Reflections

The State Capitol building has something for everyone. If you like art, it’s a spectacular museum of some of the finest portrait paintings in the country. If you are an architecture buff or bricks and mortar aficionado, you can spend hours discovering the different types of marble, granite, and other stone used to erect architect Cass Gilbert’s “great wonder” in the first five years of the 20th century.

Metallurgy, woodworking, historic preservation, agriculture, military history, design, artists’ perspective, artistic license, ancient and modern history, meditation sights, places for soapbox oratory — all are integral parts of what can be found in the building. Even sociologists can find what life was like in the early 1900s through research and what diverse ethnic and economic groups left behind here “on the hill.”

All of the above interests and more are a permanent part of the hallways and byways of the most successfully planned statehouse in the country.

Gilbert and the building’s chief decorator, Elmer E. Garnsey, who also designed the U.S. Library of Congress, were very thorough in their quest to create a unique and sound edifice that would be a lasting tribute for generations to come.

For those so inclined to ponder, or who may want to do so while visiting the Capitol, a thought-oriented voyage of the “grand” second floor awaits. Take a seat on one of Gilbert’s original oak benches on the east or west wing. Look upward and discover some 20 feet above, gold-inlaid inscriptions of well-known and little-known quotes by past leaders of government, law, and justice.

These ideas and thoughts of what government should do or how it should be for people command a nearly hidden presence below the vaulted ceilings of this noble building.

One inscription by educator, diplomat, and U.S. Secretary of State Edward Everett is worth remembering: “Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army.” Daniel Webster, noted American legislator and orator is quoted often. One of his messages found on the walls above eye level states, “No government is respectable which is not just.”

Another memorable civic idea by national lawyer and public official, Elihu Root is engraved for posterity: “Eternal good citizenship is the price of good government.”

One final quote for legislators, staff, and visitors to ponder is by William E. Gladstone, British politician and four-time prime minister: “The proper function of a government is to make it easy for people to do good and difficult for them to do evil.”

The Capitol building has something for everyone. All one needs to do is take the time to find it.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Mary Wilmes, St. Paul, and Kathleen Quona, Minneapolis, get a close look at a quilt made by women whose lives have been affected by domestic violence. The quilt was displayed in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 18 as part of Battered Women’s Action Day, an annual event organized by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

— Photo by Laura Phillips
Lawmakers debate legal blood-alcohol limit for drivers

By Grant Martin

Proponents of lowering Minnesota’s blood alcohol concentration standard from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent will tell you their strongest argument comes from the families of the victims.

“No one will argue that the 0.10 standard hasn’t saved lives,” said Pat Budig, whose son was severely injured and whose husband was killed by an impaired driver who tested below the current 0.10 percent legal limit. “You don’t have to be falling down drunk to kill someone.”

Minnesota drivers would be subject to a more strict definition of legal drunkenness, under a bill advancing in the House.

— Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid and Andrew Von Bank
But Minnesota is already a leader in DWI legislation, according to John Berglund, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association.

He testified against the bill at a House Judiciary Committee meeting. Berglund argued that the laws currently on the books should be allowed to work to catch the repeat DWI offenders and problem drinkers. And, he said, the state should not target safe, social drinkers.

Berglund and other opponents point to the fact that NHTSA studies also show that the average blood alcohol content found among drunk drivers is 0.18 percent and that 80 percent of all DWIs are over 0.14 percent.

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

Opponents of the legislation also point to the fact that eight out of the 10 states that ranked lowest in alcohol-related traffic fatalities have 0.10 percent. They argue that if the 0.10 percent standard works so well in these states, there is no need to lower the standard to 0.08 percent.

The debate in Minnesota may become purely legislative, according to John Berglund, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association.

If the federal legislation passes, Minnesota lawmakers may have to act just to save the highway funding.

### Committee deadlines

Each year, the House sets deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded. At the first deadline, which was Friday, Feb. 13, bills must have been passed out of policy committees in their house of origin.

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

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

### Wynia realizes value of past in new job as college president

**By Nicole Wood**

Former Rep. Ann Wynia has found a perfect fit in her new job as president of North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park.

Being a college president wasn't something Wynia imagined she'd do when she grew up, she said in a recent interview. “I don't fit the typical profile,” she said.

But when the opportunity to lead the institution where she has taught since 1970 presented itself last year, she realized the relevance of her legislative and executive branch experience as an administrator.

Wynia was first elected to St. Paul's District 63B House seat in 1976. During her 13 years in the House, she was twice elected majority leader. She was the first DFL woman to hold a leadership position in the House.

Her public service record doesn't end there. Wynia also has been a commissioner of the Department of Human Services and a University of Minnesota regent. She was defeated by Rod Grams in a hard-fought 1994 U.S. Senate race.

In many ways, Wynia said, her new job duties are familiar territory: figuring out competing needs, reconciling available resources, establishing priorities, and working with other people to move an agenda forward.

“That's what you do in the Legislature, and that's a lot of what you do as a college president,” she said. “So far it feels like a pretty good fit.”

Looking back at her years in the House, Wynia said she found it most satisfying to work on human services issues, particularly on questions of health care access.

In 1987, she sponsored the Children's Health Plan, the first program in the nation to provide basic preventive care to the children of the working poor. "It was very satisfying to be able to say, because we were able to pass this legislation, literally thousands of Minnesota children who wouldn't have had health care now are able to go see a doctor," she said.

Wynia also recalls that the plan had overwhelming bipartisan support.

“'It was an opportunity to work on a problem and to present a reasonable cost-effective solution and to see how, by golly, in this process it is possible to bring that kind of thoughtful solution before a large group of legislators and get them to agree," she said.

In addition to such powerful committees as Taxes and Ways and Means, Wynia served on the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee during her legislative career.

She said she joked with then-Speaker Martin Sabo that she was perfect for the assignment because she was typical of so many Minnesotans—she had a car insurance policy and a home insurance policy and she had never read either one.

“I was a consumer of both banking and insurance services and I brought that perspective to the committee,” she said. “That's what I think in some ways is the beauty of the citizen legislature. They're really very much representative of the people of this state.”

Wynia also said she is excited about her future at North Hennepin.

“'It was a wonderful job to have. I am so lucky."
**AGRICULTURE**

**Feedlot regulation**

Two bills that would place more regulation on agricultural feedlots continue to advance in House committees.

But a third bill (HF3320) was pulled by its sponsor, Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), during a Feb. 13 meeting of the House Agriculture Committee.

Peterson’s bill would place a moratorium on any new permits for construction of feedlots for 750 animal units or more (one animal unit equals one slaughter steer or heifer) or the expansion of open-air manure storage structures. The moratorium would last until July 1, 2000, or after the Environmental Quality Board has given the Legislature a timeline and cost for doing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), which would outline the types and locations of feedlots in the state and assess their impact on air and water.

Feedlots, which are grounds or buildings or a combination of grounds and buildings used to feed, breed, raise, and hold animals, are designed as confinement areas.

Feedlots have manure basins, often made of clay or earth, to hold the waste from the livestock. There are an estimated 45,000 feedlots in Minnesota.

Peterson withdrew the moratorium legislation when it was apparent the bill did not have the support to survive the Agriculture Committee.

“Some of the people who believe it is the right thing to do and the right time to do it,” Peterson said. “The issues will not go away. The issues will be in front of the Legislature again. The people who have asked for the moratorium have shown the grass roots support for the moratorium.”

Later, Peterson said he wouldn’t rule out reviving the bill — possibly as an amendment to separate legislation — later this session.

“Never say never,” he said, adding that the debate on the issue has shown the Legislature the depth of concern in rural Minnesota about feedlots and the impact of corporate farming on the environment.

Meanwhile, a bill (HF3421) sponsored by House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) was approved Feb. 13 by the Agriculture Committee and Feb. 16 by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. The bill next moves to House Governmental Operations Committee.

Winter’s bill would forbid permits to increase or establish feedlots over certain capacities until the environmental effect of the feedlot could be examined. The original bill would have required an Environmental Impact Statement to be completed, but the bill was amended to instead require an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, which costs less.

The bill also would ban earthen or clay-lined manure storage facilities after July 1, 1998. And the measure would call for a GEIS to be conducted.

Another separate bill (HF3441) sponsored by Peterson was approved Feb. 13 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee and awaits a hearing in the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

The so-called “Living with Livestock” bill would require that after March 1, 2000, those who manage and apply animal wastes hold a valid animal waste technician license issued by the Department of Agriculture. Most family farmers would be exempt.

The bill also would prohibit the issuance of a permit for clay, earthen, or plastic-lined animal waste lagoons. No permit would be issued for a feedlot with a design capacity of 1,000 animal units or more until the applicant received a federal permit under the Clean Water Act. The bill also would establish a statewide contingency plan to deal with animal waste spills, a county-by-county inventory of feedlots, an option for counties to establish their own feedlot ordinances. Also, the bill would require a GEIS to be conducted.

**Bonding recommendations**

Members of the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee have joked that their $503 million bonding recommendation plan has started to look like the Titanic.

Currently, it remains to be seen which projects will finally make it to the lifeboats. The plan, approved by the division and the full committee Feb. 18, now sets sail for the House Capital Investment Committee, where the final cut will be made for the House version of this year’s bonding bill.
The largest portion of the economic development finance recommendations, a sum of $379 million, would be given in the form of grants to cities and other political subdivisions for a variety of projects. The remaining portion would be awarded to state agencies to distribute through agency grants.

Here are some highlights:

- The Minnesota Historical Society would receive $8 million to help finance the completion of the Minnesota Street site. Other convention center funding would be provided to the cities of St. Cloud, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Windom.
- Duluth would receive $28 million for the expansion of the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Other convention center funding would be provided to the cities of Thief River Falls, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Proctor, Rochester, St. Cloud, and Windom.
- The Department of Trade and Economic Development would receive $60 million to finance the direct iron processing facilities in the state. These plants would produce a more pure form of iron than that produced currently, and, supporters argue, give the Iron Range an economic edge over other iron-producing regions.
- Several local governments would be provided funding for wastewater treatment projects. The city of Renville would receive $10 million for their facility, Austin would get $5 million for the completion of their wastewater treatment facility. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency would be given $9 million to fund the wastewater infrastructure program which would finance projects statewide.
- The city of St. Paul would receive $8 million to help finance the Penumbra Theater expansion. Also, the St. Paul Port Authority would be awarded $10 million to redevelop the Stroh Brewery site. The funds would be used to attract businesses to the site and to assist in job creation for former Stroh employees.
- The Minnesota Historical Society would receive $25 million to fund improvements statewide, including projects at Split Rock Lighthouse, the Glensheen Mansion, Fort Snelling, and St. Anthony Falls.


The bill comes from a working group convened by the commissioners of the state health and commerce departments to offer options to the Legislature on developing a health care complaint resolution process for consumers. Wejcman termed the bill “a further effort for the consumer of health care to get the care that they want in a timely manner.”

Susan Stoudt, of the Minnesota Nurses Association, said her organization favors the bill.

“The working group was formed with the idea that we want to make our health care system work better for consumers,” she said. “It became clear that each health plan has a fairly complex system for solving problems. If a bill isn’t real high, most people just pay it rather than spend a lot of time.”

She also said that what people need is someone to help them figure out what the plan offers and what it doesn’t.

“If (people need) someone who, as an advocate, will help them wind their way through the system,” Stoudt said.

The new office would have no regulatory power and would not provide legal representation, but it could act as an advocate in a dispute resolution process. The bill also stipulates that the office be run by an executive director, who could hire nine advocates to work in the office.

The office would try to help consumers understand their legal rights and get health care referrals. The office also would attempt to identify patterns of complaints and recommend possible changes to health care companies.

The committee heard some opposition to the bill, specifically from Twila Brase, a public health nurse from Citizens for Choice in Health Care, a St. Paul-based group.

“If passed, citizens would be paying twice: once in taxes, once in premiums. The cost estimates we heard are $700,000, and as we know, real costs exceed estimates,” Brase said.

The bill calls for a still-unnamed appropriation to fund the new office.

“It’s a bad policy and will not help protect people and may increase healthcare costs,” Brase said.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who is a doctor, said he opposes the bill because it is
adding a level of bureaucracy. Health care companies should be answering their consumers’ questions and helping solve their problems on their own, he said.

The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations Committee.

**CRIME**

**Repeat violent offenders**

The House Judiciary Committee approved two bills Feb. 13 that would crack down on repeat violent offenders.


Responding to the concerns of the members of the committee, Weaver amended his bill to exempt some felony offenses from the list of applicable crimes. Weaver also added provisions that would give judges discretion in applying the life prison term under certain circumstances.

Scott Swanson, an attorney with the state public defender’s office, testified in opposition to the bill. He told the committee that the penalties would not always be proportional.

“Doesn’t matter if my third offense is selling a line of cocaine or murder, I still get life in prison,” he said.

Deb Dailey, of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, said that it is difficult to estimate the increase in prison population that could come from Weaver’s bill because of the many factors involved. She told the committee that it could mean as many as 2,300 additional prison beds over the next 30 years.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said that people who come from violent backgrounds often turn their lives around and become productive members of society. He said that he thinks the three-strike approach is simplistic.

“We’re using baseball analogies to apply to the violent problems that exist in our nation,” he said.

Weaver said that a strong message must be sent. “I don’t mind that this is simplistic,” Weaver said. “We need to lay down a clear line to what is acceptable.”

Weaver’s bill was approved by the committee on a 17-2 vote.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a separate bill that also would address repeat violent offenders. **HF2286** would restructure current law that requires tougher penalties for “career criminals” and would reduce the number of violent crimes required to receive these harsher sentences.

Both bills are set to be included in the omnibus crime prevention bill.

**Searching adults, juveniles**

Officer Mark Klukow, of the Minneapolis Police Department, told members of the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 13 that he found it difficult to understand why adults and juveniles are treated differently when it comes to search law.

He said that he was surprised to see cases against juveniles thrown out of court because, under current law, pat down searches can be performed only on adult offenders.

Klukow, who frequently is forced to detain truant juveniles in his squad car, said he always does a pat down search before putting a suspect in his car.

“It’s an officer safety issue,” Klukow said. “It’s probably done at least once a week where a weapon is found.”

Klukow testified in support of a bill (**HF2330**) sponsored by Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) which would authorize pat down searches of juveniles.

“I don’t understand why a juvenile is any different from an adult,” he said. “In fact, I think a juvenile is more likely to shoot someone. They don’t understand the consequences.”

The committee approved the bill, which is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime prevention bill.

**Prostitution penalties**

The House Judiciary Committee approved a bill Feb. 13 that would increase penalties for engaging in the business of prostitution in a residential area or near children.

**HF2375**, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), borrows from current law the notion that crimes committed in school zones, park zones, and public housing zones should be sentenced more severely.

The bill also would make changes to make it easier to get juveniles who are involved in prostitution into the child protection system.

Clark said that while the harsher penalties are necessary, she is also concerned about children being used as prostitutes.

“Young children are being solicited into prostitution. The average entry age is 14 years old,” she said.

Clark told the committee that the law needs to view children involved in prostitution as victims and not as criminals. **HF2375** is set to be included in this year’s omnibus crime prevention bill.

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**EDUCATION**

**State Board of Education**

A proposal to abolish the State Board of Education has been scaled back to call only for a task force to study the agency’s effectiveness and report back to lawmakers by next year.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said he was under the influence of “freshman zeal” when he included a provision to abolish the board in **HF1678**, which was introduced last year.

The amended version of his bill is now being considered by the K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee for inclusion in this year’s omnibus education funding bill. The board itself supports the proposal.

The plan now calls for a 15-member task force to examine alternatives for governing the state’s K-12 education system. The group would be assembled by this summer and would report its findings by February 1999.

“I think a lot of people have been looking at the State Board of Education, trying to discern what its role really is,” Biernat said. “Maybe this will lead to abolishing the board, but that will depend on the [results of] the study.”

The bill would direct the task force to look specifically at three areas: the current role of various government agencies in shaping education policy; the effectiveness of the current structure; and how to improve collaboration between schools and social service agencies serving the same populations.

The task force would include educators, government representatives, and community members. Those members would be appointed with input from the governor’s office, the speaker of the House, and the Senate Rules and Administration Committee.

**On-site suspension programs**

Suspending students from school has little effect if they’re merely sent home, but keeping them in a supervised in-school suspension program can both help them improve academically and deter future suspensions.

That’s what Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said is the premise behind his bill to encourage schools to implement on-site suspension programs.

“We realize that a full reform [of Minnesota’s K-12 system] is really needed, but until then, this is an important Band-Aid,” he said.

His bill (**HF3664**) would give schools $4 per day for each suspended student placed in an in-school program.

The K-12 Education Finance Division of
the House Education Committee discussed the proposal Feb. 18 and is considering including it in this year’s omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

Gordon LeVert, who supervises such a program at St. Paul’s J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School, told the panel that the funding would allow improvements in existing programs.

“Sometimes my room becomes a dumping ground,” he said. “A lot of times there is no work sent with the students.”

He said funding could help develop a solid, school-wide program involving more teachers.

But any in-school program, he said, is better than sending students home, or, more likely, onto the streets.

“There’s no doubt that students who get sent home too often will begin to feel alienated from the school,” he said.

Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), who chairs the division, said she believes many districts have moved away from the in-school suspensions common in past decades because of money shortages.

Other lawmakers agreed that keeping suspended students in school is preferable to sending them to unsupervised homes.

“But we need to look at how to make these become places of learning,” Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said. “It does no good to have a dumping ground.”

‘No-man’s-land’

Several Minnesota school districts got caught in what one superintendent called “no-man’s-land” after a 1997 law required them to pay state prevailing wage labor rates for construction projects.

About 14 districts faced unexpectedly higher price tags on building projects because they had passed bond referendums for estimated costs before the law’s July 1, 1997, effective date. By the time they signed contracts, the prevailing-wage law had inflated labor prices in those districts.

“I don’t argue with prevailing wage. I believe people have a right to earn a living,” Lake of the Woods Schools Superintendent Ralph Christofferson told a House panel Feb. 19. “But we went to the taxpayers with one set of rules, and then they changed. We were unable to deliver to our constituents what we promised.”

HF2822, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would bring relief to Christofferson’s district and others around the state.

The bill proposes awarding grants to districts that can prove they either incurred extra costs or had to scale back construction plans due to the prevailing wage law. So far 14 districts — mostly in rural areas of the state where labor wages were low to begin with — have said they would qualify.

The plan calls for $6.6 million in grants to be awarded. Districts could only use the funds to meet increased costs due to the prevailing wage requirement.

The K-12 Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee is considering the proposal for inclusion in this year’s omnibus K-12 education finance bill.

Extra-curricular activities

A slightly watered-down proposal aimed at assuring home-schooled students access to public school extra-curricular activities is being considered by state lawmakers.

HF2836, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would require school districts to charge home-schooled and public school students the same fee for extra-curricular activities.

House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), a co-sponsor of the bill, said some districts set prohibitive fees for home-schooled to participate in activities.

“But these parents pay property taxes like everyone else,” he said.

When the House Education Committee first discussed the bill Feb. 3, the proposal called for school boards to allow all home-schooled students residing in a district to participate in extra-curricular activities.

But school board officials objected to that language and said schools could find themselves forced to allow any home-schooled child to participate in any activity, regardless of other qualifications.

The amended bill calls for home-school and public school students to be equally eligible for participation.

“It’s acceptable to those who were interested in securing some changes for home-schooled, but also addresses those concerns raised by school boards,” Opatz said.

The Education Committee’s K-12 Education Finance Division debated the new plan Feb. 18 and is considering the bill for inclusion in this year’s K-12 omnibus funding bill.

Black history

Toinette Battle Bettis, office manager for the House Public Information Office, portrays abolitionist Sojourner Truth delivering her speech, “Ain’t I a Woman?” in the House chamber. Bettis’ performance, marking Black History Month, served as the invitation to open the House floor session Feb. 16.

Unpaid parental leave

A bill that would grant more workers the option of taking up to 12 weeks of unpaid parental leave was approved Feb. 13 by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

Currently, employees of firms with more than 50 workers are entitled under federal law to 12 weeks of leave following the birth or adoption of a child.

Minnesota law provides up to six weeks of unpaid leave for parents working for companies with 21 to 49 employees. HF3444, sponsored by Rep. Joe Ellerby (DFL-Mpls), would extend that to 12 weeks and allow the leave to begin at any time within 12 weeks of birth or adoption.

“This is a bill which is in conformity with the history of this body,” Mullery said.

Minnesota was one of the first states to grant any parental leave, but in the last decade, the federal government and several other states have passed laws allowing longer unpaid leaves.

Pat McGovern, of the University of Minnesota was one of the first states to grant any parental leave, but in the last decade, the federal government and several other states have passed laws allowing longer unpaid leaves.
She also cited a study showing that more than 90 percent of employers reported little or no increased costs or disruptions associated with parental leaves.

But Michael Hickey, of the National Federation of Independent Business-Minnesota, said the proposal would have “very negative implications” for small businesses.

“How do these businesses try to continue on and remain profitable with the loss of a key person for three months?” Hickey asked. “On a six-week basis, you probably haven’t heard any complaints because anyone can carry on for six weeks.”

Tom Hesse, of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, said requiring employers to allow unpaid leave may eliminate explorations of other options — such as flexible scheduling and job sharing — that may be more beneficial for everyone.

Mullery said his bill would not affect those employers already making acceptable arrangements for new parents.

“But if we relied solely on the goodwill of employers, we wouldn’t need unions, we wouldn’t need labor laws, we wouldn’t have slave shops around the world,” he said.

The bill, which now moves to the House floor, was approved by the committee on an 11-6 vote.

**Workplace breast-feeding**

New mothers may soon find it easier to continue breast-feeding their infants once they’ve returned to work, under a plan approved Feb. 16 by a House panel.

HF3459, sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), would require employers to “make reasonable efforts” to provide space and unpaid break time at work for mothers to pump breast milk that they could later feed to their babies.

“This is an attempt to put some minimal standards in place,” Greiling said. “‘Reasonable effort’ means just that. We’re not asking for anybody to build an extra room onto a workplace.”

The bill does specify that the space provided should be other than a toilet stall and should be close to the work area. It would not require employers to provide break time if to do so would “unduly disrupt” the business.

With several national studies showing the benefits of breast-feeding to include healthier babies, more productive employees, and a smarter future workforce, there was no outright opposition to the bill during the hearing before the House Labor-Management Relations Committee.

But some lawmakers and small-business lobbyists voiced concern about vague language in the bill.

“We want lactation, not litigation,” Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) said. “I don’t think we’re going to get very far if all we do is create more reasons for litigation.”

Michael Hickey, state director of the National Federation of Independent Business-Minnesota, said he was also concerned about potential court battles over the interpretation of the bill’s call for “reasonable” accommodations.

“We think the goals of the bill are very laudable,” he said. “But the smaller you are, the more difficult it’s going to get. We’re concerned for the two-person gas station or retail shop.”

He said eventually he may seek an exemption for businesses with 10 or fewer employees.

The bill now moves to the House floor. A companion Senate measure — sponsored by Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) who breast-fed her son, Jack, while serving at the Capitol last year — is headed for the Senate floor.

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

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**Raising the minimum wage**

A proposal to raise the minimum wage by 75 cents was approved by the House Labor-Management Relations Committee Feb. 13, but even some supporters of the plan say it’s unlikely to get past the governor’s desk.

The bill (HF3440), sponsored by Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), would set the minimum wage for large employers at $5.90 per hour beginning Sept. 1, 1998, and for small employers at $5.65 per hour beginning Jan. 1, 1999.

But the measure would allow employers to pay workers under age 20 a wage of $5 an hour for the first 90 days of employment.

“You know [the bill] will pass the committee, and you know it will pass the House. But if it goes to the governor and gets hammered, we’ve accomplished nothing.” Rep. Mike Oskopp (R-Lake City) said, during the House Labor-Management Relations Committee meeting.

In light of the fact that federal lawmakers are considering a 50-cent minimum wage hike this year, Oskopp suggested Rukavina’s bill may have a better chance at becoming law if it simply set Minnesota’s minimum wage at 25 cents higher than federal minimum wage.

But Bernard Brommer, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, said that historically the federal government has increased minimum wage only after several states have led the way with increases.

The committee also rejected an amendment that would have built a so-called tip credit into the proposed increase. Rukavina said that allowing employers to pay tipped workers less than minimum wage would lead to labor exploitation and “drag everyone else’s wages down.”

Rukavina’s bill now moves to the House floor.

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**Transport packaging waste**

A bill that aims to reduce the amount of transport packaging waste the soft drink industry creates was approved by the House Commerce, Tourism and Consumer Affairs Committee Feb. 17.

“Of all the major pieces of legislation I’ve carried over the years, this is the first time I’ve had a bill with the support of the environmental people and the industry,” said Rep. Willard M unger (DFL-Duluth), the sponsor of the bill (HF2696/SF2402*).

In 1995, Munger said, 22 percent of municipal solid waste consisted of transport packag-
ing such as wood pallets and corrugated cardboard.

Dave Locey, of the Minnesota Soft Drink Association, said the industry is considering a $15 million investment in reusable, recyclable plastic pallets.

The plastic pallets would cost about $32 each, Locey said, compared to $5 to $7 each for the wood pallets the industry currently uses to transport their goods to retailers.

There is a system in place, Locey explained, where third parties collect used pallets from retail sites and then resell them to soft drink companies.

Under the bill, third party collectors would be prohibited from taking those plastic pallets which are labeled as private property.

The plastic pallet would have to clearly show the owner's name and address or telephone number, as well as a notice that the unauthorized possession of the pallet is a violation of state law.

The rightful owner of a stolen plastic pallet would be entitled to damages equal to three times the cost of the pallet, in addition to legal expenses.

Some on the panel questioned the need for special legislation to protect owners of plastic pallets, but Locey answered many of the concerns.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), a grocer, wondered whether a deposit system between manufacturers and retailers would work instead.

Locey said retailers would not accept a deposit system.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) asked why unlawful pallet possession couldn’t be prosecuted under existing theft laws.

"An old system already exists that’s working against us," Locey said. "We’re in the position of trying to make a pro-environmental system work. What we want to do before we make this investment in plastic pallets is make sure we can control them."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Gypsy moths

The gypsy moths are coming, and the Department of Agriculture wants $325,000 to stop them at the border.

The leaf-eating insects have already infested Michigan and Wisconsin and are slowly marching westward at the rate of 12 miles per year, according to Daniel Stoddard of the Department of Agriculture’s gypsy moth trapping and eradication program.

Armed with a jar full of moths and a brochure entitled “Gypsy Moth: Street, Yard and Forest Tree Enemy #1,” Stoddard brought the program’s funding request to the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 18.

The committee took no action on the matter.

Gypsy moths are transported by human activity, Stoddard explained. The metropolitan area and southeastern Minnesota are at highest risk of an invasion.

Although female gypsy moths cannot fly, they frequently deposit their eggs on objects such as grills and picnic tables that are near the trees on which they feed. Thus, gypsy moths earned their name due to their preferred mode of migration — tagging along on outdoor objects.

Wisconsin spends over $2 million per year for gypsy moth control, Stoddard said, and Minnesota would already be infested without previous eradication efforts.

In past years, the department has sent out field workers to capture male gypsy moths in sticky traps that are baited with female moth scents.

To date, the program has discovered and exterminated 19 startup gypsy moth populations, Stoddard said.

The agriculture department’s lab is developing biological control agents such as parasites that feed on gypsy moth eggs.

The money would supplement the biological control program and allow for more field personnel.

The funding request will be reconsidered again later this session.

Personal watercraft measures

A bill that would strictly limit the use of personal watercraft on Minnesota’s lakes is headed for the House floor.

HF1351, sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), was approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 19.

The bill is made up of provisions that were formerly part of HF1690, Hasskamp’s original bill related to personal watercraft.

In order to separate the financial considerations from the policy debate, the personal watercraft legislation has been divided into two separate bills.

Among its policy provisions, HF1351 would ban personal watercraft from lakes of 200 acres in size or less, limit the hours for full-throttle operation, and increase the no-wake zone to 200 feet from shoreline, docks, swimmers, or other watercraft.

The financial implications of the personal watercraft legislation remain in HF1690. Under that bill, personal watercraft operators would be required to pass a mandatory safety course and pay a $10 fee for a certificate, and a $30 fee for three-year personal watercraft licenses would be established. The fees would be earmarked for counties and the Department of Natural Resources for personal watercraft law enforcement costs.

HF1351 — the policy bill — now moves to the House floor.

HF1690 remains before the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee.

Rain makers

A second grade class from Mora Fairview Elementary School makes the sound of rain with their long rattles as Peg Paulson reads “Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain” in the Capitol rotunda. The performance was one of several by students from around the state as part of Arts Education Day Feb. 17.
GAME & FISH

Hunting, fishing privileges

A bill that aims to amend the Minnesota Constitution to protect hunting and fishing privileges is one step closer to being placed on the ballot in the November 1998 general election.

HF326, sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), was approved by the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee Feb. 18.

The bill would submit the following constitutional amendment to voters: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to declare a privilege of legal residents to take game and fish in accordance with law and regulations?"

The committee focused its discussion on the bill's potential financial implications rather than policy concerns.

The Department of Finance estimates that the overall administrative costs to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot would equal $114,300.

Roger Holmes, director of the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), said there would be no enforcement expenses if voters approved the amendment.

The DNR supports the bill in the hope that some of the efforts to reduce hunting and fishing opportunities would cease," Holmes said. "It would send a clear message to anti-hunting groups that they should back off."

"It would provide for a better assurance that hunting and fishing privileges is one step closer to being placed on the ballot in the November 1998 general election."

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Minnesota first lady Susan Carlson said women of childbearing age need better information about the danger of drinking during pregnancy, but the word isn't getting out. She said a birth defect caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy is "100 percent preventable," and she is supporting a bill that would raise public awareness of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

The bill moves to the House floor.

GOVERNMENT

Residency requirement

Despite opposition from Minneapolis city officials and legislators from the city, a House committee approved a bill Feb. 17 that would repeal the residency requirements in Minneapolis and St. Paul to require their employees to live within city limits.

The bill would submit the following measure to voters: "Shall the Minneapolis and St. Paul constitutions be amended to require that their city employees, their employees' families, and the city employees' spouses live within the city's limits?"

The measure would be effective if approved by the city's residents.

The bill was approved by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 18.

HF2055, sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-Mpls), would allow the Minneapolis City Council to repeal residency requirements in Minneapolis, and St. Paul's residency requirements were added in 1994. Employees hired before the requirements took effect can live anywhere they want.

Opponents of Stanek's bill said the residency requirements are a local issue that can be negotiated by the employee bargaining units, and the state should not interfere.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) noted that one city employee had said previously, "It's bad enough I have to work in the city; I shouldn't have to live in it, too."

Skoglund said that remark offended him deeply.

"They're wrong. They're completely wrong. Think how you would feel if they said that about your city," he said.

He said it was good to see off-duty police officers in the neighborhoods and at the community functions as citizens.

Leonard Mangum, a community organizer who works with gang members, said the relationships he has established with the police are valuable.

"I've had a chance to witness the interaction between police officers and inner-city youth. It's not about forcing [police officers] to live there; it's about trying to build relationships," he said.

Mangum said he was aware of the problems police officers had voiced about safety in an earlier meeting, and he said he understood.

"We have a great relationship now and what that allows us to do is effectively promote change," he said.

Minneapolis City Council member Jackie Cherryhomes said when city employees live in the city, it promotes "a deeper understanding of the problems facing our city, but also a deeper commitment to helping solve them."

The bill moves to the House floor.

HEALTH

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

Minnesota first lady Susan Carlson said women of childbearing age need better information about the danger of drinking during pregnancy, but the word isn't getting out. She said a birth defect caused by alcohol consumption during pregnancy is "100 percent preventable," and she is supporting a bill that would raise public awareness of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

The House Health and Human Services Committee approved a bill March 4 that would require schools to educate parents and students about the effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. The bill would also require the state health department to develop and distribute educational materials about the effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

The bill moves to the full House for consideration.
Committee approved a bill Feb. 18 that would provide $5 million for a statewide campaign to expand awareness of the disease. The bill (HF3343) is sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior).

Carlson was co-chair of the Governor’s Task Force on FAS, which conservatively estimated the disease costs Minnesota $45 million annually in health, judicial, and social services.

“This is very costly,” Carlson said. “You can’t repair brain damage once it occurs.”

FAS is a series of birth defects that can include mental retardation, central nervous system dysfunction, behavioral problems, and deficient growth. Fetal Alcohol Effect (FAE) is a less severe set of the same symptoms.

The Journal of the American Medical Association reports FAS is the leading known cause of mental retardation. It is found in all races and economic groups.

Dr. Pi-Nian Chang, a pediatric psychologist, told legislators she sees 30 children monthly who, because their mothers consumed alcohol during pregnancy, have IQs as low as 66.

Chang said those with FAS or FAE who are not mentally retarded have learning disabilities and often exhibit impulsive behavior. He said studies indicate FAS is present in 1 to 3 percent of all live births. Chang called drinking “Russian roulette.”

Studies indicate FAS is present in 1 to 3 percent of all live births. Chang called drinking “Russian roulette.”

The bill also includes funding requests for the study of FAS and FAE, the establishment of diagnostic clinics, and training for health care providers. According to the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, less than 10 percent of medical schools require students to complete a course on the proper diagnosis and referral of individuals with alcohol addiction.

The bill requests $250,000 for the state commissioner of health to conduct research on the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in the state, and $125,000 to conduct laboratory screening.

The committee was told some community clinics reject people who want testing but can’t pay for it. Another $125,000 would help the commissioner of health prepare a plan aimed at reducing all sexually transmitted diseases.

The bill moves to the committee’s finance division.

Battling AIDS

Although progress is being made in the fight against AIDS, the battleground is constantly shifting.

Dr. Timothy Schacker, medical director of the University of Minnesota Delaware Street Clinic, said there are misconceptions about new AIDS medications, and because AIDS patients are living longer, the chance of sexual contact with an HIV-infected person have risen.

The targeted products containing ephedrine are reportedly taken by teenagers and others looking to achieve a legal high.

Health food stores, supermarkets, and pharmacies stock products containing ephedrine, the extract of a Chinese herb that has been found to stimulate the heart and central nervous system. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has tried to build a case against ephedrine-containing products, which are marketed as diet products but are used by teenagers as a stimulant. HF3549, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), would allow products containing ephedrine to be dispensed only by prescription in most instances.

The bill would stipulate that drug products containing ephedrine could be sold without a prescription only if allowable under the federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Such products could not be marketed, advertised, or labeled for weight loss, appetite control, muscle enhancement, mental alertness, or energy.

Currently, marketers need not show ephedrine-containing products
drine-containing products to be safe or effective because the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 classified herbs, vitamins, and minerals as dietary supplements. The FDA cannot regulate dietary supplements unless it can prove a product is unsafe.

The FDA has tried to link about 36 deaths to the targeted supplements, which can contain widely varying degrees of the herb.

The bill moves to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

'Grade 13' credit proposal

Parents of college freshmen would be eligible for a new tax credit, under a bill that aims to make postsecondary education more affordable for Minnesota families.

HF3691, sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), would allow families of recent high school graduates to realized a state tax credit of $500. The Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee took no action on the bill Feb. 16.

Coupled with a newly established $1,500 federal income tax credit — called the Hope Scholarship Credit — the bill would make the first year of postsecondary education more affordable for many Minnesotans.

Starting in 1998, most Minnesota students who enroll in a postsecondary institution in the fall after their high school graduation would be eligible. The students would have to be claimed as a dependent on their parents' income tax return.

Supporters claim the bill would, in effect, establish a grade 13 in Minnesota.

Carlson said the bill would cost the state between $7.5 million and $8.5 million annually. The first year of college or other training would still have to be paid for, but Carlson said the annual cost of one year of technical or community college typically runs about $2,000. With the federal and state tax credits, a family could cover most of that expense, he said.

Under the federal Taxpayer Relief Act, taxpayers became eligible Jan. 1 to claim a Hope Scholarship Credit against their federal income taxes. The Hope Credit can be claimed for the qualified tuition and related education expenses of each student in the taxpayer's family. Taxpayers will be able to claim the federal credit for the first time when they file their 1998 tax returns next year.

Minnesota's proposed "grade 13 credit" would use the same income thresholds as the federal credit. For married couples filing jointly, the upper income limit for the full credit is $80,000. For single parents, it is $40,000. Benefits are phased out above those limits, with total phase out at $100,000 and $50,000, respectively.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) questioned the need for the state to assist families who earn $80,000 annually.

Carlson said he believes those families could use some "tuition relief." He also distributed a fact sheet indicating students who get through one year of postsecondary education are likely to complete their college education.

Carlson also said experts suggest the demand for technical skills means most future workers will need some postsecondary training and that his bill could help respond to that.

The proposal will be considered for possible inclusion in this year's omnibus higher education bill.

Campus law firm

Lawmakers are considering a proposal that would boost the University of Minnesota's law clinic, which is essentially a law firm on campus.

According to Steve Befort, director of the clinic, more than 700 low-income Minnesota students were represented by second- and third-year U of M law students in 1997. The students represent clients under supervision of clinic instructors.

Befort told the Higher Education Finance Division of the House Education Committee Feb. 16 that with $250,000 from the state for fiscal year 1999 the school could add 80 more students to the law clinic. That would translate into an additional 6,000 hours of legal services and another 200 clients, Befort said.

The request is part of HF3251, which is sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona), who chairs the finance division. The proposal will be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus higher education funding bill.

Jeffrey Brockmann, a third-year U of M law student, testified that the clinical education he acquired was crucial to his scholastic advancement in the program and better prepared him to practice law.

"It has made me aware of the diverse need of a clientele that generally goes unnoticed," Brockmann said.

Tom Sullivan, dean of the law school, added the clinic work "helps us understand the ethical obligation we have to support our community."

Sullivan said only 25 percent of law school graduates nationally have any clinical exposure, but 65 percent of U of M students have the opportunity.

Sullivan also said 50 percent of the clinic's current $900,000 annual budget comes from tuition, with 15 to 17 percent from the state. The rest comes through private contributions and through a federal grant.

**HOUSING**

Substandard housing

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) told a House committee Feb. 17 that housing agencies all over the country are looking at ways to rehabilitate housing and that sometimes demolition is the only option.

Trimble is sponsoring a bill (HF3565) that...
would provide an appropriation to the community rehabilitation fund. The program is used by cities to purchase substandard multiple housing units for either rehabilitation or demolition.

"I just feel in some cases, in some situations, it makes more sense in the long run to get rid of substandard housing," he said during testimony before the Housing and Housing Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee.

Often times, problem housing is removed to make green space or community parks for public housing, Trimble said.

St. Paul city councilwoman Kathy Lantry said that her city would benefit from the program. She told the committee that she has toured some of the troubled properties in St. Paul.

"The conditions of those properties made me mad. The fact that housing like this exists in St. Paul should make us truly ashamed," she said. "Sometimes the right answer is to tear down the building."

She said that in some situations housing is "affordable by accident" because the poor condition of the property drives the rent down.

Lantry said that the property owners need to be held accountable for disrepair and need to be encouraged to develop proper screening policies to keep problem tenants out of the properties.

Charles Disney, of the Minneapolis Property Rights Action Committee, said that city governments and neighborhood organizations are attempting to place the blame solely on the property owners. He said the true problem is crime and a lack of law enforcement.

"We've criminalized housing to solve our social problems because the criminal justice system is not working," he said. "I think it's adding fuel to the fire to tear down housing. It's not getting at the problem."

Karla Wiegold, of Brooklyn Park, said she is concerned about reducing the level of affordable housing. She told the committee that the housing complex where she lives is scheduled for demolition as a substandard property.

Wiegold said that there needs to be a standard set so that low income housing is not razed just to provide land for more expensive development.

The bill was laid over by the committee but could be considered again later in the session.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (612) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.
thing: Daggett’s bill (HF3107) would take effect June 30, 1998, and Milbert’s bill (HF3024) would be retroactive to July 1, 1997.

“The money that is raised through lawful gambling is used back in communities for a variety of things,” Milbert said. “The money raised by lawful gambling stays in the community. This is a good tax to reduce. This money does go back to pay for the schools.”

Daggett said that charitable gambling helps nonprofit organizations in her district pay for charitable projects.

“When we need some funds, we have somewhere we could go to, to get some consideration for our project,” she said.

Milbert cited one of the cities in his district, South St. Paul, which is home to the South St. Paul Educational Foundation. That organization raises money for scholarships and the South St. Paul Public Schools through charitable gambling.

“It was set up and designed specifically to promote and support education,” Milbert said.

There are now more than 1,500 licensed organizations in the state, such as the Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion, that use lawful gambling to raise money for community causes, including charities.

Money is raised through the sale of pull-tabs, which account for 92.5 percent of charitable gaming, and through bingo, paddle wheels, raffles, and tipboards.

In combination, the games have raised more than $843 million in “lawful purpose contributions,” which include charitable and community causes, since 1985.

Organizations that run charitable gambling operations are taxed 2 percent of the revenue from pull-tabs and tipboards under current law. Both bills would reduce that to 1.5 percent.

The tax on revenue gathered from bingo and other games is now 10 percent, but it would drop to 7.5 percent under both bills.

The bills call for the tax on combined receipts between $500,000 and $700,000 to go from 2 percent to 1.5 percent. The tax on combined receipts of $700,000 to $900,000 would go from 4 percent to 3 percent and the tax on combined receipts of more than $900,000 annually would go from 6 percent to 4.5 percent under both proposals.

King Wilson, executive director of Allied Charities of Minnesota, said he believes it is time to give some money back to the charitable organizations. “We believe 1998 is the year to come up with some [tax] relief,” he said.

If either bill is passed, the state would lose an estimated $15 million in gambling taxes annually.

But, Wilson said, that money would be going back to the organizations “to be spent in the communities for a variety of projects.” Both bills now move to the full Taxes Committee.

**Tax reductions, rebates**

Two bills the House is considering would reduce income taxes and property taxes and provide for property tax rebates.

HF2322, sponsored by House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), and HF2325, sponsored by Rep. Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), were debated Feb. 16 by the Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division of the House Taxes Committee.

Both bills were referred to the full Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Sviggum’s bill calls for a permanent reduction in taxes for low- and middle-income people and provides a one-time rebate for property taxes paid in 1998 matching the one approved for property taxes paid in 1997. “This bill seeks to deal with the $1.3 billion surplus. That surplus ought to be returned back to taxpayers,” Sviggum said.

The bill also would reduce property tax rates for some commercial and industrial property and apartment buildings with four or more units. And the measure would cut the statewide educational levy by $100 million in fiscal years 2000 and 2001.

Sviggum’s bill would make $500 million available for the payment of property tax rebates.

Van Dellen’s bill would set priorities for using surplus revenue in state coffers. The bill would first devote a set amount of funds to the state’s budget reserve account and require additional surplus funds to go to an income tax reserve account that could be used only for income tax rate reductions.

Van Dellen’s bill also would reduce property taxes for some commercial and industrial property and apartment buildings with four or more units. The bill would provide income tax reductions and property tax rebates similar to those called for in Sviggum’s bill.

Each bill would cost more than $800 million a year in tax revenue, according to state estimates.

Van Dellen said with the state looking at six billion dollars in property tax rebates, “This money could have been saved for the schools, but instead that money went to St. Paul. This would be a small way of helping our school districts and helping our taxpayers.”

Safert is sponsoring a bill (HF2911) that would exempt school buses with a capacity for more than 10 people from the state’s motor vehicle sales tax. The bill was approved Feb. 17 by the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

The bill would cost the state an estimated $3.2 million in tax revenue during fiscal year 1999 and $6.7 million during the 2000-2001 biennium.

Smaller vehicles — such as vans, cars, and buses carrying fewer than 10 passengers — would still be taxed under the bill.

Rep. Gail Skare (DFL-Bemidji) said she thinks the bill is a good idea.

“The small districts that I know felt it was a great onus for them to pay motor vehicle taxes,” she said.

The bill now goes to the full Taxes Committee.

**Motor vehicle sales tax**

When school districts buy buses, they have to pay a motor vehicle sales tax, but some lawmakers are trying to change that.

“We come to government taxing government to transport children to school,” said Marty Sefert (R-Marshall). “This money could have been saved for the schools, but instead that money went to St. Paul. This would be a small way of helping our school districts and helping our taxpayers.”

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The bill now goes to the full Taxes Committee.

**TOURISM**

**Repairing Glensheen**

A proposal to provide $750,000 for repairs at the Glensheen Mansion in Duluth was considered by the Economic Development Finance Division of the House Economic Development and International Trade Committee Feb. 16.

Glensheen Mansion was built in 1908 by mining executive Chester Congdon and his wife, Clara. The 39-room mansion sits on a 22-acre estate overlooking Lake Superior.

In 1977, Glensheen was donated to the University of Minnesota-Duluth (UMD), which opened the historic facility to the public. UMD took over the mansion after an infamous double murder took place involving members of the Congdon family.

The bill (HF2974), sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), would authorize the state to issue bonds for the amount of the repairs. The proceeds of these bonds would go to the Minnesota Historical Society, which would provide a grant to UMD.

William Miller, an official from Glensheen of UMD, testified in support of the bill. He
told the committee that the mansion averages about 100,000 visitors a year.

Miller said that the bonding proposal is about maintaining state assets. “GlenSheen is owned by an institution of the state,” he said, “and we are trying to preserve it for future generations.”

HF2974 was approved for inclusion in the division’s 1998 bonding recommendations. The measure likely will be considered for inclusion in omnibus bonding legislation to be assembled later this session by the House Capital Investment Committee.

Making cars available

Welfare reform measures that became effective in recent months encourage work and set lifetime limits for receiving welfare checks. But many people moving off welfare could find it difficult to work without a car.

Legislation moving to the House floor would exempt nonprofit organizations from obtaining a motor vehicle dealer’s license for the sale or lease of cars and trucks valued at $1,000 or less. Such a move could make more vehicles available for people “with a demonstrated need for assistance,” according to Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan).

Pawlenty sponsors HF3028/SF2163*, which was approved by the House Transportation and Transit Committee Feb. 18.

Pawlenty said certain organizations repair and recondition older cars that are donated to them. These organizations then sell the vehicles at low prices to people moving off public assistance or to those with other needs.

Expansion to four lanes

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) encouraged members of the finance division of the House Transportation and Transit Committee to drive on up and visit the Brainerd area.

“But don’t come on a Friday or a Sunday night,” he said. At those times, the lake country highway is often jammed with weekend travelers.

Wenzel appeared before the panel Feb. 13 to request $22 million in bonding revenue to expand to four lanes Trunk Highway 371 between Little Falls and Brainerd. Wenzel sponsors HF3144, which requests that the road construction project begin around July 1, 2000.

No action was taken on the bill.

Wenzel told the committee that there have been four fatalities on the 28-mile stretch of road in the past year.

“W’ve had promises from other governors to expand this to four lanes for over 30 years,” he said.

According to numbers from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, traffic doubled on stretches of Highway 371 from 1977 to 1994. One section of 371 had a 4.6 fatality rate per 100 million travelers between 1992 and 1996. The statewide fatality rate for a rural two-lane road is 1.5 per 100 million travelers.

Wenzel said construction to expand the highway has been tentatively set for 2003, but his bill requests that construction begin three years earlier.

Memorial highway

Statetrooper Dennis O’Brien wanted a lasting memorial to his slain partner. He moved closer to getting it Feb. 16 when the House passed HF2612 on a 128-0 vote.

The bill calls for a stretch of Trunk Highway 95 to be designated in honor of Timothy Bowe, a Coon Rapids resident who, last year, became the first Minnesota state patrol officer to be killed in the line of duty since 1978.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), a 14-mile stretch of Highway 95 between Cambridge and North Branch would become “Timothy J. Bowe Memorial Highway.”

Bowe, 36, was shot to death last summer in Chisago County while answering a call about a shooting at a rural home. Bowe, a 15-year veteran, was the seventh Minnesota trooper ever to be killed in the line of duty.

“His partner approached me about it,” Jennings said. “This was something we’d never done before, but after [O’Brien] came to me it seemed like it was a good idea and probably something that we should do in the future.”

Under the bill, the commissioner of transportation would adopt a suitable marking to designate the highway and erect the signs, which would be paid for by the community of Cambridge.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

There was little drama when Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) presented HF2390/SF2031* before the House Judiciary Committee Feb. 16.

The bill would make mostly technical changes in the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, which defines the way businesses can organize for tax and liability purposes.

As the noise level in the hearing room grew, Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), chair of the committee, gently rapped his gavel to remind attendees to keep quiet.

“These types of bills typically bring a lot of chatter in the background,” Pugh said. “It’s too early in the day to sleep.”
Past governor creates statewide direct primary

In 1912, Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart brought the legislature back in special session to create a direct primary process to nominate candidates for statewide office. He won re-election that year, becoming the first Minnesota governor to be nominated in a primary election.

In 1914, he became the first Minnesota governor unseated in a primary election when he lost the Republican gubernatorial primary. Two years later, he attempted a political comeback and lost the primary election for a U.S. Senate seat.

Born under the name Adolph Olson, Eberhart immigrated to the United States from Sweden at age 11. As a teen, he worked as a cowboy in Nebraska.

In 1891, he enrolled in Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. At that time, he changed his last name to Eberhart because the name Olson was too common at the school.

After graduating, Eberhart moved to Mankato to practice law. In 1902, he was elected to the Minnesota Senate representing Blue Earth County. The youngest member of the Senate at the time, Eberhart gained notoriety as an effective legislator. His track record included sponsorship of legislation aimed at curbing the power of the railroads by increasing the state’s ability to regulate railway rates.

When he completed his Senate term in 1906, the Republican Party nominated him as its candidate for lieutenant governor. He won the election and served for three years under Democratic Gov. John A. Johnson. In 1909, Johnson died unexpectedly, and Eberhart was sworn in as governor on Sept. 21.

As governor, Eberhart continued many of the policies of the popular late governor, including the creation of a state government efficiency commission and the passage of a workers’ compensation law. But Eberhart’s most notable accomplishment was the creation of the statewide direct primary in 1912.

The goal of the direct primary was to take the nominating process out of the hands of the political party elite and place it in the hands of the people. Eberhart, however, may have preferred the direct primary for fear that his nomination at the party convention could be jeopardized if other candidates teamed up against him. He won both the primary and general election in 1912.

While party power had earlier dominated the nomination process, it soon became clear that issue politics would be the dominate force in the era of primary elections. And in 1914, the issue was prohibition.

William E. Lee, representing the “dry” Republican faction, challenged the incumbent Eberhart in the 1914 Republican primary. Lee, a former speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, advocated county option, which would allow each county to enact its own prohibition laws. Eberhart preferred to leave the prohibition question up to localities.

Republican primary voters went dry and nominated Lee over Eberhart. In the general election, however, dry voters split their votes between Lee and a Prohibitionist Party candidate, and a Democratic and former member of Congress named Winfield S. Hammond was elected governor.

Eberhart later took one more swing at elective politics. After his 1916 primary defeat to Frank B. Kellogg, who went on to win election to the U.S. Senate, Eberhart returned to private life. He later moved to Chicago and worked in the insurance and real estate businesses. He died in 1944 at the Masonic home in Savage, Minn.
Visiting the Minnesota State Capitol complex can be a rewarding and educational experience for everyone. There are buildings to explore and tours to take almost any time you choose to visit. And when the Legislature is in session during the first part of every year, there are floor sessions to observe, committee meetings to attend, and legislators to meet. Remember that this is your state Capitol, and you are always welcome.

**How to get here**

**Location**

The Capitol complex is north of I-94, just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on I-35E.

**I-94 eastbound:** Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

**I-94 westbound:** Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go one block, cross Rice Street, and enter Parking Lot D.

**I-35E northbound:** Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

**I-35E southbound:** Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block and turn left to enter Parking Lot D.

**Parking**

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot D, next to the State Office Building off Rice Street on Aurora Avenue; Lot K, across from the Armory on Cedar Street (enter from 12th Street); and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day parking is available in Lot Q and in the Centennial Office Building Ramp. Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired parking.

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N (about three spaces), which is directly behind the Capitol, and in Lot F, which is directly behind the Transportation Building.

Indoor handicapped parking is available on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp (use the call box at the ramp entrance to gain entry); on the blue level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp; and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls). There are two handicapped entrances to the Capitol. One is on the north side of the building, just off Lot N; the other is a drop-off entrance under the south main steps at the front of the building.

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be easier. Freeway express bus service is available. Bus number 94B takes you to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call the Transit Information Center at (612) 349-7000 for schedule and route information.

**What to do**

**Tours**

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tour on the hour Monday through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol’s information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 21 foreign languages also are available there.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building or state government.

Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a tour time.

The society offers “Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government,” a half-day session for students in grades 9-12.

Also, special tour events are scheduled monthly throughout the year. Some of these events entail admission fees; others are free. A special events guide is available upon request.

For a recorded message regarding tours and events, call (612) 297-3521.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Capitol Historic Site Program, (612) 296-2881.

**Legislators**

Representatives and senators are busy but look forward to meeting with their constituents. You should contact your legislator’s office to set up an appointment.
Legislative sessions

Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate debate bills when the Legislature is in session.

At the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow as new bills are assigned to committees and non-controversial items are discussed. At about the session’s midpoint, however, the legislative pace quickens.

The House meets at 2:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and the Senate meets at 10 a.m. Mondays and at 8 a.m. Thursdays during the first few weeks. House floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning and early afternoon. As the session nears the end, however, both bodies will meet several times a week, often into the night.

All House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public. Visitors interested in observing these sessions may call the House Chief Clerk’s Office, (612) 296-2314, or Senate Information, (612) 296-0504, with questions. Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

Committee meetings

Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for pre-recorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (612) 296-9283; Senate, (612) 296-8088. Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the Session Weekly and the Senate Briefly.

Anyone with e-mail can receive both House and Senate committee schedules. To receive the House schedule, send a message to:

e-mail: listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

subscribe h-schedules

To receive the Senate schedule, send a message to:

e-mail: listserv@senate.leg.state.mn.us

Leave the subject line blank, and in the body of the message, enter:

subscribe sen-schedules

Committee meetings are open to the public. When a public hearing is scheduled, the committee may listen to comments from the audience (when time permits) in addition to the scheduled speakers. Committees have different policies on hearing testimony depending upon their size and workload. Some committees hear general testimony at the subcommittee level, while others allow general testimony during meetings of the full committee. Informational handouts that committee members receive during meetings or hearings are considered public information and are available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals on issues often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill. Each committee has a chair, vice chair, administrator, and legislative assistant. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175, State Office Building or the Senate Information Office in Room 231, State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify before a committee should call the appropriate committee’s legislative assistant well in advance of the meeting and ask to be placed on the agenda. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification when unexpected issues appear on the committee schedule. A brochure containing tips on testifying at legislative committee hearings is available from the House Public Information Office.

Dining

All buildings in the Capitol complex have their own cafeterias. The Capitol and State Office Building cafeterias are in the basement. The Transportation and Centennial buildings’ cafeterias are on the ground floor of each building. The Judicial Center’s cafeteria is on the first floor. The Veterans Service Building cafeteria is on the fifth floor, and the Capitol Square Building’s dining area is on the lower level. The Capitol also has a snack bar on the second floor (where the House and Senate chambers are located) during the session. The Café Minnesota is on the first level of the Minnesota History Center. All cafeterias serve breakfast and lunch.

Group visits

Sometimes groups plan a “legislative day” at the Capitol in order to express a particular viewpoint to legislators.

Rooms for special conferences or speakers can be reserved by calling Sean Rahn, (612) 296-5974, room scheduler for the State Office Building; or Nancy Bigelow, (612) 296-0866, room scheduler for the Capitol.

If group members want to meet with their individual legislators or testify before a committee (see “Committee meetings”), arrangements should be made at least a week in advance.

Often such groups have members wear a distinctive name tag or badge to indicate their concern about a particular issue.

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should remember that seating is fairly limited in some committee rooms—particularly when the topic is controversial.
Bill Introductions

Monday, Feb. 16

HF3704—Carruthers (DFL) Economic Development & International Trade
Equity take-out loan availability extended, low-income housing tax credit allocation procedures modified, federally assisted rental housing program provisions modified, tenant relocation assistance permitted, and money appropriated.

HF3705—Milbert (DFL) Taxes
Television commercials and production materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3706—Bakk (DFL) Taxes
County authority to grant economic development tax abatements eliminated.

HF3707—Sviggum (R) Taxes
Special levy authorized for new detention center staffing, and joint law enforcement center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3708—Murphy (DFL) Taxes
Hermantown construction purchases sales tax exemption provided.

HF3709—Kahn (DFL) Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Mississippi whitewater trail established in Minneapolis, and money appropriated.

HF3710—Rest (DFL) Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3711—Greenfield (DFL) Capital Investment
Health and human services bonding bill.

HF3712—Stanek (R) Judiciary
Correction officers discipline procedures act adopted.

HF3713—Dawkins (DFL) Health & Human Services
Office of health care consumer assistance, advocacy, and information created, health maintenance organization enrollee complaint system modified, informal complaint resolution process establishment date extended, and money appropriated.

HF3714—Erhardt (R) Taxes
Non-mixed-municipal incinerated solid waste tax rate clarified.

HF3715—Workman (R) Health & Human Services
Abstinence education grant requirements established.

HF3716—Workman (R) Health & Human Services
Abstinence education grant requirements established.

HF3717—Kalis (DFL) Education
Independent School District No. 2860, Blue Earth, levy reduction authorized.

HF3718—Bishop (R) Environment & Natural Resources
Rochester; Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and Department of Agriculture consolidated office constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3719—Carruthers (DFL) Education
Office of research and technology transfer administration provided funding for international technology acquisition and transfer system development, and money appropriated.

HF3720—Milbert (DFL) Taxes
Property tax market value increases limited.

HF3721—Macklin (R) Taxes
Seasonal recreational residential property tax class rate reduced.

HF3722—Daggett (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Detroit Lakes authorized to impose additional sales and use taxes.

HF3723—Skoglund (DFL) Health & Human Services
General Assistance, General Assistance Medical Care, Group Residential Housing, and Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide ineligibility provisions modified.

HF3724—Biernat (DFL) Education
Joint school and recreation year-round youth athletic demonstration program established at Waite Park School in Minneapolis, and money appropriated.

HF3725—Long (DFL) Taxes
Minnesota vendor printed materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3726—Kelso (DFL) Education
Def and hard of hearing teacher licensure requirements modified.

HF3727—Ness (R) Education
Community education instructors considered teachers for contract and tenure purposes upon school board and exclusive bargaining representative approval.

HF3728—Pelowski (DFL) Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3729—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services
Neighborhood Health Care Network and Minnesota Primary Care Association provided bridge funding for uncompensated member care distribution, and money appropriated.

HF3730—Lieder (DFL) Education
Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, and independent school district Nos. 2854, Ada-Borup, and 595, East Grand Forks, flood-related grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3731—Carlson (DFL) Education
Pell Grant percentage excluded from student financial aid calculation, grade 13 program created, higher education income tax credit allowed, and money appropriated.

HF3732—Tomassoni (DFL) Education
School bus advertising requirements modified, and revenue to be deposited in the district general fund.

HF3733—Ozment (R) Environment & Natural Resources
Public waters wetlands illegal activities enforcement procedures and penalties modified, and criminal penalties provided.

HF3734—Mares (R) Governmental Operations
Public employee insurance program expanded to include county and municipal hospital employees.

HF3735—Anderson, I. (DFL) Taxes
Enterprise zone additional allocations for property tax reductions authorized.

HF3736—Juhnke (DFL) Education
School district compensatory revenue allocation alternative established.

HF3737—Johnson, A. (DFL) Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3738—Greenfield (DFL) Transportation & Transit
Seat belt violation made a primary offense.
HF3739—Skare (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax system public education material production grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3740—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Motor vehicle registration tax rate reduced, technical corrections provided, and money appropriated.

HF3741—Chaudhary (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Council on Black Minnesotans Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance activities planning and coordination provided, and money appropriated.

HF3742—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Corrections industry manufactured products purchased by government entities sales tax exemption provided.

HF3743—Olson, M. (R)
Judiciary
Juvenile programming grant program developed, and money appropriated.

HF3744—Finseth (R)
Economic Development & International Trade
Red Lake Fall seven cent construction funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3745—Weaver (R)
Judiciary
Gasoline theft provided criminal penalties.

HF3746—Osthoff (DFL)
Capital Investment
Environment and natural resources bonding bill.

HF3747—Slawik (DFL)
Taxes
School district debt service levy equalization modified.

HF3748—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Financial Institutions & Insurance
Trust companies organization, powers, and duties provided, and interstate trust offices regulated.

HF3749—Jennings (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Major League Baseball stadium construction, funding, maintenance, and governance provided, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission and Metropolitan Council powers and duties provided, taxes imposed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

HF3750—Tingelstad (R)
Health & Human Services
Chiropractor discipline prohibited for expressing a professional opinion in an independent exam for automobile insurance purposes.

HF3751—Wenzel (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Garrison wastewater infrastructure funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3752—Dempsey (R)
Education
School district additional school day revenue provided.

HF3753—Dempsey (R)
Education
School districts authorized to levy for crossing guards.

HF3754—Folliard (DFL)
Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3755—Stanek (R)
Judiciary
Law enforcement background investigation data retention required for a minimum of seven years.

HF3756—Leighton (DFL)
Taxes
Student loan interest deduction federal conformity provided.

HF3757—Chaudhary (DFL)
Education
Grade 13 program created to provide new high school graduates with the first year at a public two-year college tuition free, and higher education income tax credit allowed.

HF3758—Tomassoni (DFL)
Education
Year-round school provided, and intersession staff development, and student remediation guidelines required.

HF3759—Sviggum (R)
Education
School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3760—Otremba, M. (DFL)
Education
School district reimbursement for mandated additional instruction days provided, and money appropriated.

HF3761—Milbert (DFL)
Regulated Industries & Energy
Pari-mutuel pool tax abatement sunset removed.

HF3762—Johnson, A. (DFL)
Taxes
Manufactured homes sales tax application modified.

HF3763—Rukavina (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Carlton and St. Louis counties authorized to establish the Jensen-Nopeming special nursing home district.

HF3764—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes
Tax study commission established to study state and local fiscal relations, and money appropriated.

HF3765—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
Morrison County; Sioux trail established from Genola to Stearns County border, and money appropriated.

HF3766—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Taxes
Lawful gambling tax rates reduced.

Thursday, Feb. 19

HF3767—Lieder (DFL)
Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Finance
East Grand Forks and Breckenridge levee construction loan provided, and money appropriated.

HF3768—Kalis (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 2135, Maple River, coordinated facilities plan and grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3769—Dorn (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Statewide caregiver mentoring network grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3770—Macklin (R)
Taxes
Corrections industry manufactured products purchased by government entities sales tax exemption provided.

HF3771—Rifenberg (R)
Education
Independent School District No. 300, La Crescent-Hokah, debt service equalization calculation modified.

HF3772—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Health plan independent review organizations established to review adverse health care services determinations, and treatment decision liability imposed.

HF3773—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary
Same sex marriages authorized.

HF3774—Peterson (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 62, Ortonville, graduation standards technology integration pilot project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3775—Tunheim (DFL)
Education
Independent School District No. 390, Lake of the Woods, model distance learning program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3776—Mullery (DFL)
Economic Development & International Trade
Minneapolis; St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone visitor center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3777—Long (DFL)
Taxes
Federal charitable contribution corporate income tax deduction rules adopted.

HF3778—Wagenius (DFL)
Taxes
Distressed homestead reinvestment temporary property tax exemption created.

Need a copy of a bill?
Call the Chief Clerks Office at
(612) 296-2314
### Committee Schedule

**MONDAY, Feb. 23**

**8 a.m.**

#### Economic Development

**Finance Division**

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
  - 500S State Office Building
  - Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble
  - **Agenda:** HF3084 (Ness) Meeker County economic development authority authorized.
  - HF3246 (Lieder) ADA disaster loan guarantee provided for damaged public health care facility operating losses, and money appropriated.
  - HF3252 (Clark, K.) Municipalities assisted in implementing preferred economic development practices, businesses receiving public subsidies wage and job reporting requirements modified, inducing businesses to relocate, and money appropriated.
  - HF3378 (Wostrom) Vision Loss Resources, Inc. rehabilitation and community centers funded, and money appropriated.
  - HF3189 (Mullery) Summer youth employment programs appropriated money.
  - HF3587 (Trimble) Advocating Change Together, Inc. provided a grant to train people with disabilities, and money appropriated.
  - HF3298 (Gunther) Economic development supplementary appropriations bill.

#### EDUCATION

- 200 State Office Building
  - Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson
  - **Agenda:** Supplemental higher education finance bill. Supplemental family and early childhood education finance bill.

#### Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

- 5 State Office Building
  - Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson
  - **Agenda:** HF3676 (Winter) Property tax simplification and reform provided, rebate specified, and money appropriated.
  - HF2954 (Wagenius) Metropolitan transit expenditures levy reduced or eliminated with property tax reform account funds.
  - HF3240 (Rest) Low-income housing property tax class rules clarified, penalties modified, and fees and penalties deposited in the housing development fund.
  - HF3585 (Hasskamp) Legal nonlicensed family child care minimal safety standards required, and child care fund assistance receipt prohibited if standards are not met.
  - HF3955 (Long) Rent constituting property taxes calculation modified.
  - HF3462 (Greiling) Property tax refund formula alternative based on household income provided.
  - HF3659 (Murphy) Homestead and agricultural aid payments increased to certain statutory cities.
  - HF2687 (Milbert) County treasurer mortgage registry tax receipt payments obligations modified relating to multiple county mortgages.
  - HF3720 (Milbert) Property tax market value increases limited.
  - HF3041 (Johnson, A.) Local property tax levy limit growth factors modified.
  - HF2604 (Macklin) Property tax rebate and property tax reform provided, levy limits extended, individual alternative minimum tax calculation modified, tax receipts from certain athletic events dedicated, and money appropriated.
  - HF2838 (Tuma) Senior owned homestead estimated market value increase prohibited.
  - HF2900 (Krnike) Income tax rates and brackets modified, property tax reform account repealed, and money appropriated.
  - HF2989 (Dawkins) Two and three unit nonhomestead property class rates reduced, class 4b property target class rate eliminated, and city noncompliance provisions extended.
  - HF3169 (Larsen) Seniors provided an additional property tax refund.
  - HF3491 (Erhardt) Homestead property exceeding $75,000 provided reduced property class rate.
  - HF3657 (Rest) Renter property tax refund increased.
  - HF3671 (MClery) Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.
  - HF3672 (Kelsor) Property class rates and the education homestead credit modified, general education levy reduced, and money appropriated.
  - HF3678 (Long) Uniform property tax class rate provided for all residential property containing single dwelling unit.
  - HF3735 (Anderson, I.) Enterprise zone additional allocations for property tax reductions authorized.
  - HF3739 (Skare) Property tax system public education material production grant provided, and money appropriated.
  - **(This meeting will continue after session in Room 10 State Office Building.)**

#### 8:30 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

- Basement Hearing Room
- State Office Building
- Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff
- **Agenda:** HF3633 (Wagenius) Morrison, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Crow Wing counties provided funding for state forest land repair, and money appropriated.
  - HF3609 (Trimble) Small business owners with tanks located on their properties provided petroleum fund reimbursement eligibility.
  - HF3604 (Schumacher) Benton County required to apportion environmental response liability reimbursement among local units of government.
  - HF3709 (Kahn) Kayak whitewater park.
  - HF2713 (Westfall) Flood protection plan review provisions modified, flood hazard mitigation grant limits increased, and water use permit processing fee provisions modified. Supplemental bill.

#### 9 a.m.

**State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

- 400S State Office Building
- Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina
- **Agenda:** HF3359 (Hilty) Occupational regulatory oversight council established to coordinate health-related and non-health-related occupation regulation boards, report required, and money appropriated.
  - HF3609 (Long) Community-based planning goals modified, notification provided, and money appropriated.
  - HF3348 (Kahn) Twins baseball franchise community ownership provided, stadium construction conditions established, and money appropriated.
  - Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. Additional bills may be added.

#### 10 a.m.

**Health & Human Services Finance Division/HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

- 10 State Office Building
- Chr. Rep. Lee Greenfield
- **Agenda:** Final budget allocations for Heath and Human Services. Additional bills may be added.

**Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY**

- Basement Hearing Room
- State Office Building
- Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy
- **Agenda:** Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill. Other bills or issues may be considered.

#### 12:30 p.m.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

- 10 State Office Building
- Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius
- **Agenda:** To be announced.

#### 2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

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**Coming Up Next Week . . . Feb. 23 - 27, 1998**

Schedule is subject to change. For information updates, call House Calls at (612) 296-9283. All meetings are open to the public. Sign language interpreter services: (612) 224-6548 v/tty to have the daily and weekly schedules delivered to your e-mail address, send a message to: listserv@hsched.house.leg.state.mn.us In the body of the message type: subscribe-hsched
TUESDAY, Feb. 24

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

400N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:**

HF216 (Mariani) Employment contract provisions modified.

HF3114 (Skare) Workforce center programs school-to-work initiatives supported, and money appropriated.

HF3157 (Winter) Luverne provided an exemption from the Minnesota Investment Fund Grant limit for job loss offset, and appropriation reallocated.

HF3545 (Winter) Southwestern Minnesota soybean oilseed processing and refining facility established, and money appropriated.

HF3741 (Chaudhary) Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance and money to Council on Black Minnesotans.

HF3537 (Gunther) Department of Economic Security school to work transition assistance pilot project developed, report required, and money appropriated.

HF3177 (Mullery) Job-training programs study requirements modified to include wage rate and group breakdown information.

HF3447 (Mullery) Women encouraged to enter nontraditional careers, grant requirements and information provided, and money appropriated.

HF3200 (Munger) Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad improvement grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF3153 (Huntley) On-the-job training program for skilled trades developed, and money appropriated. Additional bills may be added.

**EDUCATION**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Lyndon Carlson

**Agenda:** Supplemental K-12 education finance bill.

**Judiciary Finance Division/JUDICIARY**

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill. Other bills or issues may be considered.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:**

HF3407 (Solberg) Optional and special function school sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3705 (Milbert) Television commercials and production materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3473 (Milbert) Junior golf programs certified by the Amateur Sports Commission, and golf facilities provided partial sales tax refund for qualifying junior programs.

HF2369 (Kubly) Employer contribution for employees' housing tax credit provided.

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

HF3160 (Bishop) Hospital sales tax exemption effective date modified.

HF3492 (Erhardt) Capital gains tax exclusion provided for the sale of property used as a principal residence.

HF3493 (Erhardt) Student loan interest and education savings account income tax deduction provided.

HF3533 (Abrams) Non-gambling prize awards considered purchases for resale and exempt from sales tax.

HF2572 (Kebo) Counties with Indian casinos payment conditions modified relating to revenues under tribal tax agreements.

HF3556 (Haasman) St. Paul RiverCentre arena construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3575 (Johnson, A.) Ready-mixed concrete trucks considered capital equipment, motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided, and sales price definition expanded.

Transportation & Transit Finance Division/TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

5005 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bernie Lieder

**Agenda:** To be announced.

9 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:**

HF2515 (Bakk) Minnesota Forest Resources Council membership expanded to include a representative from the Indian Affairs Council.

HF3583 (Bakk) Minnesota Forest Resources Council provided a grant to implement timber harvesting guidelines and recommendations, and money appropriated.

HF3441 (Peterson) Animal waste technician training and licensing provided, feedlot expansion permits limited, cleanup fund created, ordinary update assistance provided, and generic environmental impact statements required. Supplementation bill.

10 a.m.

**Housing & Housing Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:**

HF2342 (Clark, K.) Family homeless presentation and assistance program funding provided, and money appropriated.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:**

HF2502 (Rukavina) Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Giants Ridge cross-country ski event facility enhancement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Iaros

**Agenda:** Division reports from Economic Development Finance Division and Housing and Finance Division on their finance bills.

TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

**Agenda:** To be announced.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 25

8 a.m.

**Economic Development Finance Division/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Trimble

**Agenda:**

HF2342 (Clark, K.) Family homeless presentation and assistance program funding provided, and money appropriated.

State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. Additional bills may be added.

9 a.m.

**JUDICIARY**

Room to be announced.

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill.

10 a.m.

**State Government Finance Division/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS**

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Rukavina

**Agenda:** Omnibus supplemental appropriations bill. Additional bills may be added.

12:30 p.m.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:**

HF2502 (Rukavina) Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Giants Ridge cross-country ski event facility enhancement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Iaros

**Agenda:** Division reports from Economic Development Finance Division and Housing and Finance Division on their finance bills.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jean Wagenius

**Agenda:** To be announced.
Property Tax & Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Division/TAXES

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Edgar Olson

**Agenda:**
HF 2416 (Kubly) Renville tax-increment district parcel original local tax rate and certificate date set, and collection deadline extended.

HF 3648 (Otremba, M.) Browerville tax increment financing district authorized expenditures outside the district.

HF 2336 (Leppek) Golden Valley authorized to collect an additional tax from the Valley Square tax increment financing district.

HF 3495 (Pugh) West St. Paul and Dakota county housing and redevelopment authority provided exemption from tax increment financing district requirements.

HF 2504 (Sykora) Deephaven tax-increment financing district revenue expenditures authorized.

HF 3602 (Long) Minneapolis phased redevelopment district for the Sears project established.

HF 22783 (Carruthers) Brooklyn Center tax-increment financing districts classical rates specified.

HF 3439 (McElroy) Burnsville amphitheater admissions tax imposed and tax increment financing district established.

HF 2463 (Marko) Authorizing the inclusion of certain property in tax increment districts; extending payment of deferred taxes if certain property is removed for green acres treatment.

HF 3098 (Schumacher) Foley tax increment financing district revenue expenditure authorized for a wastewater treatment facility outside the district.

**THURSDAY, Feb. 26**

**JUDICIARY**
300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mary Murphy

**Agenda:** Committee priorities, recommendation, allocations and riders. Omnibus crime prevention bill.

**Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES**
300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Johnson

**Agenda:** HF 2518 (Nornes) Fergus Falls authorized to impose an additional sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax.

HF 2610 (Bishop) Rochester authorized to impose permanent sales, use, and excise taxes, proceed expenditures specified, and referendum required.

HF 2675 (Pelowski) Winona bond issuance and sales and use tax authorized to finance dredging of Lake Winona.

HF 3101 (Skare) Bemidji authorized to impose additional sales and excise taxes for the purpose of funding convention center construction.

HF 3193 (Ness) Hutchinson authorized to impose additional taxes to fund a civic and community center, and recreational facilities.

HF 3496 (Reuter) Owatonna authorized to impose additional excise and use taxes to fund the Owatonna economic development 2000 operating facilities.

HF 3546 (Opatz) St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, Waite Park, and St. Joseph authorized to impose additional sales and use taxes to fund the central Minnesota events center, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**1998 House finance committee/division accounts**

Departments, agencies, and programs are listed under the finance committee or division that will consider their funding this session.

**Capital Investment**

- Capital Projects
- Debt Service

**Economic Development & International Trade**

**Economic Development Finance Division**

- Arts Board
- Asian Pacific Americans Council
- Black Minnesotans Council
- Chicano Latino Affairs Council
- Commerce Department
- Economic Security Department
- Historical Society
- Humanities Commission
- Indian Affairs Council
- IRRRB
- Labor & Industry Department
- Labor Interpretive Center

Mediation Services Bureau
- Minnesota Municipal Board
- Minnesota Technology, Inc.
- Non-Health Boards (Accountancy; Archetecture, etc.; Barber; Boxing; Electricity)
- Public Service Department
- Public Utilities Commission
- Trade & Economic Development Department
- Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals
- World Trade Center

**Housing & Housing Finance Division**

- Housing Finance Agency

**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

- Academy of Science
- Agriculture Utilization Research Institute
- Agriculture Department
- Animal Health Board
- Ethanol Development
- Environmental Assistance Office
- Horticultural Society
- LCMR

Minn.-Wis. Boundary Waters Commission
- Minnesota Zoo
- Natural Resources Department
- Pollution Control Agency
- Science Museum
- Voyageurs National Park Council
- Water Resources Board

**Education**

Higher Education Finance Division
- Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- University of Minnesota
- Mayo Medical School
- Higher Education Services Office
- Higher Education Facilities Authority

**K-12 Education Finance Division**

Children, Families and Learning (CFL) Department (except for programs listed under Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Division)
- CFL Administration
- Education Finance
- Faribault Academies

**ENIRONMENT NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE FINANCE**

**Basement Hearing Room**

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Osthoff

**Agenda:** Supplemental bill markup.

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

- 5 State Office Building

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

**500S State Office Building**

Chr. Rep. Henry Kalis

**Agenda:** Continuation of agenda from Feb. 24.

**12:30 p.m.**

**FRIDAY, Feb. 27**

No committee meetings had been scheduled at press time.
Minnesota Center for Arts Education
Permanent School Fund
Public Libraries

Family & Early Childhood Education
Finance Division
Community Education & Adult Education including:
- Adult Basic Education Programs
- Adults with Disabilities Programs
- Adult Graduation Aid
- Community Education Programs
- Youth Development Programs (part of community education)
- Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
- Extended Day Programs
- GED Test Reimbursement
- Hearing Impaired Adult Programs
- Learning Readiness
- Health Screening
Male Responsibility
Alcohol Impaired Driver Account Grants
Family Service Collaboratives
Part H
Violence Prevention Grants, Councils & Education
Way to Grow
Youth Enrichment Grants
Child Abuse Victims’ Services
Child Care - Basic Sliding Fee
Child Care - Family Assistance
Children’s Trust Fund
Community Services Block Grant
Drug Policy & Violence Prevention
Energy Assistance-Oil Program
Energy Assistance-Liqulified Petroleum Program
Energy Assistance-State Energy Assistance
Energy Assistance-Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
Food Assistance-Food Banks/Shelf
Food Assistance-Emergency Food Assistance
Food Assistance-Community Food & Nutrition
Head Start
Housing Assistance-Transitional Housing
Housing Assistance-Emergency Shelter Grant
Housing Assistance-Rural Housing Assistance
Housing Assistance-Supplemental Housing-Homeless
Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grant
Weatherization-State Weatherization
Weatherization-Department of Energy Weatherization

Governmental Operations
State Government Finance Division
Administrative Hearings Office
Administration Department
Amateur Sports Commission
Attorney General
Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board
Capitol Area Architectural & Planning (CAAP) Board
Contingent Accounts
Disabled American Veterans
Employee Relations Department
Finance Department
Government Innovation & Cooperation Board
Governor & Lt. Governor
Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council (IISAC)
Investment Board
Legislature, Legislative Commissions, Legislative Retirement
Lawful Gambling Control Board
Lottery Board
Military Affairs Department
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Pension Issues including PERA
Public Broadcasting
Racing Commission
Revenue Department
Salary Supplement
Secretary of State
State Auditor
State Treasurer
Strategic & Long Range Planning Office
Veterans Affairs Department
Veterns of Foreign Wars

Health & Human Services
Health & Human Services Finance Division
Alternative Care Programs
Community Social Services Act Council on Disabilities
Emergency Medical Services Board
Families Ombudsman
Group Residential Grants
Health Department
Health Boards (13)
Human Services Department
Mental Health & Mental Retardation Ombudsman
MinnesotaCare
State Residential Facilities
Veterans Homes Board

Judiciary
Judiciary Finance Division
Board of Judicial Standards
Corrections Department
Corrections Ombudsman
Court of Appeals
District Courts
Human Rights Department
Judges’ Retirement
Peace Officer Standards & Training Board (POST)
Private Detective Board
Public Defense Board
Public Safety Department (except for programs listed under Transportation & Transit Finance Division)
- Crime Victims Ombudsman
- Crime Victims’ Services
- Criminal Apprehension
- Emergency Management
- Fire Marshal
- Gambling Enforcement
- Liquor Control
Sentencing Guidelines Commission
Supreme Court
Tax Court

Uniform Laws Commission

Taxes
Income Taxes
Sales Taxes
Other Taxes
Property Taxes
Property Tax Aids & Credits
Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Transportation & Transit
Transportation & Transit Finance Division
Metropolitan Council Transit Operations
Minnesota Safety Council
Public Safety Department (except for programs listed under Judiciary Finance Division)
- Administrative Services
- Driver & Vehicle Services
- Pipeline Services
- State Patrol
- Traffic Safety
Transportation Department
Transportation Regulation Board
Trunk Highway Contingent Accounts

Ways & Means
Fiscal Issues

Source: House Fiscal Analysis Department

NOTES

Something was rotten in a Feb. 16 meeting of the House Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance Committee. Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) proposed that a bill (HF3356) to classify white bears as protected animals in Minnesota should also protect “any other white-striped, four-legged animal.”

Munger’s idea confused some lawmakers.
“Is this a black animal with white stripes or a white animal with black stripes?” Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) inquired.

But Munger continued to sing the praises of the animal he sought to protect.
“They’re helpful to farmers because they eat grubs,” Munger said of the unidentified animal.

Again, some lawmakers were confused.

The discussion stirred Rep. Mike Delmont (DFL-Lexington) to recall a troubling personal encounter with the creature in question.
“I’ve had one shot on my front porch in the rain,” he said. “After the excavation, we were fine.”

After all that, Munger withdrew his amendment. Skunks are “misunderstood” animals, he said.
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<td>322 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)</td>
<td>4837</td>
<td>121 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 Olson, Gerd (R)</td>
<td>1282</td>
<td>119 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49 Ourada, Mark (R)</td>
<td>5981</td>
<td>145 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)</td>
<td>1802</td>
<td>120 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Pariseau, Pat (R)</td>
<td>5252</td>
<td>109 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Piper, Pat (DFL)</td>
<td>9248</td>
<td>G-9 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)</td>
<td>7809</td>
<td>235 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 Runyan, Jim B. (DFL)</td>
<td>7-8061</td>
<td>306 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 Robertson, Martha R. (R)</td>
<td>4314</td>
<td>125 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 Robling, Claire A. (R)</td>
<td>4123</td>
<td>151 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 Rumpold, Linda (R)</td>
<td>1253</td>
<td>107 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)</td>
<td>4188</td>
<td>328 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)</td>
<td>4875</td>
<td>124 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Scheele, Kent, Jr. (R)</td>
<td>3903</td>
<td>129 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)</td>
<td>8869</td>
<td>317 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Solon, Sam (DFL)</td>
<td>4388</td>
<td>303 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)</td>
<td>4191</td>
<td>120 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Stevens, Dan (R)</td>
<td>8075</td>
<td>105 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Stumpf, Leo A. (DFL)</td>
<td>8660</td>
<td>G-24 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)</td>
<td>4913</td>
<td>G-24 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Terrillinger, Roy (R)</td>
<td>6238</td>
<td>115 SOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)</td>
<td>5650</td>
<td>226 Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)</td>
<td>7-8073</td>
<td>303 Cap.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1998 Members

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

February 20, 1998 / SESSION WEEKLY
Drunken drivers and the law

Drunken driving arrests in Minnesota, 1996 ...................................................... 38,925
  Percent male ............................................................................................................. 81
Drivers killed in Minnesota, 1996 ................................................................. 359
  Percent tested for blood-alcohol concentration .......................................................... 87
  Percent with 0.01 to 0.09 percent blood-alcohol concentration .................................... 7
  Percent with 0.10 percent or higher level ..................................................................... 26
Total traffic fatalities in Minnesota, 1996 .......................................................... 576
  Percent alcohol-related .............................................................................................. 36
U. S. fatalities from alcohol-related crashes, 1996 .................................................. 17,126
  Percent of crashes that involved alcohol ................................................................. 7
  Percent of fatal crashes that involved alcohol ........................................................... 40.8
U. S. fatalities from alcohol-related crashes, 1986 .................................................. 24,045
  Percent of U. S. automobile drivers killed between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. who
    had a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.10 percent or higher, 1995 ................. 58
  Percent during all other hours .................................................................................. 20
Legal limit for blood-alcohol concentration in Minnesota, as percent .......... 0.10
States with 0.08 percent blood-alcohol concentration as the legal limit
  for drivers .................................................................................................................. 15
Legal blood-alcohol limit in Britain, as percent ....................................................... 0.08
  in Norway .................................................................................................................. 0.05
  in Sweden .................................................................................................................. 0.02
Estimated minimum of fatal crashes that would be prevented each year
  in U. S. if all states adopted a 0.08 percent limit ...................................................... 500
Percent decline in proportion of fatal crashes caused by drivers
  at 0.08 percent or higher in states that have adopted 0.08 percent ....................... 16
Traffic fatalities in North Carolina, 1995 ............................................................... 1,448
  Percent alcohol-related .............................................................................................. 33.7
Traffic fatalities in New Mexico, 1995 ................................................................. 485
  Percent alcohol-related .............................................................................................. 50.2
Legal blood-alcohol limit in North Carolina and New Mexico, percent .......... 0.08
Traffic fatalities in Texas, 1995 .............................................................................. 3,181
  Percent alcohol-related .............................................................................................. 56
Traffic fatalities in Kentucky, 1995 ........................................................................... 849
  Percent alcohol-related .............................................................................................. 33.8
Legal blood-alcohol limit in Texas and Kentucky, percent ............................... 0.10

Sources: 1996 Minnesota Motor Vehicle Crash Facts, Minnesota Department of Public Safety:
  Setting Limits, Saving Lives, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and National