontoon boat.

“They don’t stay within the buoys, and they zig and they zag,” he said. “If they claim to be boats, why don’t they act like boats?”

U.S. Coast Guard figures show that while PWCs make up 5 percent of the watercraft, they cause 37 percent of the accidents, Jacobs said.

“It’s not about the safe and friendly users,” he said. “It’s about the abusers.”

Scott Hough, of Plymouth, said that although he is a safe and courteous rider, he, too, supports the bill.

“A lake is a neighborhood,” he said. “How can you as a good neighbor not have liability insurance?”

Armed with a videotape of a PWC buzzing incessantly in front of her lake home, Kathy Continued on next page
As governor’s chief of staff, Omann recalls youthful impact

By Jim Thielman

At one time he was the new kid (almost literally) on the block. But Bernie Omann, now Gov. Arne Carlson’s chief of staff, doesn’t recall being treated like a college kid when he stepped into the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1986.

Omann was a student at St. Cloud State University when he won a special election to replace his father, Ben, who died at the beginning of his 1986 term.

“The nice thing was,” Omann recalls, “I was 22, and my vote mattered as much as someone who was 60 or 70. In ’86, there weren’t as many younger legislators as there are now. As I recall, the closest one to me in age was in [his] early 30s. But people dealt with me as just a member.”

This 80th Legislative Session features plenty of young representatives. Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is 23, Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) is 24, and there are others in their 20s and early 30s. But Omann was peerless when he began his six years in the House Republican Caucus.

Omann recalls his age quickly took a back seat to knowledge when he entered the House.

“In the committee process, it doesn’t take legislators long to decide who studies the issues,” Omann says. “And whether you’re 60 or 25, no one comes into it who doesn’t have something to learn.

“I don’t know what it would be like to go back now, being a little bit older, but I never felt being younger was a hindrance. One thing that people who are young bring is a different perspective, and people appreciate a different perspective.”

As Carlson’s chief of staff, Omann has worked to move legislators toward passing a bill that would call for construction of a new baseball stadium in the metropolitan area.

He said one fond memory from his House days was working to get a provision in a bonding bill for the National Hockey Center in St. Cloud.

At the time, St. Cloud State was a Division III hockey program. But the team boasted former Olympic hockey coach Herb Brooks at its helm, and the intent from the start was to get St. Cloud into Division I, the most competitive level of intercollegiate play.

The $9.5 million arena was plagued by financial problems, and like the stadium topic Omann recalls, “it was a controversial issue in the district I represented. But look at it now: No way St. Cloud would be Division I without it.”

Omann still resides near Sartell, Minn., which is north of St. Cloud.

In 1992 and 1994, Omann challenged DFLer Collin Peterson for the 7th Congressional District seat. Omann lost by scant percentage points each time.

In 1993 and 1994, he was assistant state commissioner of agriculture. In that capacity during the flood of ‘93, Omann was known for helping coordinate Carlson’s many trips and meetings related to the issue. Omann’s intimate knowledge of rural issues was also considered to be a plus in the agriculture department role.

He became Carlson’s special assistant in 1994 and was named the chief of staff in May 1997. At 32, Omann is one of the younger chiefs of staff to serve a governor.

With Carlson overseeing his final legislative session, Omann will soon have to mull his options for the future.

“At this time, I just want to help the governor get his proposals through the Legislature and help implement his vision,” Omann said. “I haven’t spent a great deal of time looking to get outside of the political arena.”
**AGRICULTURE**

**Studying industrial hemp**

A bill that would call for a study of industrial hemp and its uses was approved by the House Agriculture Committee Feb. 2.

The bill (HF349), sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), passed on a 9-7 vote. It attracted controversy because hemp is in the same family as marijuana, an illegal controlled substance in the United States since 1937.

Both plants carry the scientific classification of cannabis sativa, but they are different, according to information supplied to the committee by the North American Industrial Hemp Council.

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) is the intoxicating drug in both marijuana and hemp. Marijuana contains 3 percent to 20 percent THC, while hemp contains .05 percent to 1 percent THC. In the latter case, 10-12 “joints” would have to be smoked in a short time to get high, according to the council. And that amount of smoke and gas would be hard for anyone to take, the council claims.

Proponents say industrial hemp can be made into paper which can be recycled more often than wood-derived paper, and that hemp can be used for clothing, fiber board, twine, bird seed, and oil. The finished product has no THC in it.

The uses for Minnesota farmers are obvious, according to Tom Cochrane, executive director of the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council.

“Anytime we are able to provide an alternative crop with so many advantages, it’s a good choice. If we don’t find a way to study it, I think we’re being remiss in working with our [farmers],” he said. “With the ability we have to improve a product that has as much potential as this, it would be a crying shame if we didn’t find a way to use this.”

The House considered the bill last year, but the measure did not come up for a vote on the House floor. A similar measure passed the Senate in 1997.

Hemp, which is grown in Canada and 25 other countries, has been a topic of discussion in several states.

But Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said she has problems even doing a study.

“I don’t see why we’re studying a lose-lose [situation],” she said. “This, to me, is nothing but a way to legalize an illegal drug.”

Some also expressed concerns that marijuana plants could be hidden in a hemp field, but Kahn said hemp usually crowds out the marijuana plant and makes it hard for it to grow.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otreba (DFL-Long Prairie) encouraged her colleagues to support the bill.

“I don’t drink, I don’t smoke, and I didn’t even pretend to inhale in college. And I’m familiar with [agricultural] technology,” she said.

Mike Campion, assistant superintendent of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (MBCA), testified against the bill, saying there would be opposition from the law enforcement community.

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

The bill now moves to the floor.

**BANKING**

**Eliminating ATM surcharges**

Despite opposition from the banking industry and several lawmakers, a bill that would eliminate some surcharges on Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) was narrowly approved Feb. 2 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

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

An earlier version of the bill would have applied to banks that own more than two machines, but Anderson offered an amendment to address concerns about how the bill would affect smaller banks.

ATM users are usually hit with two fees for each transaction. One fee is assessed by their bank; the other is assessed by the bank that owns the machine. Anderson’s bill would address only the latter fee, which usually comes in the form of a charge at the time of the transaction at an ATM not owned by the customer’s bank network.

Customers then often find a separate fee assessed at the end of the month on their bank statement. That fee would be unaffected by the bill.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), who was among the bill’s critics on the committee, said the measure — even with Anderson’s amendment — would hurt small banks.

“Changing the threshold from two to four doesn’t change that,” Van Dellen said. “It seemed pretty clear the small community banks did depend on their ability to make contracts with larger banks.

“If you want to vote for the bill, you think you know better than the private economy. I know we regulate banks, but we don’t need to regulate this. It’s a choice that our constituents want.”

Rep. Carlos M Arian (DFL-St. Paul) was on the opposite side of the debate.

“I think this is an important piece of legislation,” Arian said. “Bank services are critical . . . for citizens to be able to function in society. I think it responds directly to what citizens demand of their government.”

The bill now moves to the House floor.

**CHILDREN**

**Child protection system**

Why did the system fail to protect Desi Irving? That question has plagued people working in the child protection system since the child’s tragic death in February 1997.

“We still don’t know what happened to Desi Irving,” Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said at a House Judiciary Committee meeting Jan. 30. “We have families that are crying out for help and assistance who are not getting help and assistance.”

Entenza is sponsoring a bill (HF2985) that would provide comprehensive changes to Minnesota’s child protection system. The bill has received approval from the Judiciary Committee and is currently being reviewed by the House Health and Human Services Committee.

Last year, Mildred Irving plead guilty to second-degree murder in her three-year-old daughter’s death. She admitted to the court that she repeatedly hit Desi with an extension cord, broke one of Desi’s arms, and punched her in the abdomen so hard that her liver was lacerated. The autopsy results showed that Desi had suffered numerous broken bones,
had cigarette burns and many other scars, and had been suffering from malnutrition before her death.

The brutality of Desi’s death was accentuated by the fact that evidence shows that the Irving family had been in contact with Hennepin County’s child protection services.

Legislators sought to make sure that children like Desi were protected in the future. Attempts to bring Hennepin County caseworkers to testify before the Legislature during the interim failed due to data privacy issues. Caseworkers expressed a desire to disclose the facts of the case. However, they feared losing their jobs if they broke the data privacy law.

Last year, legislation that would have opened the child protection cases in the courts to public scrutiny passed both bodies of the Legislature, but differences could not be worked out in conference committee in time for the end of session.

However, the Minnesota Supreme Court has instituted a pilot project starting in June to open court hearings in such cases.

In January 1998, the legislative auditor released an evaluation of the state’s child protection system. The auditor found that services varied greatly from county to county and that no external oversight exists to monitor the actions in these cases. The auditor suggested numerous approaches to reforming the current state of the system.

Entenza’s bill incorporates many of the suggestions, along with changes recently mandated by federal law. HF2985 would create a more uniform statewide system and attempt to provide a sufficient level of oversight to make sure that the cases are handled effectively. The bill also seeks to place children more quickly into permanent living situations, either with a parent or another alternative home.

In addition, the bill would require that the Department of Human Services design a statewide child protective services plan with input from the county-administered programs. And the bill would appropriate $30 million to the department for child welfare initiatives.

Diane Benjamin, of the Children’s Defense Fund, testified in support of the bill before the Judiciary Committee. She said that this approach will resolve some of the issues in the state’s child protective system.

“In the past, we have been working in the margins in these situations,” Benjamin said, “and we are excited about this legislation because we think it takes a big step forward.”

HF2985 now is on its way to the Health and Human Services Finance Division.

Money up front

Real estate deals are seldom sealed by a handshake these days. In a time of mortgage company failures, it’s best to get the money up front, according to Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul).

“Some people have walked away from the title transfer with no money,” he said, during a Feb. 2 hearing before the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Although this has never happened to anyone in Minnesota, Entenza said, his bill (HF2972) would ensure that “qualified” loan funds are always available at the closing of a residential real estate deal. The committee approved the measure.

“Qualified” is clearly defined in the bill. Some types of qualified funds include cash in the form of U.S. currency, cashier’s checks or bank money orders issued by a federally insured financial institution, and U.S. treasury checks.

Martin Henschel, from the title arm of Edina Realty, said he supports the bill because his company has had a few situations where the loan money did not come in for several weeks after closing a sale.

Curtis Loewe, of the attorney general’s office, said more than 10 states have adopted “good money” legislation to guarantee the money is available at closing.

“When people go to a closing, they expect everything to be done,” he said. “All this bill would do is ensure good funds.”

The bill now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Home mortgage services

Shopping for a home mortgage can be risky and confusing. Consumers often assume they are dealing with a bank whose activities are heavily regulated when, in fact, their lender or broker may be an unknown player in the residential mortgage industry.

Should anything go wrong during the process, the consumer is left without any recourse except, perhaps, an appeal to the attorney general’s office.

A bill (HF2983) sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) would license and regulate companies that perform residential mortgage services in Minnesota.

With the support of the Department of Commerce, the attorney general’s office, and the Minnesota Real Estate Services Association, HF2983 was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 2.

The bill also would establish an industry-wide code of conduct against infractions such as misrepresentation of services, misleading statements, or deceptive advertising. The standards of conduct would apply even if the business, such as a bank or credit union that is already regulated, was exempt from licensing.

Tunheim said that more than 40 states have...
already adopted regulatory programs that address residential mortgage transactions.

“Clear standards of conduct which apply to all residential mortgage originations will provide a level playing field within the industry as well as offer protection to consumers,” he said.

The bill now moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

**CRIME**

**Court-ordered appearances**

The second time was a charm for a bill that would make it easier for prosecutors to compel offenders and witnesses to appear in court.


The bill stalled on a tie vote the first time it came up in the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 4. Later, during the same meeting, Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) moved that the bill be reconsidered, and after a clarification, the bill was approved.

The bill creates a five-year felony penalty for knowingly and willfully violating a court-ordered appearance in relation to a crime of violence. The bill also requires that the action must be intended to obstruct the criminal justice process.

Mike Freeman, Hennepin County attorney, testified in support of the bill. He said that the bill is necessary to make sure that criminal trials are not impeded.

“This is an attempt to provide some additional inducements so that people show up,” Freeman said.

Michael Jones, of the Communities of Color Institute, told the committee that he had reservations about the bill. He said that he fears the bill would be used to compel people who fear retaliation to testify.

Jones described what happened when he once witnessed a murder at a bar in Minneapolis. He said that he was put in the back of a squad car where everyone could see that he was a witness, and although he wanted to report it, he felt very uncomfortable in the situation.

“When it dawned on me, I got scared. And this is real,” Jones said. “Because I have kids and they need a dad — someone who will be around for the next 60 years or so.”

Jones said everyone who lives in a community plagued by violence wants to see justice done. He said that some protection needs to be put in place to make sure that witnesses feel safe in the justice system.

“Quite frankly, if it’s bad enough and I feel threatened, I’m out of the state, and justice is not done,” Jones said. “Even parents tell their kids in some situations, ‘Don’t talk. You’re putting your family at risk’.”

The bill is set to be included in the omnibus crime bill to be assembled this session.

**Obstructing police officers**

A bill that would toughen penalties for obstructing police officers was debated Feb. 2 by the House Judiciary Committee.

**HF2702** is sponsored by Rep. Charlie Weaver (R-Anoka), who said the bill is in response to a situation that occurred in Coon Rapids, Minn.

Officer David Westberg, of the Coon Rapids Police Department, told the committee that he and other officers were trying to remove a disorderly individual from a motel in late 1997. He said that the situation took a turn when arrests became necessary. As the officers were attempting to remove the individual, others began to verbally confront and “chest butt” the officers.

And, Westberg said, the situation soon got worse. Five arrests had to be made, two officers suffered broken bones, and one officer suffered a heart attack.

Under current law, individuals must act with the knowledge that their action creates a risk of death or substantial bodily harm to be charged with felony obstruction, which is punishable by up to five years in prison. Weaver’s bill would remove that requirement, making it easier to prosecute people who obstruct police officers.

Paul Young, assistant attorney with Anoka County, testified in support of Weaver’s bill. He said the current law for obstruction of the legal process is too restrictive.

If punches had been thrown by the individuals in the Coon Rapids case, they could have been charged with fourth-degree assault, according to Young. However, in this specific incident punches were never thrown.

“The dilemma I had was trying to find a crime that this action fit into,” Young said. “We have to show the intent to commit the harm, and it’s an unfair burden for officers to prove and for prosecutors to establish.”

The committee took no action on the bill. It is expected to be discussed again in this session.

**Gang-related crimes**

The House Judiciary Committee approved two bills Feb. 2 that would increase penalties on illegal activities done for the benefit of a gang.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring legislation that would increase the penalties for witness tampering — a problem often associated with gang cases.

**HF2305** adds witness tampering to the list of crimes requiring a minimum prison sentence.

David Steinkamp, assistant attorney general assigned to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, told the committee of a situation where a witness was stopped on the street by a carload of suspected gang members. She was told she had better not go to court, and when she looked in the car she saw that the driver had a gun. The gun was never pointed at her, but the threat was implicit, he said.

Mullery’s bill also would add witness tampering to the list of eligible crimes which can define an organization as a criminal gang.

“[Witness tampering] is the bread and butter of gang activity,” Steinkamp said. “When you add witness tampering, you increase the parameter to what counts as a gang and that is very helpful.”

Dakota County Attorney Jim Backstrom told the committee that increasing the penalty for witness tampering is necessary to effectively prosecute gang members.

“Clearly, this sends the message that these types of crimes will not be tolerated,” Backstrom said.

**HF2679** also would provide grant money to the counties to fund programs to help ensure the safety and security of witnesses. Steinkamp said there is a misconception that the counties have large budgets to deal with witness protection. He said that the new funds would be used to make witnesses who testify feel more comfortable.

Also, Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring **HF2679**, which would enhance a current law that provides increased penalties for some gang-related crimes.

The bill would expand the law to increase penalties for all crimes that are motivated by involvement with a gang.

Mike Freeman, Hennepin County attorney, said the new language is necessary to assist prosecutors in gang-related cases. He said that the current law was a step in the right direction, but the proposed expansion would make it more effective.

“[The current law is] a good idea, but it’s difficult to prove,” Freeman said. “We believe this [change] will help us make use of a statute that, frankly, has not been useful before.”

Both bills are set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime bill.
The state and failing schools

A plan for the state to take over failing schools faced opposition at its first committee hearing Feb. 4.

HF3214, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would measure a school’s performance based on its scores on the new statewide tests. Schools showing poor scores over several years could eventually be turned into state-sponsored charter schools, over which school districts would lose their authority.

But some members of the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee said the proposal goes too far in punishing districts.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) called the bill “harmful overkill.”

And Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), chair of the full Education Committee, said that it’s not clear that the state could do a better job of running at-risk schools than districts could.

The bill is one of several this year that try to identify accountability for poor showings on the newly implemented statewide testing.

Under Opatz’s plan, schools that show a 1 percent increase in scores would be eligible for reward money, while schools that showed a 5 percent decrease would be eligible for state assistance.

That assistance would include state-appointed educators sent in to monitor the schools. After several years without improvement, schools could be converted into charter schools and the new board of directors would have the authority to fire or demote teachers.

Opatz said that state takeover would likely be a rare event.

“But what alternative do we have?” he asked.

“Do we just throw up our hands?”

Opponents of the bill included teachers unions and school districts.

Minneapolis Superintendent Carol Johnson specifically criticized a provision that would allow students to transfer from failing schools to successful schools. She said the issues of space “are no small task” in Minneapolis schools.

The division did not vote on the bill, but later will consider it for inclusion in this year’s omnibus K-12 funding bill.

Top priority capital projects

Metro-area magnet schools and residential boarding academies were designated top-priority building projects by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, which finalized its prioritized list of capital projects Feb. 4.

The division considered 31 project requests and ranked them according to importance.

At the top of the list is $15 million for developing a magnet school in Robbinsdale to aid integration in the western metropolitan area. That amount would cover estimated building costs for one of three proposed schools in the West Metro Education Program. The program first received planning funds from the 1990 Legislature.

The division’s recommendations also include (as a lower priority) $15 million for a similar school in the eastern metropolitan area.

Another $2 million is ranked among the top five K-12 bonding priorities to allow completion of a downtown Minneapolis magnet school. A lower priority on the division’s list is the same amount to provide startup costs for an Edina magnet school, with $11.2 million for construction costs at that location far down on the list. Those two schools are also part of the West Metro Education Program.

All funds for magnet schools are proposed to come from general obligation bonds. The governor’s bonding proposal included no funding for magnet schools.

But the division’s second-ranked project — residential boarding academies for at-risk youth — carries the governor’s full support. The division and the governor both recommend $12 million from the general fund to develop three academies.

Third on the division’s list of priorities is a St. Paul community-based elementary schools project, which also has the governor’s approval. Both recommend $4.6 million in bond funds for that project.

The division sent a bill (HF772) listing the K-12 bonding priorities to the full Education Committee. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton).

The bonding recommendations will eventually be submitted to the House Capital Investment Committee to be considered for inclusion in this year’s bonding bill.

School year start dates

A bill that would allow schools to start classes before Labor Day was opposed by the hospitality industry during a Feb. 2 House committee hearing.


A 1997 law allows districts to start the school year as early as the Wednesday before the holiday for the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 academic years.

Wolf told the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee that HF3003 was one of the results of an interim subcommittee which tried to “take a good look at anything we could do to take some constraints off the [school] districts.”

Bob Meeks of the Minnesota School Boards Association supported the proposal.

“This is really a local decision and should be based on local needs,” he said.

But representatives from hospitality trade associations said that moving up school start dates would harm that industry.

“[Starting after Labor Day] adds an additional week to 10 days to a very small [tourism] season,” Tom Newcome, of Hospitality Minnesota, said. He asked the committee to wait to see how the current two-year “compromise” works out, saying there was no need to rush legislation aimed at 2000-2001.

However, some lawmakers said that the well-being of hospitality businesses should not affect decision-making by an education committee.
Compulsory summer school

Minnesota students may soon have a new incentive to pass their basic skills tests: avoiding summer school.

A bill approved by the House Education Committee’s Subcommittee on Quality Initiatives Feb. 3 would give school districts the authority to compel students to attend summer school.

And district officials said they could use that authority to provide assistance for students who fail one or more of the basic skills tests given under the state’s graduation rule.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), who is sponsoring HF2276, said the bill’s goal is to give districts more control. “If a school district is to be accountable for results, then it should have all the leverage it needs to achieve those results,” he said.

The bill would also redefine a truant student as one who has missed five days of school. Under current law, a child must miss 15 days to be considered a truant. Once a student is officially declared a truant, child protective services can intervene to assist the student.

The proposal is supported by the Minneapolis School District, which hopes to build on the success of its 1997 summer school program.

Last summer, more than 10,000 students attended summer school in that district, and many showed up to six months of academic growth after a two- to eight-week program.

But only 30 percent of the district’s eighth-graders who failed the basic-skills test showed up for summer school — and that’s the number officials say they want to improve.

“There are students who don’t take [the tests] seriously,” said John Oullette-Howitz of the Minneapolis district, who helped organize last year’s program. “We want them to find out before the year 2002 — when they don’t get their diploma — that the district takes it very seriously.”

The bill would allow districts to determine for themselves which students must attend summer programs.

The bill now moves to the full Education Committee.

Absente ballots

For some, the goal is to remove as many obstacles as possible to voting. They did it in a pilot project in Ramsey County, and now they’re looking to do it in a pilot project in Senate District 58 in north Minneapolis.


The bill now moves to the full Education Committee. The bill would increase voter turnout, "said Joe Mansky, director of the Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State. "How are we going to make sure the people actually do live in the district? Things change all the time. Is it really feasible?" Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) asked.

The committee also approved a bill (HF2567) that would extend the pilot project in Ramsey County. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul).

In 1991, Anoka, Hennepin, Polk, and Ramsey counties were part of a pilot project which allowed for open absentee balloting. In 1994, Ramsey County had the pilot project extended until this year, and the county now wants the project extended until Dec. 31, 1999.

McCollum said she has heard positive things about the project. "There has been no indication of fraud; we just want to continue it the way it’s been," she said.

Both bills now move to the House floor.
EMPLOYMENT

The right to strike

Would a strike by 911 dispatchers threaten a community’s public safety?

That was the crux of a debate Feb. 2 over a bill that would grant public safety dispatchers the status of essential employees.

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

Frank Whippler, legislative chair of the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association, testified in support of HF1693 before the House Labor Management Relations Committee. “In our view, a strike would be detrimental to public safety,” he said.

His description of dispatchers as “indispensable to the community” drew a round of applause from dispatchers in the audience.

The committee approved the bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul).

Also in support of the bill are the Minnesota Professional Firefighters Association, Law Enforcement Labor Services, and, according to Whippler, 96 percent of the state’s 911 dispatchers.

But officials from both the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties testified against the bill.

“A strike would be disruptive and unpleasant, but not an immediate threat to public safety,” said Kevin Frazell, of the League of Minnesota Cities.

He cited a strike by Ramsey County dispatchers — the only such strike in the state’s history. Public safety was not threatened when backup county workers took over for the striking dispatchers, Frazell said.

Concern about taking away the workers’ right to strike was at the heart of opposition to the bill.

“It is, at times, essential for people to go on strike and walk the picket line so that their fellow workers can benefit,” Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said. “As you start down this path of essential employees, where does it end?”

“I’m afraid we’re going to do away with the right of all employees to collectively bargain.”

But other lawmakers said that although they were sympathetic to Rukavina’s point, they supported the bill because it came with the backing of the employees, the employers, and the union.

“If this were coming from Gov. Carlson, I would not be supportive,” Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) said. “The reason I support this bill is because it is fundamentally coming from the workers.”

The bill now moves to the House floor, where it stalled last year after passing out of the same committee. A companion bill passed the Senate last year.

ENVIRONMENT

Motors in boundary waters?

Despite decades of debate, the controversy over the use of motors in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) continues.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) is sponsoring a bill (HF2331) that aims to finalize the status of the BWCAW once and for all.

The bill would ensure that the phasing out of motors that was agreed upon in the 1978 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act continues on schedule.

Tuma said that U.S. Sen. Rod Grams and U.S. Rep. James Oberstar are currently supporting legislation to roll back the clock on the issue.

“Minnesota needs to send a strong message to Congress that we do not want to go backwards on this,” Tuma said.

The bill passed the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 4.

But the proposal was met with major opposition from Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

“The entire [BWCAW] is in my district and the issue is much more complicated than what Rep. Tuma has brought here today,” he said.

“Please do not be misled to think that this bill restores the integrity of the 1978 act.”

Bakk said that there were things in the 1978 act that were not well planned, particularly a ban on motorized boats on lakes along the Canadian border.

“Canadians have motors,” he said. “It makes no sense to allow motors on one side of an imaginary line and not on the other.”

Bakk said that Congress and the U.S. Forest Service are trying to deal with that and other complicated issues.

“It shouldn’t be the Legislature that mon- keys with a delicate compromise that was reached in 1978,” he said.

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

FAMILY

Family asset accounts

A problem for low-income people is that the cost to get out of their fix — like buying a home, going to college, or starting a small business — is prohibitive.

An attempt to ease those costs is found in a bill (HF2748) sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm). The bill would allow low-income families to contribute money to a “family asset account” and receive matching amounts from the state or a private organization.

The money could then be spent for certain approved purposes, like paying for school or a house, making a major home repair, or starting a small business. To be eligible, a family’s annual income could be no more than twice the federal poverty level. The poverty level for a family of four is $16,050.

The bill was heard and approved Feb. 4 by the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

“This is a very simple bill. It’s such a good thing that both the credit unions and the banks are supporting it,” Tomassoni said.

Tomassoni said the proposed program could be compared to an Individual Retirement Account. Other states are considering such programs and similar legislation is pending in the U.S. Congress, he said.

Harland Tardy, of the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, said groups like his would work with families who are in the program, along with the banks and credit unions.

Often, people renting an apartment or a house pay more in rent than they might in a monthly house payment, but they can’t afford a down payment, he said.

The program would allow them to save in a “family asset account,” get their savings matched, and use the money for a down payment on a house, he said.

“It’s just any family trying to better themselves,” Tomassoni said.

Under the bill, the matching funds from the state and private sector would be kept in a separate account, and the family would not get the money until they have finished an economic literacy course and achieved their goals for buying a home, paying for school, or devising a business plan.

The program would be administered by the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The bill now moves to the House Education Committee.

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‘Off-label’ drug use

According to a 1990 Gallup survey of oncolgists, about 10 percent of cancer patients do not receive the treatment prescribed by their physicians, even if the patient responds to that treatment.

The problem occurs when a prescribed drug has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating certain forms of cancer.

The attempt to treat patients with the so-called “off-label” use of drugs is not uncommon, says Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe). Mulder, a practicing family physician, said, “Every physician in this state uses off-label drugs for patients.”

But, Mulder said, “Managed-care [health plans] sometimes don’t want to pay for its use.”

Under a bill sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), health plans could not exclude reimbursement of off-label drug use in cancer patients, provided the drug is recognized as a treatment of cancer in standard medical literature.

The bill, which was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee Feb. 3, would not cover experimental drugs used in cancer treatment.

Nurse Ann Deshler, of Edina, told committee members that sometimes a rare form of cancer responds to treatment used in more common cancers. But if the FDA has not approved a drug for treating that specific cancer, a patient might be denied reimbursement.

Deshler has been a registered oncology nurse for 19 years. She told of a patient who responded well to an off-label treatment, only to see his coverage eventually denied. She said such problems are frustrating for the patient and that medical professionals are forced to expend their time dealing with insurance companies “on a case-by-case basis when the time could be used to treat patients.”

Hausman’s bill (HF1306) would prohibit all health plans, including Medicare supplemental coverage, from refusing to pay for these cancer treatments. There are 27 other states with similar laws.

The bill moves to the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Licensing naturopaths

For the fourth time since 1986, a bill that would license naturopathic physicians has been introduced in the House.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring the bill (HF396), which was heard Feb. 2 by the Subcommittee on Licensing and Scope of Practice of the House Health and Human Services Committee.

The bill would license and regulate naturopathic doctors under the Board of Medical Practice. Naturopaths would have to graduate from an approved naturopathic medical college or degree-granting program, and pass the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examination. They also would have to practice in Minnesota for two years under a board-approved, licensed physician, osteopath, or naturopathic physician.

Naturopaths treat clients with nutrition, herbal remedies, manipulative therapy, massage, and other non-invasive techniques. From 1927 to 1974, naturopaths could practice by registering with the state Board of Healing Arts. Since 1974, they have existed in legal limbo.

Wejcman said, “This legislation doesn’t put anyone out of business.” Those who provide homeopathic and other remedies would still be able to do so. What the bill would do is allow licensed naturopaths the exclusive right to use certain terms, such as “naturopathic physician” and the abbreviation, “N.D.” Violators would be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The bill was prompted after a naturopath who had practiced in St. Paul since 1983 was accused of practicing medicine without a license in 1996. An injunction against the naturopath was lifted when she and the Board of Medical Practice agreed she would stop calling herself a physician.

At the time, she was among six naturopathic doctors in the state with four-year degrees in the field. A dozen other states already license naturopathic doctors.

The bill was sent to the full House Human Services Committee, along with a separate bill (HF1135) that would allow massage and oriental bodywork therapists to register with the state. The latter bill would serve a similar purpose for massage therapists, and would not define the scope of practice.

Sponsored by Betty McCollum (DFL-St. Paul), the bill would allow massage and oriental bodywork therapists to register with the Board of Chiropractic Examiners after meeting certain requirements. Only registered practitioners would be allowed to use the title “Registered Massage Therapist” or “Registered Oriental Bodywork Therapist.”

Biology building funding

The construction of a $70 million cellular and molecular biology building is the centerpiece of the University of Minnesota’s 1998 legislative funding request. But some lawmakers argued Feb. 5 that only $8.5 million for design and demolition should be appropriated this session.

Defibrillator demo

A dummy is used to demonstrate how to use an automatic external defibrillator during an American Heart Association event Feb. 2 in the Capitol rotunda. The event was part of an effort to educate people about the need for public access to the life-saving defibrillators.
Representative Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon), the lead Republican of the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee, was concerned that regional construction companies would be unable to keep pace with burgeoning projects in this booming economy.

The committee ultimately approved $416.5 million in bonding for statewide higher education building projects and sent the bill to the full Education Committee.

Bettermann said the House Capital Investment Committee on which she serves has concerns over approximately $660 million in unissued bonds, not all of which are for higher education, from earlier bonding laws.

“All of the builders around the state are busy, and they cannot necessarily keep up with building projects,” Bettermann said.

She said some lawmakers would prefer to fund only the design portion of the biology building.

But Dr. Frank Cerra, head of the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, said construction on the molecular biology building would begin in the fall of 1999 and the building would open in 2001. Cerra said a university-wide policy committee has been operational for eight months, and the committee is certain “we are on track with our timeline.”

Some lawmakers also wanted to increase from $43 million to $65.2 million the appropriation for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU).

HEAPR projects include building health and safety improvements, infrastructure repair, and projects that update the exterior, interior, mechanical or electrical systems. MnSCU comprises Minnesota’s 36 technical, community, and state colleges.

Chemical sensitivity

Kenneth Wuori, of Prior Lake, told lawmakers that he was forced to sleep in a van outside his townhouse because of his reaction to household chemicals in the new dwelling. “I could not go into my new house... for fear that I would get ill,” he said, in Feb. 3 testimony before the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Myra Radel, of Little Canada, told the committee she has had chronic problems with the overwhelming number of chemicals in her home. She said that she had to move out of a relatively chemical-free environment because she had a reaction to the chemicals in her roommate’s hand lotion.

Wuori and Radel told the committee that they suffer from a disorder called multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). They have allergy-like sensitivity to a broad range of household substances, such as cleaning solvents, detergents, perfumes, and household dust and mold.

They said they often suffer from back pains, sleep disorders, stomach pains, anxiety, chronic fatigue, and respiratory problems due to the large number of chemicals common in homes.

Housing

Remedies for ‘sick houses’

New homes are tighter and better insulated than in the past. Troubles, according to Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), they may rot from trapped moisture or make people sick if not properly ventilated.

Evans, who is sponsoring a bill (HF2430) that aims to remedy problems with “sick houses,” brought the well-publicized issue to the House Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 3.

She reminded the panel of the plight of homeowner Sue Stavenau, of Plymouth, who had testified before the committee Jan. 29.

Stavenau wasthe subject of a Minneapolis Star Tribune investigative series, “The Trouble with Houses,” which first drew significant attention to the issue last fall.

“She house has ruined her life, her health, and her pocketbook,” Evan said.

One provision of Evans’ bill would increase contractor license fees to pay for a public information program about residential construction issues, including potential moisture and indoor air quality problems.

The bill also would increase new home warranty periods and give homeowners more time to report defective conditions and seek legal action. The bill was narrowly approved by the committee.

The provision of the bill that drew the most criticism would require the commissioner of public service to adopt, as part of the state energy code, rules that require new residential buildings to contain mechanical ventilation systems.

Tom Joachim, from the building code division of the Department of Administration, said that due to the “tightening” of homes required by the state building and energy codes, mechanical ventilation systems are necessary to protect against moisture and other problems.

“In the effort to save energy, am I now creating the need for more energy?” asked Rep. Jim Farrell (DFL-St. Paul).

Lisa Peterson, of the Builders Association of Minnesota, said that although energy is required to operate mechanical ventilation systems, people will still see overall savings.

Since the “tightening” of homes has caused the need for mechanical ventilation in the first place, some critics on the panel wondered if the building and energy codes need to be revamped.

“I think we should look at what caused the need for mechanical ventilation in the first place,” said Rep. Roxann Daggert (R-Frazee).

Opponents of the provision also objected to the cost.

Peterson said that Department of Public Service figures put the estimated cost of a mechanical ventilation system at $6,084 for a new two-story, 3000-square-foot home selling for $150,000.

“What concerns me,” Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) said, “is that everyone talks about affordable housing and this will add on even more money.”

The bill now moves to the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.
HF2555 sponsored by Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti), would provide grant money to people who suffer from MCS to refurbish their homes to make them chemical-free. Currently, loans are made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to finance improvements, but Rostberg said the funds should come in the form of grants.

"One of the problems we have is that people with MCS cannot qualify for these loans because they are unable to work," Rostberg said.

The bill proposes that $1 million be made available in the form of grants administered through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, enough for 40 grants totaling $25,000 each.

"We need scent-free housing," Wuori said. "It's important that we have sleeping quarters that no one is overlooked.

All that will change if the plan to make her high-rise a market-rate property becomes a reality, she said.

"The announcement of the mortgage prepayment in June 1997 was the beginning of the systematic dismembering of our society," Learned said.

Learned was referring to the decision by the owners of her place of residence to refinance the balance of their federal mortgage, allowing the owners to charge market-rate rent for the units. The decision means an increase of $350 per month in her rent.

"I am living in a market-rate rental property," she said. "We are being treated as second-class citizens."

Learned and many others currently living in federally assisted housing testified before the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and Interstate Trade Committee on Feb. 5.

"The only solution that would help us save our homes at this point is to have a nonprofit organization buy our building," Learned said.

Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (HF2991) that would equip the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), local units of government, and nonprofit organizations with the authority to deal with this issue. The Oak Grove building is in Long's district.

The bill authorizes the MHFA to issue loans and provide tax credits to assist in maintaining already existing low-income housing. The financial incentives can be made available to local units of government and nonprofit organizations.

HF2991 was approved by the committee and is set to be included in this year's omnibus housing bill.

INDUSTRY

‘Negative checkoff’

Telephone customers sometimes receive mailed notices that their long distance carrier will be switched unless the customer cancels the change. The practice is called "negative checkoff."

Under a bill introduced by Rep. Loren Jennings (D-Harris), long distance carriers would be required to make audio recordings of customers authorizing a negative checkoff and to be able to produce the recordings if contested.

If the carrier could not provide such evidence, the bill (HF3042) would force the carrier to pay the cost of returning the customer to the original long distance service and to assume the cost of the services during the unauthorized period.

Representatives of AT&T told the House Regulated Industries and Energy Committee Feb. 3 that the company had no opposition to that section of the bill. AT&T and some other long distance providers use a practice called "third-party verification," in which the customer tells a third party during a telephone solicitation that the change is authorized.

But AT&T opposed a section of the bill pertaining to public notification of rate increases. Currently, long distance carriers may notify customers of rate hikes through bill inserts, direct mailing, phone call, or publication of the increase in general circulation newspapers. The latter is the most common form of public notification.

The bill would repeal the provision that allows carriers to notify customers of increases through newspaper ads.

AT&T representatives said newspaper ads are the most efficient and affordable method of disclosure. The company said if the method were eliminated, it would increase their cost of providing service to Minnesota customers.

The committee took no action on the bill.

Child care tax credit

With seven of 10 mothers in the workforce, five out of six mothers with children under the age of six working, and with the cost of having an infant in day care running at $7,000 a year, some see a great need for more help from the Legislature.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) is sponsoring a bill (HF2804) that would lend a hand in that direction. The bill was approved Feb. 3 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The state currently allows a child care tax credit equal to 20 percent of child care costs, up to a maximum of $720 for one child or $1,140 for two or more children. That credit begins to decrease for parents making $17,340 a year and is completely phased out for parents making $31,080.

Slawik's bill would decrease the tax credit for income at which the credit would be completely phased out to $45,080 per year.

Slawik said 22,000 new children enter the day care system every year and that paying for that child care takes an average 10 percent of the family income.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) was in favor of the proposal, but he said there might be opposition from people making more than $45,080.

"We ought to look at a way to make it more universally acceptable," he said.

Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth) also expressed concerns about the bill.

"Aren't you concerned that this is a deepen-
Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said it’s important to try to help parents and, ultimately, children.

“The world wouldn’t last any longer if people didn’t have children,” she said. “With the job market the way it is, we are bringing everyone into the workforce.”

Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council, urged caution. He said the bill would likely “encourage” families to make the decision to have both parents work and put the children in day care.

 “[The government should be] allowing families to make the child care decision, rather than being encouraged by tax policy,” he said. “Government policy should be necessitating, rather than being encouraged by tax policy,” he said.

Sviggum said there have been six consecutive budget forecasts showing surpluses in state coffers. And instead of providing one-time tax refunds, Sviggum said, people — particularly those in the low- and middle-income categories — should be given a permanent tax reduction.

The bill would permanently reduce income taxes for low- and middle-income people and provide a one-time rebate for property taxes paid in 1998.

The property tax rebate would match the one approved for property taxes paid in 1997. That means homeowners would get back 20 percent of property taxes paid in 1998, and renters would get 36 percent of rent paid (the portion of rent that goes to pay property taxes).

“The bottom line of my bill: Return the money to the taxpayers,” Sviggum said. “I would like to make sure we can’t spend the money. Members, I will tell you it’s time for a reduced tax rate in Minnesota.”

Reaction from the Property Tax and Tax Increment Finance Division was mixed, and there were differences of opinion as to who is paying more taxes.

“We have been overtaxing the property taxpayers,” said Rep. Dee Long (DFL-Mpls). “I’ve overwhelmingly had complaints about the burden of property taxes.”

Long also said she was concerned about making permanent tax cuts and shortly thereafter having to pass higher taxes because the economy takes a downturn. That happened in 1979 and 1986, she said.

## Tax break for libraries

Public libraries would get financial assistance in the form of a new tax break, under a bill advancing in the House.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) is sponsoring a bill (HF2303) that would give public libraries the same exemption on paying sales tax that is currently enjoyed by public schools.

The bill was approved Feb. 3 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The exemption would apply to public libraries and cooperative regional library systems. County and state law libraries were granted the exemption in 1993.

The exemption for public libraries is now limited to the buying of reading material and equipment used by patrons, software and cataloging, and circulation equipment.

Dawkins’ bill would expand that exemption. Examples of purchases that would become exempt from sales tax include furniture, work stations, laminating and binding machines, office and building supplies, and utility services.

Ken Behringer, of the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, said the current law can be confusing.

“If I buy a delivery vehicle, it’s not taxable. If I buy a vehicle for training, it is taxable. It limits the libraries’ flexibility,” he said.

It’s estimated that the change in the tax code would cost about $90 million a year in sales tax revenue. But Behringer said the public pays for that sales tax now, in the form of the property tax revenue that usually supports public libraries.

Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), chair of the division, expressed support for the bill.

“Libraries are probably the most value [taxpayers] get for their tax dollars,” she said.

The bill now moves to the full Taxes Committee.

### Light rail transit

Opponents of a bill that would provide a $106 million bonding request for a light rail transit (LRT) system told the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 3 that LRT would lead to the ruination of the local bus system.

Rep. Loren Jennings and Sen. Roy Terwilliger explain the funding aspects of a new proposal for a downsized, open-air stadium for the Minnesota Twins during a Feb. 3 press conference. They said the plan would allow a new ballpark to be built without using tax dollars, but the plan has been criticized because it would use the income taxes paid by both Twins and visiting players to help repay bonds that would be issued to pay for the stadium.
Lisa Lee, of Minneapolis, said LRT would create a “rigid, limited form of service” that would become an expensive proposition in the long run.

Opponents said the plan would create transportation that only moves people from the suburbs to downtown, but forgets about bus riders. LRT typically serves urban-suburban markets with short distances between stations.

But Peter Mclaughlin, chair of the Metropolitan LRT Joint Powers Board, said, “It’s time to think beyond the strategies that have been pursued in this region in the past 20 years, strategies that have resulted in a one-third drop of people riding the bus.”

Sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), the bill (HF2561) would appropriate $100 million to match federal and other local funding for the $370 million construction of a light rail project from downtown Minneapolis to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America.

A total of $200 million would come from federal transit capital funds. Of the remaining $70 million, $30 million has already been spent locally on planning and infrastructure and another $40 million in local funding is to be raised.

The remaining $6 million in the $106 million bill would go to study expansion of the system into St. Paul and other corridors.

The LRT spending is not included in Gov. Arne Carlson’s bonding proposal or his supplemental budget request.

The bill is expected to be considered again this session.

Vehicle registration

Minneapolis police officer William Lundquist said used automobiles involved in crimes are often improperly registered, and the paper trail often stops with the previous, law-abiding owner.

A bill that would suspend or revoke a vehicle registration if the buyer fails to apply for a new certificate of title within 10 days of the sale was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 2.

The bill now moves to the committee’s finance division.

Lundquist told of hit-and-run incidents, traffic violations, and gas station driveoffs involving cars that were never registered following a private sale. Often, a law-abiding person who sold a car was still listed as its owner.

The bill (HF719), sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), would require motor vehicle title forms to contain a separate “notice of sale.” The vehicle’s title number and identification number would be printed on the notice.

The bill would exempt a seller from damages involving a vehicle after the sale if the seller completes and mails the notice of sale within a week of the transaction.

The bill also would authorize the Department of Public Safety to suspend or revoke a vehicle registration if the new owner fails to apply for a new certificate within 10 days of the purchase.

Gov. Hammond known as ‘scholar in politics’

The administration of Minnesota’s first and only bachelor to serve as governor did not last long.

Gov. Winfield Hammond, known as “a scholar in politics,” was elected in 1914 and died in 1915 before the end of his first year of service.

“Hammond was a good governor, but had little chance to make a record,” one observer commented.

Hammond, the state’s 18th governor, was born in Southboro, Mass., in 1863. During his lifetime, he would work as a teacher, prosecuting attorney, high school principal, superintendent of schools, congressman, and governor.

He came to Minnesota in 1884, shortly after graduating from Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., and settled in St. James, Minn., where he began a career in education. Hammond was principal of the high school in Mankato, Minn., and later the president of the St. James School Board. In 1895, he became superintendent of schools in Mankato, Minn.

In his spare time, Hammond studied law, passed the bar, and became a lawyer. He also became active in Democratic politics. Hammond ran for the U.S. House in Minnesota’s 2nd Congressional District in 1892 but was beaten by Republican John Lind, who also later served as governor.

Not until 1906 did Hammond take another shot at Congress, but that time he won. In Washington, D.C., he became a member of the important House Ways and Means Committee and was quickly recognized as a party leader.

In 1914, the Democrats persuaded him to run for governor, and although he remained at work in Congress and did little campaigning, Hammond beat Republican William Lee by more than 12,000 votes.

The temperance movement held center stage in the election, and Hammond — labeled a “wet,” or prohibition opponent — won, in large part, because of his views on the matter, historians note.

However, Hammond was not extremely outspoken on the issue. He paid the matter little attention in his inaugural address. Instead, he encouraged the Legislature not to spend a lot of time discussing temperance because so much time and energy had already been devoted to the issue.

Still, soon after he took office, the Legislature gave counties the authority to regulate saloons outside cities.

There was little time for much else during Hammond’s stay in office.

Hammond was 52 years old when he died of a sudden stroke Dec. 30, 1915, while in Clinton, La., on personal business.

“He was the highest minded man I ever knew,” Charles Andrist, Hammond’s secretary, said then. “Every question was decided on the basis of whether or right or wrong, not whether it was expedient or advisable politically.”

Hammond’s body was returned by train for burial in Mount Hope Cemetery in St. James. Hammond was succeeded by Lt. Gov. J.A.A. Burnquist.
Clark picks up baton, advances father's civic desire

By Jim Thielman

Clark's father passed away, and the letter was written by Clark's father to then-President Ronald Reagan. The letter was written after Ronald Reagan's acceptance speech.

Top concern: "We are blessed to have a $1.3 billion surplus in this state, and this is not the government's money. It's the citizen's money. It's my neighbors' money. Getting their money back to them is the one issue I will continue to work on."
Gov. Carlson calls the state of the state ‘excellent’

By Sandy Donovan

The state of the state is excellent, Gov. Arne Carlson told lawmakers during his eighth and final annual assessment. Still, he outlined a plan for improvement that includes increased funding for higher education, further property tax reforms, and other new programs.

“We are stronger financially, we’re more prosperous and better prepared to take on the future than ever before in history,” he told a joint session of the Legislature during his State of the State address in the House chamber Feb. 4.

Throughout the speech he credited bipartisan cooperation and partnerships with the private sector for helping his administration turn its 1991 inherited budget deficit of $1.8 billion into this year’s forecast surplus of $1.3 million. Carlson will retire from public office at the end of his term this year.

“We would not be talking about [a] surplus today had we not cast — and had you not upheld — some 330 major vetoes, blocking . . . new taxes, spending, and fees,” he told legislators.

He cited, as evidence of excellence, areas where he said Minnesota now leads the nation.

“We have become a national model for welfare reform,” he said, adding that this year 8,550 fewer Minnesota families rely on welfare than did last year.

He also said that property tax reforms and a decrease in workers’ compensation premiums have created a favorable climate for business, spurriing job growth.

But he called education reform — including the implementation of basics skills testing and the funding of classroom technology — the area he finds most meaningful.

“We challenged the status quo and succeeded,” he said. “We are now making decisions based on what is best for the children, not the educational bureaucracy.”

Outlining his agenda for the coming year, however, the governor included only three educational priorities: providing private school vouchers, creating residential boarding academies, and funding colleges and universities.

Vouchers for private schools, he said, would allow families to send their children to the school that best serves their needs.

“I will fight to see that every single family in this state has the same educational choices for their children as the president, vice president, and members of Congress,” he said.

His proposal to create Minnesota’s first state-run residential academies for at-risk students would help keep potential trouble-makers out of the criminal justice system, he said — and thereby save the state money in the long run.

“We need to find a way to give kids who have spent years bouncing around the foster care system a sense of permanency and a place to succeed,” he said. He did not mention his own years as a scholarship student at a Connecticut boarding school.

Also on the issue of education, the governor described the higher education system as the state’s engine of job growth.

“Never in our history has Minnesota needed higher education more than today,” he said.

He added that under his plan, the state would continue to fund important programs such as the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Medical Center.

He applauded MnSCU’s successful partnership with private industry and stressed the importance of building those programs to train students to enter the state’s high-growth industries — including computer software, health, graphics, manufacturing, and taconite production.

He also stressed the importance of strong research at the U of M and of statewide medical advances.

“I want to make us . . . the lead state in the world in the development of medical technology,” he said.

In addition to funding higher education to foster job growth, Carlson said he wants to see property tax rates further compressed to promote business. His budget proposes a reduction in the commercial and industrial property tax rate.

“While this proposal will not cost homeowers one dime more, it will grow jobs and our economy,” he said.

He added that under his plan, the state would be able to extend this year’s property tax relief program — residents will recover about 20 percent of their 1997 property taxes as a rebate this year — through 1999.

Carlson also called on lawmakers to be fiscally cautious considering the current economic upheaval in Asia.

“I repeat my call for an Asian market reserve account to cushion any potential blow to our budget from the turmoil in those nations,” he said. His budget proposal calls for the state to set aside more than $200 million to brace for potential problems resulting from economic struggles in Asia.

But, he said, it’s essential to recognize issues beyond the “bread and butter” ones of a healthy economy, lower taxes, and high-quality jobs.

“We also value that which enriches our soul — all those things ranging from the arts to our great outdoors,” he said.

He called for support of his “Access to the Outdoors” initiative, and, specifically, of the controversial plan to build a veterans memorial park in Duluth, with the now-mothballed U.S.S. Des Moines as its centerpiece.

He did not mention his 1997 priority of a

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new ballpark for the Twins baseball team.

The governor wrapped up his speech with an appeal for compassion toward those in need.

“I want all of our children to grow up in a society that focuses on opportunity rather than entitlement,” he said.

And he urged support of continuing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome research — an effort spearheaded by his wife, Susan.

He said that proactive programs like that research and his proposal for boarding schools will contribute to the health of future generations.

“We have to realize that all parents are not equipped to be good parents,” he said.

He spoke of his desire to look back on his administration as one that offered “succeeding generations the opportunity to genuinely pursue history.

“It’s my prayer that one day a young person who we have helped will be standing here as governor.”

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House and Senate leaders react to governor’s speech

DFL leaders in the House and Senate applauded what Gov. Arne Carlson said Feb. 4 in his last State of the State address, but there was some criticism over what he didn’t say.

Speaking to a joint session of the Legislature in the House chamber, Carlson called for a commitment to high-tech education and high-tech jobs. He also pushed for private school vouchers and residential academies for at-risk youth.

“I appreciate his call for higher education funding,” said House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

But the speaker questioned Carlson’s lack of attention to public schools.

“What about the 850,000 school children in the state?” Carruthers asked. “That’s something the Democrats will work for. We should be concerned about what the future will portend. We’ve got to work to improve K-12 education.”

House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the final words of the governor’s speech resounded for him.

Carlson ended by saying that he hoped that a disadvantaged child of today would someday have the chance to stand in his place.

Sviggum said, “I think we all have dreams about the future of our children. The question is: Does government need to spend more on children? We want to empower parents in this role, not just the educational bureaucracy.”

He said the governor didn’t appear to be as fiscally prudent as in the past. It was the “fiscal management of the last few years that allowed him to make this speech. This speech had much more of a spending theme to it,” Sviggum said.

But Sviggum said Republicans embrace Carlson’s overall vision to strengthen Minnesota’s higher education system and make it a leader in the area of medical and biological research.

“It’s the total size of the budget that we have a problem with,” Sviggum said. “It’s just too large.”

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) said the governor has a long list of goals for the final year of his administration.

“That doesn’t necessarily mean he’s going to get everything he wants,” Moe said. “Our job is to look forward into the 21st century.”

And Moe said some of the governor’s suggestions originally came from the DFL. “But that’s OK because I think it indicates in the final analysis we worked together,” he said.

House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) said he would have liked more from the governor about the rural and agricultural economy.

“Small businesses are the greatest job creators for the state,” Winter said. “I wanted to see more emphasis put on our economy of agriculture in Minnesota. People all across the state depend on that.”

Carruthers was asked to sum up Carlson’s tenure as governor. “I think he’s done a good job. Certainly, he’s somebody who cares deeply about the state of Minnesota. We’ve cut property taxes, we’ve reformed the welfare system,” Carruthers said.

One thing the governor did not mention in his speech was a possible new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, who are threatening to move to North Carolina without one. A bill for a new stadium has been introduced.

“It’s not a high priority,” Carruthers said.

“At this point, it’s like any other bill; it’s been introduced,” Winter said.

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can zoom in and create havoc in places that have become sanctuaries,” she said.

Each year, Perry sends out an informal loon watchers survey. Her latest survey included questions about loon sightings and nesting habits as well as an addendum asking about the frequency of boats and other watercraft use.

The response Perry received from concerned loon watchers in Aitkin, Cass, and Crow Wing counties reinforced her fears. 54 percent said PWCs are negatively affecting the loons on their lakes.

“This is the state’s playground, and this is the heart of loon country,” Perry said. “We have a clash here.”

Jim Medema of the Jet Sporters Association of Minnesota said that it would be unfair to crowd the larger lakes with a ban on smaller lakes.

The association is also against a provision in the bill that says a PWC could be operated only at slow speed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to sunset.

“This provision would harm everyone who actually has a day job,” Medema said.

Although noise is a problem, he said, it can be resolved by changing rider habits through enforcement, education, and improved technology.

Medema said his group would support a mandatory education program and an increased no-wake zone.

“The current state of affairs is not OK, but we don’t want unfair restrictions,” Medema said. “Until we’ve given education and media publicity a chance, it is unfair to consider statewide bans.

“Just because somebody turns on a PWC does not mean the day is ruined, that fishermen have to go in, that swimmers are afraid to swim.”

The bill now moves to the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Finance Committee.
State Capitol architect Cass Gilbert's grand vision for the University of Minnesota campus was never fully realized. Perhaps it never really could have been.

After all, Gilbert's plans for elaborate terraces, gardens, and Greek amphitheaters running between a domed auditorium at one end of the mall and the Mississippi River at the other would have required a budget as spectacular as the architect's drawings.

Still, the spirit of Gilbert's 1908 "General Plan for Laying Out the Grounds and Locating the Buildings on the Campus of the University of Minnesota" often guided subsequent development of the mall.

An exhibition of Gilbert's campus drawings and plans runs from Feb. 6 to March 22 in the William G. Shepherd Room at the Weisman Art Museum on the U of M campus.

The exhibition "provides a look at the ideas and perceptions of campus planners when the university's landscape was raw material and shows how they dealt with this landscape against the changing needs of the students and the expanding institution," said Carole Zellie, one of two curators for the display, which is called "An Enduring Emblem: Cass Gilbert and the Plans for the University of Minnesota."

The museum show is particularly timely right now. The condition of the campus mall and its overall importance to the university have drawn new attention in recent months from university and state leaders.

Mark Yudof, the university's new president, has made restoration of the campus mall and improvement of campus buildings top priorities for the university. Lawmakers this year are considering whether to finance the first phase of Yudof's four-year $776 million plan for capital improvements at the U of M.

This year's proposed $252 million bonding package for the university would provide money to improve key buildings on the Minneapolis campus, including major projects at Walter Library and Ford Hall, both on the mall.

"The exhibit is a tangible reminder of the value in setting a vision for a place so that the essential character of the place — here at the University of Minnesota campus — is preserved even as changes are made," said Thora Cartlidge, the exhibit's other curator.

The exhibit of Gilbert's U of M drawings also is another sign of a resurgence of interest in the architect, who was considered a national leader in his field during the early years of this century.

Gilbert is best known outside of Minnesota as the architect of the U.S. Supreme Court, The U.S. Customs House, and the Woolworth Building, the latter two located in New York.

But in Minnesota, Gilbert is recalled as the designer of the State Capitol, the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Building, and numerous homes and churches in and around St. Paul.

Gilbert grew up in St. Paul and practiced architecture in the city for 27 years. He won a design competition for the Minnesota Capitol in 1895, and that event began his career designing important, well-known buildings for government and business.

"He used art, sculpture, and color all together to make a nice, smaller — so to speak — public building," said Carolyn Kompelien, manager of the Capitol Historic Site. "It's a very well-done building, and it's held in very high esteem as far as its architectural design. This building was what really launched him in his career."

By the time Gilbert entered the competition to design the U of M campus mall, he had offices in New York and St. Paul, and he had been awarded the commission for the U.S. Customs House.

Gilbert's design for the Minnesota campus was modeled on Columbia University, which itself was patterned after Thomas Jefferson's plan for the University of Virginia.

The contest-winning plan was considered too costly by the U of M Board of Regents, which eventually dismissed Gilbert in 1910. Not a single building on the campus mall was designed by Gilbert, but as the exhibit demonstrates, he had a great influence on his successors.

The exhibition includes the original drawings of the designers of existing buildings on the campus mall along with the Gilbert drawings, and the documents reveal the impact of Gilbert's work.

And the exhibition is another step in the rediscovery of Gilbert, whose style had passed out of fashion by the time of his death in 1934, and the renewed celebration of his work.

There are a lot of people who have come to appreciate his classical designs," Kompelien said.

For more information about the Gilbert exhibition, call (612) 625-9494.
Bill Introductions

Thursday, Jan. 29

HF3000—Knoblach (R) 
Governmental Operations
St. Cloud police consolidation account special one time postretirement adjustment provided.

HF3001—Mariani (DFL) 
Economic Development 
& International Trade
St. Paul grant provided for the construction of the Minnesota African-American performing arts and education center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3002—Wolf (R) 
Education
Retired principal or superintendent allowed to serve as an interim administrator without financial penalty.

HF3003—Wolf (R) 
Education
Labor Day; school year start before Labor Day prohibition repealed.

HF3004—Wolf (R) 
Education
Superintendent salary cap removed.

HF3005—Johnson, A. (DFL) 
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF3006—Carlson (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Rule 80 nursing facilities rate setting formula modified.

HF3007—Greenfield (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Medical Assistance recipients provided a spouse asset allowance for the alternative care program.

HF3008—Jennings (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Large energy facility definition expanded to include high voltage transmission lines that cross state boundaries.

HF3009—Jennings (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric utility personal property tax exemption provided relating to school districts adjusted net tax capacity.

HF3010—Molnau (R) 
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Consumer report copy fees regulated.

HF3011—Kubly (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Employer contribution for employee housing tax credit provided.

HF3012—Kahn (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Retirement Plan provisions modified.

HF3013—Greenfield (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Health care provider uniform billing requirements established.

HF3014—Pugh (DFL) 
Judiciary
Contributing to a child’s delinquency, juvenile petty offender status, and need for protection services laws clarified, and penalties imposed.

HF3015—Hausman (DFL) 
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Como Park education resource center in St. Paul funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3016—Farrell (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Stroh’s Brewery site redevelopment and job creation assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3017—Entenza (DFL) 
Education
Elementary class size reduction program funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3018—Munger (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
White pine acquisition and management funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3019—Hausman (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Millennium screenwriting festival planning funded, local screenwriter grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3020—Wejcman (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Consumer advisory board staffing and funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3021—Jennings (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Health insurance premium tax calculation modified, regional coordinating boards abolished, proposed health coverage mandate assessments provided, and money appropriated.

HF3022—Johnson, R. (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Sexually transmitted disease prevention initiatives appropriated money.

HF3023—Stanek (R) 
Judiciary
Repeat theft crime penalties clarified.

HF3024—Milbert (DFL) 
Taxes
Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

HF3025—Entenza (DFL) 
Education
K-12 education finance supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3026—Mahon (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Wold Chamberlain Field in Richfield improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3027—Rest (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal tort liability exception clarified relating to snow and ice accumulation.

HF3028—Pawlenty (R) 
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle dealer licensing regulated, and exception provided to nonprofit organizations.

HF3029—Pawlenty (R) 
Education
Higher education assistance trust fund established, and money appropriated.

HF3030—Pawlenty (R) 
Education
Building space average age threshold reduced relating to school district alternative facilities bonding and levy program qualifications.

HF3031—Pawlenty (R) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
City council members permitted to vote on an appointment to fill a mayor or clerk vacancy.

HF3032—McCollum (DFL) 
Education
School district alternative facilities program eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF3033—McCollum (DFL) 
Education
School district alternative facilities program eligibility requirements modified, and money appropriated.

HF3034—Skoglund (DFL) 
Judiciary
Juvenile mentoring pilot programs appropriated money.

HF3035—Skoglund (DFL) 
Judiciary
Harassment and stalking crime expanded to include injury of a peace officer’s reputation, and enhanced penalties provided.

HF3036—Jaros (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Independent living centers appropriated money.

HF3037—Kubly (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Biomass fuel exemptions and power purchase contract provisions modified.

HF3038—Kubly (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Trunk Highway No. 17 Minnesota river bridge designated as the William Angermeyer Memorial Bridge.

HF3039—Pawlenty (R) 
Judiciary
Subsequent controlled substance conviction provisions expanded to include dispositions under the controlled substance prescription law.
HF3040—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Long-term nursing care facility payroll documentation procedures modified.

HF3041—Johnson, A. (DFL)

Taxes

Local property tax levy limit growth factors modified.

HF3042—Jennings (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Long-distance telephone provider additional antislamming disclosure requirements provided, price increase notification requirements clarified, and international call data for information services billing provisions modified.

HF3043—Trimble (DFL)

Education

Metronet; libraries throughout the state appropriated money for a Minnesota authors video series.

HF3044—Chaudhary (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Twin Cities metropolitan area transit accessibility board established, powers and duties assigned, and money appropriated.

HF3045—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Medical Assistance income eligibility standards increased for the aged, blind, or disabled.

HF3046—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Medical Assistance and General Assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.

HF3047—Knoblach (R)

Health & Human Services

Nursing home bed certification moratorium exception provided.

HF3048—Pugh (DFL)

Judiciary

Concurrent sentences allowed for separate crimes only with compelling reasons, and jail time credit limited.

HF3049—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Reimbursements modified for certain nursing facilities in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Brown counties.

HF3050—Rostberg (R)

Education

Cambridge Community College master facilities plan completion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3051—Biemat (DFL)

Judiciary

Failure to obey certain subpoena provided felony penalties, and felony offender failure to appear for criminal proceedings provided increased penalties.

HF3052—Seagren (R)

Education

K-12 education finance supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3053—Larsen (R)

Judiciary

Interference with privacy and making obscene or harassing telephone calls exempt from juvenile petty offenses.

HF3054—Paymar (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Public Arts St. Paul appropriated money for art projects throughout the city.

HF3055—Mariani (DFL)

Judiciary

Ramsey County juvenile crime prevention pilot project appropriated money.

HF3056—Peterson (DFL)

Education

Independent School District No. 378, Dawson, cooperative education and community center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3057—Lieder (DFL)

Transportation & Transit

Road or highway redefined, trunk highway and general fund expenditures regulated, transportation spending goals established, state patrol funded, motor fuel tax rates adjusted, local bridge replacement authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3058—Solberg (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Itasca County tourism expenditures increased pending local approval.

HF3059—Juhnke (DFL)

Judiciary

Juvenile court records made public in certain cases, and annual delinquency disposition reports required.

HF3060—Rukavina (DFL)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Virginia authorized to issue an additional on-sale liquor license.

HF3061—Chaudhary (DFL)

Judiciary

Driver’s license revocation judicial review petition and judicial expungement order petition content requirements modified.

HF3062—Carlson (DFL)

Education

Technology funding program created, first grade preparedness program made permanent, and summer school activities additional compensatory revenue authorized.

HF3063—Clark, K. (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Green Institute, Inc. appropriated money for job creation in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis.

HF3064—Clark, K. (DFL)

Regulated Industries & Energy

State teleassistance program amended to conform with federal requirements, automatic enrollment provided for certain persons, TAP surcharge increased, and state universal service fund developed.

HF3065—Dom (DFL)

Financial Institutions & Insurance

Comprehensive health insurance maximum lifetime benefit increased.

HF3066—Winter (DFL)

Education

Delivered fuel account established, and money appropriated.

HF3067—Paymar (DFL)

Judiciary

Written domestic abuse police reports provided data classification.

HF3068—Solberg (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Ratification of certain labor agreements and certain plans and proposals relating to state employees provided.

HF3069—Trimble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources

Small business owners with tanks located on their properties provided petroleum fund reimbursement eligibility.

HF3070—Wolf (R)

Regulated Industries & Energy

Homeowners variance allowing operation of decorative gas lamps provided.

HF3071—Wolf (R)

Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs

Petroleum product specifications modified.

HF3072—Greenfield (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Health care premium tax payment modified, and exemption provided.

HF3073—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services

Child care provider licensure provisions modified.

HF3074—Holsten (R)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance

State of Minnesota storm sewer reconstruction project in Bayport appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3075—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Governmental Operations

Public employee insurance trust fund appropriated money.

HF3076—Kalis (DFL)

Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance

Quad-lakes restoration project in Faribault and Blue Earth counties appropriated money.

HF3077—Knoblach (R)

Governmental Operations

State building maintenance costs required in annual operating budget.

HF3078—Mahon (DFL)

Judiciary

South metro joint public safety training facility in Richfield appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3079—Pawlenty (R)

Taxes

Charitable contribution tax credit provided.

HF3080—Wejcman (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Pawlenty allowed to exceed bonding limit for water supply capital improvement projects.

HF3081—Paymar (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul bonding limits set.

HF3082—Mariani (DFL)

Economic Development & International Trade

Harriet Island redevelopment in St. Paul appropriated money, and bonds issued.
HF3083—McElroy (R) 
Transportation & Transit
Metropolitan public safety radio system appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3084—Ness (R) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Mankato County economic development authority authorized.

HF3085—Peterson (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Emergency management division required to provide volunteer resource coordination during disasters, and money appropriated.

HF3086—Osthoff (DFL) 
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance
Acquisition of metropolitan regional recreational open space provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3087—Rostberg (R) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Cambridge sewer and water services appropriated money, and bonds issued.

HF3088—Kielkucki (R) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Waverly granted funds to establish Hubert H. Humphrey museum and learning center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Monday, Feb. 2

HF3089—Dom (DFL) 
Education
Mankato State University Foundation authorized to construct a black box theater, and ownership transfer to the state required.

HF3090—Schumacher (DFL) 
Education
Unlimited possibilities plan granted for high school to college or work assistance, and money appropriated.

HF3091—Murphy (DFL) 
Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, and money appropriated.

HF3092—Goodno (R) 
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Social Security number required as a condition of check acceptance prohibited, and dishonored check case prosecution provided.

HF3093—Pugh (DFL) 
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Minnesota collection agencies regulated, and certain out-of-state agencies exempt.

HF3094—Harder (R) 
Education

HF3095—Rhodes (R) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
First Sunday in February designated as Four Chaplains Sunday in honor of four chaplains who sacrificed their lives during World War II.

HF3096—Davids (R) 
Transportation & Transit
Chaffee roadway construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3097—Davids (R) 
Transportation & Transit
Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway route modified.

HF3098—Schumacher (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Foley tax increment finance district revenue expenditure authorized for a wastewater treatment facility outside the district.

HF3099—Schumacher (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds allocated to the highway user tax distribution fund and the transit assistance fund.

HF3100—Schumacher (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Local bridge grants provided for construction and repair, and money appropriated.

HF3101—Skare (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Bemidji authorized to impose additional sales and excise taxes for the purpose of funding convention center construction.

HF3102—Schumacher (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Small city cost-share program created for wetland replacement, and money appropriated.

HF3103—Anderson, B. (R) 
Agriculture
First-time and seasonal food handlers license provisions modified.

HF3104—Delmont (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Lottery retailer bonus plan established, holiday game conducted, operating reserve account created, additional advertising fund expenditure authorized, and conflict of interest clarified.

HF3105—Pawlenty (R) 
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs
Eagan authorized on-sale liquor licenses increased.

HF3106—Erhardt (R) 
Judiciary
Motor vehicle air bag on-off switch installation and deactivation regulated, and dealer limited liability provided.

HF3107—Daggett (R) 
Taxes
Pull-tab and tipboard tax rates reduced.

HF3108—Dawkins (DFL) 
Education
Youth initiative grants provided to local governments for public improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3109—Ness (R) 
Education
Special education cooperatives nos. 52-937, Crow Wing, and 52-938, Mankato and Wright, disabled access improvement grant reauthorized, and money appropriated.

HF3110—Daggett (R) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Walleye, sauger, northern pike, muskellunge, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass angling season extension authorized.

HF3111—Macklin (R) 
Judiciary
Forfeited vehicle return subject to agency approval, convictions in other states used for harassment penalty enhancement, restitution hearing request 30-day limit provided, and financial institution search warrants filed within 30 days.

HF3112—Tompkins (R) 
Judiciary
Value of stolen property definition clarified relating to theft.

HF3113—Rest (DFL) 
Taxes
Dependent care income tax credit expanded.

HF3114—Skare (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Workforce center programs school-to-work initiatives support provided, and money appropriated.

HF3115—Evens (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Health homes pilot project established, and money appropriated.

HF3116—Ness (R) 
Education
Graduation rule expanded to include knowledge of personal and family financial management and investment.

HF3117—Paulsen (R) 
Education
School plan or school closure provided to improve student achievement levels based on minimum state expectations, and unrequested leave of absence provisions modified for teachers at closed schools.

HF3118—Olson, E. (DFL) 
Taxes
Counties provided unorganized town road maintenance funding through natural resources land payments in lieu of taxes.

HF3119—Olson, E. (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Officer of a local unit of government authorized to contract with the unit to provide construction services and materials under certain circumstances.

HF3120—Rest (DFL) 
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Insurance and health plan underwriting standards modified to prohibit the use of credit history of the applicant to deny coverage.

HF3121—Jennings (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
State design-build contracts provided, and rulemaking authority provided.
HF3122—Chaudhary (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Extended leave of absence deadline extended for a certain teacher.

HF3123—Jennings (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Public Utilities Commission or Department of Public Service telecommunications proceeding costs to be shared by all parties.

HF3124—Rukavina (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Minimum value of above-market passenger automobiles increased for motor vehicle sales tax purposes.

HF3125—McGuire (DFL)  
Education  
Gang prevention and intervention program appropriated money.

HF3126—Osskopp (R)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Community-based planning and goal provisions repealed.

HF3127—Luther (DFL)  
Education  
Full day kindergarten phase-in provided, first grade preparedness program expanded, and money appropriated.

HF3128—Seifert (R)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 415, Lynd, funds transfer authorized.

HF3129—Wejcman (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Rental housing assistance program established, homeless adult pilot program expanded, evaluation required, and money appropriated.

HF3130—Koskinen (DFL)  
Education  
Alternative facilities program expanded, compensatory revenue formula modified, referendum equalization aid increased, elementary achievement program established, and money appropriated.

HF3131—Otremba, M. (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Midwest interstate dairy compact established, and money appropriated.

HF3132—Chaudhary (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Columbia Heights commuter rail station planned and designed, and money appropriated.

HF3133—Rukavina (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Red or white pine planting required for each acre redeveloped and removed from agricultural use in certain counties.

HF3134—Bishop (R)  
Judiciary  
Crimes committed by persons on bail study required, and money appropriated.

HF3135—Stanek (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF3136—Greiling (DFL)  
Education  
General education formula training and experience revenue component restored, and money appropriated.

HF3137—Rukavina (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
State debt collections act modified.

HF3138—Evans (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Automatic external defibrillator use authorized, 911 emergency call required, and civil liability immunity provided.

HF3139—Tunheim (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Beer brewers and wholesalers regulated, and obligations of successors provided.

HF3140—Kalis (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Zippel Bay State Park provided a state park permit exemption, Garden Island state recreation area established in Lake of the Woods County, and state park additions provided.

HF3141—Ozment (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Above-ground storage tank rule review provided.

HF3142—Koskinen (DFL)  
Education  
Child care assistance reimbursement rates modified, and wage enhancements for provider rates provided.

HF3143—Sekhon (DFL)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance  
Twin Cities metropolitan area and regional park trails connected, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3144—Wenzel (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Trunk Highway No. 371 four-lane expressway improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3145—Rest (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Housing Finance Agency low-income housing tax credit allocation and compliance monitoring review provided.

HF3146—Gunther (R)  
Governmental Operations  
Fairmont Police Relief Association surviving spouse retirement benefits increased, and additional annual postretirement adjustment mechanism provided.

HF3147—Pugh (DFL)  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Criminal alcoholic beverage transportation or importation penalty provisions modified, and liquor license local option election provision eliminated.

HF3148—Kubly (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Bureau of control act adopted requiring legislative and executive approval of proposed administrative rules.

HF3149—Kubly (DFL)  
Taxes  
Hospital sales tax exemption effective date modified.

HF3150—Jennings (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Minnesota retail electric competition act adopted.

HF3151—Buttermann (R)  
Governmental Operations  
Douglas County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF3152—Paulsen (R)  
Taxes  
Minimum income tax subtraction provided for certain elderly and disabled persons.

HF3153—Huntley (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
On-the-job training program for skilled trades developed, and money appropriated.

HF3154—Chaudhary (DFL)  
Education  
Class size reduction program funding enhanced, and money appropriated.

HF3155—Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Complainant’s sexual behavior evidence admissibility in sexual harassment actions limited.

HF3156—Pugh (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Hubbard County school trust land sale required.

HF3157—Winter (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Luverne provided an exemption from the Minnesota Investment Fund Grant limit for job loss offset, and appropriation reallocated.

HF3158—Peterson (DFL)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 378, Dawson-Boyd, education and community center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3159—Seifert (R)  
Governmental Operations  
Manufactured home sales regulated, and limited dealers' licenses authorized in certain cases.

HF3160—Bishop (R)  
Governmental Operations  
Fairmont Police Relief Association surviving spouse retirement benefits increased, and additional annual postretirement adjustment mechanism provided.

HF3161—Mullery (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified.

HF3162—Biernat (DFL)  
Judiciary  
State correctional investigators authorized to use force to apprehend state prison fugitives.

HF3163—Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Public defender law corrections, updates, and clarifications provided.

HF3164—Mullery (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Presumptive sentence departures permitted based on offenders prior juvenile offense record.
HF3165— Rest (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Manufacturing and housing project bond allocation provided.

HF3166— Greenfield (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Medical assistance and MinnesotaCare program information provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Hmong.

HF3167— Slawik (DFL)  
Education  
Children’s endowment fund established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3168— Chaudhary (DFL)  
Taxes  
Residential property owners provided a 1998 tax rebate, and seasonal recreation residential property owners and renters included.

HF3169— Larsen (R)  
Taxes  
Seniors provided an additional property tax refund.

HF3170— Larsen (R)  
Education  
School year length set at 175 days of instruction.

HF3171— Larsen (R)  
Judiciary  
Watchmaker or jeweler liens provided for value of the work performed.

HF3172— Wagenius (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Metropolitan transit authority and commuter rail fund established, and money appropriated.

HF3173— Winter (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Children from a subsequent family taken into account when setting the level of child support.

HF3174— Rest (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Advisory council on metropolitan area critical problems, and money appropriated.

HF3175— Rest (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Residential hospice advisory task force established to study facility licensure, and money appropriated.

HF3176— Mullery (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
MinnesotaCare eligibility requirements modified for persons with continued coverage.

HF3177— Mullery (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Job-training programs’ study requirements modified to include wage rate and group breakdown information.

HF3178— Jennings (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Municipal utility proprietary and competitive business data classified as nonpublic, and open meeting law exception provided.

HF3179— Jennings (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Municipal provision of telecommunications services regulated.

HF3180— Westfall (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Board of natural resources created, and powers and duties transferred.

HF3181— Clark, K. (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
African-American men with hypertension studied, cultural wellness grant program implemented, and money appropriated.

HF3182— Anderson, B. (R)  
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections  
Picture identification card required to vote.

HF3183— Mariani (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Housing Finance Agency nonprofit capacity building grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3184— Skoglund (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Prenatal alcohol abuse civil commitment provided, and reporting required.

HF3185— Boudreau (R)  
Judiciary  
Children in need of protection case plans expanded, maltreatment of minors provisions modified, and risk assessment alternatives and performance measurement task forces established.

HF3186— Larsen (R)  
Judiciary  
Juvenile corrections facilities licensure restricted.

HF3187— Trimble (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Minnesota Technology, Inc.’s seed capital fund changed to equity fund and provisions modified.

HF3188— Trimble (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environmental response provided at eligible mixed municipal solid waste facilities posing human health and environmental risks.

HF3189— Mullery (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Summer youth employment program appropriated money.

HF3190— Mullery (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Neighborhood Development Center, Inc. grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3191— Paymar (DFL)  
Regulated Industries & Energy  
Public Utilities Commission required to reconsider telephone area code assignments for the metropolitan area.

HF3192— Juhnke (DFL)  
Taxes  
New farm machinery sales tax exemption provided, and aquaculture equipment subject to sales tax.

HF3193— Ness (R)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Hutchinson authorized to impose additional taxes to fund a civic and community center, and recreational facilities.

HF3194— Wenzel (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Agricultural crop security interest surety restricted.

HF3195— Wenzel (DFL)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance  
Little Falls; Mississippi River east bank sediment cleanup state share funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3196— Wenzel (DFL)  
Education  
Little Falls Carnegie library improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3197— Folliard (DFL)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 270, Hopkins, model transportation and school start time policy created, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3198— Folliard (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Teachers Retirement Association and First Class City Teacher Retirement Fund Associations part-time teaching position eligibility modified relating to qualified full-time service credit participation.

HF3199— Leighton (DFL)  
Education  
Charter school employment and operating provisions modified.

HF3200— Munger (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad improvement grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3201— Otremba, M. (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Unpasteurized fruit juice and cider labeling required.

HF3202— Pelowski (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Winona State University teaching personnel authorized to purchase service credit for unreported extended leave of absence.

HF3203— Huntley (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Proposed health plan coverage mandates assessed.

HF3204— Pugh (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled substance listing effective date delayed.

HF3205— Kubly (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Challenge grant program maximum business loan amount increased.

HF3206— Lieder (DFL)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 2854, Ada-Borup, health and safety revenue use authorized.
HF3207—Knoblach (DFL)   Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance  Stearns County; quarry park and nature preserve improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3208—Dehler (R)   Regulated Industries & Energy  Lottery retailer commissions adjusted.

HF3209—Dehler (R)   Transportation & Transit  Firearms safety training designation provided on drivers' license identification cards.

HF3210—Dehler (R)   Taxes  Golf course class rate reduction eligibility extended.

HF3211—Johnson, R. (DFL)   Environment & Natural Resources  Becoming an Outdoors Woman program continuation and expansion provided, and money appropriated.

HF3212—Mares (R)   Education  Residential academies for at-risk students provided program grants, and money appropriated.

HF3213—Kinkel (DFL)   Health & Human Services  Hospice programs required to properly dispose of legend drugs.

HF3214—Opatz (DFL)   Education  Successful schools defined, at-risk school improvement plans developed, school improvement fund and distinguished educators program established, at-risk to charter schools transformation provided, study required, and money appropriated.

HF3215—Wagenius (DFL)   Governmental Operations  MInneapolis Fire Department Relief Association payment of survivor benefits to a certain person authorized.

HF3216—Solberg (DFL)   Transportation & Transit  Transportation improvement fund created, motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated, motor fuel tax increased, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3217—Kelso (DFL)   Education  Historical educational programs grants provided for elementary and secondary school curriculum design, and money appropriated.

HF3218—McGuire (DFL)   Judiciary  State made financially responsible for costs associated with the treatment and confinement of persons who are sexually psychopathic or sexually dangerous.

HF3219—Farrell (DFL)   Judiciary  Automatic external defibrillator purchase grant program established for local law enforcement agencies, and money appropriated.

HF3220—Ness (R)   Labor-Management Relations  State contracted project compensation ranges established for all job classifications and prevailing wage rates assigned.

HF3221—Skare (DFL)   Health & Human Services  Breast and cervical cancer control program funding provided for screening of low-income individuals, and money appropriated.

HF3222—Huntley (DFL)   Judiciary  911 emergency dispatcher relieved from tort liability in certain cases.

HF3223—Slawik (DFL)   Education  Class size reduction program funding enhanced, school district debt service levy full equalization provided, and money appropriated.

HF3224—Wejcman (DFL)   Health & Human Services  General Assistance citizenship requirement modified, state food assistance programs created for certain legal noncitizens, noncitizen family food assistance benefits extended, and money appropriated.

HF3225—Jefferson (DFL)   Taxes  MInneapolis Convention Center improvement materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF3226—Rukavina (DFL)   Environment & Natural Resources  Gunn Lake level elevation provided, and penalties provided.

HF3227—Murphy (DFL)   Education  Independent School District No. 93, Carlton, district building and services coordination developed, and money appropriated.

HF3228—Murphy (DFL)   Governmental Operations  Teachers Retirement Association and First Class City Teacher Retirement Fund associations service credit purchase authorized for prior military service, out-of-state teaching service, and pre-1976 maternity leaves or breaks-in-service.

HF3229—Jennings (DFL)   Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  Cigarette displays accessible to the public limited to cartons of 10 units or more.

HF3230—Tunheim (DFL)   Environment & Natural Resources  Shipment and possession of wild animals taken on the Red Lake Indian Reservation north of the 49th parallel authorized, and no state license required.

HF3231—Bradley (R)   Health & Human Services  Prepaid medical assistance program expansion and county-based purchasing provisions modified.

HF3232—Farrell (DFL)   Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  Sign contractor voluntary registration provided.

HF3233—Pugh (DFL)   Judiciary  District and state public defender representation eligibility clarified.

HF3234—Leighton (DFL)   Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  Municipal liability provisions modified.

HF3235—Dawkins (DFL)   Taxes  St. Paul sales tax revenue distributed to the STAR program to be awarded through a grant review process, and allocation provided.

HF3236—Rest (DFL)   Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  Retail sale of tobacco licensed by local units of government, specified substances in cigars disclosure exemption provided, and the sale of unopened cartons on cigarette displays accessible to the public authorized.

HF3237—Chaudhary (DFL)   Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  Columbia Heights enterprise zone established, and tax incentives provided for high technology businesses.

HF3238—Holsten (R)   Environment, Natural Resources & Agricultural Finance  Critical habitat private sector matching account special license plate revenue required to be matched by public appropriations.

HF3239—Jennings (DFL)   Taxes  Sparkling wine excise tax reduced.

HF3240—Rest (DFL)   Taxes  Low-income housing property tax class rules clarified, penalties modified, and fees and penalties deposited in the housing development fund.

HF3241—Pelowski (DFL)   Governmental Operations  Voter registration reassigned to correct precinct and election district provided following legislative redistricting, and money appropriated.

HF3242—Bishop (R)   Capital Investment  Omnibus bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bonds issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3243—Dempsey (R)   Economic Development & International Trade  Hastings municipal water park construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3244—Jennings (DFL)   Health & Human Services  Water conditioning contractors and installers licensed and regulated, continuing education required, and registration required for water conditioning units claiming to remove primary contaminants.

HF3245—Dorn (DFL)   Economic Development & International Trade  Mankato technology center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3246—Lieder (DFL)   Economic Development & International Trade  Ada disaster loan guarantee provided for damaged public health care facility operating losses, and money appropriated.
HF3247 — Jennings (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
St. Croix Valley heritage center designed, prior bond proceeds cancelled, and money appropriated.

HF3248 — Anderson, B. (R) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Biodiversity Treaty; Congress memorialized to oppose the ratification of the Biodiversity Treaty.

HF3249 — Larsen (R) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Land mines; United States government urged to sign the international convention to ban land mines.

HF3250 — Garcia (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Aircraft safety; president and Congress memorialized to enact the Aircraft Repair Station Safety Act of 1997.

HF3251 — Pelowski (DFL) 
Education
University of Minnesota law clinics program provided funding for low-income legal assistance expansion, and money appropriated.

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HF3339 — Hilty (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Electric utilities required to disclose supply sources and pollutant amounts.

HF3340 — Jennings (DFL) 
Regulated Industries & Energy
Public utilities energy conservation improvements definition expanded.

HF3341 — Schumacher (DFL) 
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Sand Dunes State Forest office facility/interpretive center designed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3342 — Kinkel (DFL) 
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Town subordinate service district dissolution petitions provided.

HF3343 — Sykora (R) 
Health & Human Services
Fetal alcohol syndrome campaign implemented, statewide network of FAS diagnostic clinics and grant programs established, study required, and money appropriated.

HF3344 — Mariani (DFL) 
Education
Incentives for child care services for children with disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

HF3345 — Greenfield (DFL) 
Health & Human Services
Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide provisions modified, and service unit plans modified.

HF3346 — Murphy (DFL) 
Education
Independent School District No. 94, Cloquet, reading readiness program provided, and money appropriated.

HF3347 — Mullery (DFL) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Multiple unit dwelling candidate access denial prohibitions modified, and felony penalties provided.

HF3348 — Kahn (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Twins baseball franchise community ownership provided, stadium construction conditions established, and money appropriated.

HF3349 — Opatz (DFL) 
Education
Northstar research coalition created to leverage the University of Minnesota's research capabilities, and money appropriated.

HF3350 — Orfield (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Advisory council on official publications created.

HF3351 — Bishop (R) 
Taxes
Construction materials and supplies used to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act sales tax exemption provided.

HF3352 — Holsten (R) 
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Critical habitat private sector matching account special license plate revenue required to be matched by the critical habitat license plate matching account.

HF3353 — Holsten (R) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Washington County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3354 — Holsten (R) 
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Washington County; Twin Lake flooding problems engineering analysis funded, and money appropriated.

HF3355 — Rest (DFL) 
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Investments of insurers act adopted.

HF3356 — Milbert (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Taking of white bears prohibited.

HF3357 — Murphy (DFL) 
Judiciary
Court surcharge and fine assessment provisions revised and consolidated.

HF3358 — Ness (R) 
Governmental Operations
Broad statutory delegations of rulemaking authority to state agencies studied, and rulemaking regulated.

HF3359 — Hilty (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Occupational regulatory oversight council established to coordinate health-related and non-health-related occupation regulation boards, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3360 — Paymar (DFL) 
Judiciary
Recognition of domestic abuse protection orders from other states clarified, and mutual orders not entitled to full faith and credit in certain cases.

HF3361 — Mares (R) 
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Cochlear implant health plan coverage required.

HF3362 — Greiling (DFL) 
General Legislation, Veterans Affairs & Elections
Public's right to know; independent expenditures definition expanded, independent campaign expenditure notice requirements modified, and lobbying costs disclosure in full required.

HF3363 — Seagren (R) 
Education
School districts required to notify parents of transition goals and services for their children with disabilities, eligible institutions definition modified relating to student grants, and money appropriated.

HF3364 — Rukavina (DFL) 
Economic Development & International Trade
Three direct reduction iron processing facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3365 — Otremba, M. (DFL) 
Education
Central Lakes College, Staples, and Northwest Technical College, Wadena, improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3366 — Chaudhary (DFL) 
Judiciary
Justifiable homicide expanded to include preventing the commission of a felony by certain trespassers.

HF3367 — Solberg (DFL) 
Environment & Natural Resources
Itasca County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF3368 — Abrams (R) 
Governmental Operations
Independent School District No. 16, Spring Lake Park, teacher provided service credit purchase for a sabbatical leave.

HF3369 — Rest (DFL) 
Taxes
Low-income taxpayer assistance services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3370 — Paymar (DFL) 
Judiciary
Victims of domestic violence address confidentiality program established, and money appropriated.

HF3371 — McCollum (DFL) 
Transportation & Transit
Transit-related capital improvements bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3372 — Kahn (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Capitol mall memorials repair and engineering facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3373 — Kahn (DFL) 
Governmental Operations
Mississippi whitewater trail established in Minneapolis.

HF3374 — Solberg (DFL) 
Education
Retired health benefits expenses school district levy authority made permanent.
HF3375—Tomassoni (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Trained force of firefighters maintained by the commissioner of natural resources, and public employee definition expanded.

HF3376—Juhnke (DFL)  
Education  
Ridgewater Community College Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3377—Johnson, R. (DFL)  
Education  
Fire servicio training board established, training and education assistance provided, and money appropriated.

HF3378—Westrom (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Vision Loss Resources, Inc. rehabilitation and community centers funded, and money appropriated.

HF3379—Winter (DFL)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Ambulance service health plan company reimbursements provided.

HF3380—Dawkins (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Claims against the state limited relating to losses involving the operation of a recreational motor vehicle on a trunk highway right-of-way, highway closures regulated, and civil penalties imposed.

HF3381—Wenzel (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Morrison, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, and Kanabec counties compensated for tornado damage, and money appropriated.

HF3382—Jennings (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Unlawful detainer provisions modified, court felony filing fee reduced, stay of execution eliminated, and storage period reduced for tenants property after writ execution.

HF3383—Schumacher (DFL)  
Taxes  
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3384—Wejcman (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Noncitizen food stamp program continued, and money appropriated.

HF3385—Wejcman (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Legal nonlicensed family child care minimal safety standards required, and child care fund assistance receipt prohibited if standards are not met.

HF3386—Wejcman (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Safe houses with homeless targeted youth services funded, and money appropriated.

HF3387—Rifenberg (R)  
Judiciary  
Private property rights protection act adopted.

HF3388—McGuire (DFL)  
Education  
St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota dairy barn renovation and conversion funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3389—McGuire (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Financial institutions provided limited liability for criminal alert network data errors regarding fraudulent checks.

HF3390—McGuire (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Criminal alert network funded, and money appropriated.

HF3391—Juhnke (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Willmar and Litchfield volunteer rescue squad relief associations authorized, and service pensions provided.

HF3392—Rest (DFL)  
Taxes  
Municipal levy limits repealed.

HF3393—Trimble (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Housing trust fund grant provided to Metro State University for a student housing pilot program, and money appropriated.

HF3394—Trimble (DFL)  
Education  
St. Paul Technical College worker information resource center funded, and money appropriated.

HF3395—Hausman (DFL)  
Transportation & Transit  
Metropolitan commuter rail service study requirements modified.

HF3396—McGuire (DFL)  
Education  
Child care assistance and child care programs modified, provider rate bonus for reading programs and school-age child care program grants established, and money appropriated.

HF3397—Bradley (R)  
Education  
Independent School District No. 535, Rochester, special education services loan provided, and money appropriated.

HF3398—Hausman (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Low impact forestry act adopted.

HF3399—Lieder (DFL)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Flood hazard mitigation programs funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3400—Greenfield (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Nursing home planning and transition grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF3401—Greenfield (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Nursing home licensed bed inactive status established.

HF3402—Davis (R)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Insurance company affiliate rebates prohibited.

HF3403—Davis (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Preston to Forestville Blufflands Trail completion provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3404—Davis (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Root River Trail in Lanesboro parking facility improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3405—Davis (R)  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Credit card issuers required to disclose on each billing statement the number of months it would take to pay off account balance based on minimum payments.

HF3406—Boudreau (R)  
Commerce, Tourism & Consumer Affairs  
Local alcoholic beverages and session restriction provisions clarified.

HF3407—Solberg (DFL)  
Taxes  
Optional/special function school sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3408—Mahon (DFL)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
No-fault auto insurance disability and income loss benefits regulated.

HF3409—Knoblach (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Stearns and Sherburne County ICFS/MRs provided reimbursement for field audit disallowances, spend-up limit exemptions provided, and money appropriated.

HF3410—Slawik (DFL)  
Education  
Full-day kindergarten, technology enhancements, and gifted and talented programming site-based funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF3411—Harder (R)  
Taxes  
Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amounts modified to reduce marriage penalties.

HF3412—Rhodes (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Autopsy mandate exemption provided for religious beliefs.

HF3413—Rostberg (R)  
Judiciary  
Convicted traffic offenders who fail to appear at probation review hearings provided driver’s license suspension.

HF3414—Davis (R)  
Governmental Operations  
Available investments expanded for public supplemental pension or deferred compensation plans.

HF3415—Harder (R)  
Agriculture  
Value-added agricultural product loan program purposes expanded, proposed feedlot environmental review requirements modified, and money appropriated.
HF3416—Finseth (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
University of Minnesota appropriated money for wheat and barley scab research.

HF3417—Juhnke (DFL)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
University of Minnesota appropriated money for turkey respiratory disease control and prevention research.

HF3418—Jefferson (DFL)  
Governmental Operations  
Minneapolis Employee Retirement Fund shorter service death-while-active retirement benefits increased, and annuity escalation provided.

HF3419—Bakk (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Mandatory life sentence without release imposed for all types of first-degree murder.

HF3420—Sviggum (R)  
Governmental Operations  
Hiring freeze imposed on certain public and legislative employers.

HF3421—Winter (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Animal feedlots and practices limited, generic environmental impact statement prepared on the long-term effects of the livestock industry, livestock industry environmental steering committee created, and money appropriated.

HF3422—Sykora (R)  
Education  
Direct child care assistance payments modified.

HF3423—Jennings (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Health and human services providers annual rate adjustment provided.

HF3424—Molnau (R)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Independent School District No. 112, Chaska, eastern Carver community collaborative project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3425—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
Education  
Independentschool districts nos. 593, Crookston, 361, International Falls, 706, Virginia, and 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, supplemental revenue modified.

HF3426—Greiling (DFL)  
Education  
High school league governing board member appointment date established, rulesreview required, and commercial relationship prohibition repealed.

HF3427—Jefferson (DFL)  
Education  
Gary Neil Suduth education reform act; nonwhite and white at-risk student educational needs met, educational success obstacles identified, staff development and community training provided, advisory council created, and money appropriated.

HF3428—Knight (R)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3429—Johnson, A. (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Adolescent pregnancy prevention plan established, and money appropriated.

HF3430—Jennings (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Plumbing inspection program expanded.

HF3431—Kelso (DFL)  
Education  
Office of educational responsibility established, and money appropriated.

HF3432—Wenzel (DFL)  
Financial Institutions & Insurance  
Life insurance company investments and financial transactions regulated, qualified long-term carepolicies regulated, and chronically ill individual definition modified.

HF3433—Harder (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Watonwan River flood abatement project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3434—Harder (R)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Martin County Fox Lake wastewater project funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3435—Macklin (R)  
Taxes  
Proposed property tax levy notices permitted to include transit levy information.

HF3436—McElroy (R)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Regular routetransit service and transit zone definitions modified, transit zonemaps redrawn, and property tax rateapplication prohibition removed for retail structures in transit zones.

HF3437—Munger (DFL)  
Judiciary  
Hazardous materials steam reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF3438—Westrom (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Farwell-Kensington sanitary district established, and taxlevies authorized.

HF3439—McElroy (R)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Burnsville amphitheater admissions tax imposed and tax increment finance district established.

HF3440—Rukavina (DFL)  
Labor-Management Relations  
Minimum wage increased, and large and small employer requirements specified.

HF3441—Peterson (DFL)  
Agriculture  
Animal wastetechnician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, cleanup fund created, ordinanceupdate assistance provided, and generic environmental impact statements required.

HF3442—Wenzel (DFL)  
Judiciary  
 Interstate emergency management assistance compact adopted.

HF3443—Osthoff (DFL)  
Capital Investment  
Minnesota financial institutions required to be principal underwriters of state bond issues.

HF3444—Mullery (DFL)  
Labor-Management Relations  
Parenting leave requirements extended to 12 weeks.

HF3445—Davids (R)  
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance  
Chatfield water system improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3446—Trimble (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
St. Paul provided a grant to acquire right-of-way in the Phalen corridor, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3447—Mullery (DFL)  
Economic Development & International Trade  
Women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, grant requirements and information provided, and money appropriated.

HF3448—Munger (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Board of Water and Soil Resources appropriated money for small nonindustrial private forest land management.

Where to find information

Chief Clerk’s Office  
211 State Capitol  
(612) 296-2314  
This office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.
MONDAY, Feb. 9

8 a.m.

Economic Development Finance Division/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE
500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

Agenda: HF2466 (Winter) Authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for capital improvements to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant facilities in Walnut Grove.
HF2639 (Daragon) Detroit Lakes Community Center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2423 (Swenson, H.) New Ulm; Herman Monument restoration, enhancement, and protection provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2605 (Dawkins) St. Paul transit zoo property designated as an enterprise zone.
HF2194 (Chaudhry) Fridley Historical Museum restoration provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2656 (Johnson, R.) Nicollet County treaty site historic center grant provided, land acquisition and capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

K-12 Education Finance Division/ EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelo

Agenda: HF2511 (Pawlenty) Building space average age threshold reduced relating to school district alternative facilities bonding and levy program qualifications.
HF3032 (Collum) Modify eligibility for alternative facilities program.
HF3033 (Collum) Modify eligibility for alternative facilities program.
HF2914 (Evans) Health and safety revenue for Independent School District No. 2854.
HF2879 (Lieder) Flood-affected school districts average daily membership modified.
HF2412 (Collum) School district flood losses appropriation extended.
HF3109 (Ness) Reauthorizing canceled facilities grant to Crow River Education Co-op.
HF2474 (Opitz) Independent School District No. 42, St. Cloud, authorized to purchase a community education site with remaining bond proceeds.

Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) DIVISION/TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF2360 (Sevon) City base aid increase provided for newly incorporated cities.
HF2436 (Tomassoni) County assessor notification limited concerning agricultural homesteads abandoned due to flooding.
HF2549 (Winter) Regional development commissions levy limit modified.
HF2821 (McElroy) Tax-Increment Financing district decertification responsibility and duration of reporting requirements clarified, and remedies provided for failure to file required reports.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: HF2584 (Evans) Independent School District No. 621, Mounds View, Laurentian Environmental Learning Center renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2877 (Lieder) Fertile; Agassiz Environmental Learning Center improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF2414 (Lieder) Polk County; Maple Lake Regional Park and Trail development provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.
HF2562 (Petersen) Montevideo Recreational Trail completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HFXXXX (Schumacher) Sand Dunes. Additional bills may be added.

10 a.m.

AGRICULTURE
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Stephen Wenzel

Agenda: HFXXXX (Peterson) Feedlot legislation; “Living with Livestock” feedlot proposal.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF2418 (Rukavina) BWCA; permanent school fund funded through Boundary Waters Canoe Area campsite fees.

12:30 p.m.

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel

Agenda: HF2748 (Tomassoni) Minnesota family asset initiative established for education, housing, and economic development purposes, and money appropriated.
HF2581 (Delmont) Emergency assistance and health and safety revenue for Independent School District No. 2854.
HF3140 (Kalilis) State Parks.
HF3297 (Long) MERLA; statute of limitations provided for filing of actions under the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act.
HF3275 (Tomassoni) Percentage of moose licenses to be selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.
HFXXXX (Munger) Small woodlots.
HF1561 (Finseth) Natural snow funding provided, and money appropriated.

Health & Human Services
Finance Division/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield

Agenda: Public testimony on the governor’s supplemental budget recommendations for programs administered by the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Veteran’s Home Board, Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board, Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Board of Medical Practice. To testify contact Vic Thorstenson, committee administrator, 296-2317; or Don Jorvesky, legislative assistant, 297-7202.

JUDICIARY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Wes Skoglund

Agenda: HF381 (Greenfield) Nonprofit healthcare trust defined and transaction agreement regulation provided.
HF2486 (Greling) Voter eligibility and campaign material provisions ruled unconstitutional eliminated.
HF2286 (Skoglund) Violent crime offense penalty provisions modified, and mandatory sentence provisions recodified.
HF24 (Weaver) Life sentence provided for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.
HF2397 (Mullery) Probation revocation hearings provided preponderance of the evidence standard.
Additional bills may be added.

State Government Finance Division/ GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
400S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

Agenda: HF3241 (Pelowiski) Voter registration updates.
Supplemental budget requests by the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the State Auditor, and Gambling Control Board.
Additional bills and agencies may be added.

February 9, 1998 / SESSION WEEKLY 29
transitional housing programs appropriated money.
HF3167 (Slawik) Children’s endowment fund.

GENERAL LEGISLATION, VETERANS AFFAIRS & ELECTIONS Room To Be Announced.
Chr. Rep. Bob Milbert
Agenda: HF2526 (Osthoff) Absentee ballot provision modified.
HF581 (Hausman) unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF57 (Sviggum) unicameral legislature provided with 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF59 (Anderson, I.) unicameral legislature provided with 102 to 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF158 (Greiling) unicameral legislature provided with 99 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF1456 (Griepentrog) unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF905 (Pugh) legislature reduced in size, term limits imposed, partially unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed. (Committee meeting will be televised on KTCI Channel 17.)

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS 200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Richard Jefferson
Agenda: HF1385 (Hill) Workers’ compensation rehabilitation program requirements modified.
HF2643 (Farrell) Settlement division established in the office of administrative hearings, transfer of judges, small claims court, duties, and funds provided.
HF2897 (Rukavina) union organization’s rights and duties established, unfair labor practices provisions expanded, and equal time requirements provided.
HF2849 (Garcia) Public employer definition expanded to include legislative coordinating commission.
HF2365 (Betterman) Public works prevailing wage rate provisions eliminated.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT Room To Be Announced.
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
Agenda: HFXXX (Lieder) transportation bonding bill.
HF3265 (Marko) relating to transportation; defining road or highway; requiring certain expenditures from the trunk highway fund; establishing transportation spending goals.
HF3057 (Lieder) relating to transportation; redefining road or highway; imposing requirement restrictions on transportation expenditure expenditures from the trunk highway fund and general fund; establishing spending goals for transportation.

2:30 p.m.
The House meets in session.

After Session
Subcommittee on Business Regulation/COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS 500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Al Juhnke
Agenda: HF2483 (Jefferson) Driver safety education pilot program for students established, and money appropriated.
HF2522 (Greling) K-12 education policy changes and rulemaking provided.
HF2631 (Kels) American Indian language and culture programs, post-secondary preparation grants, and scholarship funding increased, and money appropriated.
HF2788 (Dawkins) youth works program repeal removed.
HF3090 (Schumacher) grants for unlimited possibilities plan.
HF2839 (Seagren) Minnesota Council on Economic Education provided funding for state graduation standards teacher training, and money appropriated.
HF2697 (Rifenberg) independent school district no. 299, Caledonia, management assistance study authorized, and money appropriated.

TUESDAY, Feb. 10
8 a.m.
EDUCATION 200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
Agenda: HF2680 (Munger) permanent school fund advisory committee membership and duties expanded.
HF3094 (Harder) red rock school, reduction in school board membership.
HF2919 (Biernat) metropolitan council authorized to contract to transport students in independent school districts nos. 625, St. Paul, and 1, Minneapolis.
Additional bills may be added. (This meeting will continue at 6 p.m. in room 200 if necessary.)

Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY 500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
Agenda: Supplemental budget requests, public defense board. Others to be announced. This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.

Transportation & Transit
Finance Division/TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT 500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder
Agenda: HF2589 (Wagenius) snow fence easements, highway closures, and signs regulated; state transportation plan revised, private carriers regulated, flexible highway account created, town highways and bridges funded, and conveyances to public bodies permitted.
HF3057 (Lieder) road or highway redefined, trunk highway and general fund expenditures regulated, transportation spending goals established, state patrol funded, motor fuel tax rates adjusted, local bridge replacement authorized, and money appropriated.
HF3265 (Marko) trunk highway fund expenditures required, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, state patrol funded, motor fuel tax rates adjusted, local bridge replacement authorized, and money appropriated.
HF3265 (Marko) trunk highway fund expenditures required, road or highway defined, transportation spending goals established, state patrol funded, motor fuel tax rates adjusted, local bridge replacement authorized, and money appropriated.
HF2976 (Juhnke) county state-aid funds...
transfer to revolving loan account prohibited until gas or vehicle registration tax rates are increased, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE

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

Agenda: HFXXXX (Davids) Blufflands.
HFXXXX (Davids) Echo Bluff.
HFXXXX (Davids) Lakes and rivers
HFXXXX (McCollum) Hoyt flood control.
HF2714 (Leighton) Mower County; land acquisition adjacent to the Ramsey Mill Pond Wildlife Management Area authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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

Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 5 if necessary.
HF3068 (Solberg) Ratification of labor agreements.
HF2924 (Luther) Stateboard purchased tobacco stock prohibited.
HF2777 (Jefferson) Department of Employee Relations experimental or research project provisions modified.
HF2947 (Hilty) Department of Administration technical corrections bill.
HF1965 (Hilty) Administration department, office of environmental assistance, public service department, state archaeologist, and transportation regulation board reorganization order's codified.
HF2708 (Juhne) Agricultural marketing and bargaining advisory committee established, dispute resolution procedures provided, and association of producers defined.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Dorr

Agenda: HF2870 (Greenfield) Health care cost information system provisions modified, filing fee established, and money appropriated.
HF2649 (Wejseman) Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process established date extended, and money appropriated.
HF2868 (Greenfield) Medical Assistance, Medicare, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified, Medical Assistance elderly waiver program modified, nursing facility cost report procedures modified, and health maintenance organizations surcharge offset provided.
HF2565 (Delmont) Human services claim error notification required.
HF2630 (Delmont) Family day-care licensure provisions modified.
HF2461 (Clark, K.) Establishing a grant program for research on hepatitis C; establishing a public education campaign on hepatitis C; appropriating money.
HF1135 (McCollum) Massage and Oriental bodywork therapist licensure requirement established, and penalties provided.
HF1297 (Entenza) Sign language interpreter certification required, standards established, and penalties provided.
HF3258 (Greenfield) Congress memorialized to remove Medicaid policy barriers to employment for people with disabilities.
HF3138 (Evans) Automatic external defibrillator use authorized.
HF3231 (Bradley) Prepaid Medical Assistance Program expansion and county-based purchasing provision modified.
HF2662 (Bradley) Medical Assistance and General Assistance medical care eligibility requirements modified, and MinnesotaCare provisions modified.
Additional bills may be added.

Housing & Housing Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Karen Clark

Agenda: HF3281 (Murphy) For the Committee on judiciary, bonding recommendations.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim T hunheim

Agenda: HF2794 (Tunheim) Telecommunications commerce regulated, telemarketing fraud outreach advocacy network established, and money appropriated.
HF3071 (Wolf) Relating to motor fuels; updating petroleum specifications.
HF2510 (McElroy) Minnesota collection agency collector license holders prohibited from using assumed names.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

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

Agenda: HF3101 (Skare) Bemidji authorized to impose additional sales and excise taxes for the purpose of funding convention center construction.
HF3193 (Hess) Hutchinson authorized to impose additional sales tax to fund a civic and community center, and recreational facilities.
HF2257 (Chaudhary) Columbia Heights appropriated money for capital improvements, and bonds issued.
HF2973(Evans) Corridor planning/pilot projects established and money appropriated.
HF3081 (Paymar) St Paul bonding limits set.
HF2320 (Grelling) Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission required to give notice prior to insecticide application.
HF2653 (Skare) Headwaters Regional Development Commission authorized to establish a not-for-profit housing corporation.
HF3157 (Winter) Luverne provided an exemption from the Minnesota Investment Fund grant limit for job loss offset, and appropriation reallocated.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings

Agenda: Gambling bills that pass out of subcommittee.
HFXXXX (Jennings) Modifying definition of energy conservation improvements.

2 p.m.

St. Paul Delegation
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Farrell

Agenda: To be announced.

2:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Willard Munger

Agenda: HF3320 (Peterson) Feedlots: moratorium.
HF2667 (Winter) Feedlots: 750 AU/EIS.
HF3115 (Evans) Establish healthy homes pilot project.
HF3183 (Mariani) Capacity building, VISTA project.

COMMITTEES MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5TH

Additional bills may be added.

JUDICARY

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

Agenda: Any bill not completed at the Data Practices meeting on Feb. 5.
HF3067 (Paymar) Data practices; classifying certain law enforcement data.
HF2371 (Mullery) Attorney general maintained consumer complaint database access modified.
HFXXXX (McGuire) Parking database classified.
HF1626 (McGuire) Government data classification and access provided.
Final passage of omnibus data practices bill (McGuire).

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF2895 (Tomassoni) Township mutual insurance companies permitted investments expanded.
HF3272 (Tomassoni) Insurance; township mutual companies; regulating farm risks.
HF2846 (Mahon) Automobile insurance premium reduction provided for completion of an accident prevention course.
HF1604 (Tomassoni) No-fault automobile insurance nonowned vehicle residual liability insurance regulated.
HF2500 (Rest) Customer loss or theft of a debit card limited liability provided.
HF2512 (Rest) Homeowner's insurance nonrenewals regulated, and automobile and homeowner's insurance discrimination limited.
HF2016 (Hass) Financial institution loan solicitation by mailing a check payable to the address prohibited.
HF2890 (Tunheim) Savings Association Act maintained.
HF2750 (Wenzel) Reinsurance intermediary-brokers regulated, and held or collected fund investments prohibited.
HF1278 (Clark, K.) Financial institution reasonable account fees required.

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HF2829 (Murphy) Proctor community activity authorized.

HF2539 (Goodno) Historical society money appropriated.

HF3116 (Ness) Requiring personal and family financial management in profiles of learning.

HF3190 (Murphy) Modify charter school provisions.

HF3266 (Kelso) Clarify contractual arrangements for charter schools.

HFXXXX (Greiling) High school league modifications.

HF3300 (Kielkucki) Expansion of alternative facilities program, modify compensatory revenue and fund elementary achievement program.

HF2359 (Sekhon) School district compensatory revenue calculation alternative established, and money appropriated.

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

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

HF3318 (Peterson) Southwest State University regional studies center; appropriating money.

HF2892 (Peterson) Value-added agricultural livestock processing and marketing grant program expanded to include other commodities, and money appropriated.

HF2835 (Kielkucki) Commissioner of agriculture granted rulemaking authority in warehouse and grain storage laws.

HF3201 (Otreba) Requiring labeling on unpasteurized fruit juice and cider.


HF3088 (Kielkucki) Waverly granted funds to establish Hubert H. Humphrey museum and learning center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso

Agenda: HF2578 (Lieder) Independent School District No. 2609, Win-E-Mac, fund transfer authorized.

HF3128 (Siefert) Lynd fund raiser.

HF3130 (Koskinen) Expand alternative facilities program, modify compensatory revenue and fund elementary achievement program.

HF2359 (Sekhon) School district compensatory revenue calculation alternative established, and money appropriated.

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

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

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

Agenda: HF2482 (Rest) Long-term health care insurance premium income tax credit and inputs to taxable services and certain analgesic sales tax exemptions effective dates modified, federal conformity and property tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

HF2516 (Pawlenty) Dakota County dangerous dog registration system city administration provided.

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

Additional bills may be added.

8:30 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE/FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

Agenda: To be announced.

10 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. W. Max Mlegen

Agenda: HF2686 (Munger) Board of Water and Soil Resources hearing provisions clarified, and Minnesota replacing approval required.

HF1847 (Munger) Tax-forfeited and land bordering public waters sale provisions modified.

HF3256 (Leppik) Lakes initiative.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Irv Anderson

Agenda: HF2582 (Johnson, R.) Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, authorized to establish a school bank as part of an educational program.

HF2309 (Leppik) Equal consumer credit provided for spouses.

HF2971 (Entenza) Residential mortgage loans regulated, and table funding requirements established.

HF3006 (Hausman) Health plan coverage required for off-label drug use, and advisory council established.

HF3084 (Ness) Authorizing Meeker County to establish an economic development authority.

HF3283 (Tunheim) Authorizing Kittson County to establish an economic development authority.

HF3177 (Mullery) Changing requirements for a study of on-the-job training programs.

HF3161 (Mullery) Changing the Department of
Trade and Economic Development reporting requirements for business subsidies.  
HF3016 (Farrell) Stroh Brewery property development  
HF3246 (Lieder) Disaster loan guarantee for the city of Ada.  
HF3114 (Skare) Appropriating money for work force center involvement in school to work initiatives.  
HF3019 (Hausman) Appropriating money for screenwriters grant programs.  
HF3063 (Clark, K.) Appropriating money for the Green Institute Inc.

(Meeting will reconvene in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building at 4 p.m.)

**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tony Kinkel  
Agenda: Citizenship update, Barry Shaffer, DCFL  
HF3066 (Witer) Delivered fuel accounts.  
HF3125 (McGuire) Gang prevention.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius  
Agenda: To be announced.

**2:30 p.m.**  
The House meets in session.

### After Session

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
Agenda: To be announced.

**4 p.m.**

**K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Becky Kelso  
Agenda: To be announced.

**4 p.m. or After Session**

**Hennepin County Delegation**  
300N State Office Building  
Agenda: Mortgage and deed registration; tax and child welfare.

**2 Hours After Session**

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn  
Agenda: HF2737 (Goodno) Welfare reform; Work First and other programs modified, and nonresidential child care program licensing modified.  
HF2990 (Huntley) Welfare programs providing an education choice provisions modified.  
HF3259 (Greenfield) Food stamp benefits extended for noncitizens, public housing residents' MFIP-S grant reductions delayed, alcohol and drug dependent persons' benefits continued, TANF funds transferred to federal Title XX allocation, and money appropriated.

### THURSDAY, Feb. 12

**8 a.m.**

**Economic Development Finance Division/INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
500S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble  
Agenda: HF1529 (Jefferson) Minneapolis Convention Center expansion authorized, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.  
HF2209 (Jaros) Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.  
HF2857 (Nornes) Fergus Falls convention and civic center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**EDUCATION**  
200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson  
Agenda: To be announced.  
(This meeting will be continued at 6 p.m. in Room 200 State Office Building if necessary.)

**Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY**  
500N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy  
Agenda: Supplemental budget requests, courts. Others to be announced. This meeting may continue later in the day or evening.

**ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff  
Agenda: To be announced.

**10 a.m.**

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Phyllis Kahn  
Agenda: Continuation of agenda from Feb. 10 if necessary.  
HFXXXX (Kahn) Omnibus pension bill.  
HF3121 (Jennings) Design build contracts.  
HF2706 (Kahn) Electronic message reliability and certification authorities required, licensing and enforcement powers specified, and definitions and rulemaking provided.  
HF384 (Kahn) State agency procurement procedures modified.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn  
Agenda: HF396 (Wejcman) Naturopathic physician licensure provided, and criminal penalties provided.  
HF3326 (Greenfield) Home care bill of rights modified referring to the Office of the Ombudsman for Older Minnesotans.  
HF2398 (Goodno) Personal care services termination standards set, transition plans required, recipients provided appeal rights, and temporary stays of termination allowed.  
HF2729 (Goodno) Temporary licensure waiver authorized for certain dietitians.

**8:30 a.m.**

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**  
10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
Agenda: To be announced.

**REGULATED INDUSTRIES & ENERGY**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Loren Jennings  
Agenda: HF3042 (Jennings) Omnibus regulated industries bill.  
Additional bills may be added.

**2:30 p.m.**

The House meets in session.

### After Session

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**  
5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. John Dorn  
Agenda: Continuation of a.m. agenda.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**  
300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ann H. Rest  
Agenda: To be announced.

**1/2 Hour After Session**

**Economic Development Finance Division/INTERNATIONAL TRADE**  
Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble  
Agenda: HF2683 (Huntley) Improvements to the St. Louis County Heritage and Arts Center in Duluth authorized.  
HF2248 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park Arts Center
education programs.

HF2349 (Ness) Basic skills summer school funding reinstated, and money appropriated.

HF2351 (Ness) Interagency services for children with disabilities act adopted.

HF3217 (Kelso) Grants for historical and natural resources committee.

HF3019 (Hausman) Economic development; providing for grants to local screenwriters.

HF3054 (Paymar) City of St. Paul; appropriating money to fund Harriet Island redevelopment.

HF2488 (Skare) Battle Point cultural and education center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2587 (Skare) Bemidji Historical Museum renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3019 (Hausman) Economic development; providing for grants to local screenwriters.

HF3054 (Paymar) City of St. Paul; appropriating money to fund Harriet Island redevelopment.

HF2488 (Skare) Battle Point cultural and education center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2587 (Skare) Bemidji Historical Museum renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

FRIDAY, Feb. 13

7 p.m.

COMMERCE, TOURISM & CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10 State Office Building
chr. rep. Jim Tuneheim
Agenda: Petrofund bills from the environment and natural resources committee.

7:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE
3005 State Office Building
chr. rep. Stephen Wenzel
Agenda: HF2278 (Wenzel) Milk handling assessment collection and proceed distribution provided, milk handler assessment account established, and money appropriated.

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

FRIDAY, Feb. 13

8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance Division/EDUCATION
5 State Office Building
chr. rep. Becky Kelso
Agenda: HF3217 (Kelso) Grants for historical

Frequently called numbers

Committee Hotline, House .... 296-9283
Sergeant at Arms, Senate
Senate Chamber ............ 296-7159/6-1119
Sergeant at Arms, House
45 State Office Building .... 296-4860
Counsel and Research, Senate
G-17 Capitol ................. 296-4791
Research, House
600 State Office Building .... 296-6753
Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Building .... 296-3398
Revisor of Statutes
700 State Office Building .... 296-2868

Governor's Office
130 Capitol ..................... 296-3391
Attorney General's Office
102 Capitol ..................... 296-6196
Secretary of State's Office
180 State Office Building .... 296-9208
Capitol Security
B-4 Capitol ................. 296-6741
Emergency ..................... 296-2100
TTY*, Senate ............... 1-888-234-1112
TTY*, House ............... 296-9896
Toll free ..................... 1-800-657-3550

*teletypewriter
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### Child protective services

- **Estimated number of child maltreatment allegations received by county child protection agencies in Minnesota, 1996**: 50,000
- **Investigations conducted by Minnesota child protection agencies, 1996**: 16,684
- **Cases in which maltreatment was determined to have occurred, 1996**: 6,725
- **Percent of maltreatment cases labeled child neglect**: 54
- **States, including Minnesota, with county-administered child protection services**: 10
- **Counties in Minnesota**: 87
- **Counties that operate their own child protection agency**: 82
- **Counties that collaborate with others for child protection services**: 5
- **County child protection agencies that investigated less than 20 percent of 1996 maltreatment allegations**: 5
- **County child protection agencies that investigated more than 90 percent of 1996 maltreatment allegations**: 9
- **Reports of maltreatment investigated annually statewide from 1994 to 1996, per 1,000 children**: 14
- **Investigations in Itasca County, per 1,000 children**: 3
- **Investigations in neighboring Hubbard County, per 1,000 children**: 29
- **Days state law allows to begin investigation after report of maltreatment**: 3
- **Percent of investigations started within three days in Hennepin County (state’s most populous county), 1994-1996**: 44
- **Percent of investigations started within three days in remaining counties, 1994-1996**: 91
- **Cases open per full-time-equivalent child protection caseworker statewide, September 1997**: 15
- **Counties reporting fewer than 10 open cases per caseworker**: 13
- **Counties reporting 40 or more open cases per caseworker**: 7
- **Percent of families with child maltreatment determinations in 1993 that had another determination of maltreatment in the same county within three years**: 18
- **Department of Human Services’ recorded number of child deaths attributed to maltreatment, 1994-1996**: 49
- **Number found to be injury cases erroneously reported as deaths**: 25
- **Annual child welfare expenditures in Minnesota, in millions**: $300

**Source:** Child Protective Services, January 1998, Office of the Legislative Auditor.