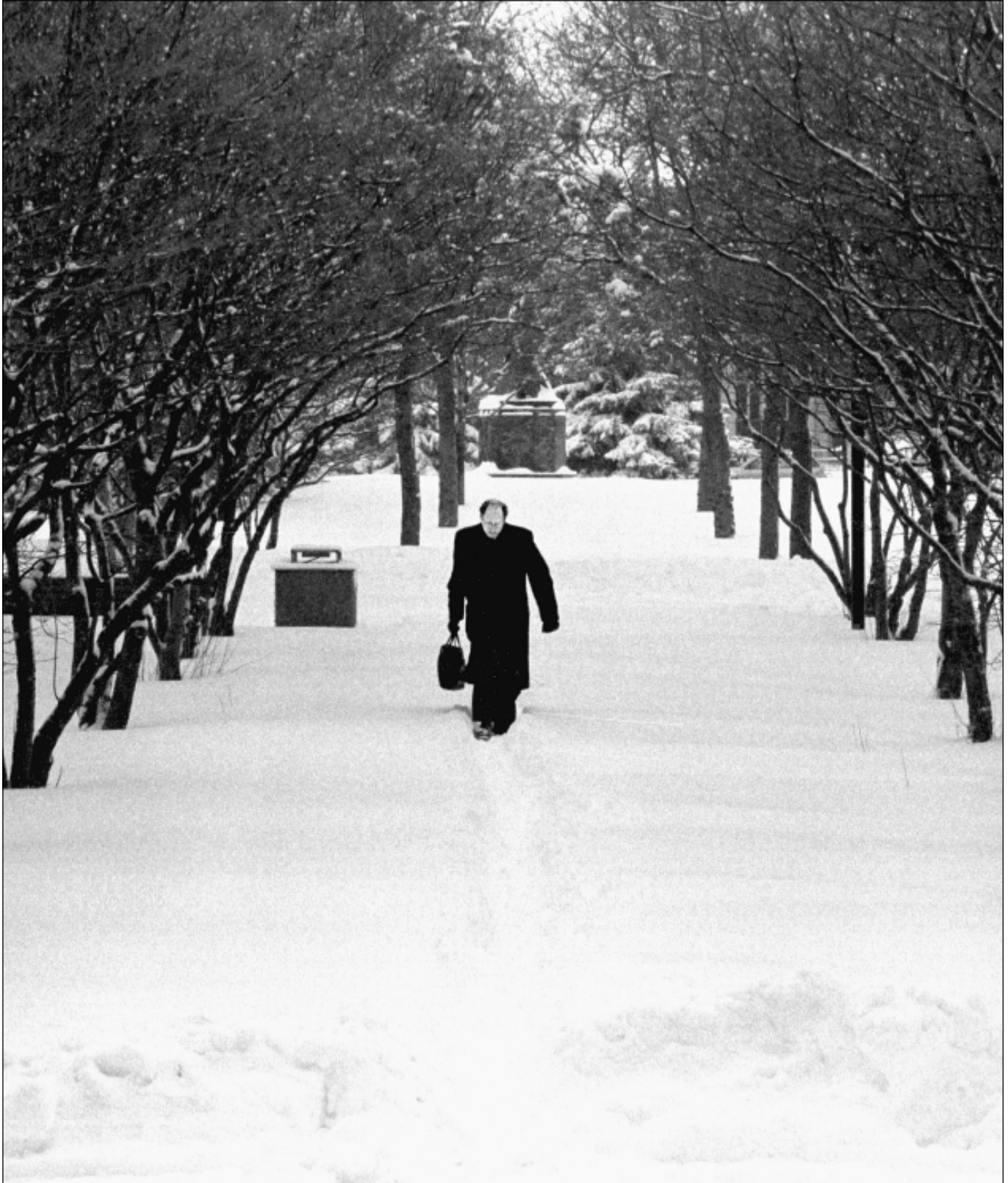


SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ March 12, 1999 ♦ Volume 16, Number 10



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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

A tie that binds the Legislature and the judicial branch is only a memory for Mechanic Arts High School alumni. The school no longer stands just east and south of the Capitol or anywhere in St. Paul. The Judicial Center now occupies the space occupied by the high school for 77 years until 1987, although it closed in 1976.

And though the school building is no longer there, it lives as a direct connection to the new Judicial Center that houses courtrooms and offices for the Minnesota Supreme Court. What's distinctive about Mechanic Arts High School is the number of its alumni that became public servants in local, state, and federal government, and made contributions to social justice throughout the country.

One of the school's notable graduates, who died on March 4, was former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. He served on that court for 24 years, and deserves his place of honor in the Capitol across from the old Minnesota Supreme Court chamber entrance, facing the bust of his colleague and childhood friend, former Chief Justice Warren A. Burger.

Burger and Blackmun spent their youth on St. Paul's East Side. There they attended Van Buren Elementary School. Burger moved on to Johnson High School as a student and graduate, but his compatriot, Blackmun, went to Mechanic Arts where he finished as an honors graduate.

Around the time Blackmun was a student at Mechanic Arts, another St. Paul favorite son graduated from the school. He was Roy Wilkins, who later became a civil rights leader and head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Some other graduates were former House member Phil Hier; William F. "Billy" Williams, executive aide to 14 governors; and former Ramsey County sheriff, Charles Zacharias. Others were retired St. Paul Deputy Chief James Griffin and actress Joan Davis. Even today, loyal graduates maintain the Mechanic Arts "M" alumni club.

Rep. Tom Osthoff of St. Paul is also a graduate. He led the efforts to preserve part of the well-loved school by getting the old school water fountain installed in the new Judicial Center.

"Speaker David Jennings allowed me to have 12 bills that related to saving that fountain," Osthoff recalled.

And Mechanic Arts is fondly remembered by House employee M.J. Hedstrom. In 1984, staff and House members occupied the building during the State Office Building renovation. Hedstrom and others remember it as one of the best examples of English Renaissance they've seen in a school building. "It had massive floor to ceiling windows, with welcomed cross ventilation," she said.

She noted that the bullpen where everyone worked together in a collegial, fun, yet chaotic manner "had squeaky oak floors and child-size drinking fountains and restrooms."

So that no one forgets, the school's motto is chiseled on the fountain saved by Osthoff. The words that drove Blackmun, Wilkins, Osthoff, and others to a higher calling remain: "*Get Into the Game. Don't Be a Quitter.*"

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Jon Erik Kingstad trudges through the 16 inches of snow that fell March 9, the most snow since Halloween 1991 when St. Paul saw 22 inches.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Three strikes . . .

Plan would keep violent felons off the streets for good



Three-time violent felons would be subject to mandatory life sentences under a bill approved March 9 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Photos and photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid

By Grant Martin

Almost five years to the day after California Gov. Pete Wilson signed the nation's toughest "three strikes and you're out" law, members of the House Crime Prevention Committee approved a bill March 9 that would make Minnesota the 27th state to enact three-strikes legislation.

"Civilized society should not permit a person freedom to injure others time and time again," said Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury), sponsor of the bill.

Seifert's bill (HF12) would require courts to sentence a person who is convicted of a third violent felony to life imprisonment. And for second-offense violent felons, the bill would lower the threshold necessary to use increased sentences already in place in current law.

Seifert, who once served as an assistant public defender, said that his bill will send a strong message to violent criminals.

"You do this again, and you are out of society," he said. "You will not walk again as a free person."

Dakota County Attorney Jim Backstrom and Sgt. Bernard Martinson, sex crimes investigator with the Minneapolis Police Department, also testified in support of the bill.

"If they do not correct their behavior, if they victimize someone again, they will not get another chance," Backstrom said. "This time will be their last."

Both Backstrom and Martinson told the committee of instances where repeat violent offenders would have been stopped by a three-strikes law.

Seifert's bill would limit the scope of crimes that could be counted toward the mandatory sentence and allow some judicial discretion. The bill exempts several felony level crimes from consideration, including certain drug crimes, third-degree assault, second-degree arson, and burglary.

The bill would also give judges the power to waive the mandatory life sentence if the court finds substantial and compelling reasons to do so.

Seifert said under the eyes of the law, for example, aiding and abetting a crime is the same as the crime and that he wants to give judges discretion in such cases.

Some lawmakers expressed concern that this provision would give judges too much authority and that judges would just ignore the mandatory sentence guidelines.

Critics of three-strikes laws argue that they clog the courts with jury trials as each felony conviction becomes more important and prompt exploding corrections costs as convicts serve longer sentences.

Seifert's bill now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee, where it is sure to face some tough questions about potential costs to the state's courts and corrections system.

The Department of Corrections and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission are currently studying the fiscal effects the bill would have on the state.

Early figures suggest the bill may cost the state an additional \$12 million over the next two years and may require an additional 650 prison beds.

Those estimates are based on an earlier version of the bill that would have applied the mandatory sentences to more crimes. The state agencies will be adjusting their figures, and the dollar amounts will likely go down.

Washington became the first state to pass a three-strikes law when voters approved an initiative in 1993. The Washington law applied only to serious and violent offenders.

In 1994, California Assemblyman Bill Jones, whose daughter was murdered, sponsored the three-strikes legislation in that state. The law was signed in March 1994, and that November, voters approved a similar proposition by a 44 percent margin.

The California law is much broader than either the Washington version or Seifert's proposal. Under the law, offenders with one serious or violent felony conviction — the first strike — are sentenced to a doubled sentence for the conviction of any additional felony — the second strike.

Offenders convicted of two serious or violent felonies receive life imprisonment for any additional felony conviction — the third strike. The second and third strike convictions don't have to be for violent or serious felonies.

After five years of California's three-strikes law, scholars and elected officials have begun to evaluate how effective it has been.

Jones, who now serves as California's secretary of state, recently released a report declaring the law a success. It said the law is responsible for preventing more than 1 million crimes and for saving Californians more than \$21 billion in crime-related costs.



Minneapolis Police Sgt. Bernard Martinson, a sex crimes investigator, testifies March 9 in favor of the three-strikes proposal.

law enforcement tactics, and conflict resolution.

California corrections officials had predicted that the three-strikes law would result in a prison population increase of 37 percent. The attorney general's office reported an actual increase of only 32 percent, compared to a 27-percent increase nationally. Twenty-three percent of all California inmates are second- and third-strike convictions.

But the Justice Policy Institute, a research institution based in San Francisco, challenges the findings. The institute studied crime data in California's 12 largest counties, and found that the counties that strictly used the three-strikes law did not see a significant decrease in crime compared to the other counties.

The institute also found that San Francisco County, which didn't strictly enforce the law, saw a larger decrease in the crime rate than the six counties that most vigorously enforced the law.

Other scholars argue that recent crime rate numbers might not be a good indicator of how well these laws work because the entire country has seen a drop in crime rates, even states like Minnesota that don't have three-strike laws.

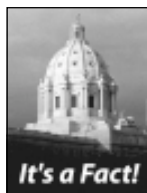
Others say the results of these laws are very difficult to observe because prosecutors are using the laws to plea bargain to get convictions and defendants are giving up information in return for having charges reduced to misdemeanor levels.

Meanwhile, California lawmakers are considering a bill that would limit their three-strikes law. That bill would require that the second or third strike be a serious or violent offense, making the measure more in line with Seifert's proposal in Minnesota. 🐼

According to information from the California attorney general's office for up to 1997, crime in the state dropped 27 percent overall. The state saw a 40-percent decrease in homicide, a 17-percent decrease in rape, and a 29-percent decrease in robbery.

The attorney general attributes these figures to the three-strikes law and a combination of community policing, new

Minnesotan fought scourge of the South



Andrew J. Volstead is known for his anti-liquor activism in Congress, but he took up other righteous causes, including a fight to stop racially motivated lynchings.

Volstead served in Congress from 1903 to 1922. A lawyer from Granite Falls, he was elected to the U.S. House as a Republican.

He is most famous for his involvement in the prohibition movement. He sponsored the Volstead Act, the law that enforced the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, added in 1919. The Volstead Act prohibited the sale, manufacture, and transportation of all alcoholic beverages. In 1933, the law was stricken from the books when the 18th Amendment was repealed.

But in a 1922 speech on the floor of the U.S. House, Volstead ignored the shouts of his critics to make his case for an anti-lynching bill he was supporting.

He argued that the 13th Amendment — the anti-slavery amendment — was not enough protection against lynching for African-Americans. Volstead built his argument on clauses in the 14th Amendment that guarantee due process and equal protection of the law. The amendment has been used both successfully and not so successfully in cases where state law is found to conflict with individual rights laid out in the U.S. Constitution.

"That a person who is lynched by a mob has been deprived of life without due process of law, and that he has been denied the equal protection of the law needs no argument," said Volstead.

The 13th and 14th amendments abolished slavery and recognized African-Americans and American Indians as U.S. citizens protected by the Constitution. Volstead believed the 14th Amendment was an important safeguard against states

allowing lynching. But, he said, it was not being used that way.

"We are confronted with a situation that must bring a blush of shame to every law-abiding citizen," Volstead said. "The record shows that since this amendment was adopted thousands of persons have been put to death by mob violence."

During his speech, several of Volstead's congressional colleagues asked him to yield the House floor, or to take questions. Volstead refused to accommodate them, stopping only once to respond to a congressman from Texas who questioned the police power of the federal government.

"I cannot yield," Volstead said. "If I yield to everyone who wants to ask me a question, I would never get through. It is impossible to discuss a constitutional question with continual interruption."

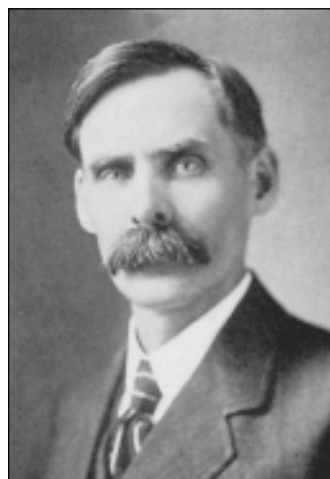
So Volstead continued, citing various U.S. Supreme Court cases and academic interpretations of the Constitution.

He resisted criticism that Congress had no power to control actions of

individuals, saying that if that were true, then the 14th Amendment would be void of meaning. Volstead argued that the Supreme Court would side with him, because Congress has the authority to pass laws that enforce and uphold the Constitution.

"The government that will not defend its defenders, that will not protect those whom it compels to face shot and shell to protect its interest, is a disgrace to the family of nations," he said. "And I hope that this Congress will help to wipe such a stain from our flag and carry out the purpose of those who drew and those who proposed this amendment."

Although the anti-lynching measure Volstead so ardently defended was passed by the U.S. House, it did not become law; it stalled on the Senate floor just before the 67th Congress adjourned for the year.



Andrew J. Volstead

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Hemp legalization advances

An effort to allow Minnesota farmers to legally grow industrial hemp appears to be as resilient as the crop itself.

A hemp legalization bill was introduced in 1997 but was rejected by a House agriculture panel. Another proposal to study the issue stalled on the House floor that year. In 1998, both the House and Senate approved a measure to go forward with a study, but that bill was vetoed by then-Gov. Arne Carlson.

This year, the issue has sprouted up again. An industrial hemp bill was approved March 10 by the House Agricultural Policy Committee.

Bill sponsor Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) told the panel that his bill (HF1238) would permit experimental and demonstration plots to investigate the potential for industrial hemp as a commercial agricultural crop in the state.

The bill also would require that those wishing to grow hemp register with the state and that the commissioner of agriculture report to the Legislature each year on hemp activity.

Opponents of the measure argued that hemp is the equivalent of marijuana and, as such, is illegal to possess. They also said that industrial hemp legalization is being promoted by the pro-drug subculture.

"Drug use, especially marijuana use among young people, has risen sharply in all age groups in the past five years," said Jeanette McDougal, co-chair of DrugWatch Minnesota. "Children perceive promotion of the fiber-hemp marijuana to be affirmation and normalization of all marijuana."

The U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy also warned that legalizing hemp production could send the wrong signal to the public.

That office is also concerned that sanctioning the growing of industrial hemp could mean the de facto legalization of marijuana cultivation, since both are products of the same type of plant. It could be virtually impossible to tell the legal plant from the illegal version without chemical analysis, the group claims.

Bill supporters see hemp as another economic option for the state's hard-pressed farmers.

"We believe that industrial hemp has positive potential as a new crop for Minnesota," said Edgar Olson, executive director of

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute in Crookston.

He said his group stands at the ready in identifying markets and new uses for the crop, which often include paper, fiberboard, twine, birdseed, and oil.

The bill goes to the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Protecting wolves & livestock

The House Agriculture Policy Committee spent a great deal of time talking about the wolves, but the conversation had nothing to do with basketball.

A plan by the federal government to "delist" timber wolves — now called gray wolves — from the Endangered Species Act has necessitated that the state adopt a wolf management plan.

Meanwhile, agricultural interests are seeking solutions to the growing conflicts between wolves and farmers.

The result is a bill (HF1415), sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) that would require the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to prepare a comprehensive wolf management plan and spell out how that management would be addressed in state law. The committee approved the bill March 10.

The process began in 1997 when a citizen's roundtable process was begun to study controversial aspects of wolf management, according to Mike DonCarlos, furbearer specialist with the DNR, who has shepherded the project thus far.

He told the committee March 9 that most of the citizen group's conclusions are reflected in the bill.

The plan includes provisions that would allow wolves to be killed in defense of human life, allow harassment of wolves to discourage contact with people and livestock, and establish penalties and restitution amounts for illegal wolf-killing.

But the bill drew immediate fire from some lawmakers and representatives of the ranching industry.

Janet McNally, a sheep farmer from Hinckley, said that 11 years ago her farm required no defense from wolves. This coming year, she will spend as much as \$2,400 to protect her lambs from wolves.

"That's my second highest cost, over feed,



Sam Baxter of Brooklyn Park, who manages a shop that sells industrial hemp products, shows off a pair of toddler's overalls and other items made of hemp to lawmakers considering a bill March 10 that would allow farmers to legally grow hemp on an experimental basis.

in my entire budget for 500 animals," McNally said.

She said her flock suffered from wolves stalking the animals and that on several occasions her sheep lost weight because of their fears of attack.

Dick Lecocq of Mora, president of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, said problems with wolves didn't appear on his ranch until wolves were added to the endangered species list.

Since the number of wolves has increased, so has the number of reported attacks on livestock.

The bill moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Regaining their balance



Minnesota's agricultural supply dealers are now allowed to sell Balance — a new pesticide compound — to customers outside the state, under a measure signed into law March 8 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

State law prohibits use or distribution of restricted-use pesticides not registered with the state commissioner of agriculture. Balance has received "conditional use" registration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which makes it legal for use in many neighboring states.

The compound isn't available for use in Minnesota; however, under the new law, dealers may sell it to farmers in other states where its use is legal.

The effective date of the authorization is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1999 to allow out-of-state customers who have made a pre-payment on their 1999 agricultural chemical needs to select Balance as their product of choice later this spring.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

HF370/SF424*/CH5

Farmer-lender mediation

With Minnesota's farm crisis growing more serious by the day, some say the state should do everything it can to foster communication between farmers and bankers.

Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) said that's one reason he has introduced a bill that would maintain farmer-lender mediation to settle credit disputes.

The mediation law was originally passed in 1986 when the state was facing its last farm crisis. It has been renewed every two years since.

Finseth's bill (HF779) would keep the program alive and would move it from the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs to the Minnesota Cooperative Extension Service.

The bill called for the program to be made permanent, but the committee approved an amendment that would simply extend the program for two more years.

Jerry Schoenfeld, a lobbyist for Independent Community Bankers, told the House Agriculture Policy Committee March 10 that the original intent was to have the law expire every two years to avoid constitutional challenges.

He said he is intimately acquainted with the details of the legislation because he helped write the law as a House member in 1986.

"Mediation works best when both sides have an incentive," Schoenfeld said.

He said many lenders dislike mediation because they see it as a delaying tactic. He also said that over the years, too many lawyers had been involved in the process.

Most of the committee members were in favor of keeping mediation in place; however, there was little taste for making it permanent.

Rep. Gregory Davids (R-Preston) proposed an amendment that would maintain the measure's temporary status. Davids, chair of the House Commerce Committee, said he believes it is the only way the bill could succeed, given the stiff opposition by banking interests.

With the amendment attached, the bill was approved. It will next be heard in the House Higher Education Finance Committee.



CHILDREN

Preventing prostitution

A bill that would fund programs aimed at curbing teen-age prostitution was considered March 10 in the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

The bill (HF594), sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would provide grants to groups that focus on intervening in and preventing teen-age prostitution.

Errin Determan, an advocate with the TeenPRIDE prevention program, said that children are drawn into prostitution at an average age of 14.

"Unfortunately, girls and boys all over the state of Minnesota are trapped in prostitution," she said.

If funded under the bill, TeenPRIDE would open up another facility in Greater Minneapolis, she said.

A woman named Carol testified that she had been brought into prostitution as a child in the 1960s, when she lived in rural Minnesota. Carol now works as an activist in northern Minnesota to prevent teen-age prostitution. She declined to give her last name because she said she wants to protect her family.

"We have been trained to think of prostitution by what we can see," she said. "But in rural Minnesota we need to open our eyes."

Although the bill does not contain a specific appropriation amount, Clark estimated that about \$1.1 million would fund the grant program, which would be available statewide.

The committee did not take action on Clark's bill. Lawmakers will consider the bill for inclusion in the family and early childhood education finance omnibus bill.



CRIME

Tracking sex offenders

Seeking to close a loophole in the state's sex-offender registration law, the House passed a bill March 11 that would make sure offenders like Roger Lloyd Zimmerman are registered. The vote was 132-0.

In July 1996, Zimmerman broke into a Wayzata home and raped a 13-year-old girl who was babysitting for her neighbor. In 1998, Zimmerman was found to have committed the crime but was found "not guilty by reason of mental illness." He is currently being held at the state hospital in St. Peter.

Under the current registration law, Zimmerman is not required to register when released because he was found "not guilty" of first degree criminal sexual conduct and wasn't committed as a "sexually dangerous person."

Zimmerman was committed for being "mentally ill and dangerous to the public," which does not fall under the notification law.

The bill (HF228/SF174*), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), would change the law to specifically state that offenders who are charged with crimes listed under the offender registration law but are found not guilty by reason of mental illness are to be registered.

The sex-offender registration law, passed in 1991, requires that offenders register their address with law enforcement officials for 10 to 15 years upon release from prison or commitment.

The bill now goes back to the Senate.

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Firearms for sale

Local law enforcement agencies would be allowed to sell confiscated firearms, under a bill approved March 5 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Current law requires that those agencies destroy all forfeited weapons that they cannot use, including firearms, ammunition, and firearm accessories.

The bill (HF70), sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), would give agencies the authority to either destroy those weapons or sell them to federally authorized dealers.

The bill would also require local agencies to sell any antique guns they seize. But semi-automatic, military-style assault weapons would continue to be destroyed, under the bill.

Under current law, local law enforcement agencies keep 70 percent of the proceeds from the sale of any forfeited property, county attorneys and other prosecutors get 20 percent of the proceeds, and the state receives the remaining 10 percent.

Michael Jordan, former state public safety commissioner and current spokesperson for the St. Paul Police Department, said his police department would probably continue its policy of destroying confiscated firearms.

But he said the department would attempt to sell any antique firearms, which could fetch as much as \$100,000.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

Dog coats for dogs only

A plan to deter people from peddling clothing made of dog or cat fur was approved March 9 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

The bill (HF1211) would make buying or selling clothing made from dog or cat fur a misdemeanor level crime. The bill would also provide penalties for mislabeling dog or cat fur with the intent of deceiving buyers.

Bill sponsor Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) said 2 million dogs and cats are killed worldwide each year for their coats.

"I want to send a message to the rest of the United States that we won't tolerate this," she said.

In December 1998, Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corp., based in New Jersey, recalled hundreds of Chinese-made coats because they contained dog fur.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

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

Combating child porn

Investigators say they are seeing a proliferation of child pornography on the Internet, and lawmakers want to give them the tools to fight it.

A plan to give sex crime investigators what they need was approved March 11 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

The bill (HF1081) would increase penalties for distributing child pornography from five years to 10 years in prison. It would also increase the crime level for possessing child pornography from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.

The bill would clarify the definition of these crimes to make it easier to prosecute Internet offenders.

Bill sponsor Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) said investigators used to see the same pictures being circulated day in and day out.

"Now they're seeing a new photo every day, and that means a new child is being raped every day," he said.

The bill now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Chamber music



Minnesota Orchestra cellist Joseph Johnson of Minneapolis performs "Hungarian Rhapsody" by David Popper in the well of the House chamber as part of Arts Advocacy Day on March 10.



EDUCATION

Students as subs

A bill that would expand the pool of substitute teachers in Minnesota was approved March 11 by the House Education Policy Committee.

The bill (HF954), sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), would grant substitute teacher licenses to college students who have completed their student teaching requirements.

Students enrolled in post-secondary education must complete a student teaching component as part of the requirements for a teaching license, and the practice occurs often toward the end of their degree work. The bill would allow those students to work as substitute teachers while finishing up their degrees.

The impetus for the bill comes from a current and projected substitute teacher shortage in many areas of the state, said Mark Porter, director of human resource and legal services for the Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan School District.

"My concern is that we're not able to fill even the vacancies created by illness," Porter said.

Buesgens, a school administrator in the same school district, said the shortage has prompted some teachers to use their preparation hours to fill in for colleagues.

While the measure was approved, some legislators expressed concern that having students as substitute teachers could raise liability issues if students were not fully qualified to teach in certain areas.

But Porter said that currently there are substitute teachers who teach subjects in which they haven't been specially trained.

Buesgens said that having students who are near graduation serve as substitute teachers would not be detrimental, since many recent graduates often use substitute teaching as a point of entry into a school district in which they would like to teach permanently.

The bill now moves to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Punishment for truants

Lawmakers in the House Education Policy Committee approved a bill March 11 that would limit open enrollment options for students who habitually miss school days.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) is sponsoring the bill (HF953).

Gleason's bill targets those students who have opted to attend schools located outside

of the district in which they live. Minnesota's open enrollment law allows students to enroll in non-resident school districts within certain capacity limits for each school.

The bill would allow school districts to terminate the open enrollment agreement with students under specific circumstances.

The first would apply to a student who skips seven days of school, has been involved in truancy intervention services, and has been referred to juvenile court. Additionally, a school could expel a 16- or 17-year-old non-resident student for 15 unexcused absences. In many cases, an unexcused absence is one without parental approval.

School boards can dismiss students for a number of reasons, including bringing weapons to school or violating certain district policies. But under current law, attendance is not a basis for expelling resident students from schools.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said she views the open enrollment law as a right, not a privilege. Gleason's bill, she said, would turn open enrollment into a privilege by having an attendance requirement.

Terry Freeman, a member of the Richfield school board, said the bill would cause open enrollment students to take their choice of schools seriously.

"We're asking those students to take ownership of that choice," she said.

Freeman said many of the open enrollment students in her district have been expelled or were near expulsion in other school districts, and that the bill would give them an incentive to stay in school.

"We're trying to engage students in the learning process," Freeman said.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Funds for adult education

Lawmakers on the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee considered three bills March 10 that would fund adult basic education programs throughout the state.

Adult basic education is available to people over the age of 16 who need skills to function above the 12th-grade level. Minnesota has programs that offer high school diploma equivalency degrees, English as a second language, adult literacy classes, citizenship education, and courses on basic math, reading, or workplace skills.

One of the bills (HF1695) would set up funding for adult basic education programs for the 2000-01 biennium. Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) is sponsoring the measure.

Over the next two years, the bill would

provide \$45 million in aid to adult basic education programs and \$9.1 million for adult graduation programs.

Aside from operating funds, a portion of the appropriation would be used for grants for classroom technology, special education equipment, and a citizenship promotion program.

The other two bills seek to modify funding formulas for adult basic education programs in rural areas. In 1997 and 1998, the Legislature began allocating money on a per-student basis, and the amount of money dedicated to those programs was increased.

But as the changes offset long waiting lists for adult basic education in some areas, rural programs have suffered because they have fewer students than urban programs.

HF93, sponsored by Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy), would grant a \$10,000 sparsity allowance to adult basic education sites in rural areas.

"We are faced with closure of these sites if something isn't done," said Carol Gregerson, an adult basic education coordinator for the Northwest Minnesota Service Cooperative.

The third bill would address the rural funding problem a different way. Sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), the bill (HF1475) would grant an additional \$1 per capita to sites located in areas with less than 30,000 in population.

Nornes' bill would also require the adult basic education sites to have an approved level of service to be eligible for the extra aid. The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning would have to report to the Legislature on the service levels provided by

the sites and the effectiveness of the programs there.

Lawmakers did not take action on any of the three bills, but they will consider the measures for inclusion in the family and early childhood education finance omnibus bill.

Training teachers better

A bill that would allow K-12 public schools to set up teacher training academies was approved March 11 by the House Education Policy Committee.

The bill (HF1324), sponsored by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), would institute a pilot program for five schools to train college students studying to be teachers and enrolled in public universities. It would bring student teachers into the classroom at an earlier stage of their education and, most likely, for a longer time.

Cassell, a former school superintendent, said the goal of his bill is to attract and retain more people in the teaching profession and to avoid the state's projected teacher shortage.

School districts would be able to design their own training programs and would have to apply to the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning to become a training site.

Up to \$20,000 would be available to each training site for start-up costs. And under the bill's provisions, the North Branch School District would be one of the pilot sites eligible for the money because it has already implemented a teacher training program.

The committee did not approve or reject

Head Start singers



Head Start children perform a routine set to music while holding various cut-outs in the Capitol rotunda March 11.

Cassell's bill, but instead forwarded it to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee for further consideration.

Arts school name change

A bill that would shorten the name of the Lola and Rudy Perpich Minnesota Center for Arts Education in Golden Valley was approved March 9 by the House Education Policy Committee.

Under the bill (HF973), the school's name would be changed to the Perpich Center for Arts Education. It would be the third name change for the institution, which was established in 1989.

In 1996, the Minnesota School and Resource Center for the Arts changed its name to honor the late Gov. Rudy Perpich, a strong supporter of the school.

David O'Fallon, the school's executive director, said the Perpich family was in favor of the name change.

"Frankly, it's easier to do business with a simpler name," he said.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), moves to the House floor.

Licensing rules examined

A bill that would set up a separate licensing process for some teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students was approved March 11 by the House Education Policy Committee.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) is sponsoring the bill (HF213), which drew many citizens to testify at the bill's first public hearing on Feb. 18.

The bill would allow teachers of the oral/aural deaf education method, which does not use sign language, to be licensed after demonstrating a minimum competency level of American Sign Language.

Under current law, all deaf and hard-of-hearing educators must fulfill the same licensure requirements, which include a higher level of proficiency in sign language.

The oral/aural method teaches deaf or hard-of-hearing children to speak with the use of cochlear, or inner ear, implants and emphasizes lip-reading skills.

Greiling said the present requirements discourage people from entering the oral/aural deaf education field. And, she said, because those teachers exist in small numbers in Minnesota, many families must send their deaf and hard-of-hearing children to schools out of state.

"Parents in Minnesota don't have a free range of choices," she said.

Judd Grafe, a Rochester parent of two deaf children, said his children attend school in St. Louis because of the limited number of oral/aural teachers in Minnesota.

"I'm asking for the ability to bring them home," said Grafe.

The bill now moves to the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Private school scholarships

The House Education Policy Committee considered a proposal March 9 designed to encourage math and science education by providing scholarships for tuition at private schools that offer advanced-level curriculum.

One such school, the Minnesota Academy of Mathematics and Science, is located in Winona. The cost of tuition at the academy ranges from \$14,000 to \$18,000 per year.

Some lawmakers expressed concern that the proposed \$960,000 appropriation for scholarships over two years would solely benefit the Winona academy.

But Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), the bill's sponsor, disagreed. He said other private schools that meet the program criteria outlined in the bill could also attract students who receive the scholarships.

"I don't see why there couldn't be competition for these programs," he said.

The bill (HF41) moves to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee for further consideration.



ELECTIONS

Changes eyed in finance laws

A bill that would alter campaign finance laws, including those related to disclosure and gifts, was approved March 4 after several days of debate by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Some provisions of the bill (HF441), sponsored by Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud), would clarify current law that prohibits legislators from accepting gifts of any monetary value from lobbyists.

The bill would allow some exemptions to the ban, which Knobloch said are meant to be reasonable without allowing huge loopholes. For example, lawmakers would be allowed to receive free meals at events related to their occupations, such as a teacher receiving a meal at a teachers' convention.

The gift ban would also be extended to include local elected officials, which some committee members opposed.

"We passed this on ourselves, and this is where it should stop," said Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna).

Other committee members argued that the potential for influencing decisions through gifts is just as likely on the local level as it is at the state level.

Some opponents of the bill said its proposed disclosure requirements would mean less information for the public. Beth Frazier, of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive

Child harmony



Ellen Ahlness, 3, takes a break from lobbying at the feet of her mother, Lori, during a rally in the Capitol rotunda March 10 for Early Childhood Family Education. The pair were part of a group from Harmony ECFE in Maplewood.

Action, called it “campaign finance de-form at its worst.”

Under current law, candidates are required to disclose the name, address, employer, and occupation of anyone who makes a campaign contribution of more than \$100. Knoblach’s bill would raise that ceiling to donations of more than \$250, which is in line with requirements for federal candidates. Donors of less than \$250 would only have their name and address made public.

Knoblach said his bill would lead to more disclosure of information related to campaign finance. The measure would require candidates to disclose assets of spouses and dependents, so that a person couldn’t avoid disclosing a conflict of interest by transferring an asset to a family member. Candidates who are independent contractors or consultants would have to disclose their sources of income that pay them more than \$1,100. And disclosure laws would apply if a candidate creates a special fund, such as a legal defense fund or a fund for an inaugural party.

The bill now moves to the House floor.



ENVIRONMENT

Budget trouble at zoo

A bill (HF878) approved March 10 by the House Ways and Means Committee would make up some of a current budget shortfall of the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley.

The zoo funding is one of several proposed appropriations contained in the measure, all for state agencies or departments that are seeking money to make up for deficiencies in the current fiscal year.

The zoo’s budget includes revenue from admission, money from the state’s general fund, and funding from other contributors, said Jim Reinholdz, vice president of finance for the zoo. The zoo’s current annual budget is \$15.4 million, he said, which was reduced \$500,000 between 1998 and 1999. And since 1990, the budget has been reduced by a total of \$1.5 million.

Zoo officials had requested \$1 million in deficiency money, but the approved bill contains provisions for only \$600,000.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee recommended approving only that portion of the request.

Among those who testified before that committee on behalf of the zoo were third-graders Rebekah Manz and Jakki Fisk, who attend Capitol Hill School in St. Paul. They had recently visited the zoo with their class, and Rebekah pronounced the trip “better than learning from books.”

Many lawmakers agreed that the zoo is a



Third-graders Rebekah Manz, right, and Jakki Fisk, both of St. Paul, testify on behalf of the Minnesota Zoo before lawmakers considering a funding request by the zoo’s board March 8.



valuable resource but were reluctant to support the entire \$1 million. Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said part of the problem with the current shortage is that the zoo received funding for a new exhibit, but attendance has turned out to be less than projected.

State law prevents the zoo from increasing admission fees. But some of the revenue losses could be recouped if that provision were to be repealed, said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the environment panel.

That committee’s recommendation included allowing the zoo to raise admission fees to make up for the deficiency.

Reinholdz said the zoo would have to make up the \$400,000 that was not approved by laying off the equivalent of 60 full-time employees, which is about 25 percent of the staff.

The deficiency bill now moves to the House floor.



FAMILY

Court ruling prompts action

Lawmakers gave initial approval to a new process for child support hearings that would replace an administrative law process recently struck down by the state Supreme Court.

Under the previous system, child support cases involving public authorities were heard through an administrative law process. Because counties often enforce child support payments, these cases accounted for most child support cases.

The Legislature had moved the cases from the state district courts in an effort to provide a more expedient process and a more informal setting in which to decide child support issues.

But in a ruling released Jan. 28, the Supreme Court found that the administrative hearing process for child support cases is unconstitutional.

The court stated that the process violates the separation of powers outlined in the state constitution. And the court concluded that such decisions belong in the judicial branch and not in the executive branch.

The Supreme Court stayed the effect of the ruling until July 1 to give the Legislature time to modify the system.

The bill, approved March 8 by the House Civil Law Committee, would repeal the unconstitutional administrative process and would create a new expedited process in the judicial branch.

The bill would establish child support magistrates to oversee the hearings, and the state courts would outline rules for this process. It would also appropriate an unspecified amount to pay for the new magistrate positions.

“The court abolished a system, and it needs to be replaced,” said Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the bill.

Diane Eagon, a district court judge in Hennepin County and member of a court work group on child support, said that the courts want to make sure the child support system continues to operate efficiently.

“We’re all concerned that child support continue to proceed as expeditiously as possible,” she said.

The Office of Administrative Hearings had about 12,000 child support hearings last year. Officials said that 93 percent of all child support orders were issued within 30 days of the hearing.

The bill (HF510) now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (651) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

First call for funds

Not all family emergencies warrant a 911 call. A system of community service numbers called First Call Minnesota can provide individuals and families with the necessary information they need to prevent a suicide, find a new job, or cope with a disability.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) would provide money to First Call Minnesota to manage its 11 regional information centers and to develop a statewide database of referral and social services agencies. The bill was considered March 10 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

The measure would provide \$500,000 to maintain and expand the operation of referring people to agencies and services that can help them.

"Every day, hundreds of people start journeys to places they're not familiar with," said Bill Schultz, the organization's president. "Part of our job is to tell people where to go."

First Call Minnesota receives about 70 percent of its funding from private organizations, and United Way funds some of the state's 11 programs. The other 30 percent comes from federal funds.

In 1996, the Legislature made a one-time appropriation of \$237,000 to help First Call serve more counties. Since that time, every county in the state has been included in the organization's information database and five new sites have been added. First Call also maintains a World Wide Web site.

The committee took no action on Sykora's bill (HF847), but will consider it for inclusion in the family and early childhood education omnibus finance bill.



GAMBLING

Slots & cards at Canterbury

A plan for a state-sanctioned casino at a Shakopee horse track was helped out of the gate March 9 by the Subcommittee on Gaming and Technology of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

The bill (HF1374) would allow slot machines and blackjack at Canterbury Park, a horse racing facility with a long history of financial troubles. The slots would be overseen by the Minnesota State Lottery.

The subcommittee also advanced two other bills that would allow new forms of gambling in the state, including card games at Canterbury Park and dice games in taverns.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), sponsor

of the plan to allow slot machines, acknowledged the controversy inherent in proposals to expand gambling in the state, but he said his goal is to benefit the horse racing industry.

A percentage of the proceeds from the slot machines would be used to increase the purses for horse races. In the past four years, the total purses at Canterbury Park have been about \$4 million. One of the track's closest competitors is Prairie Meadows in Des Moines, Iowa, which has about 1,000 slot machines that help generate purses totaling about \$15 million.

The higher purses attract more horses to the track, a better quality of horses, and more breeders to Iowa, Holsten said. Many breeders who used to be based in Minnesota have migrated south.

"This is about creating a viable horse racing industry in Minnesota," he said.

Among the benefits of revitalizing that industry would be a related boost to agriculture. The grain consumed by horses, for example, would increase demand for local commodities, Holsten said.

Daniel Mjolsness, of Seven Springs Farm near Red Wing, said the horse racing industry contributed about \$250 million to the state economy when horse racing was at its highest popularity in Minnesota in the late 1980s.

Gordon Adams Jr. testified against the bill on behalf of the American Indian gaming industry. Poverty was rampant in American Indian communities before gaming boosted those economies, he said. Adams said if gambling is expanded at Canterbury Park, he fears it will soon be expanded to other areas, which will hurt the casinos and their communities.

"Our economic situation has improved, but we still have a long way to go to become self-sufficient," he said.

The subcommittee also approved HF1281, which would allow a card club at Canterbury Park. Under the bill, the card games would not be banked by the track. Instead, a share of the money wagered by participants would go to the house. Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) is sponsoring the bill.

The third bill approved by the subcommittee was HF686, sponsored by Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph). The bill would allow dice games, ranging from "liar's poker" to "who buys," to be played in bars, as long as the establishment does not organize or participate financially in the games.

Dehler's bill was sent to the full Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee with a recommendation to pass. The other bills were sent along without any recommendation.



GAME & FISH

Aiming to be inclusive

A bill that would allow people who are mentally disabled to hunt with a parent or guardian was approved March 10 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), a person who completes the classroom portion of a firearms safety course but is unable to pass the written test because of a developmental disability could receive a provisional firearms safety certificate.

The parent or guardian that would accompany that person would also need a firearms safety certificate.

"It would be a very limited amount of people, and they would have to prove that the safety requirements would be met," Daggett said.

The idea for the bill came from a family that has hunted together for many years but was not able to bring along their child with Down syndrome.

"It's a self-esteem issue," Daggett said.

The bill (HF1274) will be included in an omnibus game and fish bill.



GOVERNMENT

Bolstering budgets

A \$17 million appropriations bill was approved March 10 by the House Ways and Means Committee to pay for budget deficiencies for the current fiscal year.

The bulk of the money, about \$11.7 million, would go to the Minnesota Department of Human Services to make up for a budget shortfall due to a delay in federal reimbursements for MinnesotaCare. Although the state and the federal government have reached an agreement concerning the delayed funds, and reimbursements began March 1, the deficiency funding is still needed to cover costs the department has had to cover in the past months.

The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning would also receive \$3.5 million primarily to pay legal costs of two major lawsuits. Both involve claims that school districts are providing constitutionally inadequate education, one in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul.

And the Minnesota Department of Public Safety would receive \$629,000 to pay for license plates for new automobiles, which Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said will be paid back when the license plates are sold. The

department would also receive \$200,000 to pay for additional security for Gov. Jesse Ventura.

A year 2000 compliance program in the secretary of state's office would also be funded under the bill. That office would receive \$225,000 from the state's general fund under the measure.

Other areas that would receive funds are the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board, the Minnesota Zoological Board, and State Services for the Blind.

The bill (HF878), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), now moves to the House floor.

Commission cut called for

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 5 that would reduce the size of the Legislative Audit Commission from 20 to 16 members.

The commission is made up of 10 senators and 10 House members with equal representation from the majority and minority caucuses. Tax committee chairs in each body are required to be commission members.

The bill (HF1003) would repeal that tax chair requirement, and reduce representation from each caucus in both bodies to four members.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), sponsor of the bill, said a 1997 law increased the commission to 20 members in an effort to make it more bipartisan, but he said it's now unnecessarily large.

The commission works closely with the Office of the Legislative Auditor, which performs about 80 financial audits per year and several detailed evaluations of programs. This year the office has evaluated state programs including out-of-home placement of juveniles, building and fire codes, and animal feedlot regulation.

Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles said the commission helps decide which programs will be evaluated.

"Every year there is a process of surveying legislators to get suggestions as to what evaluations they think should be done," he said. "We can't do all of them, so they have to have criteria to prioritize."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Legislative history can be researched in printed materials at the Legislative Reference Library or, for the years since 1995, on the Internet. Find directions at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/hist/histstep.htm>



HEALTH

Tobacco funds draw debate

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee spurned a plan to create an anti-smoking endowment with tobacco settlement money, but the panel approved another proposal to provide state grants for local initiatives to curb teen smoking.

Earlier this session, the committee gave the thumbs-up to a plan to devote the bulk of the tobacco settlement dollars to plugging the gap formed by the proposed elimination of the medical services provider tax.

But the panel considered another bill March 4 that would create a tobacco-prevention endowment fund and a board to administer it. That bill (HF223) is sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley).

"We've been given a gift — the opportunity to eliminate smoking without taking a dime out of everyone's pocket," Leppik told the committee.

She called her plan "comprehensive and sustainable" and said it would keep the principal drawn from tobacco settlement funds in place, supporting programs with earned interest. She advocated using \$655 million of the \$1.3 billion one-time settlement payments for her plan.

But Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) offered — and the committee accepted — an amendment that replaced the endowment proposal with a plan to provide \$7.5 million annually in grants from the state's general fund to community health boards for initiatives to reduce the rate of smoking and tobacco use among youth.

Mulder's amendment calls for broad collaboration between health boards and other organizations that already provide services to children as young as toddlers, such as Head Start. He said the amount represents a substantial increase from the \$2.5 million in state and federal funds now dedicated to such programs.

"The object is to stop children from starting and encouraging adults to quit," Mulder said, adding that the proposal would dedicate almost \$1 million to evaluate the effectiveness of the new programs.

Several committee members expressed concern that not using the settlement money for endowments would result in losing some of the funds to the federal government.

Mulder and Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) both argued that the state is under no obligation to spend the money on health-related issues and that the settlement doesn't delineate what amounts should go to

settle which portions of the claims the state made against the cigarette manufacturers.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) said she envisions a turf war, not a collaboration, over funds created in Mulder's plan.

Amendments to create a children's endowment, a medical research endowment, and a health professional education and medical research endowment, in addition to the tobacco prevention endowment fund, were offered and rejected.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said proposed endowments provide an opportunity to do something unique and memorable. He said they offer "unbelievable" opportunities for innovation.

"That opportunity doesn't present itself around here very often," he said.

He also noted that Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget calls for using tobacco settlement dollars to create endowments.

House supporters of the endowment proposals are not giving up their cause. Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth) launched an unsuccessful attempt to add the endowments to the bill in procedural action on the House floor March 10.

Easing organ donation

Tissue and eyes would be added to the list of organs available for donation on the state's Health Care Directive, under a plan the House passed March 8.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), passed the House on a vote of 132-0.

Luther said the modified wording would foster public awareness of the critical shortage of eyes and tissues and of the thousands of people waiting for such donations.

Noting that Luther herself received a donated liver from a Minnesota man, Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) praised her efforts on the bill.

"She's here today to our great benefit because of the foresight and courage of a gentleman from Fergus Falls," Bishop said.

The bill (HF74/SF301*) goes to the governor.

Training demands altered



Signed by the governor

A new state law will remove the current requirement that the state's boards of dentistry, medical practice, nursing, and podiatric medicine have rules requiring continuing education on infection control, including blood-borne diseases.

Effective Aug. 1, the individual boards will

have the option of requiring continuing education that is best suited to the needs of those it licenses, rather than a blanket program prescribed by law.

Proponents of the measure argued that the scope of infection control procedures is changing continually and the various medical boards need the latitude to make changes quickly.

Supporters also argued that the existing law is arcane because it requires even psychiatrists, who generally aren't exposed to blood-borne diseases, to complete infection-control instruction.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) and Sen. David Ten Eyck (DFL-East Gull Lake) sponsored the measure.

HF171/SF121*/CH5

Volunteer ambulance crews

A bill that would define a volunteer ambulance attendant for purposes of reimbursement was passed by the House March 4. The vote was 132-0.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), was requested by ambulance associations after a 1998 lawsuit brought certain wage and hour issues to light.

Under the measure, ambulance crewmembers would be defined as volunteers, and thus not entitled to minimum wage protection, even if they receive some financial compensation for their duties.

The bill (HF214/SF241*) goes to the governor.

Extending payments to clinics

Unless the Legislature acts, a good number of the state's rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers could go out of business later this year.

That was the message March 9 from Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) and others to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Mulder, who is sponsoring a bill that would extend Medicaid reimbursements to those clinics, explained that under existing law the cost-based reimbursements from the state's Medical Assistance program are scheduled to end Dec. 31. The bill was approved by the committee.

When state reimbursements for those clinics was begun in 1997, officials assumed that universal health coverage and statewide implementation of Medicaid managed care would be completed by the end of 1999.

That would have made continued state aid unnecessary, according to Jonathan Watson, associate director of the Minnesota Primary Care Association.

"Clearly, neither of these two goals has been achieved," Watson pointed out.

With Medicaid revenue slashed 40 percent, clinics that serve mostly low-income uninsured clients in inner-city and rural settings wouldn't be able to keep the doors open without continued state aid.

There are believed to be about 120,000 people without health insurance of any sort in Minnesota and another 57,000 who rely on Medicaid.

Mulder said in a more normal clinic setting, only a small portion of patients would have their bills paid through Medicaid, making it easier to absorb revenue cuts.

But in federally some qualified health centers and rural clinics, nearly all the patients have their bill picked up through Medicaid.

Mulder's bill (HF332) would extend Medicaid reimbursements at their existing level through Dec. 31, 2002.

Although a specific dollar amount is not included in the bill, Watson said some clinics stand to lose as much as \$1 million annually if the Legislature allows the Medicaid cuts to become effective.

The bill moves to the Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Preventing lead poisoning

A bill that would fund lead-poisoning prevention efforts was approved March 8 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

The bill (HF873), sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), would provide \$500,000 over two years for CLEARCorps, an organization dedicated to lead-poisoning prevention. The group received \$225,000 from the state for the 1998-99 biennium.

In addition to state dollars, CLEARCorps receives funding from private and public organizations, and its workers are provided through the federal AmeriCorps program.

CLEARCorps educates families and communities about the dangers of lead poisoning and supplies workers to remove contaminants from homes.

Mulder said at least 3,000 children in Minnesota suffer from lead poisoning. And the children who are tested each year represent only one-third of the young population who should be tested, he said.

Lead poisoning occurs when substances containing lead are ingested in the body. This can happen when children pick up and eat old paint chips that contain lead or when they come in contact with dust and dirt particles that contain lead. Children who live in older houses in urban areas are often particularly at risk.

The damage can begin almost immediately, depending on the amount of lead that enters the body. Lead poisoning can cause learning disabilities, lower IQ scores, attention deficits, and kidney damage. In some cases, it can be fatal.

Dr. Catherine Jordan is a pediatric neuro-psychologist at the University of Minnesota who specializes in the effects of lead poisoning in children. She told lawmakers that because lead affects the brain, the poisoning can lead to severe behavioral problems, including juvenile delinquency and criminal conduct later in life.

In addition to the \$225,000 appropriated to CLEARCorps for the current biennium, the state funded another lead abatement program at \$75,000 during that period. Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended no state money for lead abatement programs in his 2000-01 proposed budget.

The committee will consider Mulder's bill for inclusion in the family and early childhood education omnibus bill.

Debate on diet drugs

If you're overweight and receive benefits from the state's Medical Assistance program, the weight-loss program the state wants for you is the old fashioned plan — diet and exercise.

State law prohibits coverage of appetite suppressants, often called anorectics. In fact, they are banned in statute from consideration by a panel that reviews drugs to be covered by the program.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (HF1047) that would put them back into the picture for consideration.

Wejcman told the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 11 she has no intention of requiring that such drugs be covered by Medical Assistance, only that they be allowed for consideration.

She said a former constituent of hers suffers from obesity and has diabetes and hypertension as a result. If he could use a drug to successfully lose weight, other symptoms may require less intensive treatment.

Opponents zeroed in on the potential cost of adding appetite suppressants to the list of drugs covered and questioned their effectiveness.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said the drugs would "add costs to an already costly system."

Wejcman countered that the state's formula committee may not approve the drugs, meaning the bill wouldn't cost the state a dime.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a physician, said that one of the drugs currently in use costs as much as \$1,000 a year and with additional levels of care required for those taking it, the cost could be as high as \$3,000 a year per patient.

He estimated the potential annual impact of the bill at \$30 million.

Dr. Jim Russell of Anoka told the panel that medicine can only be counted on to help a patient lose 6 to 16 pounds and added that in his experience, most people gain the weight back when they stop taking the drugs.

Wejcman said the original ban on consideration of weight loss drugs was likely linked to the use and proliferation of amphetamines in the early 1990s. She said amphetamines aren't used for weight-loss today and that continued research could turn up an even more effective drug.

"I wouldn't want us to miss that opportunity," Wejcman said.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) encouraged the committee to make its decision on the matter based on policy considerations and to let the Health and Human Services Finance Committee make the determination on how much it might cost.

The panel agreed and approved the bill. It moves to the finance panel.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Taylor made building

The House passed a bill March 11 that would authorize construction of the Taylor Center, a privately-funded building on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato. The vote was 132-0.

The bill (HF492) is sponsored by Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato).

Because the campus is part of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, and therefore a state entity, the Legislature is required to approve the new building's construction.

Formerly known as Mankato State University, the school raised \$16.5 million in private donations to pay for the center. It is named in honor of alumnus Glen Taylor, chief executive officer and chair of the Taylor Corporation and owner of the Minnesota Timberwolves basketball team.

Taylor donated \$9.2 million toward the project, which consists of a 5,000-seat arena, athletic programs and facilities, and a student welcome center.

The bill moves to the Senate.

Heat is on Winona State

Officials from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system caught a little heat from lawmakers March 5 when they brought forward a multi-million-dollar bonding request to replace the boiler system at Winona State University.

"We are really at an emergency condition right now," said Darrell Krueger, president of Winona State.

But before they approved the bill (HF520), members of the House Higher Education Finance Committee asked why the school did not make its request last year in the MnSCU capital budget.

"I think I'll have to take personal responsibility for this," Krueger said. "I don't believe that I paid enough attention."

But Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the chair of the committee, said MnSCU was also to blame for funding other projects instead of the boiler problem.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona), would allot \$8.9 million for a new boiler system and emergency generators at the university. Normally such requests are made in even-numbered years, when the Legislature puts together a bonding bill to fund capital projects for state facilities.

While lawmakers usually pass an emergency bonding bill in odd-numbered years, Gov. Jesse Ventura has not indicated that he would support one this year. That leaves the possibility of using cash — most likely from the state budget surplus — for the project.

Elaine Belew, MnSCU's director of facilities planning and programs, said the institution was well into its budgeting process last year when Winona's boiler request came forward. But she said it would have been possible to drop some projects in order to take care of the problem.

Pelowski urged his colleagues to approve the bill, saying the newly merged MnSCU system could work out its budgeting problems as it matures. Rather than punishing the system by waiting another year to fund the boiler system, he said the Legislature should take care of the issue now to avoid having to close the campus down if the heating system stops working.

"I don't know that these boilers will blow like a Keystone Cops movie episode," he said. "They'll simply fail."

The bill now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

HESO pitches budget

State grants and scholarships, as well as programs aimed at providing college information to low-income families, top the list of budget priorities for the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office (HESO).

The office, which serves as the financial aid arm of the state, is requesting \$45.6 million in new funding for the 2000-01 biennium. The agency's officials presented its biennial budget proposal over three days ending March 5 before the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

Currently, the office spends about \$140 million per year, with 90 percent going toward financial aid and information programs.

HESO officials are seeking additional dollars to supplement existing outreach efforts and to fund new programs that would help offset college costs.

One such proposed program, to be called "college corps," would pay college students to travel to urban schools to discuss post-secondary education choices with younger students. The program would use work-study funds to pay student salaries and would require participants to be trained in teaching middle and high school students about financial aid programs.

Another project, called Get Ready!, is already in place. The initiative is targeted at low-income families or families without any previous higher education experience. Program administrators inform parents and students about the costs of college and the requirements needed to attend a post-secondary institution.

About 10 schools have students participating in the project, which began four years ago. HESO is requesting a \$625,000 increase in funding over the next two years for the program, which supplies counseling and information to students in fourth through sixth grades.

HESO is also proposing additional money to beef up state and federal scholarships for students who perform community service. Also under the HESO plan, a new "Minnesota promise scholarship" would guarantee grant money to students if they fulfill a set of requirements. The scholarship would be aimed at students who come from low-income families.

Another part of the agency's proposal would increase the state's child-care grant program by allowing more schools to participate and raising the per-student funding. Post-secondary students with low to moderate incomes are eligible for the grant, which currently awards \$2,000 per child per year.

In his proposed biennial budget, Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended funding about 9 percent of the office's request for new dollars.

Most of his budget recommendations for the agency are dedicated to technology and library systems, work-study funding, and fulfilling the state's reciprocity agreement with North Dakota.

Under the governor's budget, two programs that offer grants to nursing students would be cut.

The committee took no action on the issue. When the request comes before the committee in the form of a bill, it could be considered for inclusion in the committee's higher education omnibus finance bill.

Safeguards for students

A House panel approved a bill March 9 that would tighten regulations on for-profit and private career schools in Minnesota.

The bill (HF577), sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), was considered by the House Education Policy Committee.

Many parts of the bill contain only technical changes to current law, but there are a few provisions that would make substantive changes relating to consumer-protection issues.

State law provides and governs licensing requirements for those post-secondary schools that offer certificates in professional or technical skills but do not offer graduate or baccalaureate degrees. For-profit religious schools are exempt from these regulations.

Tuma's bill would require the schools to provide proof of the staff they advertise as well as clear information on costs and refund policies. It would also make schools include state government contact information for handling student complaints.

"If you walk in and find out the course is taught by Buffy the Vampire . . . you can walk away and not pay," Tuma said.

The bill moves to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Computer training considered

A bill that would change licensing provisions for computer training was discussed March 9 by the House Education Policy Committee.

Under the proposal (HF1058), a legislative review process would be set up to update licensure and registration of computer training firms every five years.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna), would also allow some com-

puter training facilities that are licensed as schools to be able to register instead as training firms, therefore loosening restrictions on what kinds of students they can serve.

Training firms, which are not licensed, can often only serve groups of employees from corporations, but individuals must enroll in a licensed school to take some of the same courses offered by training firms. However, licensed schools often require an enrollment fee or entail a longer course length than the training firms. The bill would allow for training firms to serve individuals as well.

The committee did not approve or reject Reuter's bill. The measure was forwarded to the House Higher Education Finance Committee for further consideration.



HOUSING

Landlords seek legal relief

Landlords say that the Legal Aid Society is using Minnesota's human rights law to force them into the Section 8 rental assistance program, and they want lawmakers to put a stop to it.

A bill clarifying that the human rights law doesn't require landlords to participate in the federal Section 8 program was approved March 10 by the House Civil Law Committee.

"Landlords are having to spend \$14,000 and \$15,000 on these cases that are just being thrown out of court," said Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran), sponsor of the bill (HF1026).

"They are attempting to make Section 8 a mandatory program," said John Horner, a lobbyist with the Minnesota Multi Housing Association.

Horner said that landlords are not discriminating against people who receive public assistance, they are choosing not to participate in an optional federal program that often puts additional burdens on landlords.

Steve Frenz, a Minneapolis landlord, told the committee that he doesn't accept federal Section 8 rental assistance simply as a business practice. He said that he will not accept the vouchers because he uses month-to-month leases and the program requires year-long leases.

Frenz said the city of Minneapolis has been very aggressive in pursuing nuisance claims against landlords and that he wants the ability to end a lease quickly to get rid of problem tenants.

Frenz said he received a "shot across the bow" from the Legal Aid Society saying that they were prepared to take him to court.

"Either I start accepting, or I would be subject to a lawsuit," he said.

Jane Michaels of Minneapolis was the subject of the Legal Aid letter sent to Frenz. Michaels has used Section 8 vouchers for the last 10 years in her Powderhorn neighborhood apartment. Frenz recently bought the building, and she cannot afford the rent without the assistance.

"I feel like there is no reason I should have to move," she told the committee. "I've been an excellent tenant."

Kevin Reuther, an attorney with the Legal Aid Society, said that the Section 8 program allows month-to-month leases after the initial year-long lease. So, he said, Frenz's business practice would fall under the program.

"Why is it that you really want to get rid of a tenant like Jane Michaels?" he said.

Janeen Rosas, commissioner of the Department of Human Rights, said that housing discrimination is a fine line, like all cases of discrimination.

She said landlords who reject tenants simply because they are receiving Section 8 vouchers are guilty of discrimination. But landlords who don't accept Section 8 vouchers because of business practices are not.

For example, she said, if a candidate for police dispatcher is rejected because that person has a thick foreign accent that might impede the job performance, it isn't discrimination. If that person is rejected because of their national origin, it is.

"Just because the two things are closely correlated, that doesn't mean that they're one and the same," she said.

The bill now goes to the House floor.



HUMAN SERVICES

Reducing pay disparity

Minnesota reimburses nursing homes in metropolitan areas higher than those in rural areas, but deciding who is rural and who is metro isn't as clear cut as it seems.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) is sponsoring a bill (HF912) that aims to settle that matter. The bill was approved by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Jennings would like to see Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright counties moved into the metro category, which would mean more money for nursing homes to pay higher salaries in those counties. The bill also would allow the commissioner of human services to negotiate higher rates with nursing facilities that have high operating costs relative to their per diem payments.

Jennings said the Twin Cities population has pushed out into areas once considered

rural, causing an already severe labor shortage to become critical.

He explained that a nursing home employee in Chisago County could drive 10 minutes south on Interstate 35 into Washington County and earn two to three dollars more per hour.

While supportive of the idea, lawmakers on the committee questioned if the bill would solve the problem or create new ones.

Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury) said the proposal may simply extend the problem to another tier of counties.

Jennings conceded the likelihood that the move could "create another level of unfairness further away out of the Twin Cities," but he said he didn't know any other way to begin attacking the problem.

Two years ago he investigated the cost of boosting all Minnesota counties into the higher reimbursement category, but the price tag was \$60 million, Jennings said.

Seventy-five percent of the state's nursing home beds are in counties with the higher funding level.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) said upping reimbursements for the four counties mentioned in the bill would mean less money for other rural counties where the wage disparity is extreme.

The bill will be heard next in the Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Council changes sought

A bill that would modify the membership of the State Advisory Council on Mental Health and update the council's reporting requirements was approved March 8 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), the bill would add a representative from the Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Network of Minnesota to the council. It also would require the council to report on its activities to the Legislature, in addition to the executive branch.

The council recommends policies, programs, and services for people with mental illness, and it helps develop innovative ways to provide and pay for those services.

The bill (HF740) moves to the floor of the House.

Testing innovative program

A pilot program aimed at revolutionizing the way services are provided to the state's citizens with developmentally disabilities has been so successful, funding for it should be continued.

That's what Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) told the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 9. His bill (HF429) would provide \$280,000 in funding over the next biennium for the Region 10 Quality Assurance Pilot Project.

The project is a two-year-old joint venture between Olmsted and Winona counties. It provides client-centered services rather than traditional regulatory or institutional-based programs.

A committee of local stakeholders works with county and state officials, as well as with a team of volunteers, to identify how best to meet needs and plan implementation strategies.

Far less emphasis is put on minimal performance standards and license specifications for services and more effort is focused on meeting everyday needs.

"I continue to be astounded by the mutual commitment of parents, advocates, counties, and providers to initiate real quality assurance and progress for people with developmental disabilities," said Frank J. Anderson Jr., chair of the Region 10 Quality Assurance Commission. "I have never, in any situation, seen such determination, time, and commitment by any group of people."

Bradley said he has long believed there has to be a better way to provide services and this may be it. He said it may even be an effective method for providing services for the elderly, as well.

At least five other counties in southeastern Minnesota are considering joining the experimental effort.

Bradley's bill will travel to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Homes in the community

A bill that would provide \$225,000 to Mount Olivet Rolling Acres in Victoria to implement a plan to help mentally disabled residents move to homes in the community was approved March 9 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Wayne Larson, executive director of the facility, said the plans have been approved by Minnesota Department of Health and Human Services, but a legislative OK is needed for the funding.

Any moves by residents from the facility to private homes would be voluntary.

The bill (HF480), sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), moves to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Sharing administrators

Two nursing homes in southeastern Minnesota would be able to share administrators under a bill the House passed March 11. The vote was 127-0.

The bill (HF454), sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), allows common management of facilities if they have a total of less than 150 beds, are located within 75 miles of each other, and the administrator divides time between the facilities in proportion to their number of beds.

Under current law, only homes under common ownership can share an administrator.

The bill goes to the governor.



INSURANCE

Liquor liability coverage

A bill that would raise the requirements of insurance coverage for liquor stores and bars was approved March 9 by the House Commerce Committee.

The insurance, known as dram-shop liability coverage, is required of those businesses in case an accident victim claims that the accident was caused, at least in part, because the business sold liquor to someone who was already intoxicated.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), sponsor of the bill (HF747), said the minimum limits for dram shop insurance haven't been increased since 1982.

Greg Felling of Minneapolis testified in support of the bill. Felling's father was killed in an accident involving a drunk driver. He said his family settled out of court for only \$50,000.

"I believe it would increase the financial responsibility of the insured and that public safety would be enhanced," he said.

McElroy described another instance in outstate Minnesota involving a woman who was unable to keep her house and put her children through school after her husband was killed by a drunk driver. The driver had been served at three different bars and was found to have a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.34 percent, McElroy said. Each establishment carried the minimum requirement for insurance.

Opponents of the bill say it would negatively affect rural areas, because most metro-area liquor stores and bars carry higher liability than state law requires.

Jim Farrell, executive director of the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association, said many businesses in small towns are already having trouble paying for insurance. And dram shop insurance isn't required of nonprofit

organizations or groups that have temporary licenses for special events, which means the liquor store or bar would be the target in a lawsuit, even if the person got drunk at a special event.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R- Stillwater) offered, and the committee accepted, an amendment that would require those organizations that carry temporary licenses to purchase dram shop liability coverage.

The bill moves to the House floor.



LAW

Court reporters for hire

The House passed a bill March 8 that would end the practice of freelance court reporters signing exclusive contracts to provide legal depositions for companies. The vote was 126-3.

The contracts are used by large companies, such as insurance firms, that frequently need the services of court reporters. Under such deals, the company agrees to use the court reporter exclusively and the court reporter provides services at a reduced rate. The practice is used as a way to reduce overall litigation costs.

The bill (HF346), sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), would make such contracts illegal and would give judges the authority to invalidate illegal depositions done under such contracts. Under the bill, court reporters could only be retained on a case-by-case basis.

Supporters of the bill claim that court reporters need to provide services that are neutral and fair, and that this practice casts doubts on the impartiality of the reporter.

The bill goes to the Senate.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Residency rules repealed



Minneapolis and St. Paul will not be able to require city employees to live within city limits, under a bill signed into law March 4. The new law became effective March 5.

The measure repeals laws that allowed those cities to make residency a condition for employment.

Proponents of the proposal, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), argued that residency requirements make it more difficult for those cities to hire and retain qualified employees.

Stanek, who works as a Minneapolis police

officer, said residency requirements also violate people's basic right to choose where they live.

The Legislature passed measures allowing residency requirements for Minneapolis in 1993 and for St. Paul in 1994. People hired since the requirements took effect have been required to live in the city (after a grace period to allow time to find housing).

The Senate bill was sponsored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

HF133*/SF107/CH260



SPORTS

Reprieve for stud users



The governor signed a bill March 4 to repeal an approaching statewide ban on metal traction devices — or studs — for snowmobiles.

Stud use remains illegal on paved trails. Damage to those trails caused by illegal use of studs prompted the 1998 law banning studs on all public lands as of July 1, 1999.

But the new law, effective March 5, repeals that law, which also included a requirement

that snowmobilers buy a \$50 sticker to use studs until the ban was to take place.

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), sponsor of the bill, said the special fee and pending ban have caused parts of the state to suffer from lost tourism revenue, and the repeal will help bring some tourism dollars back to the state.

Hackbarth is also sponsoring a separate bill (HF928) that would address the issue of repairing the paved trails damaged by illegal stud use.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF6*/SF40/CH4

New stud plan

A bill that would require snowmobilers to buy a \$10 sticker to use metal traction devices — or studs — was approved March 9 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Under the bill (HF928), proceeds from the \$10 fee would be used to repair damage to public paved trails.

State law passed in 1997 prohibits snowmobiles with studs from paved trails. The \$10 fee is designed to pay for damage caused by those who illegally drive snowmobiles with studs on paved trails.

A 1998 law banning the use of studs on all public lands was repealed effective March 5.

The \$10 fee would be charged only to Minnesota residents to avoid discouraging tourism in the state.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) said the fee would be waived in certain cases, such as for public safety officers.

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

CC ski fees heading north

Fees for cross-country ski passes would increase under a bill (HF842) approved March 9 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), sponsor of the bill, said those fees are too low to adequately maintain the current trails in the state, and much of the grooming and maintenance is done by volunteers.

The bill would make the fees \$2 for a daily pass, \$9 for an annual pass, and \$24 for a three-year pass. The current fees are \$1, \$5, and \$14, respectively. The bill would also remove reduced prices for married couples, which are now \$7.50 for an annual pass and \$21 for a three-year pass.

Under current law, passes are required for

Hooded hunter



Rosie, a hawk, is perched on a chair as the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee considers a bill March 10 that would exempt trappers from wearing blaze orange. Rosie's owner, Dan Orth of Woodbury, testified that the color blaze orange frightens the birds when they're in the field hunting.

skiers between the ages of 16 and 64, and Fuller's bill would make the fees apply to everyone 16 or older.

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



TAXES

Property tax woes

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) doesn't much like the state's property tax system.

He told the House Taxes Committee March 5 that the best course of action would probably be to throw a hand grenade into the middle of it and blow it up.

"It's an insult," Milbert said. "We reward people who don't take care of their property, and we ring up the people who do."

But he's not optimistic things are going to change significantly or quickly because of what he called "institutional momentum."

To deal with one of the three areas of the tax puzzle he believes is most out of whack, Milbert is sponsoring a bill (HF200) that would tweak the limited market value law already in place, scheduled to sunset in 2002.

The impact of limited market value is to stem increases the market value that is used to compute property taxes.

Under current law, increases in assessments of residential, farm, and seasonal-recreational residential market value are limited to 10 percent of the previous assessment or 25 percent of the difference between the current and previous assessments, whichever is greater.

Milbert's bill would expand limited market value to all classes and would change the computation formula to limit increases in market value.

Milbert said the state can control class rates and levies, but has little control over market value.

"If you can't control all three, you can't control property taxes," Milbert said.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the state might be better off if citizens, and not the Legislature, could control the market value.

Milbert said that sounds good, but that the fact is that the economy is so dynamic right now that the value of farm land is going up while commodity prices for items grown on the land is at near-record lows.

The net impact of the upward spiral of property taxes is that a number of Minnesota residents are being forced out of their homes, according to Dick Wray, director of Minne-

sota Seasonal and Recreational Property Owners Association.

"If you had hard figures on how many people have been forced to sell their homes because they couldn't afford to pay the property taxes, you'd blow the lid off this issue," Wray said.

Limited market value was first enacted in 1973 to deal with rapidly increasing property taxes. In 1979, the concept was challenged constitutionally, but the law was upheld in 1980 by the Minnesota Supreme Court.

From 1980 to 1992, limited market value disappeared from statute. It was revived in 1993.

Milbert sponsored similar legislation last session, introducing the lower cap on market value as an amendment to a tax bill on the House floor. It was adopted by the House but later dumped in a conference committee.

The bill could be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Taxes on tree trimmers

The severe storms of last spring and summer taught a lot of people a lot of things. They taught some people that the state's sales tax code can have some very long tentacles.

Donald Asleson of Minneapolis told the House Taxes Committee March 9 that it cost him \$3,800 to have trees removed from his property after two of the worst storms. The damage wasn't covered by insurance.

To make matters worse, he said, there was a 7-percent sales tax added to the final bill.

Asleson contacted Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls). Skoglund told the committee he

had been surprised to learn that tree removal after a major storm was subject to sales tax.

"The state gets a windfall whenever there's a windfall," Skoglund said.

He is sponsoring a bill (HF809) that would exempt tree and stump removal if the affected tree is on residential property, the trimming or removal is necessary because of storm damage, and the residential property owner is uninsured for the loss.

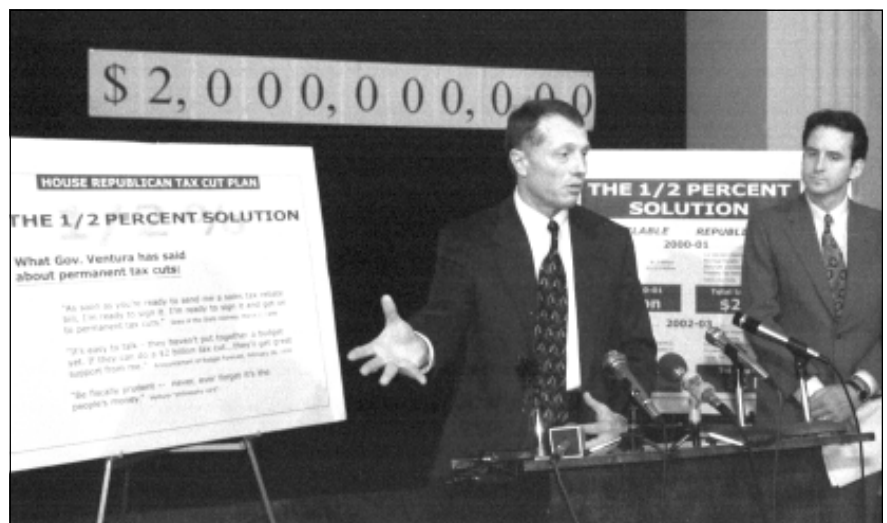
Skoglund's plan would administer the exemption as a tax refund. Sales tax would have to be paid on the service, and the property owner would have to file a refund claim with the Minnesota Department of Revenue documenting that the tax was paid and that the work met the conditions of the exemption.

The bill is similar to a sales tax exemption for tree damage included in a budget surplus rebate bill (HF1) currently in a House-Senate conference committee. The major difference in the two plans is the effective date. Skoglund's bill would be retroactive to Dec. 31, 1996, while the other proposal would extend the exemption back to March 1, 1998.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the taxes panel, said he shared Skoglund's shock in discovering tree removal after a storm was taxable. He said he supports the bill, but he questioned whether the state could legally exempt uninsured property owners while not exempting insurance companies who would pay someone to complete the work for their policy-holders.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Tax compromise offered



House Speaker Steve Sviggum extends a hand, saying he's ready to shake on an agreement for a sales tax rebate if Gov. Jesse Ventura and Senate leaders will agree to a 0.5-percent across-the-board income tax reduction. He was joined at the March 11 news conference by Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty.

The road to a tax break

Where will counties find money to repair roads and bridges in the coming years? Possibly, they'll do it with the help of a sales tax break.

That's the gist of a bill sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) that calls for a sales tax exemption for county purchases of gravel, equipment, and heavy motor vehicles.

Molnau told the House Taxes Committee March 9 that a similar exemption was extended to townships last year.

County officials told the committee their first choice would be a comprehensive exemption from sales tax for all county expenditures, but they also expressed support for the break for road-related purposes.

They noted that because the state has not hiked the gas tax since 1988, counties have had to rely on property taxes to fund road and bridge maintenance.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) said he would like to see the bill require that the actual savings be deposited in a dedicated fund specifically for roads and bridges.

The amounts counties would save in sales taxes under the bill range from \$550,000 in St. Louis County to \$18,000 in Cook County.

Each of the seven metro counties would realize between \$350,000 and \$450,000 in savings.

Counties would not pay sales tax for purchases of snowplows, dump trucks, and other motor vehicles used exclusively for road and bridge maintenance. Cars, vans, and pickup trucks, regardless of their use, would not be included in the exemption.

Overall, the exemption Molnau is proposing would result in a \$14 million dip in state tax collections.

The bill (HF671) was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Truckers seek tax cut

A bill that would exempt certain trucking materials from state sales tax was considered March 9 in the House Taxes Committee.

Under the plan, trucks, truck tractors, trailers, and related parts and accessories used for the interstate hauling of goods would qualify for the exemption.

The bill (HF1099), sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would encourage trucking firms to update their fleets with newer, more environmentally friendly vehicles, supporters told the committee.

Kuisle said that under existing law, all vehicles and the associated parts and accessories used in interstate commerce are exempt from the motor vehicle sales tax.

Instead, interstate carriers pay the general sales tax on a pro-rated basis on their equipment. The amount paid is based on the carrier's share of total miles driven in Minnesota, derived from the form they submit for motor vehicle registration purposes. The bill would eliminate that tax.

Thirty states already exempt interstate trucks from sales tax.

The state would lose about \$3.8 million revenue annually if the bill were to become law.

The measure was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

The tax on health nuts

Consumers who buy certain healthy, all-natural drinks pay sales tax. But those who purchase sugar-laden, preservative-filled beverages such as Tang and Kool Aid don't pay the tax.

That disparity doesn't make a lot of sense to many whole-foods sellers and consumers who testified March 9 before the House Taxes Committee in support of a bill that would exempt vitamins, minerals, and other dietary supplements from sales tax.

The bill (HF422) is sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls.).

Elizabeth Archerd, member services director of the Wedge Community Co-op in Minneapolis, said it's not fair to tax an item based on the "delivery method," or the goals of the consumer when buying it.

For example, the herb rosemary when sold fresh or dried for cooking is not taxed. However, dried rosemary capsules, which deliver a rich source of antioxidants, are taxed. She said the same is true for ginger, garlic, and broccoli sprouts, among other things.

And she noted the tax exemption was also needed to keep Minnesota retailers competitive with "e-tailers" — companies selling health foods over the Internet, which are not required to charge sales tax.

If adopted, the bill could result in a dip in tax revenues collected of more than \$12 million over the next biennium.

An almost identical bill (HF681), sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), was also considered. Both measures were laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Business tax shift sought

A proposed change in the way Minnesota taxes its 10,000 multi-state businesses could result in thousands of additional jobs in the coming years, according to proponents.

It could also force some companies to raise

the price of goods and services they sell, according to critics.

Those were the conclusions of people who testified March 9 before the House Taxes Committee.

The bill (HF703), sponsored by Rep. Henry Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), would end the practice of taxing corporations on a three-factor weighted formula — sales, payroll, and property — and would instead base the tax on sales only.

The net impact would be that corporations that manufacture products in Minnesota and sell them in other states would benefit. Those with home operations in other states would be pinched.

Supporters of the idea said it would be an excellent way to provide an advantage for Minnesota to attract high-wage manufacturing jobs.

According to Minnesota Department of Revenue estimates, the bill would cost the state \$110 million in the next biennium. However, supporters say that amount would be nearly offset in additional personal income tax collections from more workers.

Skeptics on the committee asked where any new industries attracted to the state through the tax revamp would find workers, given the extremely tight labor market. They also questioned whether a boost in manufacturing jobs would lead to an even greater shortage of affordable housing and urban sprawl.

A spokesman for the Minnesota Citizens League said his group supports the idea because the potential jobs wouldn't be in the retail sector where expansion generally means more competition for existing businesses and low-wage positions.

The Minnesota Business Partnership, Minnesota Taxpayers Association, and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce also expressed support.

Testifying against the proposal was a representative of AT&T, a company headquartered in New Jersey but with substantial sales in Minnesota.

"For companies like mine, the cost of doing business in Minnesota will increase and these additional costs may eventually be reflected in the prices for goods and services we sell, directly shifting the additional cost of the tax increase back to Minnesota citizens," said Teresa Lynch, government affairs coordinator for the telecommunications company.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.



TRANSPORTATION

Paying for Hwy. 55 raid

Local and state law enforcement officials approached lawmakers March 10 asking for funding to offset costs of the Dec. 20, 1998, investigation and raid on the protest effort in the Highway 55 corridor in Minneapolis.

The request was considered by the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Two hundred and twenty-five state troopers and 431 Minneapolis police officers participated in the attempt to remove a group of people protesting the re-route and expansion of Highway 55.

Protesters had been camped out at the site for several days, and some chained themselves to houses in an attempt to ward off bulldozers waiting to raze the homes in areas designated for construction.

"We walked away with no one getting hurt," said William Wilen, an investigator with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. "That was our goal."

In an operation ordered by then-Gov. Arne Carlson, officers arrested 34 people. A total of about \$378,000 was spent by the groups involved in the investigation, with the Minneapolis Police Department spending \$165,000 on overtime pay and barricades.

However, Minneapolis Police Chief Robert Olson told lawmakers that he is not seeking a specific amount from the state and would leave the decision to lawmakers on how much they would allot to the department.

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office is requesting \$56,000 and the Minnesota State Patrol is asking for \$149,000.

Committee chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said she was concerned about approving the request because of the possibility of setting a precedent of state aid to local law enforcement.

"This is something that we've not dealt with on this scope before," she said.

The requested funds are not yet in the form of a bill, and were not included in Gov. Jesse Ventura's original budget recommendations.

Lawmakers did not take any action on the request.

School bus seat belts

A bill that would provide aid to school districts that choose to put seat belts in school buses was approved March 11 by the House Transportation Policy Committee.

Under the bill (HF935), if a school district chose to install seat belts, it would have to

train students and parents to use them. And the Minnesota Department of Public Safety would be required to develop a seat belt standard for districts to follow.

Parents would also be able to opt out of seat belt use for their children, but would have to notify the school of their choice.

The use of seat belts in school buses has long been an issue of controversy because studies have differed on whether seat belts would improve or endanger the safety of students in the event of a crash.

Olson's bill does not specify grant amounts, but it would require a local, dollar-for-dollar funding match from the district.

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) is the bill's sponsor. The measure now moves to the House Civil Law Committee.

De-politicizing road repair

A measure aimed at streamlining the process through which transportation projects are selected for state funding was approved March 11 by the House Transportation Policy Committee.

The bill (HF698), sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), would create a 15-member major transportation projects commission made up of the governor, legislators, and gubernatorial appointees.

Its duties would be to review all projects with estimated price tags of more than \$5 million and to recommend certain projects be approved by the Legislature for construction. The Minnesota Department of Transportation would submit a list of projects every year to the commission.

The commission would be required to prioritize the list of pending projects and submit it to the governor and the Legislature.

However, the Legislature would be barred from passing bills for projects not on the commission's approved list. This provision aims to de-politicize transportation projects and avoid situations of lawmakers competing for money to fund projects within their districts.

In addition, the transportation department would be prohibited from going ahead on any major project without legislative approval.

The bill moves to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Paperwork for plates

A bill that would reduce the steps required to obtain disability license plates was approved March 9 by the House Transportation Policy Committee.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is sponsoring the legislation (HF165/SF460*).

The measure would affect anyone who applies for a set of disability license plates for a vehicle that has been modified for permanent use by a person with a disability.

It would do away with the current requirement that people must provide additional proof of their disability by a physician's statement or other means to obtain the special license plates.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

Safer motorcycling

The House passed a bill (HF766) March 11 that would allow motorcycles to display a blue rear brake light. The vote was 129-0.

Under current state law, only emergency vehicles, snowplows, and road maintenance vehicles can display the blue light.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights), the bill's sponsor, said the blue light would improve safety for riders by increasing the visibility of motorcycles on the road.

The bill moves to the Senate.

Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Administration | 296-6013 |
| Agriculture | 297-2200 |
| Children, Families and Learning | 582-8200 |
| Commerce | 296-4026 |
| Corrections | 642-0200 |
| Economic Security | 296-3644 |
| Employee Relations | 297-1184 |
| Job Information | 296-2616 |
| Finance | 296-5900 |
| Health | 215-5803 |
| Human Rights | 296-5663 |
| Toll Free | 1-800-657-3704 |
| Human Services | 296-6117 |
| Labor and Industry | 296-6107 |
| Military Affairs | 282-4662 |
| Natural Resources | 296-6157 |
| Pollution Control Agency | 296-6300 |
| Public Safety | 296-6642 |
| Driver and Vehicle Services ... | 296-6911 |
| Fire Marshal | 215-0500 |
| Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division | 296-6159 |
| State Patrol | 297-3935 |
| Public Service | 296-5120 |
| Revenue Taxpayer Assistance | 296-3781 |
| Toll Free | 1-800-652-9094 |
| Trade and Economic Development | 297-1291 |
| Office of Tourism | 296-5029 |
| Transportation | 296-3000 |
| Veterans Affairs | 296-2562 |
| State Information | 296-6013 |

Gerlach hammers home plans to give taxes the ax

By Grant Martin

If Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley) ever runs for president, he can boast of actual experience with his finger on the button.



Rep. Chris Gerlach

Gerlach, who served as a captain in the Air Force from 1988 to 1993, commanded a nuclear missile crew in a control center in South Dakota.

"Actually, the myth is that it's a button," he said. "There are many buttons. But it's actually a key."

Gerlach and his crew worked 24-hour shifts in the underground, shock-resistant facility, where his team was responsible for upkeep and maintenance of both the control center and the nuclear missiles.

"Of course, the purpose of being there is that should you get the orders to launch, you decode the messages, you go through all the launch procedures, and you have a nuclear war," he said.

Gerlach's military career began during the cold war when the Soviet Union was referred to as the "evil empire," and ended after the fall of the Iron Curtain. So he spent his last years in the Air Force actually deactivating nuclear weapons.

One of his favorite pastimes while in the service was participating in political discussions. He said there were good debates because officers in the military tend to be well-educated and politically knowledgeable.

"It's also a very conservative group, so we often had to try to find some people to disagree with," he said.

Gerlach currently lives in Apple Valley with his wife, Shelli. He works as a telecommunications sales representative.

The youngest in a family of six children, Gerlach grew up in the district he now serves. His parents moved into one of the first housing developments in Apple Valley.

Although his parents attended a few precinct caucuses, Gerlach said that his family wasn't very political.

"Politics was never an issue in my family," he said. "Nobody ever discussed politics."

Gerlach stumbled into the political arena following several less-than-stellar grades in calculus at the University of St. Thomas. Realizing that his computer science ambitions wouldn't become a reality, he started looking for a new major.

"I decided that I would jump ship on the computer science and switch over to political science, which I loved," he said. "It was one of the best decisions I ever made."

When he returned to Minnesota in 1993 following his service in the Air Force, Gerlach became active with several local political campaigns, including managing former Rep. Eileen Tompkins' 1994 campaign for the House. And in 1996, he worked on Phil Gramm's presidential campaign in Minnesota.

Gerlach said those experiences taught him a good deal about politics that wasn't covered in the classroom.

"A great portion of it is about personalities and people," he said. "The academic study of political science is devoid of that. To be successful in politics you have to understand people."

When Tompkins decided not to run in 1998, Gerlach decided to run for her seat, and in November he won his first elected position.

Gerlach said he will focus on the issues that he "hammered on" during the campaign — crime, education, and, most importantly, taxes.

"The tax burden in Minnesota is outra-

geous at all levels — be it income tax, sales tax, property taxes. You name it," he said.

Gerlach said that Minnesota ranks 17th in the nation in wages before taxes. After taxes are taken out, he said, the state ranks 43rd.

"To me, that's outrageous," he said.

To that end, Gerlach is a co-sponsor of a House Republican permanent income-tax reduction proposal. He is also a co-sponsor on a larger tax cut plan, which calls for a 1-percent across-the-board cut.

"If I was issued a magic wand when I got this office, I would wave it and do that," he said.

Gerlach also said that the Legislature needs to curb its appetite on spending.

"It's funny because you walk in and it says 'No Solicitations,'" he said, referring to a sign on the front door of the State Office Building. "That's all that goes on here. People are asking for money. This place is designed for that."

Gerlach readily admits that he isn't a "policy wonk." He said that he realizes that his strengths lie in connecting people to the political process. And, he said, those skills are important for the Legislature.

"There is a handful of policy wonks, and there's a handful of people people," he said. "Altogether, collectively, it works."

District 36A

1995 population: 38,400

Largest city: Apple Valley

County: Dakota

Location: south suburban metro

Top concern: "The biggest thing is tax cuts. All through the campaign I hammered on that. I think that was clearly a significant portion of why I won by the margin I did."

— Rep. Chris Gerlach

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

TTY, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Lawmaker's agenda built on northern economic concerns

By Paul Wahl

Each Sunday, Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack) leaves his home in the quiet woods of northern Minnesota and journeys to the din and hubbub of St. Paul to represent the people of District 4B.



Rep. Larry Howes

He brings with him a great awareness of the voters he represents, and he also brings along a belief in common sense and fundamental values.

"I'm just an average guy doing an average job," said Howes, who has been involved in Republican politics for the past decade.

Among his credits are a stint as chair of the 8th Congressional District for U.S. Sen. Rod Grams' campaign and a variety of political jobs to which he attributes a great number of blisters on his feet.

"I've worked parade routes in 50 percent of the towns in the 8th Congressional District for one candidate or another," Howes said.

Last year, when party leaders began to look for a House candidate from Howes' district, he initially did not even consider running because he was the district's party chair. But when no viable candidate came forward, Howes said he'd run if the people encouraged him.

They did. He did. And he won.

"I think really the reason I won is that I didn't try to pretend to be someone I wasn't,"

Howes said. "I pretty much told people what you see is what you get. I'll come down here as a freshman, but I don't believe I'll be a rookie."

Howes said all his years working for the party prepared him for what the legislative process entails.

"It's taken me less time to understand the majority process than the incumbents—nothing against the incumbents," he said. "It's just that for so long they've been in the minority, so they tend to feel they need to talk incessantly to get their bill passed when all they have to do is sit down, shut up, and vote."

Howes serves on the House Commerce Committee, Health and Human Resources Policy Committee, and the environment and natural resources finance and policy committees.

Representing his district means working on bills that impact its three major endeavors: tourism, hunting, and logging.

"I believe Cass County is the lowest county in the state with regard to manufacturing jobs," Howes said. "In fact, it's one of the lowest in the country."

Tourism in Cass County consists primarily of mom-and-pop resorts. Howes has worked on several proposals aimed at providing tax relief and extending the number of days resorts can operate and still qualify for a reduced property tax rate.

The district also has a large number of hunters, so he's sponsoring a bill that would offer a lifetime hunting and fishing license.

Howes is also trying to convince his fellow legislators to increase state funding for the Mississippi Headwaters Board, which oversees issues relating to the river's northernmost 400 miles.

He explained that the river is under federal jurisdiction, but the U.S. Forest Service has allowed this board to take the lead in a variety of environmental issues.

"They're watching us to see how we do the job," Howes said. "As long as we continue to do a good job, they'll stay out of there. Anytime the locals can do the job, the big guy doesn't have to come to town."

So far, Howes has found his work in the House challenging, but he said the quality of the staff, both partisan and nonpartisan, has lightened the load and earned his respect.

"Just because you author a bill doesn't make you a hero, doesn't make you important," Howes said. "It simply means you're the vehicle for all these wonderful people who work down here to do their job. And if they do their job well, your bill gets passed and it helps the people of your district."

District 4B

1995 population: 35,734

Largest city: Park Rapids

Counties: Itasca, Cass, Hubbard, Wadena

Location: north-central Minnesota

Top concern: "I am here representing 35,000 people. That's why I'm here. They've called on me to vote for them, and that's what I'm doing."

— Rep. Larry Howes

House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the *Session Weekly* newsmagazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature's World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

Senate Information Office

231 State Capitol (651) 296-0504

The Senate Information Office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information, and the distribution of bill copies.

Senate Media Services

B-44 State Capitol (651) 296-0264

Senate Media Services, a bipartisan office, produces television programs, multi-media productions, scriptwriting, photography and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

Bill Introductions

HF1484-HF1896

Monday, March 8

HF1484—Anderson, I. (DFL) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Unicameral legislature with four-year terms provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1485—Howes (R) **Taxes**

Deep Portage environmental learning center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF1486—Workman (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Prohibition against certain metals in products repealed.

HF1487—Wenzel (DFL) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minimum fire state aid eligibility expanded to post-1993 relief associations.

HF1488—Chaudhary (DFL) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Housing pilot project established in Hilltop, and money appropriated.

HF1489—Chaudhary (DFL) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Military bonus program established for members of the national guard or reserve components ordered to active duty, and money appropriated.

HF1490—Mullery (DFL) **Crime Prevention**

Hennepin and Ramsey counties community service crime prevention grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1491—Larsen, P. (R) **Transportation Policy**

Annual overweight permit for firefighting equipment authorized.

HF1492—Larsen, P. (R) **Transportation Policy**

Pavement ends sign required for highways.

HF1493—Ozment (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Public waters wetlands classification modified.

HF1494—Olson (R) **Civil Law**

Inmate actions challenging rehabilitation program expenditure levels modified to include employee assignments.

HF1495—McElroy (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Payment of commissions provided after employee termination, and certain fees prohibited to applicants or employees.

HF1496—Kubly (DFL) **Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Family farm advocates and agriculture information centers appropriated money.

HF1497—Ness (R) **K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 466, Dassel-Cokato, appropriated money for a technology grant.

HF1498—Lindner (R) **Transportation Finance**

Metropolitan Council appropriated money for express bus service between Rogers and downtown Minneapolis.

HF1499—Workman (R) **Commerce**

Recreational vehicle guests included in regulations governing hotels and guests when staying at hotel.

HF1500—Larson, D. (DFL) **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Unnecessary Metropolitan Council financial report eliminated.

HF1501—Larson, D. (DFL) **Transportation Policy**

Vehicle weight inspection regulations modified.

HF1502—Rhodes (R) **Crime Prevention**

Bias crimes provided additional penalty enhancements.

HF1503—Fuller (R) **Civil Law**

Attorney fees awarded in certain municipal contract cases.

HF1504—Winter (DFL) **Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural cooperative member protections required and certain actions prohibited.

HF1505—Carruthers (DFL) **Taxes**

Nonprescription drugs and residential fuels exempted from sales tax.

HF1506—Howes (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Trade and economic development tourism appropriations provided.

HF1507—Skoe (DFL) **Transportation Policy**

Certain motor vehicle written application requirements eliminated.

HF1508—Kelliher (DFL) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Mercury reduction provided and money appropriated.

HF1509—Mahoney (DFL) **Crime Prevention**

Asian-Pacific violence prevention grants authorized and money appropriated.

HF1510—Erhardt (R) **Commerce**

Filing fees modified for securities issued by open end management companies and unit investments trusts.

HF1511—Carruthers (DFL) **Taxes**

General sales tax rate reduction provided.

HF1512—Entenza (DFL) **Education Policy**

Area learning centers modified to include programs for children who speak a language other than English, grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1513—Carruthers (DFL) **K-12 Education Finance**

Basicskills intervention programs funding created, and money appropriated.

HF1514—Daggett (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Perham business technology center appropriation provided.

HF1515—Daggett (R) **Taxes**

Certain assisted living facility property tax exemption provided.

HF1516—Daggett (R) **Commerce**

Detroit Lakes additional liquor license authorized.

HF1517—Haas (R) **Health & Human Services Policy**

Licensed family child care providers exempted from certain voluntary standards, permanent age groups established, and rule advisory group established.

HF1518—Mariani (DFL) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Community resources program appropriation provided.

HF1519—Mahoney (DFL) **Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior citizen drug program expanded, endowment fund created, and money appropriated.

HF1520—Buesgens (R) **K-12 Education Finance**

Murphy's Landing; historical educational programming grants authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1521—Howes (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Sustainable lakes educational program appropriation provided.

HF1522—Larsen, P. (R) **Transportation Policy**

Cities authorized to establish speed limits for streets under their jurisdiction.

HF1523—Vandever (R) **Transportation Policy**

School zone speed limit of 25 miles per hour established.

HF1524—Davids (R)
Commerce

Financial transaction card regulation provided, and minimum payment disclosures required.

HF1525—Skoe (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Gross income definition modified under the MinnesotaCare program.

HF1526—Tuma (R)
Higher Education Finance

Minnesota promise scholarship and intervention investment program established, and money appropriated.

HF1527—Kubly (DFL)
Taxes

Granite Falls multipurpose center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF1528—Skoe (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Wheat and barley scab disease research funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1529—Nornes (R)
K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 542, Battle Lake, technology grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1530—Finseth (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Potato aphid research appropriation provided.

HF1531—Finseth (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Seed potato inspection appropriation provided.

HF1532—Jennings (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Chisago County authorized to convey and privately sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF1533—Howes (R)
Taxes

State payments to counties containing Indian gaming casinos increased.

HF1534—Olson (R)
Transportation Policy

School bus and driver traffic regulations modified.

HF1535—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law

Creditor remedies enforcement suspended during time of jury service.

HF1536—Holsten (R)
Commerce

Direct shipment law modified relating to liquor, permits required for common carriers and delivery agents, and certain criminal penalties increased.

HF1537—Westrom (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

University of Minnesota defined as a governmental unit relating to joint powers agreements.

HF1538—Vandevveer (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Townships authorized to create capital reserve funds.

HF1539—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Olmsted County regional trail appropriation provided.

HF1540—Larson, D. (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Employee transfer provided between Metropolitan Council and other political subdivisions.

HF1541—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Group long-term care coverage provided for members and annuitants of public employees pension funds and other eligible persons.

HF1542—Carruthers (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance

Facilities grant authorized to Independent School District No. 286, Brooklyn Center, and money appropriated.

HF1543—Hausman (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Uniform Municipal Contracting Act procedure and definitions update provided.

HF1544—Hausman (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Governmental units exempted to jointly or cooperatively contract.

HF1545—Van Dellen (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Prompt payment required by health plan companies of proper claims submitted by patients and health care providers.

HF1546—Holberg (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Grant provided for an organization to develop and administer a residential program for women leaving prostitution, and money appropriated.

HF1547—Bishop (R)
Higher Education Finance

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities capital improvements authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1548—Ness (R)
Taxes

Meeker County authorized to impose aggregate production tax.

HF1549—Buesgens (R)
Crime Prevention

Fire investigator licensure required.

HF1550—Ozment (R)
Transportation Policy

Highway right-of-way claims of loss liability governed.

HF1551—Ozment (R)
Transportation Policy

Transportation state contracts provisions modified, departmental technical corrections provided, and funding amounts modified.

HF1552—Ozment (R)
Crime Prevention

DWI; driver's license revocation and reinstatement provisions modified, and waiting period required for limited driver's license after certain violations and convictions.

HF1553—Ozment (R)
Crime Prevention

Department of Corrections provisions modified relating to conditional release, restitution, and rehabilitation, sentence clarification provided, and reports required.

HF1554—Ozment (R)
Crime Prevention

Department of Corrections authorized to contract with Department of Human Services to conduct criminal history background checks for job applicants for juvenile corrections facilities.

HF1555—Ozment (R)
Crime Prevention

Court-ordered screening required prior to making dispositional orders for out-of-home placement in certain juvenile cases.

HF1556—Ozment (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Civil service pilot project extended in the Housing Finance Agency.

HF1557—Ozment (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Child labor law violation penalties increased.

HF1558—Ozment (R)
Agriculture Policy

Board of Grain Standards provisions and duties modified, rulemaking authorized, and definitions clarified.

HF1559—Ozment (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Cost allocation system modified for the metropolitan disposal system.

HF1560—Ozment (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Design-build construction method authorized for certain state agency contracts.

HF1561—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Metropolitan Council authorized to offer early retirement incentive.

HF1562—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy

Developmental disabilities provisions modified, consolidated standards intent clarified and expanded to include respite sites, medication administration clarified, and family support program provisions modified.

HF1563—Entenza (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy

Child support procedures and requirements modified, certain clarifications made, account created, and money appropriated.

HF1564—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce

Commissioner of commerce enforcement authority provided, service of process and residential building contractors and remodelers regulated, and criminal penalties provided.

HF1565—Anderson, B. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Eligibility expanded for certain state military service.

HF1566—Leppik (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Clean Indoor Air Act provisions modified.

HF1567—Seifert, M. (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Regional emergency response training center in Marshall bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1568—Boudreau (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Certain state building code authority, enforcement, and inspection provisions transferred to commissioner of administration.

HF1569—Boudreau (R)
Education Policy
Site council recommendations provided for board appointments, provisions clarified relating to the Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and Blind, and money appropriated.

HF1570—Tingelstad (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Teacher retirement survivorship interest assigned to estate.

HF1571—Harder (R)
Civil Law
Covenant marriages provided.

HF1572—Dawkins (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Paul tax increment financing district extended.

HF1573—Gray (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Minnesota adolescent parenting grant program provided, and money appropriated.

HF1574—Kalis (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided city of Blue Earth, and bond sale authorized.

HF1575—Storm (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for North Mankato, and bond sale authorized.

HF1576—Winter (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Tracy, and bond sale authorized.

HF1577—Lindner (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Training for people with disabilities appropriation provided to Advocating Change Together, Inc. (ACT).

HF1578—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Certain group residential housing facilities maximum reimbursement rate exception provided, sunset removed on eligibility for certain state programs, and money appropriated.

HF1579—Dehler (R)
Crime Prevention
Sheriffs outside of municipalities permitted to consent to the furnishing of firearms to minors under 14 years of age.

HF1580—Hasskamp (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Crosslake, and bond sale authorized.

HF1581—Hasskamp (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided Nisswa, and bond sale authorized.

HF1582—Biernat (DFL)
Education Policy
Education and job training assistance provided for newly arrived immigrants, and money appropriated.

HF1583—Anderson, B. (R)
Crime Prevention
Firearm report requirement repealed.

HF1584—Swenson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Separate turkey hunting license selection provisions modified.

HF1585—McElroy (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Definitions modified relating to state employment, and certain pilot project administrative procedures redesigned.

HF1586—Swenson (R)
Agriculture Policy
Certain land authorized to be enrolled in more than one state or federal conservation program.

HF1587—Cassell (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Department of Labor and Industry data privacy provisions modified.

HF1588—Skoglund (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Metropolitan area transit and paratransit capital expenditures financing provided.

HF1589—Skoglund (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Annual financing of metropolitan area transit and paratransit capital expenditures provided.

HF1590—Mahoney (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Warrant authority of alcohol and gaming agents clarified.

HF1591—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State employment affirmative action provisions modified.

HF1592—Mullery (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Penalties provided for violations of employment agency provisions, and licensure and registration provisions clarified.

HF1593—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Loan forgiveness program established for certain pharmacy students established, sole community pharmacy financial assistance authorized, and drug therapy management pilot project established.

HF1594—Anderson, B. (R)
Crime Prevention
Felony penalties provided dissemination of child pornography.

HF1595—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Review and complaint procedures modified relating to health plans.

HF1596—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Planning and transition grant program established for providers of older adult services, and money appropriated.

HF1597—Paulsen (R)
Taxes
Sales tax on health club memberships repealed.

HF1598—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Ottertail County solid waste recovery center operation appropriation provided.

HF1599—Dehler (R)
Education Policy
Minnesota career and technical education leadership council established.

HF1600—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Tobacco settlement money disposition provided, Minnesota families foundation established, health-related endowment funds created, and money appropriated.

HF1601—Tuma (R)
Higher Education Finance
Database access program for libraries and schools modified, and Higher Education Services Office appropriation provided.

HF1602—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Prescription drug coverage for the senior drug program clarified, medical assistance eligibility and income provisions modified, and other health care provider provisions clarified.

HF1603—Daggett (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Landfill cleanup program obsolete accounting and reporting requirements repealed.

HF1604—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided Good Thunder, and bond sale authorized.

HF1605—Hilty (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Hinckley, and bond sale authorized.

HF1606—Murphy (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Twin Lakes Township, and bond sale authorized.

HF1607—Smith (R)
Crime Prevention
Peace officers of law enforcement agencies of federally recognized tribes included in Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training licensure provisions.

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| <p>HF1608—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy Omnibus health and human services bill including data classification, modifying maternal and child health provisions, modifying the Minnesota Health Care Administrative Simplification Act, and providing penalties.</p> | <p>HF1618—Bakk (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Tofte, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1628—Kelliher (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Metropolitan transit system operation performance audit schedule changed.</p> | <p>HF1638—Tuma (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Design-build contracts authorized, and exempt rules provided.</p> |
| <p>HF1609—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy Long-term care provisions and nursing facilities payment rates modified.</p> | <p>HF1619—Bakk (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Castle Danger area in Silver Creek Township, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1629—Otremba (DFL) K-12 Education Finance Average per pupil requirement for debt service equalization reduced.</p> | <p>HF1639—Chaudhary (DFL) Taxes Income tax credit allowed for children, and money appropriated.</p> |
| <p>HF1610—Nornes (R) Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Child care improvement grants modified, and money appropriated.</p> | <p>HF1620—Greenfield (DFL) Health & Human Services Finance Community health clinic grant programs appropriated money.</p> | <p>HF1630—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy Commissioner of Human Services data access expanded, county retention of overpayments modified, photographic evidence provisions clarified, and federal waiver allowing administrative disqualification for medical assistance requested.</p> | <p>HF1640—Chaudhary (DFL) Taxes Income tax credit allowed for children, and money appropriated.</p> |
| <p>HF1611—McGuire (DFL) Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Student eligibility criteria clarified under basic sliding fee child care assistance, counties prohibited from paying parents directly, and money appropriated.</p> | <p>HF1621—Osskopp (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Judicial review provisions modified relating to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency decisions, and incinerator monitor requirements modified.</p> | <p>HF1631—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy Protocol established for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens in certain settings, and criminal penalties imposed.</p> | <p>HF1641—Juhnke (DFL) Transportation Policy Vehicles carrying milk exempted from seasonal weight restrictions under certain circumstances.</p> |
| <p>HF1612—Westfall (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Dilworth, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1622—Gerlach (R) Commerce Contracts regulated for architects, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists, and interior designers.</p> | <p>HF1632—Ozment (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Cannon Falls, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1642—Fuller (R) Crime Prevention Sanctions conference procedure established to impose probation sanctions for violations, and judicial districts requested to develop procedures and forms.</p> |
| <p>HF1613—Storm (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Tenant screening fees limited.</p> | <p>HF1623—Chaudhary (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Economic development assistance provided to Fridley, and money appropriated.</p> | <p>HF1633—Otremba (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Patient rights and protections provided to health care enrollees.</p> | <p>HF1643—Huntley (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for western Lake Superior sanitary district biosolids management project, and bond sale authorized.</p> |
| <p>HF1614—Tuma (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Northfield, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1624—Cassell (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Minnesota association of resource conservation and development appropriation provided.</p> | <p>HF1634—Otremba (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Long Prairie housing and redevelopment authority authorized to issue bonds to renovate the Hotel Reichert building regardless of ownership.</p> | <p>HF1644—Knoblach (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Water quality rules changes implemented.</p> |
| <p>HF1615—Kielkucki (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Plato, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1625—Skoglund (DFL) Crime Prevention Trigger locks required on the transfer of certain pistols and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons, and criminal penalties imposed.</p> | <p>HF1635—Otremba (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Senior citizen drug program eligibility expanded, and funding cap removed.</p> | <p>HF1645—Knoblach (R) Education Policy Truancy prevention pilot program provided, and money appropriated.</p> |
| <p>HF1616—Bakk (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Ely Department of Revenue building renovation appropriation provided.</p> | <p>HF1626—Ness (R) Commerce Poultry litter included as renewable energy resource relating to biomass electricity production.</p> | <p>HF1636—Otremba (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Comprehensive advanced life support training program established, and money appropriated.</p> | <p>HF1646—Boudreau (R) Civil Law Certain relatives provided child visitation rights.</p> |
| <p>HF1617—Bakk (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Schroeder Township, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1627—Osskopp (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy Wastewater funding provided for Lake City, and bond sale authorized.</p> | <p>HF1637—Otremba (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Definition of gross income modified under the MinnesotaCare program, and MinnesotaCare asset requirement repealed.</p> | <p>HF1647—Wejcman (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy MFIP exit level increased, and money appropriated.</p> |
| | | | <p>HF1648—Wejcman (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Medical assistance income standard increased for persons who are aged, blind, or disabled.</p> |

HF1649—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Commissioner of Human Services authorized to approve University of Minnesota student parent MFIP program.

HF1650—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Day training and habilitation providers reimbursed for days the provider was closed due to severe weather.

HF1651—Wolf (R)
Commerce
Minnesota retail electric competition act requiring transition to competitive industry, restructuring plans required, unbundling of services required, civil remedies provided, and money appropriated.

HF1652—Huntley (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for north shore area planning and design for the western Lake Superior sanitary district, and bond sale authorized.

HF1653—Huntley (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Pike Lake project in the Western Lake Superior sanitary district, and bond sale authorized.

HF1654—Osskopp (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Open competition provided for state telecommunications services, state competition with the private sector prohibited, and other conforming changes provided.

HF1655—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Minnesota commission serving deaf and hard-of-hearing people appropriation provided.

HF1656—Dawkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Rent escrow and tenant remedy actions expanded to include improper and retaliatory notices.

HF1657—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law
Mandatory expungement of certain eviction cases required, and discretionary expungement allowed in other cases.

HF1658—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Prompt payments required by health maintenance organizations and non-profit health service plan corporations of certain claims made by home care providers, error reporting required, and penalties established.

HF1659—Rifenberg (R)
Jobs and Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Lewiston, and bond sale authorized.

HF1660—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Nonprofit organization employees performing duties incidental to research exempted from the unlawful practice of medicine.

HF1661—Tuma (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 392, Le Center, provided a technology integration grant.

HF1662—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Omnibus human services bill, affecting medical assistance, general assistance, MinnesotaCare, and other state medical programs.

HF1663—Pelowski (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Wastewater funding provided for Rollingstone, and bond sale authorized.

HF1664—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance reimbursement proposals required for mental health and other treatment in children's residential treatment programs, rehabilitation services, and targeted case management services for vulnerable adults.

HF1665—Munger (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Amphibian research funding appropriation provided.

HF1666—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Lake of the Isles flood mitigation appropriation provided.

HF1667—Westrom (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Design and engineering appropriation provided for Minnesota river trail from Appleton to the Milan Beach on Lake Lac Qui Parle.

HF1668—Abrams (R)
Civil Law
Lien established for commercial real estate broker commissions.

HF1669—Tuma (R)
Commerce
Accountant licensure requirements modified.

HF1670—Rukavina (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Electronic monitoring of employees regulated, and criminal penalties provided.

HF1671—Kelliher (DFL)
Civil Law
Statutory definition of family expanded.

HF1672—Dawkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Enterprise zone incentive grants authorized for certain purposes by Minneapolis and St. Paul.

HF1673—Pawlenty (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Minnesota Zoological Gardens appropriated money for operating costs of the children's farm.

HF1674—Harder (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Windom economic development grant provided.

HF1675—Wolf (R)
Commerce
Auto glass repair and replacement regulated, and certain rebates and incentives restricted.

HF1676—Swenson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Minnesota River basin appropriation provided.

HF1677—Carlson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Metro homework hotline grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1678—Kelliher (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
MFIP eligibility provisions modified, exit plans allowed, child support arrearage forgiveness policies required, and TANF block grant funds transferred to decrease case loads and for the basic sliding fee child care program.

HF1679—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Ways & Means
Fiscal biennium changed to begin with even-numbered years, and legislative approval required for federal money expenditures.

HF1680—Clark, K. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Voluntary registration programs established for general, specialized, and health care interpreters, pilot training program for interpreters developed, and money appropriated.

HF1681—Winter (DFL)
Commerce
Purchase agreements required to permit rescission by seller in event of damage to property prior to closing.

HF1682—Jennings (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Commercial driving school vehicles used exclusively in driver education and training exempted from registration taxes.

HF1683—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Organization of the House of Representatives provided for in the case of a tie vote for house officer.

HF1684—Holsten (R)
Commerce
Stillwater additional on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

HF1685—Greiling (DFL)
Education Policy
Task force on transitional issues affecting State Board of Education powers and duties recommendations implemented.

HF1686—Carlson (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Higher education state grant calculation modified.

HF1687—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Child welfare provisions modified.

HF1688—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Adult mental health day treatment and consolidated chemical dependency treatment fund requirements modified.

HF1689—Olson (R)**Civil Law**

Parental and guardian liability increased for property damage done by minors, and liability of parents and guardians provided in court-ordered restitution cases involving minors.

HF1690—Rhodes (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Occupational regulatory coordinating council established, and duties identified.

HF1691—Westfall (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Public facilities authority appropriation provided.

HF1692—Ozment (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Chub Lake scientific and natural area appropriation provided.

HF1693—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public employment technical and administrative changes provided.

HF1694—Stanek (R)**Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Crime prevention grants authorized to cities of the first class, and money appropriated.

HF1695—Seagren (R)**Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Adult education support services set aside provided, and money appropriated.

HF1696—Mariani (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Early childhood and family education, ECFE, revenue increased, and money appropriated.

HF1697—Nornes (R)**Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Male responsibility and fathering grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1698—Jennings (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Snowmobile speed limit prescribed in urban districts, and cities authorized to establish speed limits greater or less than prescribed limit.

HF1699—Rostberg (R)**Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Grant program established to promote, recruit, and train young people to be caregivers to at-risk youth, and money appropriated.

HF1700—Paulsen (R)**Taxes**

Metropolitan revenue distribution altered to provide distribution to counties based on uncompensated health care costs.

HF1701—Tunheim (DFL)**Taxes**

Lake of the Woods and Koochiching counties authorized to expend certain taxes in any township.

HF1702—Wagenius (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Duplicative toxic chemical release reporting requirements eliminated, and obsolete provisions removed.

HF1703—McElroy (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Camp Heartland center grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1704—Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Regulation and causes of action by political subdivisions against firearms industry limited.

HF1705—Fuller (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Beltrami, Marshall, and Roseau counties; certain ditch assessments paid, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, March 10**HF1706—McCollum (DFL)****State Government Finance**

National World War II memorial fund contribution provided and money appropriated.

HF1707—Haake (R)**Crime Prevention**

Sex offender registration requirement use in plea negotiations prohibited.

HF1708—Seifert, J. (R)**Commerce**

Fire insurance property and liability provisions modified, and FAIR plan coverage regulated.

HF1709—Mullery (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Sand, gravel, and other similar loads height and weight limitations modified.

HF1710—Molnau (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

Carver wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1711—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical assistance 12-month continuous eligibility provided to children ages 2 through 18.

HF1712—Buesgens (R)**Commerce**

Political subdivision public right-of-way management authority modified.

HF1713—Holberg (R)**Crime Prevention**

Convicted sexually psychopathic and sexually dangerous offenders provided indeterminate sentencing.

HF1714—Goodno (R)**Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Pharmacists to pharmacy technicians ratio waivers granted by the board of pharmacy and ratio requirements modified.

HF1715—Paymar (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Minnesota center for crime victim services created, powers and duties transferred, and grants-in-aid authorized.

HF1716—Osskopp (R)**Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public employee definition modified.

HF1717—Hasskamp (DFL)**Taxes**

Lawful gambling, pull-tabs, tip-boards, and combined receipts tax rates reduced.

HF1718—Krinkie (R)**Commerce**

Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Bloomington extended on-sale liquor hours authorized; and hours restriction exemption provided.

HF1719—Skoglund (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; alcohol-related restriction violation occurring while driving a motor vehicle provided gross misdemeanor penalty.

HF1720—Tuma (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Dental practice act technical change provided.

HF1721—Kelliher (DFL)**Taxes**

Residential homestead first tier property valuation limit increased, education homestead credit rate increased, and general education levy reduced.

HF1722—Trimble (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

St. Paul Dale Street shops, Maxson Steel, and the former Stroh Brewery capital redevelopment activities grant provided; and money appropriated.

HF1723—Dempsey (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Children's Museum's Ready?Set.Read! program grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1724—Rukavina (DFL)**Local Government &****Metropolitan Affairs**

Mountain Iron tax increment financing district established and exemption provided.

HF1725—Boudreau (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Home visiting programs to promote child safety and healthy development established, county program operation and evaluation requirements provided, and money appropriated.

HF1726—Bradley (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health record access regulated and patient definition expanded to include surviving children.

HF1727—Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

Rideshare program data classification provided.

HF1728—Seifert, J. (R)**Commerce**

Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design fees and continuing education provisions modified; and penalties increased.

HF1729—Tunheim (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

Williams wastewater treatment grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1730—Skoglund (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; offender's right to an independent alcohol concentration test while in custody eliminated.

HF1731—Skoglund (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; shortened license revocation period for first-time offenders with an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more prohibited.

HF1732—Mulder (R)**Taxes**

Agricultural property school district tax credit provided and money appropriated.

HF1733—Skoglund (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Preliminary breath test results permitted as admissible evidence in cases involving implied consent test refusal.

HF1734—Winter (DFL)**Commerce**

Uniform farm and equipment dealers warranty reimbursement act adopted.

HF1735—Winter (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Telecommunications access grant program made permanent, additional funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1736—Luther (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) local elected official retirement annuity eligibility modified.

HF1737—McCollum (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Laser assault defined and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1738—Mulder (R)**Commerce**

Wind power provisions modified.

HF1739—Winter (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 505, Fulda, operating capital fund supplement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1740—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Property tax refund schedule modified.

HF1741—Tunheim (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Commercial vehicles with projecting loads required to display rear red strobe lamps.

HF1742—Clark, J. (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Flandrau State Park adjacent landowner losses reimbursed and money appropriated.

HF1743—Jennings (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) military service credit purchase authorized for a certain Rush City School District employee.

HF1744—Workman (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council made an elective body and candidate contributions regulated.

HF1745—Knoblach (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Adult foster care provider respite care supplementary payments provided.

HF1746—Erickson (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Bear hunting with dogs allowed.

HF1747—Westfall (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural chemical response reimbursement eligibility expanded.

HF1748—Haas (R)**Commerce**

Franchise definition expanded and modified related to motor vehicle franchises, and right of first refusal upon assignment or sale of marketing premises created.

HF1749—Kielkucki (R)**Commerce**

No-fault automobile insurance coverage limits modified.

HF1750—Kielkucki (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 108, Norwood, air quality and building improvements provided, and money appropriated.

HF1751—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Community dental clinics start-up grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1752—Wagenius (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lead fishing sinkers and jigs replacement research grants authorized, Department of Natural Resources consultation and reports required, and money appropriated.

HF1753—Jennings (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Teacher training improvement collaborative pilot program established, public college and school district involvement provided, and money appropriated.

HF1754—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce**

Public utilities conservation improvement requirements modified and program analysis required.

HF1755—Greiling (DFL)**Education Policy**

Teacher preparation program requirement issues resolved through formal hearings.

HF1756—Westerberg (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Metropolitan area foreign trade zones commission grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1757—Haas (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health insurer and health maintenance organization regulations simplified.

HF1758—Molnau (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Mayer wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1759—Juhnke (DFL)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Turkey respiratory disease control and prevention research funded, and money appropriated.

HF1760—Anderson, B. (R)**Transportation Policy**

I-94 and Trunk Highway No. 55 improvements included in the statewide transportation plan and improvements program.

HF1761—Dempsey (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Red Wing Bench Street project wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1762—Storm (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, disaster relief facilities grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1763—Storm (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

St. Peter community center replacement assistance grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1764—Mulder (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Leota sanitary district wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1765—Peterson (DFL)**Civil Law**

Actions for damages due to sexual abuse delayed discovery rule clarified.

HF1766—Buesgens (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Spring Lake Township wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1767—Haas (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Dental assistant licensure created.

HF1768—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Minor parent living with an adult Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) benefits eligibility requirement clarified and money appropriated.

HF1769—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior citizen drug program eligibility expanded and money appropriated.

HF1770—Fuller (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Senior nutrition meals provided increased funding and money appropriated.

HF1771—Kuisle (R)**Taxes**

Agricultural tax relief provided through offer-in-compromise program and income tax exemption provided.

HF1772—Kuisle (R)**Transportation Policy**

Passenger motor carrier provisions modified, conforming changes provided, and money appropriated.

HF1773—Dawkins (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Youth works program legislative report required and money appropriated.

HF1774—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Gitchie-Gami trail constructed along Lake Superior in Lake and Cook counties, and money appropriated.

HF1775—Ness (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Urban agricultural high school planning grant authorized and money appropriated.

HF1776—Cassell (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Lake Mary wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1777—Cassell (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Ida wastewater revolving fund loan provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1778—Gunther (R)
Commerce
State government telecommunications pricing plan and public utilities commission oversight provided.

HF1779—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Closed landfill cleanup program expanded, statewide closed landfill insurance settlement process participants provided liability release, and money appropriated.

HF1780—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Soil and water conservation districts general services allocation provided and money appropriated.

HF1781—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Soil and water conservation districts technical support grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1782—Westfall (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Erosion and sediment control and water quality cost share grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1783—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Feedlots; phosphorus land application limits required.

HF1784—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
DeafBlind Services Minnesota appropriated money.

HF1785—Kubly (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2534, Bird Island-Olivia-Lake Lillian, technology grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1786—Sviggum (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 203, Hayfield, technology grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1787—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law
Foster sibling visitation with a child formerly in foster care provided.

HF1788—Kalis (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Faribault County nursing facility spend-up limit exemption provided.

HF1789—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Benton County bonds principal for mixed municipal solid waste facility environmental response costs provided and money appropriated.

HF1790—Solberg (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Steel mill construction challenge grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1791—Solberg (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Itasca County railroad and public highway improvements, and Nashwauk wells and wastewater treatment facilities funded; bonds issued; and money appropriated.

HF1792—Pugh (DFL)
Education Policy
School district agreements time period limitation eliminated.

HF1793—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Minnesota Health Data Institute health plan companies performance report required, requirements established, and money appropriated.

HF1794—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Peoples, Inc. deaf and hard-of-hearing services grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1795—Daggett (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2155, Wadena-Deer Creek, pupil count corrected and money appropriated.

HF1796—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Forest assessment provisions and reporting requirements modified under the forest resource management plan.

HF1797—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Unit forest resource plan requirements modified and public notice provided.

HF1798—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Nongame wildlife account private contributions matched and money appropriated.

HF1799—Osthoff (DFL)
Commerce
Motor vehicle glass repair and replacement regulated for insurance purposes.

HF1800—Bishop (R)
Judiciary Finance
Dodge-Fillmore-Olmsted, Arrowhead Regional, Ramsey County, and Hennepin County community corrections agencies productive day initiative programs appropriated money.

HF1801—McElroy (R)
Commerce
Uniform principal and income act adopted.

HF1802—Entenza (DFL)
Civil Law
Child abuse and maltreatment provisions modified.

HF1803—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Metropolitan regional parks system operation and maintenance funded and money appropriated.

HF1804—Folliard (DFL)
Education Policy
Licensed K-12 teacher staff development training opportunities and additional salary provided.

HF1805—Munger (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Louis, Carlton, and Lake counties joint powers agreement implemented; and money appropriated.

HF1806—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Snowmobile gasoline use percentage determined for tax refund purposes.

HF1807—Carlson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
St. Cloud State University; Minnesota highway safety center grants provided to improve traffic safety education in elementary and secondary schools.

HF1808—Molnau (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
United Nations trade point development previous appropriations transferred to the Minnesota World Trade Center.

HF1809—Jaros (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Seaway Port Authority of Duluth allowed to be known as the Duluth Seaway Port Authority.

HF1810—Jennings (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Survivors of public safety officers killed in the line of duty provided health coverage and money appropriated.

Thursday, March 11

HF1811—Ness (R)
Higher Education Finance
Technical college credential awards clarified and standardized assessments limited.

HF1812—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Sales within a political subdivision determined for the purpose of local sales taxes.

HF1813—Van Dellen (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
State-aid offset qualified housing district definition expanded to include low-income owner-occupied housing.

HF1814—Clark, K. (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
Gender fairness in the courts task force recommendations implemented and money appropriated.

HF1815—Fuller (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Beaver damage control program authorized activities clarified and money appropriated.

HF1816—Larsen, P. (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Retired teacher income limit increased for the purpose of retirement annuities received after resuming teaching service.

HF1817—Kahn (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Federal empowerment zone designation grant provided to the Metropolitan Council and money appropriated.

HF1818—Mares (R)**Transportation Policy**

Recreational vehicle additional combinations authorized by permit.

HF1819—Ness (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

County inventory and dump ranking required, cleanup grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1820—Ness (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Dassel wastewater treatment system expansion grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1821—Harder (R)**Taxes**

Brown County property tax credit provided for tornado damaged property and money appropriated.

HF1822—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Residential homestead second tier property tax class rate reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid adjustment provided.

HF1823—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Native prairie definition and property tax exemption modified, and conservation land management activities credit created.

HF1824—Fuller (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Ambulance services; first responder provisions modified, emergency medical technician and instructor certification provided, training program approval required, fees and misconduct reports provided, and criminal and civil penalties imposed.

HF1825—Osskopp (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Pull-tab dispensing machines authorized in premises licensed for off-sale liquor, progressive bingo prizes modified, and maximum tipboard prizes specified.

HF1826—Dorman (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 241, Albert Lea, K-12 student success program grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1827—Storm (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 508, St. Peter, declining pupil unit aid provided.

HF1828—Howes (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Minnesota Power building in Park Rapids purchase for use as a Department of Natural Resources office building authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1829—Erhardt (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Edina nursing home moratorium exception authorized.

HF1830—Stanek (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis Police Relief Association authorized fund disbursements modified.

HF1831—Swenson (R)**Agriculture Policy**

New ethanol plant using heat from a municipal cogeneration facility ethanol producer payments authorized and money appropriated.

HF1832—Swenson (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

All-day kindergarten students pupil weight increased.

HF1833—Krinkie (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Office of Technology provisions modified.

HF1834—Reuter (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Electronic payments to state agencies authorized.

HF1835—Boudreau (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Suicide prevention program established and money appropriated.

HF1836—Fuller (R)**Taxes**

Manufactured homes located on real property purchased under contracts for deeds tax liability removed.

HF1837—Fuller (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Automatic external defibrillators purchase and study funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1838—Davids (R)**Commerce**

Public supplemental pension and deferred compensation plans investments availability expanded.

HF1839—Van Dellen (R)**Taxes**

Printing activities sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF1840—Fuller (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Emergency medical services complaint investigations appropriated money.

HF1841—Davids (R)**Commerce**

Insurance compliance self-audit privilege established.

HF1842—Swenson (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Glencoe area health center employee privatization pension benefit accommodation provided.

HF1843—Olson (R)**Education Policy**

Students unable to read by the end of third grade prohibited from enrolling in fourth grade.

HF1844—Clark, J. (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

New Ulm authorized to impose an additional sales and use tax, voter approval required, and bonding authority provided.

HF1845—Seifert, M. (R)**Education Policy**

Registered sex offenders considered ineligible to become school board member candidates.

HF1846—Osskopp (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Goodhue-Pioneer trail extended to the city of Bellechester.

HF1847—Cassell (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Community and technical colleges student associations combined, and Higher Education Services Office and board of trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Student Advisory Council membership modified.

HF1848—Goodno (R)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; enhanced gross misdemeanor provisions repealed, and gross misdemeanor and mandatory sentencing provisions expanded.

HF1849—Entenza (DFL)**Commerce**

Electronic financial terminal surcharge prohibited.

HF1850—Tomassoni (DFL)**Governmental Operations Policy**

Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) unrequested leave credit purchase authorized for a certain Alexandria School District member.

HF1851—Larsen, P. (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Camp Ripley weekend camp program for first- and second-time juvenile offenders and youth at risk appropriated money.

HF1852—Stanek (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Asian-American juvenile crime intervention and prevention program grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1853—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public employees police and fire plan and local police and fire consolidation account provisions modified.

HF1854—Wejcman (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases targeted case management, outreach, and prevention services grants provided; and money appropriated.

HF1855—Gray (DFL)**Education Policy**

Businesses and other organizations encouraged to donate materials to families for child reading and school skills development.

HF1856—Jennings (DFL)
Commerce
Currency exchange fees regulated.

HF1857—McGuire (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Child care resource and referral programs, and child care development grants provided; and money appropriated.

HF1858—Rhodes (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Crisis intervention hotline pilot project established for the metropolitan area Hmong community and money appropriated.

HF1859—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce
Financial institution fees and charges regulated, and lifeline checking accounts required.

HF1860—Mullery (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Consecutive sentencing authorized for offenders who commit additional crimes while awaiting sentencing on previous crimes and guidelines consistency required.

HF1861—Mullery (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Parenting leave requirements extended.

HF1862—Mullery (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for illegal pistol possession provided enhanced penalties.

HF1863—Johnson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Substitute teacher state-paid medical benefits provided and money appropriated.

HF1864—McGuire (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) and basic sliding fee child care assistance program consolidated, and projected costs forecasted and recognized in the fund balance.

HF1865—Pawlenty (R)
Civil Law
Stay-at-home nursing mothers excused from jury duty.

HF1866—Kubly (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Senior citizen drug program participation extended to persons with disabilities.

HF1867—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Stream protection and improvement loan program established and money appropriated.

HF1868—Van Dellen (R)
Education Policy
School district residents authorized to participate in district sponsored shared time, cocurricular, and extra-curricular activities.

HF1869—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
City local government minimum per capita aid amount established.

HF1870—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Minnesota land use map maintained and updated, and money appropriated.

HF1871—Lieder (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 600, Fisher, school building remodeling provided, and money appropriated.

HF1872—Harder (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Fox Lake; Martin County wastewater treatment project grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1873—Mullery (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Suicidal persons admitted for emergency care prohibited from possessing firearms and firearm temporary custody by peace officers authorized.

HF1874—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Nellie Stone Johnson bust placement in the state capitol required.

HF1875—Abeler (R)
Education Policy
State Board of Education reinstated and member election provided.

HF1876—Kelliher (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minneapolis police officers authorized to terminate active service and be rehired with public employees police and fire retirement plan coverage.

HF1877—Molnau (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public employees labor agreements and compensation plans ratified, vacation and sick leave transfers provided, and special mediator per diem provisions and arbitrator listing procedures modified.

HF1878—Mares (R)
Crime Prevention
High risk juvenile sex offender release community notification provided, end-of-confinement review assessments required, and law enforcement disclosure guidelines and model policy development provided.

HF1879—Dawkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Neighborhood Development Center, Inc. targeted business district microenterprise and equity loan grants provided, conditions imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1880—Paulsen (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Hennepin County authorized to convey tax-forfeited land bordering public water and wetland.

HF1881—Wolf (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Optional form of school district organization provided and school boards authorized to contract for district services.

HF1882—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Pedestrian-control traffic signal display period prescribed.

HF1883—Jennings (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Volunteer firefighting paid leave provided.

HF1884—Pugh (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Referendum revenue allowance maximum and voter-approved referenda state aid increased, and money appropriated.

HF1885—Kuisle (R)
Agriculture Policy
Pollution Control Agency feedlot authority transferred to the Department of Agriculture.

HF1886—Krinkie (R)
Transportation Policy
Seven-county metropolitan area regional rail authorities abolished.

HF1887—Solberg (DFL)
Civil Law
Sport shooting ranges liability protections provided.

HF1888—Jennings (DFL)
Civil Law
State and political subdivisions prohibited from bringing certain suits against firearms or ammunition manufacturers.

HF1889—Mullery (DFL)
Civil Law
Occupational safety and health law violators prohibited from state contract awards, construction project written safety and health plans required, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF1890—Mahoney (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Criminal offender rehabilitation requirements exemption provided for the licensing of taxicab drivers.

HF1891—Mullery (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Limited driver's license issuance without waiting period authorized and conforming provisions provided.

HF1892—Mullery (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Summer youth employment programs appropriated money.

HF1893—McGuire (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
Crosswalk safety awareness campaign continued and expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1894—McGuire (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Perishable food definition modified for the purposes of open dating.

HF1895—Boudreau (R)
Higher Education Finance
Asian-Pacific American mental health graduate program student grants established, and money appropriated.

HF1896—Van Dellen (R)
Commerce
Fireworks definition modified, and sale and distribution of certain fireworks authorized.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call

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MONDAY, March 15

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF1654 (Osskopp) Open competition provided for state telecommunications services, state competition with private sector prohibited, and other conforming changes provided.

HF1366 (Buesgens) Advisory group established to make recommendations on strategies to address the needs of students who fail to meet the requirements of the state's high school graduation rule.

HF1565 (Anderson, B.) Eligibility expanded for certain state military service.

HF987 (Davids) Intergovernmental advisory council for technology established, Intergovernmental Information Systems Advisory Council abolished, funds transferred, and money appropriated.

Note: Meeting will continue 30 minutes after session in 500S State Office Building.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF1688 (Goodno) Modifying state-operated services; changing adult mental health day treatment and consolidation chemical dependency treatment fund requirements.

HF1608 (Goodno) Omnibus health and human services bill including data classification, modifying maternal and child health provisions, modifying the Minnesota Health Care Administrative Simplification Act, and providing penalties.

HF1600 (Goodno) Tobacco settlement money disposition provided, Minnesota families foundation established, health-related endowment funds created, and money appropriated.

HF738 (Larsen, P.) Medical education and research trust fund provisions modified to include psychologists and advisory committee expiration date extended.

JOBS & ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF663 (Daggett) State project wage payment provisions modified.
Other bills to be announced.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HF446 (Kuisle) Passenger automobile registration tax depreciation rate decreased, and motor vehicle sales tax revenue allocated.

HF39 (Lieder) Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated to roads and public transit, passenger automobile registration tax rate reduced, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF698 (Workman) Major transportation projects commission established and report required.

HF1806 (Howes) Snowmobile gasoline use percentage determined for tax refund purposes.

HF1053 (Opatz) Disability parking regulatory provisions modified, certain vehicle registration fee credits abolished, and local ordinances regulating long-term parking authorized.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF377 (Goodno) Abortion notification data reporting required and civil penalties imposed.

HF1038 (Boudreau) Employment and training data classification provisions modified.

HF1555 (Ozment) Court-ordered screening required prior to making dispositional orders for out-of-home placement in certain juvenile cases.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue 15 minutes after session or at 3 p.m. in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF595 (Holsten) Petrofund reimbursement reductions standard of proof provided, above-ground storage tank upgrade or closure reimbursed, and contaminated land cleanup regulated.

HF1013 (Holsten) Dark house and fish house licensure requirement exemption provided to occupied shelters left on the ice less than a day.
HF1277 (Bishop) Wastewater treatment provisions modified and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF1096 (Seifert, M.) Assigned family responsibility definition modified relating to student grants-in-aid, and grant stipends prorated for part-time students.

HF1103 (Goodno) Moorhead State University

capital improvements provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1363 (Storm) Higher education student share reduced, and child care grant program modified.
HF1686 (Carlson) Higher education state grant calculation modified.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF347 (Sviggum) Independent School District No. 2125, Triton, health and safety revenue authorized.

HF405 (Johnson) School district deferred maintenance equalized discretionary aid and levy created, and money appropriated.

HF574 (McCollum) Independent School District No. 622, North St. Paul- Maplewood-Oakdale, provided alternative facilities bonding and levy program authority.

HF655 (Anderson, B.) School district maximum effort debt service levy definition and loan repayment account modified.

HF697 (Rhodes) School district alternative facilities bonding and levy program space requirement reduced.

HF894 (Tingelstad) School district facilities management funding authorized, local matches required, and money appropriated.

HF895 (Tingelstad) School district facilities maintenance management and housekeeping procedure created.

HF772 (McElroy) Building space average age threshold reduced relating to school district alternative facilities bonding and levy program qualifications.

HF799 (Tingelstad) Education facilities funding provisions modified and money appropriated.

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF167 (Wenzel) State-paid agricultural property taxes provided, and money appropriated.

HF401 (Mulder) Agricultural land general education levy exemption provided and general education aid increased.

HF1313 (Storm) Manufactured home parks property tax class rate decreased.

HF1361 (Mulder) Certain agricultural property eliminated from the property tax base for new debt service levies for Independent School District No. 2689, Pipestone-Jasper.

HF1515 (Daggett) Certain assisted living facility property tax exemption provided.

HF1732 (Mulder) Agricultural property school district tax credit provided and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: HF1318 (Sykora) State agency child care assistance program duties clarified, program integrity and fraud investigation provided, and money appropriated.

HF880 (Mulder) Child care and early childhood education programs consolidation plan developed.

HF1362 (Mulder) At-home infant child care program provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF1292 (McGuire) Child care assistance administration technical and conforming changes provided.

HF876 (Mariani) African immigrant and refugee community child care development grants provided, and money appropriated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF931 (Larsen, P.) Local units of government cooperation and combination tax plan provided.

HF1224 (Holberg) Cedar Lake area water and sanitary sewer district established.

HF1382 (Fuller) Bemidji authorized to exercise power of eminent domain for acquisition of certain trust fund land.

HF1399 (Erhardt) Municipal tax increment financing district creation limited.

HF1478 (Holsten) City annexation area division into urban and rural service districts authorized for the purpose of property taxation.

HF1724 (Rukavina) Mountain Iron tax increment financing district established and exemption provided.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF73 (Larsen, P.) Year 2000; local government units mutual aid authority clarified, health department required to collect and disseminate information regarding possible problems and solutions, immunity provided, and money appropriated.

HF1626 (Ness) Poultry litter included as renewable energy resource relating to biomass electricity production.

HF1778 (Gunther) State government telecommunications pricing plan and public utilities commission oversight provided.

HF1384 (Wolf) Energy conservation improvement program provisions modified relating to public utilities.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF710 (Holsten) Farmed cervidae hunting on licensed shooting preserves authorized.

HF1101 (Mulder) Owner notification required for drainage surveys, and petition signature requirement increased.

HF1299 (Howes) Minnesota Conservation Corps fees deposited in a special revenue fund for corps projects and administration.

HF1404 (Swenson) Swan Lake migratory waterfowl refuge designated and refuge provisions modified.

HF955 (McCollum) Ramsey and Washington

counties regional trail development around Silver Lake funded, and money appropriated.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: Continuation of morning meeting.

30 minutes after session

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF1339 (Gerlach) Public employer hiring freeze imposed.

HF1446 (Rhodes) Office of environmental assistance, public service department, transportation regulation board, and departments of administration, public safety, and corrections reorganization codified.

HF777 (Rest) Political subdivision created, corporations expiration delayed, and task force established.

HF1168 (Gerlach) Election law clarified and simplified.

HF1183 (Seifert, J.) Secretary of State service of process, notice requirements, and business organization names regulated; and conforming changes provided.

7 p.m.

COMMERCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF870 (Haas) Small employer alternative health insurance benefit plan provided and pilot project authorized.

HF359 (Wolf) Public Utilities Commission subcommittees established and commissioners designated, petitions deemed approved unless set aside for affirmative action, investigation and contingency revolving fund created, and money appropriated.

HF358 (Wolf) Coin-operated and public pay telephones deregulated, and telecommunication provider anticompetitive activity administrative penalties assessed.

HF950 (Daggett) Telephone sales calls regulated, remedies provided, and money appropriated.

HF1564 (Entenza) Commissioner of Commerce enforcement authority provided, service of process and residential building contractors and remodelers regulated, and criminal penalties provided.

TUESDAY, March 16

7 a.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: HF979 (Lindner) Landlords authorized to apportion utility payments among units.

HF1298 (Storm) Bridges program; rental housing assistance program for persons with a mental illness or families with an adult member with a mental illness appropriated money.

HF1156 (Rhodes) Metropolitan area voluntary inclusionary housing policy incentives provided, policy defined, and money appropriated.

HF1495 (McElroy) Payment of commissions provided after employee termination, and certain

fees prohibited to applicants or employees.

HF1243 (Sykora) Special assessment rate for the workforce investment fund lowered, and provisions governing the fund modified.

HF1051 (Gunther) Employment and training program information collected by the commissioner of economic security.

HF1577 (Lindner) Training for people with disabilities appropriation provided to Advocating Change Together, Inc. (ACT).

HF1429 (Holsten) Stillwater historic territorial prison wall fortified, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1557 (Ozment) Child labor law violation penalties increased.

HF1256 (Clark, K.) Youthbuild program appropriated money, and youth employment program provisions modified.

7:30 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF1065 (Mulder) New Life Treatment Center directional signs erected along Pipestone County State-Aid Highway No. 18.

HF187 (Mares) Century College directional signs required on both sides of I-694 before its intersection with Trunk Highway No. 120.

HF1294 (McElroy) Prorated motor vehicle license fees authorized after dealer transfer.

HF1161 (Dempsey) Port authorities authorized to retain state commercial navigation project lease and management contract revenues.

HF367 (Reuter) I-35W and I-394 lane restrictions modified.

HF442 (Reuter) Freeway metered ramp study required and money appropriated.

HF1095 (Tingelstad) Authorized newspaper delivery vehicles allowed to operate on left half of roadway under certain circumstances.

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF770 (Abeler) Essential community provider status application deadline removed.

HF802 (Bradley) Unlicensed child care provider permanent expansion provided.

HF863 (Tingelstad) Putative fathers' adoption registry, communication and contact agreements, and post adoption report requirements and procedures modified.

HF965 (Boudreau) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) student Hepatitis B immunization required.

HF968 (Tingelstad) Plumbers required to give bond to the state and provisions modified.

HF1566 (Leppik) Clean Indoor Air Act provisions modified.

Member bills.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: HF868 (Hackbarth) Crimes constituting theft modified to include situations involving rental personal property or equipment.

HF717 (Seifert, J.) Housing calendar consolidation program extended outside the second and fourth judicial districts.

HF1272 (Abrams) Court administration costs in specified judicial districts funded by the state, court employee collective bargaining provisions

established, taxes imposed, and money appropriated.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: HF1471 (Krinkie) Legislative approval required for fee increases, expiration dates provided for certain fees, and conforming changes made.

Department of Administration budget presentation.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: Public Safety Training Center report overview.

HF1288 (Seifert, M.) Marshall regional emergency response training center construction provided and money appropriated.

HF357 (Skoglund) Camp Ripley Work Program scope expanded to include chemically dependent or convicted domestic abuse offenders.

HF637 (Paymar) Camp Ripley Work Program scope expanded.

HF848 (Paymar) Prior incarceration credit provided for offenders sentenced to the Camp Ripley Work Program.

HF998 (Nornes) Camp Ripley Work Program eligible offender sentencing discretion provided and judges greater use of local correctional resources authorized.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue at 3 p.m. in 5 State Office Building.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF16 (Pawlenty) Public school students entitled to an education without serious classroom disruption, and remedy provided.

HF1366 (Buesgens) Advisory group established to make recommendations on strategies to address the needs of students who fail to meet the requirements of the state's high school graduation rule.

HF923 (Seifert, J.) School and libraries providing Internet access required to restrict harmful material from minors, and school district Internet use policies adopted.

HF1569 (Boudreau) Site council recommendations provided for board appointments, provisions clarified relation to the Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and Blind, and money appropriated.

HF1875 (Abeler) Reinstating the State Board of Education and providing for the election of members to the state board.

HF1685 (Greiling) Task force on transitional issues affecting State Board of Education powers and duties recommendations implemented.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue at 2:30 p.m. in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF1427 (Rostberg) Natural resources software and intellectual property sale and licensure authorized; and youth snowmobile

operation, drivers license safety designations, nongame wildlife checkoff, and forestry development project provisions modified.

HF1621 (Osskopp) Judicial review provisions modified relating to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency decisions, and incinerator monitor requirements modified.

HF1644 (Knoblach) Water quality rules changes implemented.

HF1508 (Kelliher) Mercury reduction provided and money appropriated.

HF1692 (Ozment) Chub Lake scientific and natural area appropriation provided.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Governor's budget request for the Agriculture Utilization Research Institute.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF73 (Larsen, P.) Year 2000; local government units mutual aid authority clarified, health department required to collect and disseminate information regarding possible problems and solutions, immunity provided, and money appropriated.

HF700 (Davids) Fire protection notification required in contracts for the sale of newly constructed residential dwellings.

HF186 (Mares) Cochlear implant health plan coverage required.

2:30 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting.

HF1603 (Daggett) Landfill cleanup program obsolete accounting and reporting requirements repealed.

HF1779 (Wagenius) Closed landfill cleanup program expanded, statewide closed landfill insurance settlement process participants provided liability release, and money appropriated.

HF1477 (Rostberg) Environmental improvement pilot program modified and made permanent.

HF1798 (Ozment) Nongame wildlife account private contributions matched and money appropriated.

HF1486 (Workman) Prohibition against certain metals in products repealed.

HF1521 (Howes) Sustainable lakes educational program appropriation provided.

HF1624 (Cassell) Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation and Development appropriation provided.

HF1415 (Finseth) Gray wolf management provided and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1702 (Wagenius) Duplicative toxic chemical

release reporting requirements eliminated, and obsolete provisions removed.

3 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

Room to be announced

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: HF142 (Pawlenty) Subsequent controlled substance conviction definition expanded to include convictions subsequent to a stay of adjudication.

HF143 (Pawlenty) Domestic assault enhanced penalty provisions expanded to include malicious punishment of a child convictions.

HF960 (Seagren) Human services commissioner authorized to sell surplus state land to the Bloomington housing and redevelopment authority.

4 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF144 (Seifert, M.) Joint county drainage authority membership modified.

HF431 (Howes) Tax-forfeited land sale and rental proceeds apportionment provision eliminated. HF1097 (Kuisle) Municipal bid minimum dollar amount increased for public bid solicitation.

HF1544 (Hausman) Governmental units exempted to jointly or cooperatively contract.

HF1543 (Hausman) Uniform Municipal Contracting Act procedure and definitions update provided.

HF1369 (Rostberg) Uncashed checks of a political subdivision exempted from uniform disposition of unclaimed property act.

HF1538 (Vandeveer) Townships authorized to create capital reserve funds.

HF1276 (Ozment) Watershed management organization board membership modified.

HF1540 (Larson, D.) Employee transfer provided between Metropolitan Council and other political subdivisions.

HF1293 (Marko) Washington County taxpayer's personal information disclosure provisions expiration date extended.

5 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions & Retirement

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF410 (Entenza) Correctional employees retirement plan service credit provided.

HF435 (Milbert) MSRS; service credit purchase authorized for a certain member.

HF1080 (Boudreau) Rice County correctional employees public employees police and fire plan coverage ratified.

HF1179 (Mares) Teachers Retirement Association and first class city teacher retirement fund association service credit purchase authorized for military service, out-of-state teaching, and maternity leaves.

HF589 (Mares) Qualified tax-sheltered annuity vendors expanded for the purpose of employer contributions.

HF227 (Osskopp) State fire marshal special Minnesota State Retirement System benefits provided.

HF1180 (Mares) MSRS, PERA, and TRA

retirement annuity formula computation provisions modified.
 SF 650 (Pogemiller) Teacher plans; extension of "Rule of 90" and benefit accrual rate increase.
 HF436 (Mares) State Patrol Retirement Fund and Public Employees Retirement Association early retirement provisions modified, and certain consolidations provided.
 HF569 (Mares) Correctional employee retirement fund early retirement provisions modified.
 HF1077 (Mares) Minneapolis employees retirement fund death-while-active survivor, and disability and long-service survivor provisions clarified and modified.
 HF471 (Knoblach) St. Cloud Police Consolidation Account special one-time postretirement adjustment provided.
 HF845 (Mares) Higher education faculty and other state employee retirement and related benefits modified.
 HF115 (Ness) Willmar and Litchfield; volunteer rescue squad relief associations and service pensions authorized.
 Others items designated by chair.

6 p.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

500S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: Continuation of 7 a.m. meeting.

WEDNESDAY, March 17

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: HF1426 (Tingelstad) Well notification fees, advisory council on water supply systems and wastewater treatment facilities terms, rural hospital grant provisions, and health professional student loan repayment provisions modified.
 HF1440 (Boudreau) Intermediate care facilities payment rate determination modified, local system needs planning process required, and statewide advisory committee established.
 HF1449 (Wilkin) Persons with mental retardation day training and habilitation rate variance criteria modified.
 HFXXXX (Boudreau)
 HF1562 (Goodno) Developmental disabilities provisions modified, consolidated standards intent clarified and expanded to include respite sites, medication administration clarified, and family support program provisions modified.
 HF1609 (Goodno) Long-term care provisions and nursing facilities payment rates modified.
 HF1660 (Bradley) Nonprofit organization employees performing duties incidental to research exempted from the unlawful practice of medicine.
 HF1554 (Ozment) Department of Corrections authorized to contract with Department of Human Services to conduct criminal history

background checks for job applicants for juvenile corrections facilities.
 Member bills.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: HF1243 (Sykora) Special assessment rate for the workforce investment fund lowered, and provisions governing the fund modified.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: HF1349 (Swenson) Population threshold for municipal state transportation aid eligibility abolished.
 HF939 (Workman) Trunk highway fund expenditures, traffic fines, and forfeited bail allocated; union contractor preference prohibited; prevailing wage rate modified; and transportation project delivery task force created.
 HF571 (Westrom) Trunk highway contract documents required to express measurements in the English system only, and commissioner prohibited from requiring otherwise for county contracts.
 HF1004 (Goodno) DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for hunting, handling explosives, criminal vehicular operation, and operating a motor vehicle, recreational vehicle, or watercraft.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: HF764 (Smith) Grandparent visitation rights expanded, procedures specified, and mediation required.
 HF1787 (Dawkins) Foster sibling visitation with a child formerly in foster care provided.
 HF1646 (Boudreau) Certain relatives provided child visitation rights.
 HF177 (Mulder) Partial-birth abortions prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties provided.
 HF178 (Boudreau) Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided.
Note: If necessary, meeting will continue 15 minutes after session or at 3 p.m. in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: HF928 (Hackbarth) Snowmobile metal traction device use on paved public trails prohibited, sticker required, and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: HF1036 (Seifert, M.) Agricultural education expansion feasibility studied by Southwest State University and money appropriated.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: HF83 (Murphy) School district debt service equalization eligibility modified.

HF362 (Davids) Department of Children, Families and Learning provided an alternative facilities design grant, and money appropriated.
 HF504 (Skoe) White Earth Reservation Pine Point School Facility and community center provided, and money appropriated.
 HF628 (Fuller) Independent School District nos. 38, Red Lake; 115, Cass Lake; 299, Caledonia; and 306, LaPorte, maximum effort capital loans approved; bonds issued; and money appropriated.
 HF616 (McElroy) School district general obligation debt allowed for special assessment prepayment.
 HF1400 (Stang) Independent School District No. 740, Melrose, health and safety revenue accelerated grant payment authorized, and money appropriated.
 HF1406 (Solberg) Independent School District No. 4, McGregor, energy improvements levy authorized, and money appropriated.
 HF1542 (Carruthers) Facilities grant authorized to Independent School District No. 286, Brooklyn Center, and money appropriated.

*****Canceled*****

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: Canceled.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth
Agenda: HF1091 (Westrom) Minnesota Marketplace grant provided and money appropriated.
 HF1558 (Ozment) Board of grain standards provisions and duties modified, rulemaking authorized, and definitions clarified.
 HF808 (Ness) Bovine paratuberculosis diagnosis data classification provided, Board of Animal Health executive secretary name changed to executive director, and sale of cattle limitations repealed.
 HF978 (Harder) Agricultural water quality and quantity management initiative funded, and money appropriated.
 HFXXXX (Harder) Changing veterinary practice requirements.
 HF893 (Dorman) Agricultural warehouse provisions modified and clarified.
 HF1586 (Swenson) Certain land authorized to be enrolled in more than one state or federal conservation program.
 HF1747 (Westfall) Agricultural chemical response reimbursement eligibility expanded.
 HF543 (Peterson) Cooperatively owned livestock processing plant development program established and money appropriated.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: HF961 (Pawlenty) Ramsey Action Program grant provided for the family asset program and money appropriated.
 HF1467 (Sykora) Early Childhood and Family Education, ECFE, children and family support

programs provided, and money appropriated.
HF1386 (Mulder) Early Childhood Family Education, ECFE, revenue increased, expectant parent activities included, and money appropriated.

HF1017 (Howes) American Indian youth prevention program grants established and money appropriated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF313 (McElroy) Nonvoting members allowed to serve on the Metropolitan Council, Transportation Advisory Committee membership expanded, metropolitan agencies and council merger studied, local government grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1377 (McElroy) Dakota County Housing and Redevelopment Authority renamed, and powers of the Dakota County community development agency provided.

HF850 (Swenson) Regional development commission planning grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1287 (Dorn) Mankato area growth management and planning study grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1403 (Buesgens) Scott County; Blue Lake wastewater treatment plant consumptive groundwater use permit approved.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF1651 (Wolf) Minnesota retail electric competition act requiring transition to competitive industry, restructuring plans required, unbundling of services required, civil remedies provided, and money appropriated.

HF329 (Folliard) Misleading business name or telephone number advertisement prohibited.

HF988 (Jennings) Public utility commissioners advisory selection process created and ex parte communication regulated.

HF1184 (Knoblach) One call excavation notice system damage provisions modified.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately after session

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF981 (Holsten) Deer, bear, elk, and moose tag requirements modified.

HF971 (Mulder) Rock County; private conveyance of surplus state land authorized.

HF502 (Osskopp) Wabasha County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

4 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: To be announced.

5 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF1091 (Westrom) Minnesota Marketplace grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1558 (Ozment) Board of Grain Standards provisions and duties modified, rulemaking authorized, and definitions clarified.

HF808 (Ness) Bovine paratuberculosis diagnosis data classification provided, Board of Animal Health executive secretary name changed to executive director, and sale of cattle limitations repealed.

HF978 (Harder) Agricultural water quality and quantity management initiative funded, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Harder) Changing veterinary practice requirements.

HF893 (Dorman) Agricultural warehouse provisions modified and clarified.

HF1586 (Swenson) Certain land authorized to be enrolled in more than one state or federal conservation program.

HF1747 (Westfall) Agricultural chemical response reimbursement eligibility expanded.

HF543 (Peterson) Cooperatively owned livestock processing plant development program established and money appropriated.

6:30 p.m.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting.

THURSDAY, March 18

7 a.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: HF689 (Lindner) Payment of wages upon discharge provisions modified.

HF1182 (Kuisle) County economic development authorities authorized.

HF798 (Anderson, B.) Injured employees civil remedies provided in cases of employer safety violations.

HF553 (Carruthers) Volunteer firefighters allowed unpaid leave to perform duties.

HF1123 (McCollum) St. Paul flood mitigation holding pond grant provided.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue 30 minutes after session in 500S State Office Building.

7:30 a.m.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: Trains and planes.

HF573 (Stang) Excess rail bank land conveyance authorized.

HF1215 (Pelowski) Southern rail corridor grade crossing minimum safety standards provided.

HF919 (Kuisle) Right of first refusal extended to railroad right-of-way property leaseholders and interest notice required.

HF556 (Rukavina) St. Louis and Lake counties regional rail authority required to grant an

easement across its right-of-way in Lakewood.
HF849 (Haake) Minor and intermediate use airports defined for metro expansion and upgrade purposes, and reliever airport sound abatement council established.

HF1472 (Mulder) Special number plates for collector aircraft provisions modified.

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF539 (Huntley) MFIP face-to-face orientation exemption provided for minor parents.

HF944 (Mariani) Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) sanctions modified.

HF1393 (Jennings) Human services technical changes and statutory cross-references provided.

HF1392 (Jennings) Minnesota Family Investment Fund, MFIP, provisions modified relating to earned income disregard, food stamps, and employment services; food assistance to legal noncitizens continued, and TANF administrative cap proposed.

Member bills.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Minnesota Board of Public Defense budget presentation, including public defense corporations and the Indian Legal Assistance Program.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration budget presentation continued.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF1480 (Fuller) Bureau of Criminal Apprehension facilities constructed in St. Paul and Bemidji, and money appropriated.

HF1553 (Ozment) Department of Corrections provisions modified relating to conditional release, restitution, and rehabilitation, sentence clarification provided, and reports required.

HF1554 (Ozment) Department of Corrections authorized to contract with Department of Human Services to conduct criminal history background checks for job applicants for juvenile corrections facilities.

HFXXXX (Ozment) Department of Corrections.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue after session in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF1129 (Carruthers) School boards required to allow home school students to fully participate in extracurricular activities.

HF1468 (Olson) School districts required to provide remedial instruction to students failing minimum core course requirements, and cost reports required.

HF1227 (Entenza) School guidance counselor to student ratio established.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue after session in 200 State Office Building.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF1437 (Ozment) Sustainable forest resources act repeal date modified.

HF1774 (Bakk) Gitchie-Gami trail constructed along Lake Superior in Lake and Cook counties, and money appropriated.

HF1455 (Hausman) Riparian forest management provided.

HF1796 (Kelliher) Forest assessment provisions and reporting requirements modified under the forest resource management plan.

HF1797 (Kelliher) Unit forest resource plan requirements modified and public notice provided.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

Canceled

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Canceled.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF1708 (Seifert, J.) Fire insurance property and liability provisions modified, and FAIR plan coverage regulated.

HF906 (Jennings) Uninsured motorist recovery of noneconomic detriment damages limited.

HF1079 (Paulsen) Tour boat liquor license season extended.

HF793 (Seifert, J.) Lien and right of detainer created for reasonable charges for a rented replacement motor vehicle retained for one being serviced.

1:45 p.m.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions Workforce/ COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF727 (Davids) Real property loans, private mortgage insurance (PMI), and lending practices regulated; prepayment penalties prohibited; escrow account interest required; and mortgage originators and servicers net worth requirements repealed.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting.

7 p.m.

COMMERCE

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: HF1506 (Howes) Trade and economic development tourism appropriations provided.

HF1263 (Olson) Board of electricity required to adopt rules authorizing sign contractor special licenses.

HF1124 (Smith) Bleacher safety requirements provided, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF1622 (Gerlach) Contracts regulated for architects, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists, and interior designers.

FRIDAY, March 19

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/ HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley,

Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Member bills.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF10 (Pawlenty) School stability initiative for homeless children established under the housing finance agency, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF1607 (Smith) Peace officers of law enforcement agencies of federally recognized tribes included in Board of Peace Officers Standards and Training licensure provisions.

HFXXXX (Goodno) DWI provided gross misdemeanor.

Note: If necessary, meeting will continue after a short lunch break in Basement Hearing Room, State Office Building.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: To be announced.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: To be announced.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: Class size, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

HF3 (Seifert, J.) Early elementary class size reduced, and money appropriated.

HF1207 (Dorman) General education basic formula allowance increased, pupil unit weightings increased, learning and development revenue expanded, class size reduction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1117 (Seagren) K-12 education bill providing funding for general education, special programs, lifework development, facilities and technology, education excellence, nutrition, libraries, prevention, and lifelong learning.

HF1166 (Chaudhary) Elementary class size reduction program established, referendum equalization revenue formula provided, and money appropriated.

HF1353 (Carlson) School district referendum equalization revenue increased, class size reduction program established, and money appropriated.

HF1407 (Folliard) Early elementary class size reduction program funded and money appropriated.

HF11 (Abeler) General education basic formula allowance inflationary increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF69 (Rest) General education basic formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.

HF554 (Chaudhary) General education basic formula allowance inflationary increase provided and money appropriated.

HF902 (Winter) General education formula allowance inflationary increase provided; special education, interactive television program, bus purchase levy, and graduation rule implementation funded; declining pupil aid created, and additional days repealed.

HF1187 (Johnson) General education basic formula allowance increased, training and experience revenue restored, and money appropriated.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration budget presentation continued.

Office of Technology budget presentation.

11:45 a.m.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: To be announced.

12 noon

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building

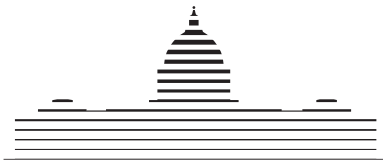
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: Continuation of 10 a.m. meeting.

Name Pronunciation Guide

1999 Minnesota House of Representatives

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Abeler, Jim | ABE-ler | Holsten, Mark William | | Ozment, Dennis | AHZ-ment |
| Abrams, Ron | | Howes, Larry | | Paulsen, Erik | |
| Anderson, Bruce | | Huntley, Thomas | | Pawlenty, Tim | paw-LENTY |
| Anderson, Irv | | Jaros, Mike | YAHHR-ohs | Paymar, Michael | |
| Bakk, Thomas (Tom) | BOCK | Jennings, Loren Geo | | Pelowski Jr., Gene | |
| Biernat, Len | BE-AIR-nat | Johnson, Alice M. | | Peterson, Doug | |
| Bishop, Dave | | Juhnke, Al | JUNK-ee | Pugh, Thomas W. | PEW |
| Boudreau, Lynda | boo-DROH | Kahn, Phyllis | | Rest, Ann H. | |
| Bradley, Fran | | Kalis, Henry J. | KAH-liss | Reuter, Doug | ROOT-er |
| Broecker, Sherry | BROKE-er | Kelliher, Margaret Anderson | KELL-a-her | Rhodes, Jim | |
| Buesgens, Mark | BISK-ens | Kielkucki, Tony | keel-COO-ski | Rifenberg, Michelle | RIFF-en-berg |
| Carlson, Lyndon R. | | Knoblach, Jim | NOB-lock | Rostberg, Jim | |
| Carruthers, Phil | ka-RUH-thers | Koskinen, Luanne | | Rukavina, Tom | roo-ka-VEEN-a |
| Cassell, George | CASTLE | Krinkie, Philip | | Schumacher, Leslie J. | SHOE-mocker |
| Chaudhary, Satveer | CHAW-dree, SUT-veer | Kubly, Gary W. | KOO-blee | Seagren, Alice | |
| Clark, James T. | | Kuisle, William | KWEEZ-lee | Seifert, Jim | SY-fert |
| Clark, Karen | | Larsen, Peg | | Seifert, Marty | SY-fert |
| Daggett, Roxann | DAG-et | Larson, Dan | | Skoe, Rod | SKOY |
| Dauids, Gregory M. | | Leighton, Rob | LAY-ton | Skoglund, Wes | SKOHG-lund |
| Dawkins, Andy | | Lenczewski, Ann | len-CHESS-key | Smith, Steve | |
| Dehler, Steve | DAY-ler | Leppik, Peggy | | Solberg, Loren A. | |
| Dempsey, Jerry | | Lieder, Bernie L. | LEED-er | Stanek, Rich | |
| Dorman, Dan | | Lindner, Arlon | | Stang, Doug | |
| Dorn, John | | Luther, Darlene | | Storm, Julie | |
| Entenza, Matt | | Mahoney, Tim | | Sviggum, Steve | SWIG-um |
| Erhardt, Ron | AIR-hart | Mares, Harry | MAIRS | Swenson, Howard | |
| Erickson, Sondra | | Mariani, Carlos | mar-ee-ON-ee | Sykora, Barb | sick-OR-ah |
| Finseth, Tim | | Marko, Sharon | | Tingelstad, Kathy | |
| Folliard, Betty | FOLLY-ard | McCollum, Betty | mah-CALL-um | Tomassoni, David J. | tom-a-SONY |
| Fuller, Doug | | McElroy, Dan | MACK-el-roy | Trimble, Steve | |
| Gerlach, Chris | GER-lock | McGuire, Mary Jo | | Tuma, John | TOO-ma |
| Gleason, Mark S. | | Milbert, Bob | | Tunheim, Jim | TON-hyme |
| Goodno, Kevin | | Molnau, Carol L. | MOLE-now | Van Dellen, Henry Todd | |
| Gray, Gregory | | Mulder, Richard | | Vandeveer, Ray | |
| Greenfield, Lee | | Mullery, Joe | | Wagenius, Jean | wa-GHEEN-yus |
| Greiling, Mindy | GRY-ling | Munger, Willard | | Wejcman, Linda | WAITS-man |
| Gunther, Bob | | Murphy, Mary | | Wenzel, Stephen G. | WEN-zel |
| Haake, Barb | HOCKEY | Ness, Robert "Bob" | | Westerberg, Andy | |
| Haas, Bill | HAHZ | Nornes, Bud | NOR-ness | Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) | |
| Hackbarth, Tom | | Olson, Mark | | Westrom, Torrey | |
| Harder, Elaine | | Opatz, Joe | OH-patz | Wilkin, Tim | |
| Hasskamp, Kris | | Orfield, Myron | | Winter, Ted | |
| Hausman, Alice | | Osskopp, Mike | AHZ-cop | Wolf, Ken | |
| Hilty, Bill | | Osthoff, Tom | AHST-hoff | Workman, Tom | |
| Holberg, Mary Liz | | Otremba, Mary Ellen | oh-TREM-ba | | |



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1298

Speaker of the House: Steve Sviggum
Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Income and taxes in Minnesota

| | |
|--|------|
| Percent of total 1996 income paid in state and local taxes by | |
| Minnesota residents | 12.7 |
| Percent paid by the 10 percent who earned between \$11,166 and \$15,828 | |
| (lowest percent paid) | 12.0 |
| Percent paid by the 20 percent who earned between \$27,866 and \$45,144 | |
| (highest percent paid) | 13.1 |
| Percent paid by the 10 percent who earned more than \$78,618 | 12.2 |
| Percent of Minnesotans who earned less than \$15,828 in 1996 | 30 |
| Percent who earned less than \$6,817 | 10 |
| Percent of total 1996 income that went to sales taxes by Minnesotans earning | |
| less than \$6,817 | 4.6 |
| Percent of that income gained from state income-tax return | 0.6 |
| Percent of total 1996 income that went to sales taxes by Minnesotans earning | |
| more than \$78,618 | 1.2 |
| Percent of that income paid in individual state income tax | 5.9 |
| Percent of total state and local taxes received in 1996 from the 10 percent of | |
| Minnesotans who earned less than \$6,817 | 1.7 |
| Percent received from the 10 percent who earned more than \$78,618 | 37.3 |
| Of the 10 percent of Minnesotans with highest incomes, percent that are | |
| married with children | 56 |
| Percent that are married without children (not retired) | 27 |
| Percent that are single (not retired) | 6 |
| Percent that are retired | 9 |
| Percent that are single-parent families | 2 |
| Of the 10 percent of Minnesotans with lowest incomes, percent that are | |
| married with children | 3 |
| Percent that are married without children (not retired) | 2 |
| Percent that are single (not retired) | 45 |
| Percent that are retired | 34 |
| Percent that are single-parent families | 16 |

Source: 1999 Minnesota Tax Incidence Study; March 1999; Minnesota Department of Revenue.

For more information

For general information, call:
House Information Office
(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(651) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or
the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(651) 296-6646

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