

SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections



About 142 years ago, legislators from the most northern part of the Minnesota Territory traveled to St. Paul by dog sled or oxcart. Lawmakers from the area, like Joe Rolette and Norman Kittson, helped to build state government early in Minnesota history. When they went back north, they took with them many stories about life in the capital city for those who never ventured as far south.

Today, residents who live over 350 miles away still make the long trip to St. Paul, and when they arrive, they find out for themselves how people live in the

Twin Cities and how government works.

Last week, on April 8, two groups of visitors from District 1A in Minnesota's far north came separately, in vans, to learn firsthand about the Legislature. They also visited such sites as Como Zoo, The Mall of America, and the Science and Children's museums.

The first group to arrive and meet with Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) were 15 4-H Club members who attend the junior and senior high school in Roseau on this the second stage of their three-day "capitol experience." To complete their legislative assignments, they met with Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls), had questions for lobbyist, Sandra Neren, and sat in on a session in the House chamber. The other group, made up of nine grade-school students, two pre-schoolers, and six parents, arrived at Tunheim's office about an hour later.

Roseau students with chaperons Deon and Paul Willcox traveled 370 miles one-way to get to St. Paul, but it was not so simple for the second group. Those in the second group were unique.

Three of these youngsters and their parents trekked 10 miles by snowmobile across Lake of the Woods, from a place called Oak Island, then traveled 18 miles to their charter school in Angle Inlet. There they joined their six classmates before leaving for St. Paul.

This second group, led by teacher Linda Kastl and parents, actually came from a distance 60 miles farther north than Roseau. The hearty crew first had to travel across 50 miles of Manitoba, Canada to get to the accessible southern shores of "The Lake" as they headed south.

Angle Inlet students, like Roseau visitors, took stories home about St. Paul. But two of their own are more interesting. For example, at the Treaty of Paris in 1783, heavyweights John Adams, Ben Franklin, and others held major debates to keep the land as part of the United States. More interesting news is the recent stir about seceding from the United States due to fishing restrictions by Canada.

Angle Island visitors and the 67 residents left at home know that they are unique. These Northwest Angle residents are proud Minnesotans who live at 49° 23' 04" — farther north than anyone else in the lower 48 states of the United States.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: The State Capitol is reflected in the hubcap of a 1948 Chrysler. The Minnesota Street Rod Association displayed more than a dozen vintage automobiles in front of the Capitol April 13 in an effort to promote the hobby of street-rodding.

— Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Giving it back . . .

House unites behind tax cut, rebate package

By Paul Wahl

A relatively minor budget deficiency bill has become the vehicle for a massive tax-cut and tax-rebate plan that many hope will end a weeks-long deadlock over opposing visions of how to return to taxpayers some of the state's budget surplus.

After a surprising turn of events on the House floor April 13, a bipartisan agreement on a \$1.3 billion sales-tax rebate and an income-tax cut that would total more than \$1 billion passed easily. The vote was 129-1.

The plan would cut taxes for people in all three of the state's income-tax brackets. The middle bracket — presumably made up of middle-class Minnesotans — would get the largest cut.

The bill under consideration was a \$17 million plan to provide emergency funding for the Minnesota Zoo, State Services for the Blind, security for Gov. Jesse Ventura, and government agencies.

The deficiency bill (HF878) is a largely routine measure designed to fill gaps in expenses incurred during the current fiscal year. The measure, sponsored by Rep. David Bishop (R-Rochester), had failed to pass on the floor earlier this month and was being reconsidered when the tax-related amendments began to fly.

With colleague Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) hoisting a "Day 96" sign behind him (referring to the days since a key tax rebate bill was introduced), House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) offered a 19-page amendment containing the rebate based on a sales-tax formula, \$70 million in agricultural tax relief, and cuts in income-tax rates.

"This isn't normally my style, but this is a proposition the taxpayers of Minnesota have been wondering about for a long time," Pugh said. "This is a chance to have a conversation on the topic, and I'm thrilled the speaker has given us the opportunity to take a step toward that."



House Speaker Steve Sviggum, top, and Minority Leader Tom Pugh meet with the press the day after the House passed a sales-tax based rebate and income-tax reduction plan. The measure was approved late April 13 after it was added to a routine deficiency bill on the House floor.

Pugh acknowledged that the forthcoming omnibus tax bill could contain a similar permanent income-tax cut proposal to the one in his amendment. Pugh's plan called for income tax cuts only for the two lowest of the state's three income brackets, both by 0.5 percent.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said the amendment would "send a very strong message to the Senate."

"The message is that the House is serious about permanent income tax cuts," Rest said.

She added that although the mechanism was irregular, "these are extraordinary times."

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chairman of the House Taxes Committee, said he wasn't pleased that the minority leader had decided to bring up the rebate and tax cuts at the time. Abrams said he would prefer to see the provisions contained in the omnibus tax bill.

But Abrams offered, and the House accepted, an amendment that he said represented "the real deal."

Among the provisions in Abrams' proposal was a call to speed up the rebate and require the state to pay interest if the rebate checks aren't in the hands of taxpayers by the end of July.

And the amendment boosted the income-tax cut plan, expanding the proposed cuts to benefit earners in the top tax bracket.

With the Abrams amendment, the bill would reduce income tax rates from 6 to 5.5 percent on the first \$34,500 in taxable net income, from 8 to 7 percent for income from \$34,501 to \$113,360, and from 8.5 to 8 percent on all income over \$113,360.

The bill also would eliminate the so-called "marriage penalty," a hitch in state law that forces married couples filing jointly to pay more taxes than single filers with the same income.

The bill would require the state to begin processing sales-tax rebates by June 1 and to offer taxpayers the opportunity to sign their rebate checks over to the

state for one of five specially designated funds or for the general fund.

The bill would give \$1 million to the revenue department to finance the rebate process.

During floor debate, several lawmakers argued that giving a break to the 6 percent of the state's residents who fall into the highest income levels wasn't proper.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said that high-income earners already get two breaks on the first two tax levels and that adding a cut at the top would make that break even larger.

But Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea) said giving a break at the top wouldn't take anything away from anyone.

"It just gives fairness to every Minnesotan," he said.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) summed up the feelings of some lawmakers

when he objected to another House member terming the rebate a "reward."

"This is not a reward, it's their money," he said. "We're returning what we took from them because we don't need it. It's not a reward, and until we get out of that mentality, we have real problems."

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) cast the lone vote against the measure. The bill was sent to the Senate, where its future is uncertain.

Early in the session, the House passed a bill (HF1) that would provide a tax rebate based on income taxes paid. The Senate approved a rebate based on a sales tax formula, which has the support of Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The two bills have been in conference committee for weeks.

On March 31, the House declined to vote on a rebate plan the Senate had attached to a local tax bill (HF50), sponsored by Rep. Jerry Dempsey. That bill was laid on the table.

Almost no one expected the rebate plan to be attached to the deficiency bill — a measure which had earlier drawn debate mainly because of provisions to provide \$600,000 for the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley and \$829,000 for the Department of Public Safety.

The zoo's request would offset losses from lower-than-expected attendance. Of the Department of Public Safety's request, \$629,000 would pay for license plates for new automobiles and \$200,000 would fund additional security for Ventura.

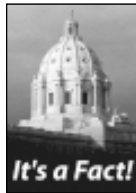
The bill also would require the zoological board to study alternative management structures, such as converting to a private non-profit organization instead of remaining a state agency. The board would have to submit a report to the governor and Legislature by Feb. 1, 2000, analyzing how changes would impact employees and what the ongoing costs would be to the state.

Among other proposals in the bill, 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, a state-subsidized health care plan.

And the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning would receive \$3.5 million primarily to pay legal costs arising from two lawsuits.

Other appropriations proposed in the bill are \$15,000 in legal fees for a lawsuit involving the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board and a \$370,000 boost for the State Services for the Blind. 🐾

State's grand gesture made a modest gift



Most visitors to the recently re-opened Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. walk right past the red stone that simply says "Minnesota" and cast their eyes instead at one of

the more ornate memorial stones embedded in the granite staircase leading to the top.

But Minnesota's contribution to the monument — although it may look unimpressive — represents a truly unique gesture.

In 1848, Henry H. Sibley was sent to the nation's capital to lobby Congress for the creation of a new Minnesota territory. While there he heard the call from the Washington Monument Association for memorial stones.

In 1849, after Sibley had successfully convinced Congress to grant Minnesota territo-

rial status, he returned to Minnesota and acquired a block of pipestone for Minnesota's gift to the monument honoring the first U.S. president. In September 1849, he submitted the stone to the new territorial Legislature for approval.

"Minnesota should not be backward in her contribution to a work which is intended to perpetuate the memory of the 'Father of his Country,'" Sibley wrote in a letter reprinted in the legislative journals. "The offering should be that of the constituted authorities of the territory, rather than the act of a private individual."

The Territorial Legislature followed Sibley's suggestion and passed a resolution authorizing the donation of the rock. Territorial Gov. Alexander Ramsey signed the resolution on Oct. 11, 1849.

Minnesota's stone is one of 192 memorial stones, including gifts from each of the 50 states, various municipalities, individual donors, and several foreign nations.

All 50 states have dedicated memorial stones. The first state stone was Alabama's stone, which was installed in 1849. And

Alaska was the last state to have its stone placed in 1982.

The red stone offered by Minnesota is about 2 feet long, 1 foot high, and 2 inches thick. It has no other writing besides the uppercase, block letters that spell out "Minnesota."

The red pipestone, also called Catlinite, was quarried from the historic quarry outside of what is now Pipestone, Minn. Stone from that quarry has been used by Native Americans for centuries to make ceremonial pipes.

Sibley, in his letter to the Territorial Legislature, took issue with the name Catlinite.

He wrote that the rock was named after George Catlin, who was alleged to be the first white settler to see the pipestone quarry. Sibley disputed this fact and claimed that many settlers had seen the quarry before Catlin.

"This designation is therefore clearly improper and unjust," he wrote. "The

Sioux term for the stone is Eyanskah, by which, I conceive, it should be known and classified."

The geological community didn't take Sibley's advice and the stone is still referred to as Catlinite.

The Washington Monument was finally completed Dec. 6, 1884, and the structure is now enjoying a full-scale restoration. It was re-opened in February, after a temporary shutdown to allow work crews to do their job.

Minnesota's stone is far from the most famous stone. That honor belongs to the original stone dedicated by Pope Pius IX. The marble stone was originally a part of the Temple of Concord in Rome.

On March 6, 1854, members of the Know Nothing Party, an anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic group, stole the stone and allegedly destroyed it. Some speculate that it still sits at the bottom of the Potomac River. The Vatican donated a replica in 1982.

Luckily, the masked thieves passed up the Minnesota stone on that night in 1854.



This piece of pipestone was the state's contribution to the Washington Monument.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Omnibus ag bill advances

Disaster relief, marketing initiatives, and record ethanol producer payments head the list of provisions in a \$139 million spending package approved April 13 by the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

The omnibus bill (HF2389) was hailed as the biggest farm bill in Minnesota history. It comes in response to the deepening crisis in the state's agricultural sector, according to Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who chairs the committee and is sponsoring the bill.

By far the largest single item in the spending package is a proposed \$74.7 million appropriation for ethanol producer payments to plants around Minnesota.

The state purchases about one-fifth of all bushels of the state's largest crop — corn — through ethanol subsidies.

The new funding would bring plants in Albert Lea, Bingham Lake, Buffalo Lake, Luverne, and Preston to maximum production capacity.

An additional \$500,000 would go to the state's newest proposed ethanol plant, which would be part of the operation at the Minnesota Brewing facility in St. Paul.

The bill also would provide funding for a Little Falls plant, which began production in March.

The omnibus bill includes about \$8.2 million for the Agriculture Utilization and Research Institute and another \$1.3 million to allow the commissioner of agriculture to develop collaborative efforts to expand direct marketing efforts.

Nearly \$500,000 would go to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Farm Advocate Program, which provides assistance with preparing cash flow sheets, loan applications, and other financial documents to struggling farm families across the state. Another \$400,000 would be targeted for helping farmers with management options in disaster counties.

The bill also would establish a rapid response fund of \$250,000 for crop and livestock diseases. When a crisis develops and the Legislature is not in session, the opportunity to take quick action to prevent the spread of disease can be lost, supporters of the fund said.

And the measure would provide another

\$250,000 for pseudorabies eradication in hog herds in the state. The governor has already signed a separate bill (HF414*/SF428/CH45) appropriating \$1.25 million to purchase pseudorabies vaccine.

Ness' omnibus spending bill includes an appropriation of \$316,000 to help farmers who experience crop damage by protected wildlife, rounding out the nearly \$2 million in the bill for disaster relief.

Also under the measure, \$300,000 would go toward planning for an urban agricultural high school. The school would teach agricul-

tural skills and farm awareness, with the eventual aim of providing a pipeline for agricultural industry employees.

A plan to allow farmed cervidae — the animal family that includes deer and elk — to be hunted on game preserves is also included in the finance bill.

Finally, the bill includes a provision backed by Ness that calls for legislative review of any regulation or fee the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency might assess on livestock, poultry, or feedlot operations.

The bill moves to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Liquid protest



Milk runs down the street and into a storm sewer on the Capitol grounds after Mark Rohr, a dairy farmer from Otter Tail County, opened the spigot of the holding tank on the back of his pickup truck and released 100 gallons of milk to protest low milk prices on April 15.

Funds vetoed, vaccine OK'd



More than \$1.25 million in state funding for pseudorabies vaccine is on its way to swine producers in Minnesota whose herds are infected, under a new law effective April 13.

The vaccine is being provided to quell an outbreak of the highly contagious disease, which is not harmful to humans but causes pigs to have reproductive problems and to gain weight more slowly.

But another \$245,000 aimed at helping farmers with financial management was sliced from the measure, the victim of Gov. Jesse Ventura's first line-item veto.

Money for the Center for Farm Financial Management at University of Minnesota was added to the House version of the bill in the Senate. It survived a conference committee, but not the governor's pen.

In his veto message, Ventura said that the state must do everything it can to eradicate pseudorabies and help hog farmers, but he said he believes the appropriation to provide about 500 farmers with assistance to apply for spring operating loans had no place in the bill.

"In my view, all such relief proposals belong in an omnibus bill, especially now that the legislative process has already taken too long to ensure adequate and timely financing application assistant to farmers for this planting season," Ventura said.

Supporters of the measure to provide the vaccine said farmers had done a good job over the years working to decrease incidences of pseudorabies, but in recent months, there has been a resurgence of infected herds.

Bill opponents claimed pseudorabies flared

because farmers facing declining pork prices decided to gamble and not vaccinate.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Paula Hanson (DFL-Ham Lake) sponsored the measure.

HF414*/SF428/CH45



BONDING

Setting bonding priorities

The House passed a bill April 8 that would give the Legislature a tool to better evaluate local capital improvement requests. The vote was 97-25.

Under the proposal, the Minnesota Department of Finance would review each local bonding request and submit its recommendations to the Legislature for consideration in the bonding bill.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), outlines a set of nine criteria that the finance department would use in evaluating each proposal.

Those include considering whether each project has additional local, private, and user financing; helps fulfill an important state mission of regional or statewide importance; will not require additional state funding for operation; does not expand the state's role into a new policy area; does not create serious inequities among local jurisdictions; has a credible plan for ongoing maintenance and funding throughout the life of the project; does not compete with other local facilities; and has resolutions of support from all governing bodies immediately affected by the project.

The measure also would limit state funding to one-half of the project's total costs, unless the project comes as a result of a natural disaster or would be located in an economically depressed area.

While the bill would encourage local governments to submit their requests directly to the department, it also states that neither the Legislature nor the governor would be bound by the recommendations of the department and that legislators and the governor could introduce projects for consideration that have not been reviewed by the finance department.

Knoblach's bill, which would apply to requests for the 2000 bonding bill, would require local governments to submit their proposals to the finance department by June 1, 1999.

The measure (**HF726**) now goes to the Senate.

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Legislature's Web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>**



CRIME

Waiting in the workhouse



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law April 15 that will authorize county sheriffs to transfer prisoners waiting for trial from the county jail to the county workhouse.

Current law allows sheriffs to transfer only prisoners who have been sentenced. The new measure, effective Aug. 1, will allow sheriffs to do the same with pretrial prisoners.

Under the new law, sheriffs and workhouse administrators are required to have an agreement in place on the conditions of the transfer, including how costs will be handled.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) and Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington) sponsored the measure.

HF216*/SF236/CH49

Challenging court orders



The governor signed a measure April 12 that will place a time limit on when criminal defendants can challenge court-ordered restitution.

Under current law, courts can order that a person convicted of a crime pay the victim expenses resulting from the crime. Restitution can include medical bills, therapy costs, or the replacement of lost wages.

Current law also outlines a process whereby defendants can challenge the amount claimed by the victim.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will give the defendant 30 days to challenge the amount of the restitution. The clock starts ticking when the defendant is informed of the amount requested or is sentenced to pay, whichever is later.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) and Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the measure.

HF733/SF117*/CH38



DEVELOPMENT

Omnibus development bill

The House passed the 1999 jobs and economic development finance bill April 15. The vote was 72-55.

The \$444 million appropriations bill, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would provide funding for two dozen state agencies over the next two years, including the

departments of commerce, economic security, housing, labor, and trade and economic development

The bill (**HF2390**) was approved by the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee on April 9 and by the House Ways and Means Committee on April 12.

The bill also includes House Speaker Steve Sviggum's plan to replace lawmakers who serve on the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) with appointed citizens.

Sviggum (R-Kenyon) has argued that the IRRRB's current makeup causes constitutional problems, because legislators are prohibited from holding other public offices.

Sviggum's proposal would require the governor to appoint 10 board members who are not legislators. No more than six board members could support the same political party, and all would have to live in the Iron Range tax relief area.

The IRRRB oversees six different accounts that appropriate money for environmental or economic development projects in northeastern Minnesota. The board administers funds received through a specific tax paid by mining companies in the area.

Under current law, the House speaker appoints five state representatives to serve on the board, and the Senate Subcommittee on Committees appoints five state senators.

The omnibus bill also includes a housing proposal originally sponsored by Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan). The plan seeks to provide stable housing for families with school-aged children.

Specifically, the measure would enable organizations to apply for grants through the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, which was established by the Legislature in 1993. That program provides grants to counties and nonprofit organizations for efforts to prevent homelessness.

Under Pawlenty's plan, a new project aimed at providing stability for homeless children would be added to the existing program.

The program would combine the housing services with job training, social services, and the schools. The bill would provide \$1 million for the project.

The bill also would split the regulation of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) between the departments of health and commerce. Under current law, the Department of Health is the agency responsible for regulating those organizations.

Under the omnibus bill, the Department of Commerce would be responsible for the financial regulation of these entities, and the Department of Health would regulate quality of care issues.

Other risk-bearing health organizations, such as community integrated service networks (CISNs), health care cooperatives, and community purchasing arrangements, would also fall under the change.

Here are some other highlights of the bill.

- The Department of Trade and Economic Development would receive \$81.2 million over the next two years. Of that amount, \$2 million would fund the Wastewater Infrastructure Fund grant program for statewide wastewater improvement projects. Also included in that amount, \$5 million would go to the Office of Tourism to increase marketing and advertising.
- The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency would get \$96.2 million over the next two years. Of that amount, \$10 million of additional funding would go toward preserving federally subsidized rental housing. The bill also would provide \$1.6 million to an innovative housing demonstration project. The program would seek to develop innovative building techniques that could keep housing costs affordable.
- Also under the bill, the Department of Economic Security would receive \$83.5 million over the next two years. Included in this appropriation, State Services for the Blind would receive \$10.9 million. The department is required under the bill to audit State Services for the Blind to find the cause for the deficit that occurred in the agency's 1999 budget.
- The bill would provide \$38 million to the Department of Commerce over the next two years. Of that amount, \$1.4 million would fund an upgrade of the database systems used by the department, and \$90,000 would go toward the development of an online licensing web-site. The bill would also provide \$100,000 for an educational campaign to alert home buyers to the mortgage flipping scam.
- The bill would also provide \$1.1 million to the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, \$638,000 to the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, \$563,000 to the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, and \$649,000 to the Council on Black Minnesotans. Of the appropriation to the Council on Black Minnesotans, \$25,000 would go to the annual planning of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.
- Also under the bill, the Minnesota Historical Society would get \$50.4 million, the Department of Labor and Industry would be appropriated \$48 million, and the Department of Public Service would receive \$21 million. Several boards would also receive funding. The Board of Accountancy would get \$1.3 million, the architecture board would receive \$1.6 million, and the Board of Barber

Examiners would get \$293,000. But the state Board of Boxing would be eliminated under the bill. This provision came as a result of recommendations made by the legislative auditor in a report on occupational regulation. The auditor suggested that the functions of the board could best be handled by a private organization.

Limits on locals

A bill that would restrict cities and counties from a practice of using zoning ordinances to achieve certain goals was approved by the House April 13. The vote was 100-32.

The bill (SF854*/HF896) would prohibit cities and counties from setting a deadline for a nonconforming land use to cease. That process, known as "amortization," gives local units of government a loophole in laws regarding the public taking of private property, said Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), sponsor of the bill.

Larsen said amortization allows local units of government to take, or condemn, private property by saying it has no value due to the nonconforming use, such as a home located in a business district.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) objected to the bill, saying Minnesota would be the only state to prohibit that practice and that court rulings have found amortization to be constitutional.

Paymar and Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) each offered amendments to allow amortization to be used to reduce the number of billboards throughout the state, but those proposals were rejected.

The bill now goes to the governor.



EDUCATION

K-12 funding hike

Schools would receive about \$127 more per student from the state next year, under a \$7.7 billion omnibus K-12 finance bill advancing in the House.

The 3.6-percent increase on the state's general formula would be \$42 per pupil more than Gov. Jesse Ventura's proposed hike, but it would come in almost \$275 short of the increase called for by DFLers on the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

That committee approved the omnibus finance bill (HF2333), sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), on April 12.

General formula funding for school districts is figured on weighted per-pupil units, with secondary students receiving more revenue than elementary students.

School districts receive the bulk of their funding from the general formula, currently set at \$3,530 per pupil. The House plan would follow next year's increase with a 3-percent formula boost for the 2000-01 school year.

The increase in per-pupil funding would cost the state \$204 million, which would be part of the \$6 billion sent to districts in general formula funding.

The omnibus bill also includes key provisions designed to reduce class sizes, boost summer school programs, support charter schools, and reduce the funding disparities between local school districts.

Class-size reduction

The measure would spend about \$107 million over the next two years for class-size reduction initiatives. That's about \$43 million less than the governor proposed.

But the House plan closely resembles Ventura's plan in all other ways. The funds would be targeted to kindergarten through third grade, with the goal of reducing class sizes, primarily in reading and math, to 17 children to each teacher.

Districts would have to submit a plan to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, and upon approval, they would receive up to \$250 per student. Districts that have already met that 17-to-1 goal in those grades could use the funding for reducing class sizes in higher grades, providing all-day kindergarten, increasing staff, or improving technology and other programs.

Targeted programs

The measure also would provide almost \$2.3 million over the next biennium to fund basic skills summer school programs. Districts could receive the funding for students who do not pass a basic skills test in reading, writing, or mathematics.

The governor's proposal did not include funding for that provision, but in other areas, the House plan follows Ventura's recommendations. For instance, both proposals would earmark almost \$6 million over two years to expand the Fast Break to Learning program, which provides in-school breakfasts and has been shown to have a positive impact on test scores and attendance rates at certain pilot sites.

But the House plan would not continue to fund all-day kindergarten pilot programs around the state. The first-grade preparedness program was initiated in 1996, with \$5 million in biennial spending, and it was given a \$1.5 million funding boost in 1998's omnibus education law.

Charter schools

Fledgling charter schools would see more state money under the House plan. Funding for both start-up and lease costs for those schools would be increased to almost \$12 million for the biennium — almost \$2.5 million more than the governor proposed.

Other provisions are aimed at making it easier to create new charter schools. Cities, towns, and educational cooperative boards would be added to the list of entities that can sponsor charter schools, and districts would be required to convert existing schools to charter schools if the majority of full-time teachers at a school petition for the change. Under current law, 90 percent of those teachers must petition to necessitate the conversion.

Funding disparities

The bill also includes provisions to address statewide funding disparities between districts. Currently, about 32 percent of school districts' budgets come from local property tax levies, and districts that, for whatever reason, have trouble getting voter approval for levy hikes face recurring funding crunches.

The House proposal would direct almost \$28 million over the upcoming biennium to a new funding component called equity revenue. Equity revenue would provide additional money, on a sliding scale, to districts that have less than the state's average per-pupil funding based on combined state and local revenue.

The plan also would increase the level at which the state "equalizes" local referendum funding. Currently, additional state funds are provided for districts' first \$315 in per-pupil funding from local levies, based on the districts' property tax base. The House plan would raise that level to \$350 for fiscal year 2000 and to \$415 the following year.

Also, the bill would create an equity component for the current spending, called compensatory funding, that is directed to districts with high concentrations of poor and non-English speaking students. Compensatory equity funding would share that money with more districts, and the bill would add about \$12 million over two years in compensatory funding for districts that don't have high enough concentrations of poor students to qualify under the current formula.

The measure was approved by the House Taxes Committee April 14 and moves next to the House Ways and Means Committee.



ENVIRONMENT

Seeking waste solutions

The House passed a bill April 8 that would make the Office of Environmental Assistance responsible for part of the state's Waste Management Act. The vote was 123-1.

The Waste Management Act is a state law that requires the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the commissioner of public service to recommend policy changes to help the state reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfills. Goals of the program include purchasing products that contain recycled material, conducting tests on agencies' experiences using those products, and keeping other data related to recycling.

Under current law, the Pollution Control Agency and the commissioner of public service recommend policy changes to the governor and the Environment and Natural Resources committees in the House and Senate. The bill (SF1176*/HF1151) would shift the MPCA's responsibility to the Office of Environmental Assistance.

The bill now moves to the governor's desk.

Protecting lake waters

The House passed a bill April 13 that would modify the state's policy for controlling the spread of Eurasian water milfoil and other exotic species. The vote was 132-0.

Signs of spring



Daffodils bloomed on the Capitol grounds this week, a sure sign that spring is really here.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) developed the Exotic Species Program after Eurasian water milfoil was found in Lake Minnetonka in 1987 and zebra mussels were found in Duluth harbor. The program includes inspection of boats and trailers at launching sites of lakes that are known to be infested.

The bill (SF1528*/HF1248) would extend those inspections to lakes that are not infested, and it would allow more time for those inspections. Under current law, the DNR inspects boats from May 1 to Oct. 15 each year. The bill would extend those dates to the entire open water season.

Current law also prohibits people from harvesting bait from infested waters. The bill would allow the DNR to grant permits for that purpose to people who have had training in handling exotic species.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack) and Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury).

The measure now goes to the governor.



FAMILY

Kids in treatment



Parents of teen-agers with chemical dependency problems often find their hands are tied when dealing with their children, but a new law signed by the governor April 12 aims to give them aid.

Under current law, children under the age of 16 can be admitted by their parents to a chemical dependency treatment program, provided that an independent evaluator confirms the need for treatment. But for minors ages 16 and 17 the treatment must be voluntary.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will make 16- and 17-year-olds subject to the same requirements as children under the age of 16.

"It is highly questionable that a 16- or 17-year-old who is chemically dependent can make this choice by themselves," said Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), who sponsored the measure in the House.

Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake) sponsored the Senate bill.

HF183*/SF144/CH32

Child care terms



A new state law extends a temporary legal definition of day care terms including newborn, infant, toddler, preschooler, and school age. The measure is effective April 13.

The definitions were adopted in 1997 because of concerns regarding adequate day care options in light of welfare reform. They were part of new guidelines aimed at allowing day care operations to take a greater mix of children than was allowable under the prior definitions.

State law dictates how many children in a certain age group — newborns, for example — can be under the care of one day care provider at one time. The 1997 changes were designed to give greater flexibility and to make available more child care options.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake) sponsored the bill.

HF1126*/HF862/CH36



GOVERNMENT

New veto authority

The governor would be able to veto rules that are adopted by state agencies, under a bill the House passed April 8. The vote was 93-32.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) is sponsoring the bill (**HF1905**), under which the governor would receive a copy of all new rules promulgated by state agencies and would have the authority to veto all or part of a rule and send the vetoed measure to the Legislature for consideration.

Seifert mentioned two recent controversial rules — the so-called diversity rule and the Profile of Learning — that were considered or created by the State Board of Education and Seifert said the state would have benefited by having the rule veto in place.

In those examples, the governor could have vetoed the entire rules or only certain parts, such as the much-criticized paperwork requirements that accompanied the Profile of Learning initiative. The Legislature could then have proposed alternatives to address the problems, Seifert said, instead of allowing the agency to impose the rules on school districts.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said that the public currently enjoys considerable input in the rulemaking process, and she said that input would be diminished if the governor could veto rules. She also said rules often involve complicated scientific data, and the Legislature might have less time than the agencies to hear from experts regarding that data.

But Seifert said the governor would not have ultimate veto power. If the Legislature were to fail to act on a governor's veto of a rule, the rule would automatically go into effect. He described the bill as a "modest proposal to give the governor and the Legislature some oversight in the rulemaking process."

The measure now moves to the Senate.

Time limit on confirmation

People who are appointed by the governor as commissioners of state agencies would have to be confirmed by the Senate within one year of the appointment, under a bill the House passed April 8. The vote was 115-7.

The bill (**HF118**), sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), would prevent an acting or temporary commissioner from serving in that role for more than one year.

Under the bill, if the Senate did not confirm an appointment within one year, the governor would have to make a new appointment.

The measure now moves to the Senate.



HEALTH

Allowing bed rails

A bill that would clarify the permitted uses of bed rails in Minnesota nursing homes is on its way to Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The bill won final passage in the House on April 12. The vote was 127-0.

Under provisions of the measure (**HF40**), a nursing home resident's right to bed rails and other restraints would be reaffirmed. Fear of falling would be included as a legitimate medical reason for prescribing bed rails, and a study of the use of restraints would be initiated.

The bill was proposed after a number of nursing homes were fined by the Minnesota Department of Health last spring for improperly using bed rails according to the department's interpretation of federal regulations.

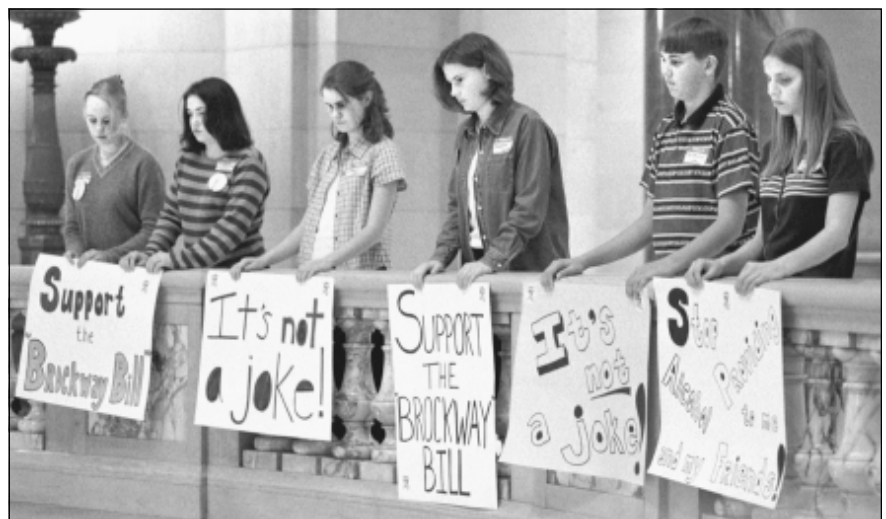
Concern about use of bed rails arose because of injuries and even deaths caused when patients became entangled in the rails. The federal regulations called for a moratorium on rail use in cases where a patient would be put in "immediate jeopardy." Many nursing homes subsequently removed bed rails entirely, hoping to avoid fines but leaving some residents and their families upset.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), said the idea was to craft a bill at the state level that would spell out patient rights under federal guidelines but wouldn't jeopardize the state's Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements. He said action in the Senate was delayed as long as possible awaiting comment from federal sources.

Bradley told his House colleagues that in the "best guess of the professionals," the bill would be acceptable to the federal Health Care Finance Authority, although there is no guarantee.

If the measure becomes law and is eventually found objectionable in the eyes of the federal government, it may have to be revisited next session, Bradley said.

S.A.D.D. at the Capitol



School representatives from Students Against Drunk Driving (S.A.D.D.) listen as Tom Brockway describes dealing with the death of his son, Kevin Brockway. The boy died at age 16 in a car crash on New Year's Eve in 1997, after leaving a party where an adult had provided alcohol. S.A.D.D. students came to the Capitol from around the state on April 15 to support a bill that would allow felony charges to be brought against certain adults who provide alcohol to minors. Students are, left to right, Lidsey Ruliffson and Maggie Snetting, from South High School in Minneapolis; Laura Skidmore and Jennifer Wisnew, from Lakeville High School; and Talman Wiles and Laurie VanPeursen, from Stewartville High School.

Health-related regulations



The governor signed a bill April 12 implementing changes in licensing for physicians, acupuncture practitioners, and athletic trainers.

Effective Aug. 1, medical students enrolled in dual-degree programs will have additional time to pass portions of the state licensing exam. The increasing number of double-majors studying at the Mayo Clinic and other facilities has made the current time restrictions unrealistic.

The new law also will provide protection from charges of practicing medicine without a license for acupuncturists, and will authorize a temporary permit for athletic trainers, similar to what is currently in law for other regulated health occupations.

The Board of Medical Practice requested the changes in the law.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure.

HF413*/SF418/CH33



HIGHER EDUCATION

College campus cash infusion

Lawmakers on the House Higher Education Finance Committee narrowly approved a \$2.6 billion spending bill April 9 to support the state's higher education institutions.

The bill would provide funds to increase financial aid for students, provide salary increases for faculty at Minnesota colleges, create a University of Minnesota campus in Rochester, and make changes to the way University of Minnesota regents are selected.

DFLers on the committee voted against the measure, saying the bill's appropriations — which don't include a \$350 million proposed endowment fund for medical education — are not adequate to provide for colleges and universities throughout the state.

The endowment, proposed by Gov. Jesse Ventura, was considered by the committee but was not included in the omnibus measure. The \$350 million would have come from the state's tobacco lawsuit settlement funds.

Apart from that provision, the bill (**HF2380**) proposes the same spending amount called for in Ventura's recommendations. However, funds would be distributed differently than under Ventura's plan for the four major higher education organizations the state finances.

The bill, which is sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), was approved by the House Ways & Means Committee April 12 and now moves to the House floor.

Here's a look at key provisions of the omnibus bill.

MnSCU spending

The bill would provide \$1.13 billion to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnSCU), about \$3.3 million less than the governor's recommendation.

Under the bill, about half of MnSCU's requested increases would be funded. MnSCU officials had originally asked the Legislature for an additional \$230 million to fund a long list of initiatives for the 53-campus system. That list included faculty pay raises, technology improvements, and joint training programs with industries to fill job market needs.

Instead of targeting dollars for specific programs, lawmakers chose to appropriate money by category, leaving MnSCU to decide how to spend it.

For technology improvements, the bill includes \$3.5 million increase in funding over two years. The committee did not appropriate money for the industry partnerships and job training programs, for which MnSCU had requested \$46 million.

Lawmakers approved \$84.1 million for faculty salary increases, institutional operating expenses, and facility repair. A total of \$10 million also would be appropriated for under-funded campuses in the system.

In other projects, the bill would provide funding for a rural research center at Southwest State University and expand farm business management programs at MnSCU institutions. And \$20 million is included in the bill for equipment purchases and other expenses left to the discretion of MnSCU officials.

University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota would receive \$1.2 billion, also \$3.3 million less than the governor's proposal. About 60 percent of the U of M's requests for new dollars would be funded under the plan. The bill would not provide as large an increase as requested for medical education, which officials say is badly needed.

Ventura's proposal called for \$1.3 million for four endowment funds that would come from the state's tobacco settlement. Under that proposal, a \$350 million endowment would go toward the university's Academic Health Center. However, the committee's bill does not include the endowment fund, which could provide \$13 million annually for the U of M's medical programs.

Of the Academic Health Center's \$37 million requested budget increase, the measure would provide \$6 million.

In other areas, the bill would target \$69.4 million to boost salaries of faculty or staff members. Another \$20.1 million would go toward undergraduate education programs, and \$10.1 million would fund facilities upkeep.

The bill also would allow for the establishment of a new, non-residential U of M campus in Rochester and would direct \$5.3 million in funding toward the project. Another \$1.2 million would be divided between other university outreach programs, technology projects, or miscellaneous collaborative programs around the state.

The university's extension service also would receive a \$600,000 funding boost over two years, under the bill.

In addition to the funding provisions, the bill would tinker with the university's Board of Regents election process. It would set up a task force to look at more aggressive recruitment strategies for potential regents and direct the Regent Candidate Advisory Council to automatically forward incumbent candidates for the Legislature's selection.

Financial aid funding

The Higher Education Services Office (HESO), which serves as Minnesota's financial aid bureau, would receive \$292 million to fund the state grant program, operate library systems, and provide informational services to current and prospective post-secondary students. The total HESO appropriation is about \$6.6 million more than the governor's budget proposal.

Through several different programs, the bill provides about \$19 million in aid to Minnesota's higher education students.

First, the minimum state grant is reduced from \$300 to \$200. That means some students who did not previously qualify for grants could be eligible for grants. Also, the assigned student responsibility — the amount the state expects students to contribute to their education — would be lowered from 47 to 46 percent of the total cost.

And the public tuition allowance and private tuition maximum will be capped at or near the inflation rate. A tuition maximum or allowance is the state's tool for calculating state grants, and it is a flat rate of tuition based on tuition at public and private colleges all over the state.

Because colleges raise their tuition almost every year, increasing the state's tuition maximum takes the actual increases into account when calculating grant awards. However, capping that cost at inflation does not mean college costs would necessarily rise at the rate of inflation, and proponents say it could

encourage institutions to keep their tuition increases at a low level.

Much of the financial aid package would be funded with an expected increase in the federal Pell Grant amount per student, which results in about \$10 million in savings from the state grant program.

In Minnesota, the state grant is decreased when the federal grant goes up, so students receive the same amount of money. For the 1999-2000 school year, the Pell Grant will increase to \$3,125 from \$3,000.

The bill would eliminate two programs that provide grants for nursing students, but it would appropriate \$500,000 to add more students into work study programs.

Mayo Medical School

The Mayo Foundation would receive its full funding request of \$3.2 million for the biennium, under the omnibus plan. That amount would fund an increase in the base budgets for the Mayo Medical School, a family medicine residency program, and a residency program at St. Cloud Hospital.

The increases would make more grant dollars available to students attending the medical school and would make up for student costs incurred by recent and potential tuition increases.

In addition, the bill would increase the state's share of some residency program participants' stipends and maintain the same level of funding for other participants. The programs are designed to encourage students to practice medicine in Minnesota, particularly in rural or under-served geographical areas.

Other changes

Other provisions in the bill include an updated policy on private career school regulation and how information on hazing rules is distributed to students.

Lawmakers also approved a plan for general education requirements for technical college students. According to the bill, general education courses such as math or English would only be included in a technical course of study if they are occupational requirements or part of a two- or four-year degree program.

Building is Taylor made



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a bill April 12 approving the construction of the Taylor Center, a privately-funded building at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

The Legislature was required to approve construction because the building will be on a

campus of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, which is a state entity.

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 law took effect April 13, and construction is scheduled to begin this spring.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure.

HF492*/SF518/CH34



HOUSING

New regulations on renting

The House passed a bill April 8 that would regulate the pre-lease deposits required by some landlords. The vote was 123-3.

Currently, landlords sometimes require prospective tenants to pay a deposit before entering into a rental agreement. Under the bill (**HF1178**), sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), landlords could demand such a deposit only if they specify in writing the circumstances under which the deposit will be returned.

The bill also would require landlords to return the deposit within seven days.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

Oversight of building code

The House passed a bill April 8 that would partially consolidate authority over the state building code. The vote was 92-30.

Several state departments currently develop and enforce various sections of the state building code. The bill (**HF1568**), sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), would transfer authority over the energy code from the Department of Public Service to the Department of Administration.

The administration department currently oversees many provisions of the state building code. However, other parts of the code are developed and enforced under the departments of health, public safety, or public service. Several state agencies and boards also have input in inspecting and reviewing building plans for public buildings.

Disagreements and poor coordination between the various state agencies and depart-

ments have caused unnecessary delays in construction, according to a January report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

The bill now moves to the Senate.



HUMAN SERVICES

Mental health council



The governor signed a bill April 12 that will modify membership and reporting requirements for the State Advisory Council on Mental Health. The new law takes effect Aug. 1.

The new law will add a representative from the Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Network of Minnesota to the council. It also will require one or more of the council members to be a person of color.

Finally, the law will require the council to report on its activities to the Legislature, in addition to the executive branch.

The 30-member panel is charged with providing input on policy, programs, and services affecting people with mental illness.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the bill.

HF640*/SF488/CH39



LAW

Divorce law correction



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a bill April 12 correcting an error made in the state's marriage dissolution law.

In 1991, the Legislature created a simplified process for couples without children and with limited property to file for divorce.

Then in 1997, the Legislature amended the summary process but unintentionally failed to remove a provision that discontinued the program in the summer of that year.

The new measure, retroactively effective July 1, 1997, restores the summary process and makes it permanent.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the new law.

HF1258*/SF487/CH37

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Saving shooting ranges

Some lawmakers say existing shooting ranges are important for promoting safe hunting and need additional legal protections.

The House passed a bill April 8 that would provide new protections for such shooting ranges. The vote was 99-26.

Bill sponsor Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) said shooting ranges are important for promoting gun safety and education, and he said that his bill would help implement the new constitutional protections for hunting and fishing approved by voters on the November 1998 ballot.

The bill would prohibit local governments from passing ordinances that would limit the operation of shooting ranges. The bill also would outline the process by which local governments could close or relocate shooting ranges.

And the bill would mandate that shooting ranges that are in compliance with the operation practices could not be subject to a nuisance action and that courts would not be able to restrict these facilities bases on such a claim.

Critics of the bill said it would take an important zoning power from local govern-

the more than 200 tax-related bills already heard this session, the taxes panel focused attention on the property tax provisions aimed at lowering commercial/industrial tax rates and the apartment class rate.

Dorman said Minnesota businesses are not able to be competitive with surrounding states because of the property tax formula.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) questioned the need for the commercial/industrial tax breaks, noting that despite the relatively high taxes, Minnesota has been "beating the daylight" out of its neighbors when it comes to economic development and job creation.

Besides, Orfield said, property taxes paid by businesses have been coming down over the years.

"Wouldn't it make more sense to concentrate our efforts on helping middle-income families with their property taxes?" Orfield questioned.

Bill Blazar, senior vice president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, said that it is true the rates have come down but more needs to be done.

"After the first round of reforms, our national ranking for a \$1 million commercial property improved only slightly in the metropolitan area — falling from first to third highest — and actually deteriorated in Greater Minnesota — increasing from third to second," Blazar said.

Jack Horner, who heads the Minnesota Multi Housing Association, said the tax break for apartment owners would help spur development of more units.

That assertion drew fire from Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), who said he wants to be assured that if apartment owners get a tax break, it would be reflected in stable or lower rental rates.

"Rent increases are a common complaint in my district," Carruthers said.

Horner maintained the only way to guarantee lower rents is to build more units and ease the 1- to 2-percent vacancy rate currently found in the Twin Cities metro area.

Property tax reforms outlined in the bill would result in just over \$222 million less in revenue collections for the coming biennium. The income tax proposals would cost about \$1.3 billion to implement, or about \$249 per taxpayer for tax year 1999.

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



TAXES

Tax cut mulled

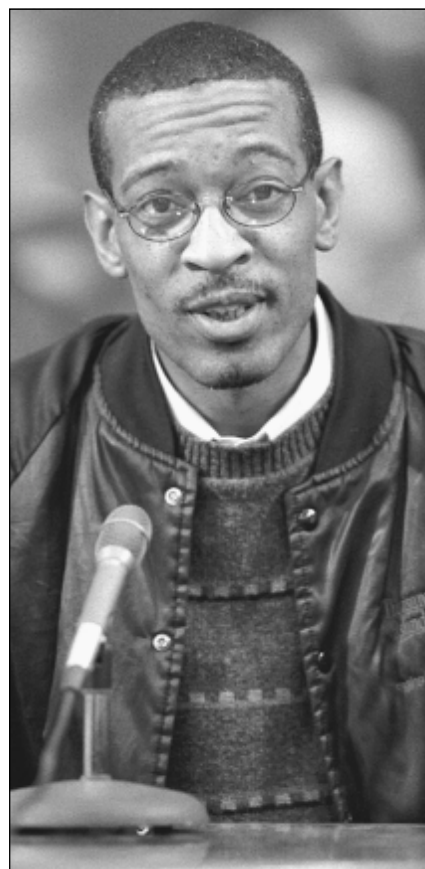
The House Taxes Committee considered a measure April 9 expected to be the heart of the House version of this year's omnibus tax bill.

Sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), the bill (HF2) calls for an across-the-board income tax cut, an end to the so-called marriage penalty, and property tax breaks for certain residences as well as commercial and industrial property owners. It also includes a provision that would eliminate the health care provider tax and would fund MinnesotaCare through the general fund.

The plan was initially offered as a partner to HF1, a proposed rebate of the state's budget surplus based on income taxes paid. That bill was eventually passed by the House and sent to the Senate. There, a rebate based on a sales tax formula was substituted. A conference committee has been attempting to reconcile the two versions for weeks. (The House has since passed a sales-tax based rebate plan and a permanent across-the-board income tax reduction in a separate bill. See related story on page 3.)

Since most of the initiative contained in Dorman's bill had already been considered in

Teen challenge



Steve Fair of Minneapolis testifies in favor of the Teen Challenge, a Christianity-based residential drug-treatment program, during a hearing of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee on April 9.



TRANSPORTATION

Penalties for illegal vehicles

In a move to avoid the risk of losing \$30 million in federal highway funding, the House passed a bill April 13 that would increase penalties for drivers who use trucks that have been ordered out of service. The vote was 116-15.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) is sponsoring the bill.

An out-of-service order means that a truck is damaged or defective and cannot be driven until repairs are made. Under current law, penalties for driving such a vehicle involve fines for drivers and their employers.

But Workman said the federal highway funding could be in jeopardy if Minnesota does not increase its penalties.

Under the bill, drivers would be disqualified from driving commercial motor vehicles for 90 days after the first offense. A second offense in five years would disqualify drivers for one to five years, and a third offense within five years would result in three to five years disqualification.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation would be required to impose fines of at least \$1,000 for drivers and up to \$10,000 for

employers who knowingly violate out-of-service orders.

The bill (HF1046/SF1324*) moves to Gov. Jesse Ventura's desk.

Blue lights on bikes



A new law effective April 13 allows motorcycles to display blue rear brake lights.

Previously, only emergency vehicles, snowplows, and road maintenance vehicles could display a blue light.

Proponents of the new law said the blue lights would improve safety for motorcycle riders by increasing the visibility of their vehicles on the road.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure.

HF766*/SF739/CH35

Slowdown on town roads



A new law effective Aug. 1 reduces speed limits in residential areas of rural townships. It was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura April 12.

The law sets a speed limit of 30 miles per hour on town roads that run through residential developments.

Under existing law, many of those roads had limits of 55 miles per hour. The roads currently do not qualify for a lower speed limit because they do not pass through areas that meet the state's current definition of an urban district.

In an urban district, the speed limit is 30

miles per hour where buildings are within 100 feet of each other.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Janet Johnson (DFL-North Branch), creates a separate definition for rural residential districts, allowing the reduced speed limit when houses are within 300 feet of each other for a distance of at least one quarter of a mile.

HF1265/SF1150*/CH44

Title transfer time limit

A bill that would close a legal loophole that can cause car dealerships to break the law passed the House April 13. The vote was 132-0.

The bill (SF778*/HF790) would decrease the amount of time banks are allowed to release a title after a car is paid off. Under current law, banks have 15 days to do so. The bill would reduce that to seven days when the cars are sold by most types of auto dealerships.

Car dealers have only 10 days to transfer titles to buyers after a vehicle is sold. This can present a problem when dealers need to obtain titles from a bank. If the bank takes longer than 10 days, the dealer's deadline has not been met and they break the law.

Rep. Bill Kuisle (R-Rochester) is sponsoring the measure, which would require banks to release a title within seven days for new and used auto dealerships and leasing companies.

Kuisle's bill also includes a proposed change in state law regarding the mounting of television screens in motor vehicles.

That provision — originally in a separate bill (HF745) sponsored by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) — would allow television screens

in any place except where visible by the driver of an automobile.

If it becomes law, Kuisle's bill it would ultimately let Minnesota dealers sell the Oldsmobile Silhouette minivan. The van's television screen does not fit current state law, which restricts screen mounting to a space specifically behind the driver.

The bill now moves to the desk of Gov. Jesse Ventura.



VETERANS

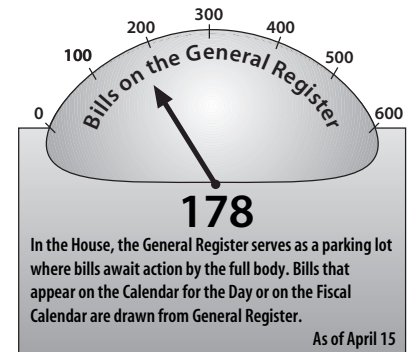
Drive to honor veterans

A new law honoring veterans in Otter Tail County was signed April 12 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law, effective Aug. 1, designates a portion of Minnesota Highway 59 running through the county as "Otter Tail Veterans Memorial Drive."

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls) sponsored the legislation.

HF1986/SF1888*/CH42



Grade school students and parents from Angle Inlet Charter School visited the state Capitol and their legislator, Rep. Jim Tunheim, April 8. Some of the group started out on snowmobiles to cross Lake of the Woods before joining other students for the 430-mile journey to St. Paul.



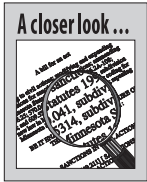
The industrial hemp issue continues to flame up, but lawmakers just keep refusing to inhale. The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee rejected a hemp study amendment to their omnibus finance bill April 9. The amendment was defeated on a 5-5 vote.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), would have directed the Department of Trade and Economic Development to study industrial hemp production in Canada.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), a supporter of Gunther's amendment, brought a bottle of California beer made from hemp seeds to show other possible uses of the product. Referring to the old Hamm's beer commercials, Gunther told the committee that brewery of this sort could "return Minnesota to the land of sky blue water and the dancing bear." The bottle of beer remained capped during the meeting.

Billion-dollar bill aims to cut crime in Minnesota

By Grant Martin



A \$1.1 billion crime bill approved by a House panel would crack down on repeat felons, help to avoid accidents that result from high-speed chases, and build a database of DNA samples from dangerous criminals.

Crime rates across Minnesota appear to be on the decline, and lawmakers want to provide the tools to continue that trend. To that end, members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee completed and approved their omnibus judiciary finance bill April 13.

The spending bill would fund the state court and correctional systems, law enforcement and public safety agencies, and agencies such as the human rights department and the crime victim services center.

The measure also contains several policy provisions that have an impact on the state's criminal justice budget.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights), now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Here are some highlights of the omnibus bill (HF2404).

Three strikes

The proposal includes provisions from the so-called three strikes sentencing bill, originally sponsored by Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury).

The omnibus bill would require courts to sentence a person who is convicted of a third violent felony to a life sentence. Offenders serving a life sentence could not be released into a supervised release program until they had served a minimum of 30 years in prison.

For second-offense violent felons, the bill would lower the threshold necessary to use increased sentences already in place in current law.

Seifert's proposal would limit the scope of crimes that could be counted toward the mandatory sentence and allow some judicial discretion.

The measure would exempt several felony-level crimes from consideration, including certain drug crimes, third-degree assault, second-degree arson, and burglary.

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



Judge R. Joseph Quinn, of the 10th Judicial District Court, sentences an offender during a hearing in his Anoka County courtroom April 14. An omnibus judiciary finance bill advancing in the House would provide funding for six additional district court judges to assist with the increasing workload throughout the state.

Police pursuit

The omnibus bill also addresses several issues involving police chases. The provisions were originally sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove).

The bill would mandate additional training time for officers, create a statewide pursuit policy, provide new technologies for training and pursuit, and strengthen the current laws against fleeing an officer.

Under the bill, the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board would establish a pursuit training course for police officer cadets. The bill would mandate that each cadet receive at least seven hours of training and that all current officers receive at least eight hours of training every two years. And the bill would provide \$800,000 in grants to local law enforcement agencies to assist with the new training requirements.

The bill also would require the POST board to develop a statewide model pursuit policy. The policy would be used to develop guidelines for each local law enforcement agency. Under current law, local agencies are given wide latitude to establish their own procedures for pursuit.

And the bill would provide funding for technologies that would both train officers and, supporters hope, end pursuits more quickly. The measure would provide \$1.4 million over the next two years for the purchase of computer controlled driving simulators, and \$250,000 to pay for so-called "stop-stick" tire

deflators to be distributed to local agencies.

DNA database

The omnibus bill also includes provisions, originally sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), that would increase the state's database of DNA samples.

Current law requires only sex offenders to submit DNA samples to a statewide database kept by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The bill would add several crimes not considered sex offenses to the list of crimes for which offenders must submit samples. Those crimes would include murder, assault, kidnapping, and burglary.

The bureau would get \$125,000 to update its facilities to handle the new data, under the bill.

Public safety spending

The Department of Public Safety would get \$77.8 million over the next two years, under the bill.

Of that amount, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension would get \$50.3 million, the division of Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement would receive \$3.6 million, and the state Fire Marshal would get \$6.4 million.

Also included in the department's appropriation, the Emergency Management Division would be given \$7.7 million. Of that amount, \$55,000 would go to an existing program that allows police departments to seek reimbursements for costs incurred from using

Continued on page 23

Sick building prompts costly office relocations

By Sarah Hallonquist

Just across Interstate 94 from the Capitol complex sits the recently emptied Capitol Square building, waiting for a wrecking ball to come its way.

In 1998, the state health department recommended that the employees working in the building vacate the building as soon as possible.

An air quality study — the last of 17 conducted since 1990 — had revealed fungi, mold, and bacteria within the walls, carpeting, and ductwork of the building. The deteriorating air quality and other problems had employees complaining of sinus infections, congestion, and headaches; some even started working from home.

In the spring of 1998, then-Gov. Arne Carlson requested that the employees be allowed to vacate the building later that year. He also asked the Legislature, as he had done during each of his eight years in office, for funds to tear the building down.

What lawmakers approved was \$3.1 million for the employees to move to a new site, but no money was made available for demolition.

The Capitol Square building, located at 550 Cedar Street, was built in 1912 and was merged with another in the mid-1960s. It originally had only four floors, but five more stories were added in 1968.

The state purchased Capitol Square in 1970 for \$6.4 million. Since then, Minnesota has spent approximately \$9.7 million in renovations and repairs. The last year the blighted building received any money for remodeling or safety repairs was 1987. The air quality complaints began in 1988.

The building housed nearly 600 employees of the state's education agencies: the Department of Children, Families and Learning, the Higher Education Services Office, and the executive offices of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system.



The Capitol Square building, formerly the headquarters for 600 employees of state education agencies, has sat vacant at 550 Cedar St. in St. Paul since an air quality study condemned the building in 1998.

The Department of Children, Families and Learning left the building late last summer and now has a five-year lease at a Roseville office building formerly occupied by State Farm Insurance Co.

A permanent home for the state's education offices is likely at some point; a new education building was included in the 1993 Capitol Strategic Plan for Locating State Agencies.

In its 1998 appropriation, the Legislature included \$175,000 for pre-design work on such a building, and construction could start within the next few years, depending on when the funds

are allocated. The plan lists the existing Cedar Street Armory as the site for the new facility. The former Taystee Bakery site, just behind the armory, would host a 530-space parking lot.

Six months before he left office, Carlson laid the groundwork for a new education building on the bakery site with a price tag of \$35 million. But Carlson's hopes for a fast-track construction project like the one developed for the new Minnesota Department of Revenue building haven't been met this year in Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget.

As for Capitol Square, plans have been discussed to put a surface parking lot on the site if and when the building is demolished. Eventually, a new office complex could be built there, according to the long-range Capitol planning document.

But for now, the departments are flung far from the Capitol, though still in St. Paul. MnSCU is housed in the World Trade Center in downtown St. Paul, and the Higher Education Services Office is located on Energy Park Drive, a couple miles from the Capitol.

David Dahlin, a plant management engineer for the south side of the Capitol complex, oversees the mechanical operations in the Capitol Square building. Dahlin keeps the air circulation and cooling systems operating so that mold and mildew build-up does not worsen and cause health hazards for workers that still enter the building.

"I've heard that this is going to come down for a couple of years, but it's still there," Dahlin said.

Nick Turner, the Capitol Square's building manager, said about \$2 million is needed for demolition. However, it isn't likely lawmakers would fund the project this year. Next session — a bonding year — would be the better fit for such a request.

"It is a high priority for us," Turner said.



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

Flight from blight . . .

Bold planners put hopes in experimental city plan

By Paul Wahl

How would you like to live in a completely new city? It would be a city where no one has lived before, where your home is next door to your work, everyone has a job, and a whisper-silent automated train stops in front of your home to provide transportation.

If the Minnesota Experimental City had been built, you would have had the opportunity to live in just such a place.

By the dawn of the 1970s, urban centers in the United States — including the Twin Cities — were experiencing serious problems with decay, blight, crime, and pollution. To many, there seemed to be few solutions.

Out of those frustrations, an international group of futurists based at the University of Minnesota began to imagine an ideal urban center — the ultimate planned city, a Utopia they would create on the farmlands of central Minnesota.

The steering committee was headed by Otto A. Silha, publisher of Minneapolis Star and Tribune, and included luminaries such as R. Buckminster Fuller, inventor of the geodesic dome, and Arthur S. Flemming, then president of Macalester College and later U.S. secretary of health, education and welfare.

Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, the Brookings Institute, Harvard University, and Syracuse University also lent their voices to the effort.

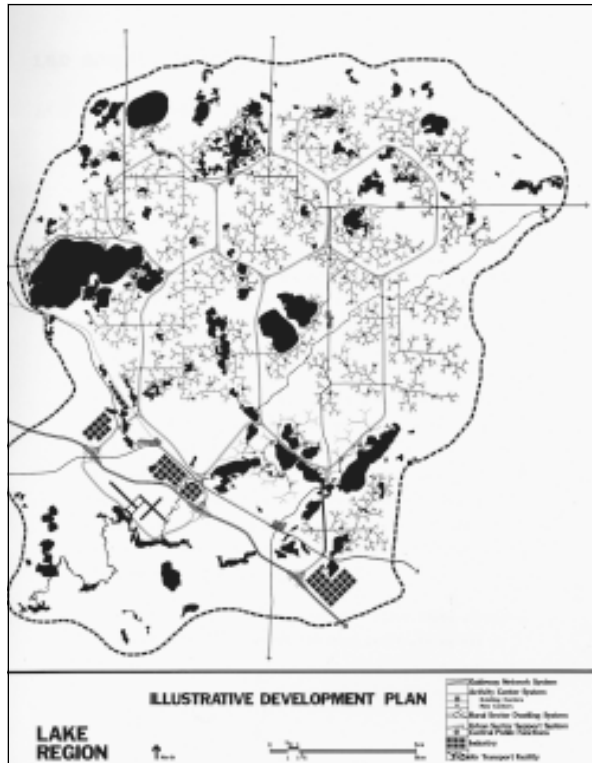
As with so many other good ideas, the experimental city needed both governmental sanction and money. The group approached the Minnesota Legislature in 1970 and \$25,000 was appropriated to study the idea.

The concept had been around since 1966, as a plan to accommodate about 250,000 residents by 1976 in a city “in which the human condition would be improved significantly and where, as a national provingground, technological innovations could be demonstrated and evaluated.”

The city would occupy 45,000 virgin acres, and researchers would come from around the globe to see the experiment.

It was billed as a new direction for urban America, but the idea wasn't exactly novel.

At about the same time, another experimental city was being created on land outside Minneapolis, in an area that would later



A long-since abandoned plan from the early 1970s would have developed the Minnesota Experimental City in Aitkin County. The above plan illustrated potential sites for homes, businesses, and services in what proponents said would be the ideal new city.

become the northern edge of Chaska.

Diamond Bar and Irvine Ranch in California were being studied, along with Columbia, Md., and Seward's Success in Alaska, the world's first totally climate-controlled city.

It was an idea whose time had come. (Several years later a well-known cartoonist from Southern California would unveil something in the same spirit called the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow, or EPCOT, in the swamps of central Florida.)

After a year of testimony, the committee created to study the issue in Minnesota forwarded a report to the Legislature in 1971, filled with glowing reports about the prospects for an experimental city and concluding with a draft of a bill to create a Minnesota Experimental Authority to oversee its construction.

The premise was simple. Old urban practices weren't working, yet there was no way to study new ones because no new cities were being built.

“Since urban systems are complex and interacting and should not be changed without assurance of improvement, and cannot be changed except at great expense, no existing city can serve as a laboratory for total system

experimentation and planning in a coordinated way,” the report read. “A new city, established and brought to substantial completion within a relatively short period, is the only institution by which new techniques of study, planning, and development can be fully used.”

The committee, consisting of House and Senate members, equated the need for the experimental city to the Manhattan Project, the all-out effort at the end of World War II to develop the atomic bomb.

Supporters promised legislators international prominence and reminded lawmakers that Minnesota had always been an innovator. And they said this would be bigger than anything anyone had ever seen.

Rep. John W. Johnson of Minneapolis introduced a bill to establish the Minnesota Experimental Authority. It was eventually passed by both houses and signed into law.

Gov. Wendell Anderson appointed Eugene A. O'Brien of Hopkins to serve as chairman of the authority. Silha also served on the board. A 15-member advisory

committee was also appointed, which included Johnson and Reps. Robert Dunn of Princeton and A. J. Eckstein of New Ulm.

The board was given a two-year time period and \$140,000 to study the experimental city concept thoroughly.

No one seemed clear how much money would be needed or where it would come from. Supporters suggested that \$320,000 in research for Phase I would be sufficient, but they had few solid figures for the succeeding three phases.

Another plan was to secure \$300 million under Title VII of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, which authorized loans and grants to developers of new cities. That money could be followed with an infusion of private capital, planners hoped.

The authority spent a great deal of its time attempting to find a suitable site for construction. Eventually two potential sites were selected, one in Douglas County and one in Aitkin County. After 12 public hearings in cities in those counties, the authority recommended the Aitkin County site, including the

Continued on page 21

Society unites former lawmakers in promoting service

By Paul Wahl

As the owner of a political consulting firm, former Rep. Doug Ewald found that his client list consisted of just about every conceivable group, except for former lawmakers like himself.

For years, he told friends and colleagues there should be an association for former legislators.

Several tentative attempts to start one had been made by others, but none succeeded. So three years ago, Ewald took action and formally created the Minnesota Legislative Society.

"I felt a real sense of honor for having served in the House and a real sense that if the average citizen could be here and see their legislators at work, they would be very impressed," said Ewald, who served four terms in the House from 1975 to 1982 as a Republican from Minnetonka.

His society is dedicated to preserving "the history and honor of the Minnesota Legislature" and providing social and service opportunities for former lawmakers.

Only former Minnesota legislators and their spouses may belong, and the association is strictly apolitical. The group won't become involved in political campaigns or legislative issues, Ewald said.

To form a board of directors to help run the 130-member organization, Ewald turned to a cadre of former lawmakers he believed had the respect of the community. Former Sens. Ray W. Faricy of St. Paul and Ed Gearty of Minneapolis were chosen, along with former Reps. Otto Bang Jr. of Edina and Rod Searle of Waseca.

To add what Ewald called a "sense of stability," Edward Burdick, chief clerk of the House, and Patrick Flahaven, secretary of the Senate, were added as honorary members.

For Searle, former Republican Speaker of the House, the best part of the society is getting together with the friends who served with him, trading stories, and catching up.

Searle, who served from 1956 to 1981, said he's pleased that with Ewald's leadership the society has prospered. He said other attempts at forming an association were "one night stands."

He strongly supports the society's goal to reach out to the community, particularly young people.

"It could be a positive force for young people who want to be part of the political scene," Searle said. "There's a lot of resources here, and everyone involved would be glad to meet

with young people who are interested in the Legislature."

Gearty, a DFLer, also ranks camaraderie as his chief reason for being involved. He likens the feeling to that he has about his former U.S. Navy buddies.

"It's a good feeling, a feeling of good people getting together to do something important," Gearty said.

Gearty served in the Legislature 18 years and said he got to know some "wonderful people."

Ewald admits that to date, the most successful arm of the society has been the social interaction.

"Legislators love to talk and they love to talk about the good old days and tell stories — some real, some imagined — most of which never got in the newspaper," Ewald said.

Ewald was particularly careful to balance his board politically, although he said party lines tend to blur the longer you're out of office.

"In the Legislature, you tend to be known as partisan," Ewald said. "I knew it couldn't be my organization, there had to be a board of people who may have been partisan at one time or another but couldn't be anymore and they had to be recognizable."

Among society members are former Secre-

Ewald said. "If people will call me and say we've got a meeting of whatever organization — public or private, schools, senior citizens — and they'd like to have a former legislator come in and talk to us, you know there's nothing we'd rather do."

He also sees the society playing the role of a "defense league."

"You don't have to look too far in the media to find someone making fun of or berating the legislative process," Ewald said. "One of my goals is to really help people see the Legislature, the process, and the people who serve in it for what they really are, which is by and large dedicated public servants."

Ewald estimates the society's membership could swell to about 400 if everyone eligible joined. When he pitches membership, he uses a sense of history as a hook.

"They may or may not have a sense of history having served in the Legislature," Ewald said. "But I would tell them, good or bad, by golly, for a number of years you had something to do with establishing the law of the state of Minnesota."

Ewald has seen a number of changes over the 30 years he's been involved with the legislative process, but one major improvement stands out.

"One thing that has really improved has

"I felt a real sense of honor for having served in the House and a real sense that if the average citizen could be here and see their legislators at work, they would be very impressed."

—Former Rep. Doug Ewald

tary of State Joan Growe and U.S. Reps. Jim Ramstad and Martin Sabo.

Board meetings are held quarterly, and two social events are planned each year. This coming summer, the group will hold an event at the Governor's Residence. The organization hopes to make a contribution to the state fund dedicated to upkeep and improvements at the residence following the July 11 gathering.


Ewald's vision is to host more such events and eventually form a foundation within the society to assist other Legislature-related projects with funding.

Another goal for Ewald is public service.

"We would like people of the state to know we see a public purpose for our existence,"

been the involvement of the public, and that has just skyrocketed over recent years," Ewald said. "There's a real need for professional lobbyists, but legislators today are benefiting from a much greater involvement of the public."

He said that has meant more work and in some instances has lengthened an already long process, but the results are in the final product — better legislation.

Ewald will be retiring from his consulting firm in July. His son has purchased the business. But Ewald will continue to serve as executive director of the society, operating from his home. 

Minnesota House of Representatives 1999 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
49A Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729		33A Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806	
45A Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934		47A Luther, Darlene (DFL)	371	3751	
19B Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063		67A Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	223	4277	
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936		55A Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363	
6A Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190		65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	209	9714	
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219		57B Marko, Sharon (DFL)	221	3135	
30B Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573		55B McCollum, Betty (DFL)	239	1188	
25B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237		36B McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212	
30A Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249		54A McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342	
53B Broecker, Sherry (R)	533	7153		39B Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192	
35B Buesgens, Mark (R)	415	1072		35A Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872	
46B Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	279	4255		21B Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336	
47B Carruthers, Phil (DFL)	217	3709		58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262	
10B Cassell, George (R)	421	4317		7A Munger, Willard (DFL)	283	4282	
52A Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	311	4331		8A Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676	
23A Clark, James T. (R)	583	9303		20A Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344	
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294		10A Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946	
11A Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293		19A Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237	
31B Davids, Gregory M. (R)	367	9278		16A Opatz, Joe (DFL)	281	6612	
65A Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158		60B Orfield, Myron (DFL)	377	9281	
14A Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808		29B Osskopp, Mike (R)	449	9236	
29A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	549	8635		66A Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224	
27A Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216		11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201	
24A Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248		37A Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306	
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	213	8799		42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	445	7449	
42A Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363		38B Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128	
17A Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746		64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	331	4199	
1B Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918		32A Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637	
44A Folliard, Betty (DFL)	211	3964		13B Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228	
4A Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516		39A Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828	
36A Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506		46A Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	277	4176	
63B Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375		28A Reuter, Doug (R)	507	5368	
9A Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515		44B Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889	
58B Gray, Gregory (DFL)	229	8659		32B Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069	
62A Greenfield, Lee (DFL)	207	0173		18A Rostberg, Jim (R)	545	5364	
54B Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387		5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170	
26A Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240		17B Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	327	5377	
52B Haake, Barb (R)	429	0141		41A Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803	
48A Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513		57A Seifert, Jim (R)	577	7807	
50A Hackbarth, Tom (R)	575	2439		21A Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374	
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	487	5373		2B Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265	
12A Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)	353	4333		62B Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330	
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824		34A Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188	
8B Hilty, Bill (DFL)	241	4308		3B Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365	
37B Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926		33B Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502	
56A Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018		14B Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373	
4B Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451		24B Storm, Julie (R)	527	7065	
6B Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228		28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273	
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246		23B Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634	
18B Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518		43B Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315	
48B Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)	349	5510		50B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	567	5369	
15A Juhnke, Al (DFL)	329	6206		5B Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	233	0172	
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257		67B Trimble, Steve (DFL)	289	4201	
26B Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240		25A Tuma, John (R)	369	4229	
60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171		1A Tunheim, Jim (DFL)	335	9635	
20B Kielkucki, Tony (R)	521	1534		34B Van Dellen, Henry Todd (R)	571	5511	
16B Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316		51B Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124	
49B Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231		63A Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	227	4200	
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907		61B Wejcman, Linda (DFL)	203	7152	
15B Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346		12B Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247	
31A Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378		51A Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226	
56B Larsen, Peg (R)	551	4244		9B Westfall, Robert L. (Bob) (R)	553	6829	
40A Larson, Dan (DFL)	225	7158		13A Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929	
27B Leighton, Rob (DFL)	261	4193		38A Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533	
40B Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218		22A Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505	
45B Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026		41B Wolf, Ken (R)	359	5185	
2A Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091		43A Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066	

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of April 15, 1999

*All rooms are in the State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 1999 Members

			Phone				Phone
District/Member/Party	Room*	(651) 296-		District/Member/Party	Room*	(651) 296-	
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537		8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293	
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975		54 Marty, John (DFL)	326 Cap.	5645	
13 Berg, Charles A. (IND)	G-51 SOB	5094		39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370	
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261		2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577	
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556		29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264	
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931		25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279	
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457		52 Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334	
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131		43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837	
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	149 SOB	2084		34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282	
62 Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274		19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981	
49 Foley, Leo (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154		65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802	
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138		37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252	
50 Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219		27 Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248	
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246		59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809	
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153		57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	297-8060	
5 Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017		63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	297-8061	
40 Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261		45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314	
15 Johnson, Dean E. (R)	117SOB	3826		35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	151 SOB	4123	
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881		53 Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253	
18 Johnson, Janet B. (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419		11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	297-8063	
46 Junge, Ember R. (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889		12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875	
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	297-8065		31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903	
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285		47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869	
32 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649		7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188	
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848		60 Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191	
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455		17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075	
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120		1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660	
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061		4 Ten Eyck, David J. (DFL)	G-24F Cap.	4913	
56 Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351		42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238	
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205		22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650	
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655		38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	297-8073	
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125		55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820	
3 Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136		26 Ziegler, Don (R)	149 SOB	5713	
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	25 SOB	2159					

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

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

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Governor's Desk

CH1-CH65

Bills await governor's action

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

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
- do nothing, which results in the bill becoming law in the first year of the biennium.

The timing of these actions is as significant as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the

governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he objects. As with all vetoes, the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But

because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

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

Internet access to this information is available at:

<http://www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/>
(Select "It's a New Day" and then click on "Legislative Logs")

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 1	544*	638	Resolutions for Minnesota/Ontario border lakes trade agreements violation resolution.	3/26/99	
Res. 2	719	757*	Resolutions to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.	3/29/99	
1	139*	88	Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board member qualifications specified.	2/17/99	
2	26*	29	Mississippi education center previous grantee changed to the city of Grand Rapids, and condition imposed.	2/17/99	
3	133*	107	Minneapolis and St. Paul residency requirements repealed.	3/4/99	
4	6*	40	Snowmobile metal traction device use restrictions modified and recreational vehicle rulemaking authority modified.	3/4/99	
5	171	121*	Health related licensing board licensees infection control.	3/8/99	
6	370	424*	Nonregistered pesticide distribution permitted for certain uses outside the state.	3/8/99	
7	248*	324	Crooked Lake detached banking facility.	3/15/99	
8	214*	241	Emergency medical services volunteer ambulance attendant definition.	3/15/99	
9	536	464*	Carisoprodol classification as controlled substance effective date delay.	3/15/99	
10	356	73*	Consumer support program for persons with functional limitations financial eligibility criteria modification.	3/15/99	
11	382	343*	Real estate provisions modifications.	3/15/99	
12	49*	162	Peace officers or firefighters killed in line of duty spouse health insurance coverage.	3/16/99	
13	302*	579	Ambulance services shared service purchasing.	3/16/99	
14	74	301*	Health care directive form modification.	3/16/99	
15	453*	416	Minneapolis skilled workers and apprentices deferred compensation plan participation.	3/18/99	
16	157*	379	Laura Ingalls Wilder historic highway route modification.	3/18/99	
17	454*	564	Nursing home administrators sharing authority expansion.	3/18/99	
18	610	649*	Safe drinking water act public water supply definition modification.	3/25/99	
19	812	914*	Legislative Electric Energy Task Force membership modification.	3/25/99	
20	434	593*	St. Cloud paramount arts district regional arts center grant recipient change.	3/25/99	
21	48	50*	Public utilities performance based natural gas purchasing plans sunset repeal.	3/25/99	
22	137*	463	Collector watercraft license numbers and display requirements exemption.	3/26/99	
23	56*	90	Health care provider actions statute of limitations modification.	3/26/99	
24	193	255*	Emergency telephone (911) calls interference crime expansion.	3/29/99	
25	165	460*	Special disability license plates for modified motor vehicles.	3/29/99	
26	438	407*	McLeod West School District #2887; secondary educational facility grant.	3/29/99	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
27	564	609*	Landscape irrigation systems rain check installation requirement.		4/1/99
28	732	99*	Criminal offenders costs payment for failure to appear after release.	4/1/99	
29	1305*	1280	Kenyon Trunk Highway #56 relocation easements transfer.	4/1/99	
30	475*	517	Town officers or employees criminal charges defense costs reimbursement.	4/1/99	
31	379*	381	Mortgage registry and deed taxes technical corrections and administrative changes.	4/1/99	
32	183*	144	Civil Commitment; minors voluntary chemical dep. admission & treatment parental consent conditions modifications.	4/12/99	
33	413*	418	Physicians, acupuncturists and athletic trainers licensing and registration requirements modifications.	4/12/99	
34	492*	518	Minnesota State University, Mankato authorized to construct the Taylor Center multipurpose facility.	4/12/99	
35	766*	739	Motorcycle blue lights display.	4/12/99	
36	1126*	862	Family day care licensure child age groupings definitions.	4/12/99	
37	1258*	487	Marriage dissolution summary process revival.	4/12/99	
38	733	117*	Criminal offenders restitution challenge hearing requests time limit.	4/12/99	
39	640*	488	Mental Health State Advisory Council membership representation requirements modification.	4/12/99	
40	1336	727*	Contracts continuity under European currency.	4/12/99	
41	2024	1660*	Government innovation and cooperation board local government services delivery laws or rules exemptions.	4/12/99	
42	1986	1888*	Otter Tail veterans memorial drive designation.	4/12/99	
43	1184	794*	One call excavation notice system requirements modifications.	4/12/99	
44	1265	1150*	Rural residential districts speed limit.	4/12/99	
45	414*	428	Pseudorabies control program continuation appropriation and vaccine reimbursement requirement.	4/12/99	Line item
46	1565*	1677	Eligibility expanded for certain state military service.	4/15/99	
47	1556*	2043	Extending the civil service pilot project in the Housing Finance Agency.	4/15/99	
48	525*	404	Anoka County dangerous dog registration system administration responsibility.	4/15/99	
49	240*	236	DWI investigations county sheriff contingent funds use.	4/15/99	
50	216*	237	County prisoners transfer authority clarification.	4/15/99	
51	614*	913	Community integrated service networks net worth reserve corridor increase and utilization review.	4/15/99	
52	583*	735	Township mutual insurance companies authorized investments expansion.	4/15/99	
53	1066*	1190	Township mutual insurance companies territories of operation regulation modifications.	4/15/99	
54	1660*	1650	Nonprofit organizations human diseases research personnel unlawful practice of medicine exemption.	4/15/99	
55	1216*	1391	Chiropractors licensed in other states practical examination requirement modification.	4/15/99	
56	1403	1173*	Scott County Blue Lake wastewater treatment plant consumptive water use permit approval.	4/15/99	
57	1109	803*	St. Louis River estuary fishing guide license requirement.	4/15/99	
58	982	984*	Psychological test results release regulation.	4/15/99	
59	384	836*	Food handlers licensing period and fee modifications for state operators.	4/15/99	
60	1132*	1116	Delinquent real estate taxes duplicate publication copies filing requirement.		
61	643*	676	All persons under civil commitment status provided the same legal rights.		
62	408*	170	Pharmacy practice definition modification.		
63	1714*	1693	Pharmacists to pharmacy technicians ratio requirements waiver.		
64	735*	495	Crime of adulteration scope expansion and penalty increases.		
65	841	881*	Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne counties regional parks and trails plan.		

Continued from page 16

townships of Hill Lake, Macville, Lemay, and Shovel Lake.

The chosen site was rural enough to assure that no other cities would be created nearby, and Aitkin County officials were the most amenable to being placed under a microscope by urban designers from around the world. It was also viewed as the ultimate economic development project.

In April 1973, the authority presented a

summary document to the Legislature, outlining what had been accomplished.

But the legislative verve appeared to have burned out. There is no record of any further legislative action being taken. The authority was allowed to expire and was unceremoniously removed from the statutes, leaving behind only an asterisk in Minnesota history. 🗿

Find legislative publications on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/publicat.htm>

Bill Introductions

HF2374-HF2407

Monday, April 12

HF2374—Abrams (R)

Taxes

This Old House; market value eligibility and age requirement increased for certain residential property, and exclusion eligible improvement minimum increased.

HF2375—Chaudhary (DFL)

Taxes

Small business equity investments credit allowed against corporate franchise taxes.

HF2376—Mulder (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Pipestone aquatic center litigation losses reimbursement grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2377—Carruthers (DFL)

Taxes

Governmental pension plan income tax subtraction allowed.

HF2378—Van Dellen (R)

Taxes

Telephone services equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2379—Lenczewski (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Hennepin County authorized to convey tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2380—Leppik (R)

Ways & Means

Omnibus higher education appropriations bill.

HF2381—Carruthers (DFL)

Taxes

Substantially rehabilitated rental housing unit property tax classification provided.

HF2382—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Sandy Lake Band of Mississippi Chippewa Indians act adopted.

HF2383—McCollum (DFL)

K-12 Education Finance

Adults with disabilities program aid provided and money appropriated.

HF2384—Carruthers (DFL)

K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 286, Brooklyn Center, facility grant provided, bond sale authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2385—Holsten (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Department of game and fish created, and duties transferred.

HF2386—Krinkie (R)

State Government Finance

State government administrative expenses bill and money appropriated.

HF2387—Molnau (R)

Ways & Means

Omnibus transportation appropriations bill.

HF2388—Holsten (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

HF2389—Ness (R)

Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Omnibus agriculture appropriations bill.

HF2390—McElroy (R)

Ways & Means

Omnibus economic development appropriations bill.

Tuesday, April 13

HF2391—Paulsen (R)

Taxes

Metropolitan Council general levy limit reduced, livable communities demonstration account levy limit set, and tax base revitalization account levy repealed.

HF2392—Jennings (DFL)

Taxes

Chisago County aggregate removal tax approval filing deadline extended.

HF2393—Daggett (R)

Taxes

Sales and use tax capital equipment definition expanded to include telephone services equipment.

HF2394—McGuire (DFL)

Commerce

Violent video games sale to children prohibited, display in public places restricted, and remedies provided.

HF2395—McGuire (DFL)

Education Policy

Juvenile access to violent video games report and study required.

HF2396—McElroy (R)

Taxes

Renter and homeowner property tax refund schedules combined, and rent constituting property taxes percentage increased.

HF2397—McElroy (R)

Taxes

Pre-1982 tax increment financing district pooling rules established.

Wednesday, April 14

HF2398—Winter (DFL)

Taxes

Property tax rebate extended to include qualifying rented farm land and improvements.

HF2399—Hasskamp (DFL)

Taxes

Property tax class rate for qualifying land bordering public waters reduced.

HF2400—Erhardt (R)

Taxes

Property tax class rates reduced, and local government and school district aids increased.

HF2401—Kelliher (DFL)

Taxes

Property class tax rates reduced, and local government and school district aids increased.

Thursday, April 15

HF2402—Erhardt (R)

Taxes

Milk and juice product sales tax exemption provided.

HF2403—Sviggum (R)

Taxes

Medford tax increment financing district revenue use provisions modified.

HF2404—Broecker (R)

Ways & Means

Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance bill.

HF2405—Rest (DFL)

Taxes

Cities with concentrations of Class 4d property provided reduced threshold to qualify for state aid.

HF2406—Peterson (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Prepaid Medical Assistance program rule change required providing an enrollment exemption for a qualifying child.

HF2407—Peterson (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Clara City water quality capital improvement grant provided and money appropriated.

To track bills on the World Wide Web as they move through the Legislature go to: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.htm>

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

For information updates, call House Calls at (651) 296-9283.

All meetings are open to the public.

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MONDAY, April 19

9 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: HF1437 (Ozment)
Sustainable Forest Resources Act.

10 a.m.

TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Taxes omnibus bill.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, April 20

10 a.m.

TAXES
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Taxes omnibus bill.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, April 21

10 a.m.

TAXES
10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Taxes omnibus bill.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session
or 4 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission
316 State Capitol
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: Program evaluation topic selection.
Review of Program Evaluation Best Practices Report: *Fire Protection*.

THURSDAY, April 22

8 a.m.

TAXES
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Taxes omnibus bill.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman
Agenda: Informational meeting concerning Upper Harbor terminals on the Mississippi River.

12 noon

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, April 23

No meetings have been scheduled.

Continued from page 14

one of the state's few bomb disposal units.

Currently, local law enforcement agencies must call on one of four police departments in Minnesota with bomb disposal units when dealing with bombs or other hazardous explosives.

Also within the department's appropriation, \$9.7 million would go for law enforcement grants to be awarded to individual communities.

Included in that amount, the bill would provide \$2 million to assist the courts in Minneapolis now dealing with the influx of cases as a result of that city's CODEFOR police strategy.

CODEFOR, which stands for Computer Optimized Deployment-Focus on Results, uses computer analysis to deploy police resources based on daily reports of crime. The management plan also seeks to actively involve the community in policing, holds precincts and divisions accountable for results, and focuses on crime reduction as the overall police mission.

Also in the community grant provisions, \$4 million would go to the state criminal gang oversight council and strike force and \$1.1 million would go to assist in the development of a statewide, integrated criminal justice computer system.

The bill also would provide a \$500,000 community grant to the Ramsey County Attorney's

Office to implement a domestic assault and child abuse prosecution pilot project. The project would combine city and county prosecutors into one unit to deal with these crimes.

Also, \$1 million would be provided for grants under the community-oriented policing program. Under the program, local law enforcement agencies can apply for grants to pay for police officer overtime in high crime areas within their jurisdiction.

Courts and public defense

The state court system would receive \$221.3 million over the two years, under the bill.

Of that amount, the state Supreme Court would get \$49.9 million, the state Court of Appeals would get \$13.2 million, and the trial courts would get \$156.4 million.

Included in the trial court appropriation, the bill would provide six additional district court judges. The proposal would increase the number of judges in four of the state's 10 judicial districts, and it would provide \$3 million for these new positions and related costs.

The original request called for 18 new judgeships in the state. Court officials say that their original proposal would have provided a 6.5 percent increase in judgeships since the last time new judges were approved in 1995. Meanwhile, caseloads have increased by 10 percent


over the same period.

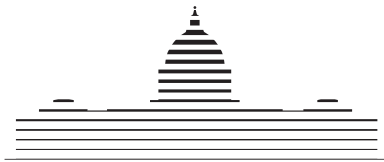
The Board of Public Defense would receive \$93.4 million over the two-year budget period. Of that amount, the state public defender would get \$6.5 million and district public defenders would receive \$84.5 million.

Funds for corrections

The bill would provide \$684.4 million to the Department of Corrections for the operations of the state's correctional system over the next two years. Minnesota's correctional system currently houses 5,500 inmates.

Also included in that amount, the Community Service Division would receive \$197 million. Of that amount, \$450,000 would go toward youth intervention programs and \$8.4 million would go for probation caseload reductions and intensive supervisions programs. Currently, more than 115,000 offenders are in probation or community services programs across the state.

The bill would close the Camp Ripley work program, providing a \$2.7 million savings. The work program was established by the Legislature in 1997 to provide a sentencing alternative for nonviolent offenders. The program was seen as a way to relieve pressure on county jails. 



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

Major Minnesota industries

Minnesotans employed in private-sector industries, 1996	2,038,017
Percent increase since 1988	21.7
Percent increase in U.S. in same period	13.4
Minnesotans employed in health and medical industries, 1996	216,209
Percent increase since 1988	29.3
Percent increase in U.S. in same period	32.2
Minnesotans employed in printing and publishing industry, 1996	55,416
Percent increase since 1988	16.1
Percent decrease in U.S. in same period	1
Minnesota's national rank in industry	9
Minnesotans employed in forest products industry, 1996	57,800
Percent increase since 1988	4.3
Percent decrease in U.S. in same period	1
Minnesotans employed in logging, 1996	749
Percent increase since 1988	38.2
Percent decrease in U.S. in same period	8
Minnesotans employed by newspapers, 1996	12,561
Minnesotans employed by greeting card companies, 1996	133
Value of Minnesota's total manufactured exports in 1997, in billions of dollars	9.5
As percent of total U.S. manufactured exports	1.5
Iron ore produced in Minnesota in 1996, in millions of metric tons	46
As percent of total U.S. production	75
As percent of total world production	4.6
Minnesotans employed in high-technology industries, 1996	167,732
Percent increase since 1988	5.5
Percent decrease in U.S. in same period	0.7
Minnesotans employed in guided missile or space vehicle parts industry, 1996	0
Minnesota's national rank in patents issued per million residents, 1997	6
Rank in Midwest	1
Number of patents issued in Minnesota, 1997	2,015

Source: *Compare Minnesota: An Economic and Statistical Fact Book, 1998/1999*, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development.



For more information

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