

SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ May 14, 1999 ♦ Volume 16, Number 19



SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • May 14, 1999 • Volume 16, Number 19

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1999-2000 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

To subscribe, contact:
Minnesota House of Representatives
Public Information Office
175 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550
TTY (651) 296-9896

Director
LeClair G. Lambert

Acting Assistant Director/Editor
Nick Healy

Acting Assistant Editor
Sandy Donovan

Art & Production Coordinator
Paul Battaglia

Writers
Jon Fure, Grant Martin,
Sarah Tellijohn, Paul Wahl

Chief Photographer
Tom Olmscheid

Photographers
Gina Dabrowski, Laura Phillips,
Andrew Von Bank

Office Manager
Nicole Wood

Staff Assistants
Christy Novak, Jennifer Ridgeway

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

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



Reflections

On May 11, Minnesota celebrated the 141st birthday of its statehood. In 1858, the population was close to 140,000. By 1860, the population had rapidly grown to 172,063.

When part of the land acquired by the Louisiana Purchase and Northwest Ordinance became Minnesota Territory in 1849, the population only comprised about 5,000 French, British, and Canadians. Those that had already emigrated here were trappers, voyageurs, and explorers with now familiar names like LaSalle, Du Luth, Hennepin, Faribault, and Pike.

The area's earliest population included members of the Sioux and Chippewa nations such as Thunder Face, and Bemidji and their ancestors who migrated to the area over 20,000 years ago. Others were Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Commander Seth Eastman, and the Union soldiers at Fort Snelling. Most of them were European Americans from the East.

A few members of African descent were also present. These included George Bonga and family, who, in 1803, was the first black to be born in the territory. A few black emigrants were free men, including those who came by boat up the Mississippi and stayed. Others, like the famous Dred Scott, were slaves at Fort Snelling, and so were those who came from the South with their owners to spend the summer in the territory.

Most of the first legislators of the territory like Gideon H. Pond and Joseph W. Furber were from the East Coast or lower Canada. A few emigrated from inland states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan.

Very little evidence shows that the borrowed expression by New York Tribune editor Horace Greeley, "Go west, young man," prompted Minnesota's major population increase around 1853. The Territory's commissioner of emigration urged new arrivals to the New York Harbor to go west. He also advertised in European newspapers about the territory's virtues and its available land. Emigrations of northern Europeans tripled.

The new Minnesotans included more groups of Swedes, Danes, Norwegians, Germans, and Irish like Hans Mattson, Charles Borup, Paul H. Hansen, William Pfaender, and Dillon O'Brien. They took to farming, transportation, and small businesses. Others later became involved in the lumber and the mining industry.

Italians, Slovaks, Greeks, Scots, Dutch, Russians, Arab-speaking peoples, Finns, Latinos, Chinese, Jews, Welsh, and Armenians are just part of the rest of a virtual "melting pot" of people who increased the population to more than 1,675,000 by the end of the century — one-third of them being foreign born. Most of the newcomers to Minnesota during its first 50 years are a worldwide ancestry of the present members and staff of the 1999 Legislature.

Minnesotans inherited the guarantees for freedom of civil and religious liberties on which the United States was founded. And newly arrived refugees from Kosovo may also heed a quote from the inscription by Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor:

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free . . .

—LeClair Grier Lambert

INSIDE

Highlights	5
A Closer Look: Gift ban debated	18
Feature: Cass Gilbert Society	19
Feature: Adjournment date	20
Feature: CemetePries populated by politicians	21
Governor's Desk (CH1 - CH165)	22
Bill Introductions (HF2439 - HF2450)	26
Committee Schedule (May 17)	26

On the cover: Sister Adelyn follows the sixth-grade class from St. Peter's School in Canby up the Capitol steps on a rainy day. The class visited St. Paul for a Capitol tour on Statehood Day, May 11.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Stalemate averted . . .

Three parties reach agreement to cut taxes, boost K-12

By Paul Wahl

An agreement that includes what proponents call the largest permanent income tax cut in the state's history — and a promise the legislative session will end as scheduled— was announced by leaders of all three legs of Minnesota's tripartisan government May 11.

"This is a great and historic day for Minnesota's taxpayers," said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "The tax cut was our number-one priority all year, and we are extremely gratified it will finally be a reality."

For the Senate, the agreement includes a plan to sock \$968 million in one-time money from the tobacco settlement into endowments for medical education and research, smoking prevention, and possibly other health-related endeavors.

The Senate also won a concession for an additional \$50 million for K-12 education, with another \$50 million dedicated for that purpose if budget surpluses continue.

And Gov. Jesse Ventura will get \$60 million in state funds, raised through bonding, to leverage \$250 million in federal funds to build the first link of a light-rail system in the Twin Cities.

"This is a good day for the people of Minnesota. Tripartisan government works," Ventura said.

Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) also expressed his pleasure with the agreement during a press conference following the announcement May 11.

It was Moe who walked away from nearly the same agreement on May 10 when neither Sviggum nor the governor was willing to augment education spending further.

It was Ventura who began the compromise efforts when he announced on May 9 that he would support an across-the-board tax cut demanded by the House Republicans and approved overwhelmingly by the entire House.

"I am prepared to meet their request and agree to a tax cut at the third-tier income level of one-half percent, as long as the permanent income tax relief is weighted predominantly toward middle-income taxpayers," Ventura said.

Since the session began, Ventura and Moe had opposed the idea of cutting taxes on the highest bracket of income, which would affect only the 6 percent of Minnesotans who have the highest earnings. As recently as May 10,



Gov. Jesse Ventura announces a tripartisan budget agreement during a May 11 press conference. Legislative leaders attending the announcement are House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty, right, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Ember Reichgott Junge, left, and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe.

Moe had called the idea "wrong" if it came at the expense of the rest of taxpayers.

Ventura's original budget included only a small cut in income tax rates for the lowest earners.

The state has a three-tiered income tax, with rates currently at 6 percent, 8 percent, and 8.5 percent. The top bracket begins at \$100,201 in annual earnings for a married couple and \$56,680 for a single filer. The deal likely will bring a 0.5-percent cut in all brackets.

The tax cuts are expected to amount to about \$800 million a year. Who will get how much is being considered by lawmakers on a House-Senate conference committee working on the omnibus tax bill (HF2420).

The House, the Senate, and Ventura had agreed earlier to a \$1.3 billion budget surplus rebate plan based on a sales tax formula. Under that plan, nearly every Minnesotan would receive a check from the state ranging from just above \$100 to as high as \$5,000 for married joint filers and \$2,500 for single filers. Checks are expected to be mailed in August.

School funding

Education funding had remained a point of contention between both legislative bodies and Ventura. Although the House's \$7.8 billion K-12 spending proposal represented a

\$911 million increase in overall spending, the Senate version called for an additional \$100 million. Ventura's proposed budget called for \$90 million less than the House plan.

The compromise proposal essentially splits the difference between the House and Senate plans, adding \$50 million in general K-12 spending for the biennium to the House plan, and earmarking another \$50 million of a potential future surplus.

Tobacco settlement funds

Another sticking point between the House and the Senate had been how to spend the state's proceeds from the 1998 tobacco settlement. Establishing endowments with the settlement money had little support among House Republicans throughout most of the session.

Those lawmakers instead proposed using the money to begin eliminating the state's medical provider tax, or "sick tax," which eventually drew bipartisan support. The state's physicians and clinics pay the tax, and proceeds are used primarily to fund MinnesotaCare, a health care program for the state's uninsured.

Earlier this session a bill (HF223) sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) that called for creating a tobacco use prevention endowment was amended into a

\$7.5 million annual appropriation from the state's general fund to groups already engaged in the war against tobacco use.

House DFLers had tried unsuccessfully to amend legislation throughout the session to include the endowments, but Republicans argued the plans created another level of government and that the funds should be used to provide deeper tax relief for all Minnesotans.

Earlier in the session, Sviggum said the endowment idea had not been thought through carefully and represented a "big government" approach to solving problems.

Money for light rail

Ventura began his quest for light-rail funding by including an appropriation in his budget proposal. However, the money didn't make the cut in the House omnibus transportation funding bill (HF2387). House Republicans argued that light rail would not be an effective way to reduce congestion on the roadways of the Twin Cities and is too expensive to build.

Ventura's newly appointed chairman of the Metropolitan Council, Ted Mondale, lobbied hard for the plan, but swayed few votes in the House. The money was included in the Senate's transportation spending plan.

The funds would be dedicated to building the first leg of a light-rail transit line from downtown Minneapolis to the Mall of America in Bloomington.

Funding details

The tripartisan deal also includes reversing the Legislature's decision last year to pay cash for \$400 million in construction projects, rather than issuing bonds. Moe originally sponsored the plan at the close of last year's session.

Another item agreed to is a "settling up" process each biennium. After all the state's bills are paid, if sufficient surplus remains, a tax rebate would be automatically issued.

Policy issues unsolved

While the deal agreed to by all three parties solves many of the finance questions hanging over the session, at least two contentious issues remain.

The House-approved health and human services omnibus bill (HF2412) includes language that would ban certain late-term abortions and require a 24-hour waiting period. Another provision would require significantly more information to be reported about cases where minors seek permission from judges to have an abortion.

None of the abortion provisions were

Continued on page 26

Small-town doctor in big-time politics



The tradition of country doctors is long and proud. From the time settlers arrived in the Minnesota Territory until today, doctors serving rural communities have spent long hours taking a personal interest in each patient.

Several doctors have had distinguished careers in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Today, Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a family physician, represents District 21B in southwestern Minnesota.

At the beginning of this century, Rep. Leverett Wright Babcock took a hiatus from his rural practice in the Wadena area and turned his attention to lawmaking.

In many ways, political service was a natural extension for Babcock, whose practice took him to every corner of his district and whose considerable medical skills held him in good stead with most of those he served.

Babcock was born in 1849 in New York. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1869 and moved to Wadena in 1879 with little more than his black bag and a few crude utensils of his trade. Wadena is located about 150 miles northwest of St. Paul.

By all accounts, Babcock was a hard worker who spent up to 20 hours a day caring for the ill, often being seen at all hours heading out in his buggy pulled by one of his horses.

In 1888, after serving seven years on the Wadena Village Council, Babcock was elected to a House seat as a Republican. He was on an upwardly mobile political track.

By 1902, Babcock was embroiled in a struggle within the party to determine who would serve as speaker of the House in the 1903 session. The Republicans dominated the House, and the battle for speaker was between Babcock and Rep. Lawrence Henry Johnson, of Minneapolis.

As the debate grew more heated, Babcock took the unprecedented step of preparing a

campaign brochure for the job, published Nov. 28, 1902.

"The Speakership Question" responded to charges from Johnson, who had accused the doctor of being opposed to the initiatives of Gov. Samuel R. VanSant's administration.

VanSant had swept into the governor's seat on the coattails of President William McKinley, and VanSant was buoyed by his service in defense of the Union during the Civil War.

It was naturally important to House Republicans that the speaker be supportive of VanSant and his administration.

The struggle to determine which Republican would be nominated for speaker continued throughout December, and on Jan. 6, 1903, Babcock's name was placed before the body. He roundly defeated Democrat challenger J.R. Hickey.

The speakership appears to have been a capstone for Babcock's political service, and when the House assembled again in 1905, Babcock was back home in Wadena,

having returned to his practice and taken on the challenge of running the Wadena Cracker Company.

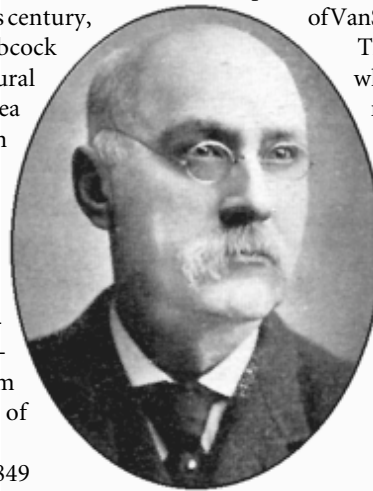
His business contacts and his continued interest in state politics meant frequent trips to St. Paul, a lengthy train ride from his home.

On Christmas Eve 1907, Babcock was concluding yet another of his visits at the Capitol when he fell from a streetcar which had been struck by another car.

The doctor stumbled into a Turkish bath house and a physician was summoned. Babcock was taken to St. Luke's Hospital, where he died early on Christmas morning.

Babcock's funeral was recorded by one of the Wadena newspapers as the largest ever to be held in the city.

Heading the delegation of dignitaries from St. Paul who arrived in a special railroad car was Rep. L. H. Johnson, Babcock's former foe and, by then, the House speaker.



Leverett Wright Babcock

Photo from the 1903 Legislative Manual

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Feedlot restrictions

Feedlot operators would be allowed to violate certain air quality standards under an agreement reached in a House-Senate conference committee May 12.

The House passed a version of the bill (**HF1235/SF692***) April 28 that called for a specific exemption from mandated ambient hydrogen sulfide emission levels and a process for notifying neighbors.

Although the manure-containing basins found at most feedlots are covered with a thick odor-reducing crust most of the time, that crust occasionally must be removed so the manure solids can be extracted. The byproduct is often spread on nearby land as a natural fertilizer.

Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet), the bill's sponsor, said it is a common-sense measure that would assure farmers won't be punished for actions they cannot avoid.

Senate provisions aimed at helping feedlot operators work through other mandates and save money were added in conference committee.

And the House provision calling for notification of neighbors was removed. The new bill would only require notice to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) or the county feedlot officer.

The bill also spells out a process under which feedlot operators could obtain air-quality easements from neighbors. Under that plan, the monitoring would shift away from the feedlot boundaries to the boundaries of the land contained in the easement.

Conditions under which the MPCA could assess a penalty against a feedlot operator and require a face-to-face meeting between owners and regulators to address issues are also contained in the final version of the bill.

And the bill would weaken the MPCA's ability to require environmental assessments for feedlots and redefine how regulations apply to "connected" operations, which are not owned by the same owner or located on the same property but are bound by a production contract.

Supporters of the compromise say financially strapped farmers deserve to be released from some environmental controls. Opponents claim the legislation goes too far and

some provisions were not given a proper hearing before being inserted into the bill.

The debate over animal feedlot regulation has wafted into the Legislature in each of the past three sessions, fueled by concerns over potential health hazards of air and water quality affected by the facilities and their manure lagoons.

Last year a House-approved moratorium on new or expanding feedlots was rejected by the Senate, but a two-year moratorium on construction of certain swine waste lagoons did make it into law.

And lawmakers directed the Office of the Legislative Auditor to study the issue, resulting in a report released in January that criticized the MPCA for not acting quickly enough to produce rules for feedlot operation.

The bill moves to the House floor.



BONDING

Scrutiny for local projects

A bill that would provide lawmakers better information about local bonding requests is on its way to the governor's desk, following approval by the House May 13. The vote was 97-34.

Under the proposal (**HF726**), 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 Knobloch (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 a 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; does not compete with other local facilities; and has resolutions of support from all governing bodies immediately affected by the project.

The bill also would limit state funding to one-half of a project's total costs, unless the project comes as a result of a natural disaster, is proposed by a school district or school organization, 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 legislators and the governor could introduce projects for consideration that have not been reviewed by the finance department.

Knobloch's bill, which would apply to requests for the 2000 bonding bill, would encourage local governments to submit their preliminary proposals to the finance department by June 15, 1999. Final requests would need to be in by November 1, 1999.



BUSINESS

Telephone company competition

A bill that aims to ensure competition among telephone companies is advancing in the Legislature.

The House passed a bill May 7 that would modify state regulations of public pay telephones and allow the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to impose administrative penalties, including significant fines for large phone companies that engage in anti-competitive practice. The vote was 74-51.

Under the bill (**HF358/SF685***), the PUC could issue administrative penalties if telephone companies violate state and federal laws that are designed to encourage competition. The PUC would also be allowed to issue penalties against a telephone company that files a frivolous complaint against another company.

Under current state law, the PUC must request that the attorney general pursue action in those complaints, and the maximum penalty for all telephone companies is \$5,000 a day for each violation.

The bill would increase that to \$100,000 a day for companies that have 500,000 or more subscribers. The maximum penalty would be lower for smaller telephone companies.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), would also remove some current regulations related to rates, location, or services offered by those companies. The bill would not affect the existing authority of local units of governments to regulate the location of public pay telephones.

Public pay telephones would be required to offer enhanced 911 service, including free access, and to provide telecommunication relay

services for people with hearing impairments. Those telephones would also have to list the name, address, and phone number of the owner of the telephone, toll-free numbers for local and long distance carriers, and toll-free numbers for the PUC so people could file complaints.

A slightly different version of the measure passed the Senate, and the bill now goes to a House-Senate conference committee to work out the differences.



CHILDREN

Early childhood education

Lawmakers reached a compromise May 13 on the omnibus family and early childhood education finance bill.

The bill's proposed spending totals \$542.5 million, with \$460.1 million coming from the state's general fund. Matching federal funds make up \$80.4 million, and the rest is drawn from miscellaneous state accounts.

In the end, the measure would spend \$74 million more in state funds than Gov. Jesse Ventura's had proposed in his budget recommendations.

Although the bill calls for spending \$4.9 million less than what the House had originally proposed, that difference is solely because funding for community crime prevention grants in that amount, which formerly have been appropriated through the family and early childhood committee, will now be funded in the omnibus judiciary finance bill.

Going into the conference committee, the House's bill spent about \$5 million more in state money than the Senate's bill. However, the Senate had allocated \$20.8 million more than the House in federal grants for the state's basic sliding fee child care program.

The bill would also tap more heavily into federal funds than the governor proposed, using the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant monies that the state receives. The largest portion of that \$80.4 million would go toward alleviating long county waiting lists for the state's basic sliding fee child care program. Lawmakers met in the middle of the House and Senate proposals for the TANF funds in the final bill.

Other funding boosts in the bill include \$4.9 million for transitional housing and emergency shelters and \$500,000 for lead abatement. Early childhood education and adult basic education programs around the state would also see increased state support.

Several miscellaneous grant programs would be funded under the bill for initiatives such as

after-school activities, chemical abuse prevention, community education projects, and adolescent parenting classes.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) and Sen. Pat Piper (DFL-Austin) are sponsoring the bill (HF1467*/SF2222).

Juvenile law re-organization



The governor signed a new law May 11 that will make structural changes to state law dealing with juveniles.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the measure's House sponsor, said the law will separate the two very different issues of juvenile delinquency and child protection services.

"By separating them out, it will make the law more user-friendly," he said.

The measure rewrites the state's juvenile law — currently a mishmash of policy relating to children — without changing any of the substantive policy.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, divides it into four sections — general organization, truancy, delinquency, and children in need of protective services.

In 1997, lawmakers directed the Office of the Revisor of Statutes to review the state's juvenile law and offer a plan for its reorganization. The

Like father, like son



Five-year-old Cameron Finseth recites the Pledge of Allegiance with his father, Rep. Tim Finseth, in the House chamber May 10th.

new law comes as a result of the office's work.

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1310/SF184*/CH139



CRIME

Countering counterfeiters



The governor signed a new law May 11 that would provide criminal penalties for counterfeiting products.

The measure, effective Aug. 1, will create a new crime of counterfeiting intellectual property. The law will prohibit the manufacture, possession, or sale of counterfeited property.

Current Minnesota law has no criminal penalty for counterfeiting property. Counterfeit claims must be brought forward by the person or company owning the rights to the property, and must go through the civil court process.

Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley), the measure's House sponsor, said that the practice of attaching registered trademarks or trade names to unauthorized products is growing. He said counterfeiters can see big profits from the sale of the fake goods and face no risk of prosecution.

Gerlach said tougher penalties are needed because counterfeiters take business away from legitimate companies, and defective and inferior goods produced and distributed by counterfeiters can pose a danger to consumers.

The new law also outlines penalties for the counterfeiting crime based on number and value of the items counterfeited. The maximum penalty will be a five-year prison sentence and a \$100,000 fine.

And the law will include the new crime under a list of crimes that can apply to racketeering charges. Increased penalties can be applied if the counterfeiting crime is proven to show a pattern of organized crime.

Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF263/SF411*/CH142

Guns for sale



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 11 that will allow sheriffs and police chiefs to sell confiscated firearms.

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

The new measure, effective Aug. 1, will give agencies the authority to either destroy those weapons or to sell them to federally authorized dealers.

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

And the measure will allow the Hennepin and Ramsey county boards to prohibit their respective sheriffs from selling confiscated firearms.

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

Critics of the plan say that the measure will just put guns back on the streets to be used illegally.

Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) and Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington) sponsored the measure.

HF70*/SF197/CH148

Payback for crime victims



The governor signed a measure May 10 that will make several changes to the ways crime victims can seek financial relief.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will allow courts to deposit any unclaimed restitution payments collected from offenders into the state's reparations account for crime victims. The court will be required to forward the victim's name and last known address along with the amount being deposited to the Crime Victims Reparation Board.

The measure will also expand the time limit to file a claim from the reparations account from two years to three years, and will make changes to requirements involving child abuse claims.

And the new law will allow crime victims to make claims for moving expenses and other related costs due to the crime. It will cap those payments at \$1,000.

The reparations account was established in 1974 to provide financial assistance to victims of crime. In addition to receiving a state appropriation, the program receives funding from restitution paid by offenders and state and federal inmate wage deductions.

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF1359*/SF1023/CH136

Capitol bomb threat



Lawmakers, lobbyists, and staff gather on the front lawn of the Capitol during a May 13 bomb threat. The building was emptied for about an hour, but a police search turned up nothing.



DEVELOPMENT

Building code enforcement



Authority over the energy-related portions of the state building code will be transferred from the Department of Public Service to the Department of Administration under a new law signed May 10.

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.

The new law, effective July 1, is a step toward consolidating that authority.

Disagreements and poor coordination between the various state agencies and departments has caused unnecessary delays in construction, according to a January report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

HF1568/SF1209*/CH135

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



ELECTIONS

Voting in the wrong place



A new law signed May 7 by Gov. Jesse Ventura will modify the penalty for voting in the wrong precinct and update other provisions of election law.

Under the new law, effective Aug. 1, a person who votes in the wrong precinct will receive a letter from the Office of the Secretary of State citing the mistake and informing the person of the correct polling place.

The person will then have to provide proof of residency before voting in the next election. If the same person votes in the wrong precinct a second time, it will be considered a misdemeanor, and a third instance will be considered a felony.

Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley), sponsor of the bill, said so many instances of voting in the wrong place are reported that county attorneys have rarely prosecuted them as felonies, as current law stipulates. Gerlach said the instances are most often misunderstandings, and the new law will make it easier to identify and prosecute instances of repeated violations.

Another provision in the law will drop the requirement that a person can only be a witness to vouch for another person to register to vote if both people live in the same county. The new law will allow any registered voter in Minnesota to vouch for another person to allow them to vote.

Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park) was the Senate sponsor of the measure.

HF1168/SF1144*/CH132



EMPLOYMENT

Tracking job training efforts



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 10 that aims to give lawmakers a better picture of the state's job training services.

The new law will require the Department of Economic Security and the Governor's Workforce Development Council to prepare a report evaluating all job training programs in Minnesota that receive state or federal funding.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), the measure's House sponsor, said there are 62 job-training programs in the state and they are administered by 12 different agencies. He said policy-makers need better information to make funding decisions.

"We don't know if they're doing a good job or bad job or what," he said.

Effective Aug. 1, the new law will direct the department to provide a brief summary of each program, a statement describing its need, the number of participants, and the costs and funding sources of the program. The report also will detail the results, including job placement rates and wages of participants following completion of the program.

The report is due to the Legislature by Jan. 31, 2000.

Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1051*/SF971/CH138



ENERGY

Innovative heating systems



A new law signed May 13 would allow more contractors to excavate or install vertical heat exchangers.

Under previous law, only licensed well contractors could drill or excavate wells to install vertical heat exchangers, which are energy efficient heating systems which draw heat from the ground. The demand for those systems is growing because they reduce heating and cooling costs.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 2000, allows some of the installation work to be done by licensed limited well/boring contractors or limited well sealing contractors. Proponents of the measure say allowing the other contractors to do the work will reduce the up front costs of those systems. Northern Municipal Power Agency is among the groups that supported the measure.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) and Sen.

Playing through



Coach Kathy Williams, of the University of Minnesota women's golf team, receives a standing ovation from lawmakers after a resolution honoring her achievements was presented on the House floor May 12. Williams will resign her coaching position in June to pursue a private teaching career.

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

HF2021/SF1539*/CH153



ENVIRONMENT

Honoring DNR leader



A new law will rename the visitor center at Gooseberry Falls State Park in honor of a former Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner. It was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 13. It takes

effect Aug. 1.

In addition to honoring Joseph N. Alexander, the new law will permit additions to several state parks and will allow land within another to be sold.

Alexander was the state's longest-serving commissioner. He began his 33-year DNR career as a game warden in 1957 and was promoted to regional enforcement supervisor in 1966. In 1971, he became assistant commissioner for administration. He was serving as special assistant to the commissioner in July 1978 when Gov. Rudy Perpich appointed him commissioner, a position he held until January 1991.

Alexander died Oct. 22, 1998.

The new law also will authorize additions to Banning, Camden, Charles A. Lindbergh, Forestville/Mystery Cave, Judge C.R. Magney, St. Croix Wild River, Scenic, Temperance River, Whitewater, and William O'Brien state parks.

It will approve a land exchange at Lake Bronson State Park and stipulate that Cross River State Wayside become part of Temperance River State Park. Another provision will delete a four-acre parcel from Blue Mounds State Park and allow it to be sold.

Rep. Ray Vandevor (R-Forest Lake) and Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury) sponsored the measure

HF1301/SF1449*/CH157

Cleaning up fuel leaks

A bill that would expand the use of the state's petroleum tank cleanup fund passed May 10 in the House. The vote was 128-0.

The fund is administered by the Department of Trade and Economic Development to help clean up pollution from underground fuel storage tanks. The bill (HF595) would allow the fund also to be used to clean up fuel tanks that are above ground.

Under current law, the fund can be used only in areas where petroleum is the sole pollutant. So in areas where petroleum is one of several pollutants, the money could pay for cleaning up petroleum but no other pollutants at the site. The bill would allow the fund to be used to clean up all pollution.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), sponsor of the bill, said it would help the state be more effective in cleaning up "brownfields," which are mainly abandoned commercial or industrial properties in cities. Those sites often remain vacant or under-used because redevelopment would involve legal liability of

cleaning up the pollution, such as petroleum from leaking fuel tanks.

The bill now goes to the Senate.



GAMBLING

Canterbury card club

A proposal to allow Canterbury Park in Shakopee to operate a card club was approved May 12 by a House-Senate conference committee.

The House had earlier voted against the proposal, which was part of a bill (HF1825/SF1619*) that would make several minor changes in state gambling laws. The Senate had included the card club proposal in its version of the bill, and the conference committee adopted the Senate position.

The House has not yet acted on the conference committee report.

Under the bill, participants could play cards against each other and make wagers on each hand. Canterbury Park would receive a percentage of the total amount that is bet, and some of the proceeds would go toward increasing purses for horse races.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), sponsor of the bill, had advocated the card club proposal in the House. Higher purses would help Canterbury Park attract more horses to its races and provide an overall benefit to the state's economy, he said. The nearest horse racing track is Prairie Meadows in Des Moines, Iowa, where annual purses are about \$15 million compared to Canterbury Park's \$4 million. Raising the purses in Minnesota would help prevent horse farms from moving to Iowa, Osskopp said.

Another provision in the bill would allow establishments that sell pull-tabs to use machines instead of having a staff person sell them over the counter.

The bill would also increase the maximum consolation prize for bingo games that allow carryover prizes and set a maximum prize for tipboard games. Tipboard games are those that sell tickets for numbers on a board, and when all the numbers have been purchased, the winning numbers are revealed.

A Senate provision that would have raised the legal gambling age from 18 to 19 was not included in the compromise version of the bill.

The bill now goes to the House.

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

Dice for drinks

Dice games would be legal in Minnesota bars, but bets would be limited to stakes of food and drink, under a bill passed on the House floor May 13. The vote was 91-40.

The House had earlier passed a version of the measure that would have allowed dice games with no restrictions on stakes, but during a House-Senate conference committee, House members agreed to a Senate provision limiting bets to stakes of food and beverages.

The bill would allow people to play common dice games, such as "liar's poker," "500 rummy," or "6-5-4," to buy drinks or food.

Current gambling statutes allow "private, social bets." But under liquor statutes, dice are not allowed in bars.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) urged colleagues to vote against the measure, saying it is a small expansion of gambling that would lead to more and more gambling in the state.

But Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph), sponsor of the bill, said people just want to have fun.

"If you believe people should have fun, please vote yes," he said.

The bill now goes to the governor's desk.

Bingo for seniors



Signed by the governor

Minnesota's nursing homes and senior citizen organizations will soon be able to conduct bingo for the pure enjoyment of those participating, with a minimum of regulatory intrusion by the state.

A new law signed May 6 will assure that. It will remove a provision from statute that requires the bingo manager to be registered with the state, and it will eliminate state-mandated record keeping.

To qualify for the exemption, the bingo operation must not be high-dollar, cannot be offered more than twice a week, and the manager and others who operate the games cannot be paid.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) and Sen. Steve Dill (R-Dassel) sponsored the measure, which is effective Aug. 1.

HF132*/SF1138/CH128



GOVERNMENT

State agency finance bill

A \$730 million omnibus state government finance bill was agreed upon by a House-Senate conference committee May 12. The House members on the conference committee accepted the Senate version of the bill with

the addition of several House-approved provisions.

The bill that emerged from conference committee calls for \$90.3 million more in appropriations than the original House measure. The bill would fund several agencies, including the Office of Citizenship and Volunteer Services, the Humanities Commission, and the Government Innovation and Cooperation Board, that had been targeted for elimination or reduced funding in the House version.

A cap on the overall increase in salaries for state employees was among the House provisions left out of the bill. The House version had also called for mergers of several legislative departments, but those proposals were not included in the conference committee bill.

The bill (HF2386/SF2223*) does include \$100,000 for grants to facilities to improve the safety of bleacher seats.

The following House provisions were added to the bill before it was approved by the conference committee. The full House has not yet voted on the compromise bill.

Give hemp a chance

The governor would be authorized to prepare and submit an application for federal permits to authorize the growing of experimental and demonstration plots of industrial hemp.

The bill directs the governor to consult with the commissioners of agriculture, trade and economic development, public safety, and other appropriate commissioners to establish standards and forms for people who want to register for those experimental plots.

Honoring Stassen

The new Capitol complex building occupied by the Department of Revenue would be named after former Gov. Harold E. Stassen. The building opened in the fall of 1998, and members of the House State Government Finance Committee proposed naming it after Stassen during a committee meeting on Stassen's birthday, April 13.

Limit fee increases

State agencies would be prohibited from increasing a fee or imposing a new fee without legislative approval. Budget proposals for each state agency would have to list proposed fee changes or new fees, including admission fees to state facilities and fees for regulations or licensure.

Stop loan repayment

Another provision would prevent state funds from being used to repay a loan from the Minneapolis Community Development

Agency to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in 1986.

The loan was made to acquire property for the Central Riverfront Regional Park. The bill would also prevent money for that purpose to be spent from political subdivisions of the state, such as the Metropolitan Council.

Telecommunication policy

The administration commissioner's oversight of the ongoing operation of information technology would be modified. The commissioner would be responsible for administering the state information infrastructure, which includes high-speed cables that provide telephone services, Internet access, and other information services.

The bill would remove the commissioner's responsibility for "operation of" the information infrastructure under current law.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) had advocated for the provision to help rural telephone cooperatives compete with the state in providing those services.

Cost-benefit for bids

Proposals to purchase goods or services costing more than \$5 million would be subject to a cost-benefit analysis by the administration department. If the analysis demonstrates that a proposal would not provide the most effective way to provide a public benefit, the governor would be able to approve an alternative proposal.

New veto authority



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a measure May 6 that will give governors the authority to veto rules adopted by state agencies.

Effective July 1, the new law will require copies of all new rules promulgated by state agencies to be sent to the governor. If the governor chooses to veto a rule or a part of a rule, the Legislature could propose bills to address the problems or concerns surrounding those rules.

If the Legislature does not propose an alternative measure to the vetoed rule, the rule would automatically go into effect.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the state could have benefited from this measure regarding 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.

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.

He described the bill as a "modest proposal to give the governor and the Legislature some oversight in the rulemaking process."

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1905*/SF1993/CH129

Cash for strapped agencies



One-time budget boosts totaling \$17 million go to seven state agencies and departments with budget shortfalls in the current fiscal year, under a new law effective May 12.

The Minnesota Zoo receives \$800,000 to make up for lower than anticipated revenue over the past year. The zoo had originally requested \$1 million, but a House-approved measure proposed funding only \$600,000 of that request. The \$800,000, which will come from the state's general fund, represents a compromise reached in a House-Senate conference committee.

The new law also requires the zoological board to submit a report to the governor and Legislature on possible alternatives to the zoo's current status as a state agency, including

converting the zoo to a private nonprofit.

The bulk of the deficiency money — about \$11.7 million — goes to the Department of Human Services to make up for a budget shortfall due to a delay in federal reimbursements for MinnesotaCare.

Although the state and federal government have reached an agreement concerning the delayed funds and reimbursements began March 1, the state funding is still needed to cover costs the department has had to cover in the past months. The money will come from the state's Health Care Access Fund.

Among the other payments in the new law are \$3.5 million to the Department of Children, Families and Learning to pay legal costs of two ongoing, major lawsuits — one in Minneapolis and one in St. Paul. Both involve claims that school districts are providing constitutionally inadequate education.

And the Department of Public Safety receives \$629,000 to pay for license plates for new automobiles, due to higher than expected automobile sales and other factors. That money comes from the state's Highway Users Tax Distribution Fund and will be paid back as the license plates are sold. The department also receives \$200,000 from the general fund to pay for additional security for Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The Department of Economic Security gets \$370,000 from the state's general fund for State Services for the Blind. The department is

Statehood week



Minnesota Historical Society tour guide Dan Gomez-Palacio dressed in 1857 period costume to play N.B. Robbins, a 23-year-old delegate to the Minnesota Constitutional Convention in 1857. As part of Minnesota Statehood Week, a group of fourth-graders from Hopkins were on hand May 11 to hear 1857 arguments concerning the shape of the future state.

also required to review the program's operation to determine why the current shortfall came about.

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board receives \$15,000, also from the general fund, to pay court-ordered payments.

Also under the new law, the Office of the Secretary of State receives \$975,000 for a year 2000 compliance program, but that amount is not included in the \$17 million total appropriation because it is to be transferred from unused portions of funds previously directed to the Department of Administration for a technology management program.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) and Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HFnone/SF2234*/CH141

Challenging state rules

Rules adopted by state agencies could be contested by local units of government under a bill passed May 10 by the House. The vote was 112-19.

The bill (**HF879/SF1636***) would allow a local unit of government, such as a city council or a county board of commissioners, to petition an agency to amend or repeal a rule.

Some lawmakers said the bill could create loopholes for cities or counties to get around tough environmental rules. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) proposed an amendment that would allow the petition process to be used only if the result would not allow additional discharge of sewage into a body of water, but her proposal was voted down.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), sponsor of the bill, said his goal is to enable local units of government to appeal rules that are out of date.

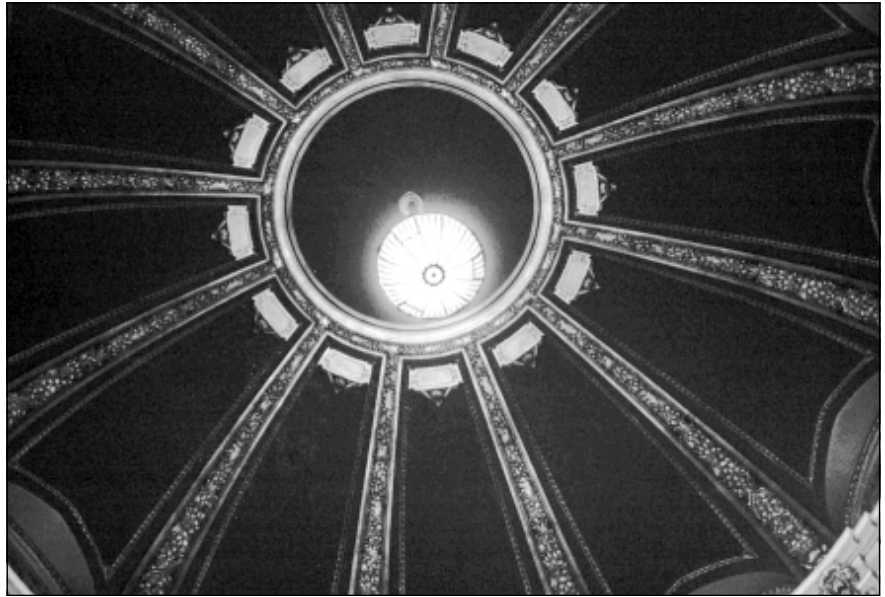
Under the bill, the local unit of government would have to provide evidence that the rule is unnecessary or that there would be a less costly or intrusive way to achieve the rule's purpose.

An agency that receives a petition would have 30 days to respond to the petition and 90 days to act on the request. If the agency disagrees with the petition, the issue would be settled by an administrative law judge.

The local unit of government that starts the petition would have to pay half the costs of the administrative hearing.

Knoblach said those provisions would make it unlikely that the petition process would be used very often. He said administrative law judges oversee the rulemaking process so it is appropriate for those judges to oversee the appeal process. He added that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency does not oppose the bill.

Celebrating statehood



The chandelier hanging in the Capitol rotunda is lit once a year for Statehood Day, May 11. This year Minnesota celebrated the 141st anniversary of its becoming the nation's 32nd state in 1858.

The bill was modified on the House floor to prohibit the petition process from being used to allow a local unit of government to increase property taxes or deny a person access to health care.

The measure now moves to a House-Senate conference committee.

Regulatory proposals



Proposals to regulate an occupation will have to be brought before the chairs of the related legislative committees, under a new law signed May 11.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will require such proposals to include answers to several questions, including why the regulation is necessary, who is advocating the regulation, and how the proposal would affect the practitioners of that occupation and the students who are preparing to enter that field.

That information will have to be submitted to the appropriate committees at least 15 days before a bill on the subject is introduced.

The measure was introduced in response to a February 1999 report from the Office of the Legislative Auditor. The number of occupations that are regulated in Minnesota has increased dramatically in recent decades.

Regulating occupations has been criticized, according to the report, because it can limit people from pursuing an occupation or "fence out" competitors. Minnesota's criteria for regulating an occupation is that unregulated practice could cause "significant threat to

public health, safety, or well-being." However, the report found that lawmakers have not applied that criteria consistently.

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the new measure.

HF2023/SF1746*/CH144

Public employee contracts

The House voted May 13 to ratify labor agreements concerning state employees made between legislative sessions. The vote was 116-14.

While the agreements had already been put into effect by the joint Subcommittee on Employee Relations, they required routine ratification by the Legislature. But before passing the bill, lawmakers debated a provision that raises the salary for the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system.

MnSCU officials chose to raise the salary of Chancellor Morrie Anderson by 8.8 percent effective July 1, 1998. The pay raise also included a retroactive salary increase of 32 percent effective July 1, 1997. From 1995 to 1998, Anderson's salary grew from \$108,780 per year to \$185,000 per year.

Some lawmakers said they disagreed with the MnSCU decision about offering a retroactive pay raise. Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) unsuccessfully offered an amendment that would have allowed the pay raise but canceled the retroactive policy. He

said the increase “shocks the conscience” in a time when lawmakers are trying to shrink the size of government.

But others supported the provision, saying that Anderson is still paid less than University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof, even after the raise.

“This current chancellor is worth every dime he has been paid and more,” said Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls).

And Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) urged fellow lawmakers to support the provision because he said the process of collective bargaining should be honored and those decisions should not be changed on the House floor.

Labor agreements that would be ratified under the bill include those between the state and the Minnesota Nurses Association, the Interfaculty Organization, the United Technical College Educators, and some employees in the Higher Education Services Office.

The bill also makes technical changes in the law governing public employees. One of those changes is the extension to unclassified executive and legislative employees the ability to transfer vacation and sick leave hours when they move between positions in the two branches.

Subcommittee Chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) is sponsoring the measure (HF1877/SF1721*), which moves to the desk of Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Taking the lead for PUC



A new law effective May 7 changes the way the state’s Public Utilities Commission (PUC) conducts its work. The measure became law without the signature of Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The Public Utilities Commission regulates the gas, electric, and phone service companies in the state. The law contains three changes designed to make the commission more efficient and responsive to the industries it serves.

The first provision allows noncontroversial cases to be approved if the commission has not acted on them in 60 days. The second change lets the commission delegate some responsibilities to subcommittees.

Finally, the law authorizes the commission to designate lead commissioners to handle certain cases or subject areas. That commissioner can preside over hearings and make non-binding recommendations on issues before the full commission. However, the lead commissioner would not have full authority over a case.

In a letter explaining why he chose not to sign the bill, Ventura stated that designating

lead commissioners to handle cases could lead to commissioner specialization which might decrease checks and balances on the commission.

“The PUC commissioners must be sensitive to the power granted to them under this law,” he wrote. “They must not engage in the practice of commissioner specialization.”

The governor said if the new law does not prove successful, he would examine it before it is up for renewal in 2002.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF359*/SF684/CH125



HEALTH

Abortion amendment approved

The House passed May 11 a proposal to prohibit groups that provide or promote abortions from receiving state funds for family planning services.

The abortion-related changes were added to a bill (HF1608) addressing health department policy.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), included proposed changes in regulating health occupations, administering the Health Care Administrative Simplification Act, and distributing material and child-health block grants.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) offered the amendment that added the abortion-related language.

Several lawmakers questioned the move.

Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) said the governor would veto any bill with language restricting abortions. He called adding the amendment “an effort in futility.”

“Governor Ventura has changed his mind before,” Otremba countered.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) said he was “sick and tired” of the House making choices about legislation based on what the governor wants. He said it is the governor’s prerogative to veto the bill if he does not like it, but it is up to the House to pass legislation and override a veto, if it decides to do so.

“Let’s ignore the threats and work the process through,” Wenzel said.

The amendment was adopted on a vote of 83-45.

Among other provisions in the bill is a proposal to require home care entities that receive funding from the department to submit claims on one of two forms.

Under existing law, home care organizations use a variety of forms, which complicates the payment procedure. The two forms

referenced in the bill are approved by the Health Care Finance Administration.

The bill would also require registration for speech-language pathologists and audiologists and add new rules for unlicensed mental health practitioners.

And it would amend the definition of unlicensed mental health practitioners to exclude Native American medicine men and women, licensed attorneys, probation officers, school counselors employed by a school district, registered occupational therapists, and occupational therapy assistants. It would also provide a mechanism for unlicensed practitioners to become licensed under certain circumstances.

The measure was sent to the Senate.

Midwifery law



A measure affirming the status of midwives through a system of licensing became law without the governor’s signature May 13.

Effective Aug. 1, the new law contains provisions for a voluntary licensing procedure for those who provide assessment and care outside a hospital for women and newborns during pregnancy, labor, birth, and the postpartum period.

The state’s Board of Medical Practice has been uncertain about how to regulate practicing midwives and thus virtually ended the custom of issuing licenses under the existing law more than six decades ago.

But the development of a national standardized test for midwives several years ago provides a basis for establishing credentials. The new law will combine a list of educational and training requirements for licensure.

Midwives will have to prepare a written plan for each client to ensure continuity of care, including what would happen should something go wrong and a physician be required.

The practice of midwifery has been driven underground because of fears of being prosecuted for unlicensed practice of medicine.

Consequently, if a woman in labor is transferred to a medical facility, the emergency room physician often has to assess her condition and determine treatment without the benefit of the midwife’s input.

Under other provisions of the new law, the midwife will have to keep extensive records on clients. It also will establish a five-member midwifery advisory council to review applications for licensure and field complaints from the public.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF949/SF383*/CH162

Paying spouses for care



A new law designed to allow qualified spouses in certain instances to be paid to provide private duty nursing was signed by the governor on May 13.

The measure will permit a spouse who is also a licensed nurse employed by a Medicare-certified home health agency to be paid when he or she cares for a spouse. The measure is effective Aug. 1.

Under existing law, payment isn't possible in certain instances, which had caused a hardship for at least one Minnesota family.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure.

HF60*/SF591/CH156



HOUSING

Fees for nothing



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 13 that targets landlords who aren't being upfront with prospective tenants when they charge application fees.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will prohibit landlords from taking a screening fee when the landlord knows or should know that there are no units available.

Many landlords require that prospective tenants pay a screening fee to be used for background checks when the tenant applies for an apartment.

Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter), sponsor of the measure in the House, said that while most landlords treat prospective tenants fairly, some are taking advantage of the housing shortage and charging prospective tenants when they know that they don't have any properties available. Those landlords then pocket the money.

Storm said that the new law "sends a message to unscrupulous landlords."

"It protects prospective tenants," she said. "It also gives a message to landlords that they cannot do this anymore."

The measure also will require that landlords return any screening fees collected if they don't actually do the background check, and will provide methods for returning the payment. It will require landlords to tell prospective tenants which screening service will be used.

The new law will provide penalties for violators, including a \$100 civil penalty to be paid along with any court costs and the return of the original screening fee to the would-be tenant.

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1613/SF1471*/CH150

Rental history reports

The House passed a bill May 11 that would provide landlords in Hennepin and Ramsey counties more information on prospective tenants while giving tenants additional protections. The vote was 128-4.

Current law prohibits tenant-screening services in these two counties from including information on eviction actions taken against prospective tenants in reports provided to landlords, unless the reports include the outcome of the cases.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Henry Todd Van Dellen (R-Plymouth), would repeal that requirement and allow the services to include eviction actions that have not yet been resolved.

"This bill would simply treat Hennepin and Ramsey counties the same as the other 87 counties," Van Dellen said.

He said cities and neighborhood groups are holding landlords more accountable for the actions of their tenants and it is important that they get the best information on prospective tenants as soon as possible.

The bill also would allow courts to seal records of the eviction proceedings if the landlord's case has no basis in fact or law or if the judge feels that sealing the case is in the best interest of justice.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), who backed these provisions, said the bill would allow tenants to remove unjustified blemishes from their rental records.

The bill (**HF1195**) now goes to the Senate.



HUMAN SERVICES

Prompt payment for care



A new law signed May 11 requires health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and nonprofit health service plans to promptly pay claims for home care services.

Effective July 1, a valid claim must be paid within 30 days of receipt by the health plan or interest can be requested by the organization submitting the claim.

Prompt payment language was adopted by the Legislature in 1997 for claims filed on state-operated funding programs, reducing the average wait to 14 days.

In the private sector, home care agencies reported it is not uncommon to wait 60 to 90 days for payment, and sometimes as long as

120 days. That slices into their cash flow and makes it difficult to pay workers on time.

Most of the services are physician-ordered and pre-authorized. For claims to qualify for rapid processing under the new law, they must be submitted in a complete fashion.

The language of the new law reflects a compromise between the Minnesota Home Care Association and insurers Blue Cross-Blue Shield and Allina Health System.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the measure.

HF1658/SF1268*/CH146

Services for hard-of-hearing



A new law signed May 13 will help make life easier for the state's deaf community.

Effective Aug. 1, the process for obtaining deaf interpreter services will be amended and outdated provisions dealing with the way the Department of Human Services purchases communication devices for the state-run Equipment Distribution Program will be repealed.

Also, the state Department of Health will be added as a fourth member of the interagency management team for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Service Division.

Through feedback from forums held around the state, the division learned that there continues to be a shortage of quality interpreter services across Minnesota. The new law will add "interpreting" services to the division's purview to enable it to explore alternatives for getting interpreting services to consumers in those areas of the state where there are no freelance interpreters.

The new law will also repeal the requirement to contract out for referral services in the metro area, making it optional to accommodate the changing nature of services in the area.

For many years, there was only one sign language interpreter referral service available in the Twin Cities area — the service receiving state support. In recent years, competition in the referral marketplace has developed because of increasing demands for interpreting services.

As a result, it is expected over time that the metro area's need for state-supported referral services will diminish. The new law will give flexibility to allow that to happen.

All of the revisions came about as a result of periodic review of legislation that impacts the division's programs.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF1414*/SF1584/CH149

Seeking service solutions



A task force to develop a new rate structure for state reimbursement for certain services offered to the developmentally disabled will be established under a new law effective May 14.

The task force is required to report to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2000, and must operate under the umbrella of the commissioner of human services.

Although the method of providing services to the developmentally disabled in the state has shifted focus from large institutions to individual needs, the system of reimbursements for those services hasn't kept pace.

Also, the current payment procedure provides a higher reimbursement rate for new agencies entering the market than for existing operations.

The new law instructs the task force to develop a plan "that reflects individual consumer needs and demands for services" that is flexible, simple, and equitable.

The Minnesota Habilitation Coalition and Minnesota Day Activities Center Association supported creation of the task force. The task force will include officials from a variety of parties interested in reimbursements for services, including the counties.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure.

HF1933/SF1615*/CH152



INSURANCE

Cap on benefits raised



A new law effective May 8 increases the maximum limit of lifetime health benefits under the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) insurance program.

MCHA provides insurance to Minnesotans who are unable to obtain health insurance through the private market because of pre-existing conditions. Participants pay higher premiums than they would for private plans.

The law raises the lifetime cap on health benefits to \$2.8 million from \$2 million. Proponents of the measure said MCHA participants often have high health-care costs and would benefit from the increased limit.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), who was the House sponsor of the measure, said he originally wanted to remove the cap entirely. He said an 8-year-old boy in Red Wing who requires constant supervision and a special ventilator to breathe would benefit from the

raised cap, because his medical needs cost about \$30,000 per month.

The measure became law May 7 without Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature.

Ventura said raising the benefit limit will further increase MCHA's deficit. The state subsidizes the association because of the high claim costs, and Ventura said he is wary of supporting a program that continues to suffer losses.

"I greatly appreciate the importance of assisting individuals who are in danger of exhausting health care benefits under (MCHA)," he stated in a letter explaining why he didn't sign the new law. "However, I am becoming increasingly concerned about the growing unfairness of the financing mechanism that supports MCHA."

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF270*/SF470/CH130

Health coverage alternatives

A bill aimed at increasing competition in the state's health care insurance market is on its way to the governor.

The House gave final passage to a modified version of the measure May 12. The vote was 90-39.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), sponsor of the bill, said the plan would provide options for less expensive and less comprehensive employee health policies for small businesses, many of them in rural areas.

The bill would permit insurance companies

that do not already have a major presence in the state — those that have less than 3 percent market share — to offer plans that don't include all of the state's currently mandated coverage.

Under existing state law, insurers and health maintenance organizations may offer small employers — those with fewer than 50 employees — the same benefit sets they offer to large companies or they may sell two alternative plans with lower costs and lower benefits. Haas' bill would provide another option to those small firms.

The bill would permit policies with different copayments and deductibles, as well as those that would pay on a basis other than medical expenses incurred, such as a flat dollar amount per day in the hospital or a flat dollar amount upon a diagnosis of cancer.

The bill (**HF870/SF841***) was originally passed by the House on April 28, but went to a House-Senate conference committee. The House-backed measure had called for mandating five specific areas of coverage, including breast cancer screening, cleft palate treatment, minimum maternity hospital stays, outpatient mental health treatment services, and immediate coverage for newborns.

Most of those provisions were removed in conference committee, which concerned Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), who asked whether as vigorous a fight as possible had been waged for the House position.

The bill has faced persistent opposition from Huntley and Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls). Both claim the "stripped-down" policies will

Tobacco wall



Wendy Audette of St. Paul and her 3-year-old son Luke take a look at the Tobacco Memorial Wall, which was set up temporarily in the Capitol rotunda May 7. The wall, circling the perimeter of the rotunda, was covered with photographs and stories of tobacco-related deaths. It was erected as part of a rally to mark the first anniversary of the state's multi-billion-dollar settlement with tobacco companies.

not be embraced by small business because the coverage would be substandard.

Haas contends that the bill simply offers options that are not available and even if they're not successful, at least an attempt to do something about the high cost of insurance will have been made.

The Senate passed the bill May 11.

Coverage for translation



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 7 that requires no-fault automobile insurance to cover the cost of sign language interpreting and language translators as part of medical benefits.

The state's no-fault automobile insurance law is designed to ensure prompt payments by insurance companies for medical and other benefits to victims of car accidents. It was created to relieve the financial burden of uncompensated victims who might have costly medical or repair bills as a result of an accident.

In order to communicate their illness or injury, people who don't speak English often need a family member or professional interpreter to accompany them to the doctor's office.

Effective May 8, the law directs insurance companies to pay for translators as necessary medical expenses, but the services will only be covered if they relate to medical care associated with an accident and will not apply if a family member serves as the translator.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), the House sponsor of the measure, said he discovered many insurance companies were not covering translating services as part of necessary medical expenses.

Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF684/SF521*/CH134

The new law, effective Aug. 1, will also clarify state law regarding contributions to senior and youth centers. That provision was requested by the city of Paynesville, where officials discovered that while the city could operate a transit program, it couldn't legally give financial support to an existing service operated by someone else.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) and Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) sponsored the measure.

HF371*/SF461/CH155

Covering expenses



A new law effective Aug. 1 increases per diem rates for board members of some Minnesota sanitary districts. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the legislation May 11.

A per diem rate is paid to a person much like an allowance to cover travel, dining, or other expenses associated with that person's duties as an employee or elected official.

Board members who serve the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District will see their per diem rates rise from \$35 to \$50.

Per diem rates for board meetings of the Moose Lake-Windemere Sanitary Sewer District will also increase from \$35 to \$50, but the annual maximum of \$1,000 will not change. In addition, the per diem for the board's chair will rise from \$45 to \$50. For events other than meetings, that district's per diem for its board members will increase from \$35 to \$50.

Both sanitary districts were established in the 1970s, and their rates have not changed since they were created.

Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the measure.

HF258/SF376*/CH145

Hospital district addition



A new law effective May 12 authorizes the Paynesville area hospital district to add the city of Richmond to its domain. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the measure May 11.

Under state law, only cities that lie geographically next to hospital districts, which may levy taxes, can become part of the districts without approval from the Legislature.

In this case, Richmond is separated from the hospital district by a township. The hospital is building a new clinic in Richmond and wanted the city to be part of the district in the event that it might have to impose a tax in the future.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) said the request needed legislative approval because of the hospital district's taxing authority, in addition to granting the geographic exception.

Stang and Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) sponsored the legislation.

HF174*/SF156/CH147



SAFETY

Bleacher safety

A bill that would establish safety requirements for bleachers was passed May 7 by the House, but some lawmakers said the measure as amended on the House floor is too watered-down to be effective.

The bill (**HF1124**) would require bleachers, such as those in sports stadiums, indoor arenas, or parks, to include guardrails or safety nets. Open spaces between floorboards, seats, and guardrails would have to be four inches or less, or safety nets would have to be installed.

In response to concerns that the costs of complying with the requirements would be a burden for school districts and local units of government, Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea) proposed allowing bleachers to remain out of compliance if a sign is placed near them that requires children under age 10 to sit in the first three rows.

The House approved that proposal, along with a proposal from Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) that would raise the minimum height at which the requirements would be in effect. The bill would have applied to bleachers taller than 30 inches, and Bradley's amendment raised the minimum to 60 inches.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), sponsor of the bill, estimated the cost of putting safety nets underneath a 90-foot section of bleachers would be about \$200 to \$600. Adding guardrails and reducing the gaps between floorboards and seats for a section that size would cost about \$3,000.

The bill would provide \$500,000 in state grants to help communities replace or remodel old bleachers. Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) proposed increasing that amount to \$1 million, and Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) proposed increasing it to \$2 million. Both proposals were defeated.

Smith said bleacher safety has traditionally been neglected despite reports of accidents throughout the state, including the recent fatality of a boy from Mound. Six-year-old Toby Lee died in January after falling from a set of bleachers while attending a hockey game at a Hutchinson arena. Smith said that the arena had recently spent \$750,000 on repairs, but

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Funding historical projects



Most Minnesota cities will be able to make unlimited donations to historical projects under a new law signed May 13.

A \$500 cap on what cities can spend on historical projects was enacted in 1957 and later raised to \$2,000 in 1977.

The proposal to eliminate that cap was supported by the Minnesota Historical Society as a way of encouraging additional historical investment by cities.

none of that money went toward fixing the bleachers.

Existing bleachers would have to comply with the new standards by Jan. 1, 2001, and new bleachers that are installed after July 1, 1999, would all have to comply.

"I believe Minnesota will lead the way on this issue," Smith said, comparing it to the state's requirements for automatic garage door openers. Minnesota was the first state to require a safety mechanism to halt automatic door closing at a sign of resistance. Several other states have since adopted similar measures.

The bleacher safety bill now goes to the Senate.

TAXES

Tax collection streamlined



Minnesota's district courts have been removed from the loop when the Department of Revenue pursues collection of certain back taxes, under a new law signed May 11.

The revenue commissioner is now allowed to serve a summons and complaint by certified mail to the taxpayer's last known address.

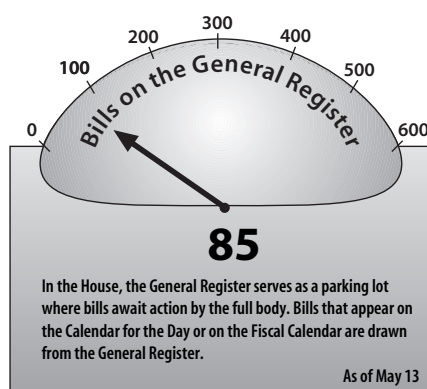
Under prior law, the department was required to file with the court administrator showing the taxes due. The court administrator then began the collection process.

The association that represents the court administrators requested the change. The procedure applies primarily to collection of taxes from people who have left the state.

The new law, effective May 12, represents a streamlining of tax collection procedures in the state.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Vadnais Heights) and Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure.

HF1131/SF1115*/CH143



TRANSPORTATION

Seat belt plan revived

A seemingly mundane bill up for a vote on the House floor May 13 became the vehicle to rebuff a veto by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

An amendment tacked onto a Minnesota Department of Transportation housekeeping bill would change the so-called seat belt gag rule to allow defective seat belt claims to move forward in court. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) offered the amendment.

The entire bill (**SF1762*/HF1551**) passed on a 124-6 vote.

On April 27, Ventura vetoed a separate bill, (**HF462/SF303***) sponsored by McGuire, that would have exempted claims of defective or malfunctioning seatbelts from the state's gag law. In his veto message, the governor stated that the Legislature had overstepped its bounds by designating what evidence the courts can consider. He also said that the bill had not gone far enough and that the entire gag rule should be repealed. The Senate voted to override the veto April 28.

The current gag rule law states that the fact that a person is wearing or is not wearing a seat belt cannot be considered by the courts when deciding personal injury or property damage claims resulting from a car crash.

In a 1997 case, the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that the gag rule law, as it is written, also applies to cases in which the claim is filed against the auto manufacturer for a defective seat belt.

If plaintiffs can't establish that they were actually wearing the seat belt, they can't prove that the seat belt caused or failed to prevent the injury. And the cases cannot move forward.

The bill passed May 13 would, like McGuire's original measure, exempt claims of defective or malfunctioning seat belts from the gag rule law.

Another amendment, offered by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and accepted by the House, would change the admissibility of helmet use by motorcyclists as evidence in cases where cyclists are seeking damages. The state does not require motorcyclists to wear helmets.

The measure would not require courts to include helmet use as evidence in such cases. Motorcycle groups have argued that the law that allows such evidence is unfair because it can punish motorcyclists for perfectly legal behavior.

The rest of the bill deals with the operations of the state transportation department. Workman, who is sponsoring the legislation, said it would bring many of the department's proce-

dures into the 1990s.

The measure would make many technical changes to the current state law, such as allowing 18-year-olds to drive 3,500-gallon petroleum tankers.

It also would raise to \$150,000 from \$75,000 the amount above which the department must go through the competitive bidding process for construction projects. Workman said that provision would allow the department to act quickly on emergency road repairs because time is saved by not having to go through the bidding process.

Workman's bill now moves back to the Senate for consideration of the House amendments.

Ending emissions testing

The House passed a bill May 11 that would put an end to the state's motor vehicle inspection program no later than March 1, 2000.

The House voted 114-10 to scrap the emissions testing program, passing a bill that would allow the state to terminate the inspections next spring, pending air quality approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

But if the EPA deems air quality in the Twin Cities area has met federal air quality standards before the March deadline, the bill would allow for the 8-year-old program to end earlier.

The measure (**HF7**) is sponsored by Rep. Barb Haake (R-Mounds View) and has endured a long trip of legislative hurdles as lawmakers debated over an end date for the program.

The March 1, 2000, date is a product of a House-Senate conference committee. The House had originally pushed for a Jan. 1, 2000, end date and the Senate had set July 1, 2000, as the date to eliminate the program.

Haake's bill goes to Gov. Jesse Ventura, who is expected to sign the measure.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

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

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

Exception for milk trucks



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 13 that eases restrictions on milk haulers.

Until 2003, vehicles carrying milk will be exempt from seasonal road restrictions and the state's 5-ton per axle weight limit.

The seasonal weight restrictions, in effect statewide from March 20 to May 15 each year, are designed to prevent costly wear and tear on roads that can be caused by heavy vehicles. But the springtime restrictions often put milk transporters in positions where they are breaking the law.

Under federal food regulations, milk carriers are not allowed to make two trips on one load and often end up carrying more than allowed under the seasonal limits. Penalties for such violations include fines and can put a milk carrier's license in jeopardy.

The law exempts milk carriers from the weight restrictions from one point of production to the first processing point. Subsequent trips are not covered under the measure, which in turn prevents haulers from carrying many farmers' loads at one time.

The law allows carriers to exceed restrictions by 2 tons per axle on roads with restrictions of 5 tons per axle.

The measure also eliminates a reference to an obsolete test for determining the fat content of milk, effective Aug. 1. All other provisions of the bill are effective May 14.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) and Sen. Dean Johnson (R-Willmar) sponsored the legislation.

HF1641/SF1645*/CH154

New deadline for banks



Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 7 that will close a legal loophole that can cause car dealerships to break the law.

The new law will decrease the

Front and center



Two-year-old Tommy Workman, son of Rep. Tom Workman, found the center aisle of the House chamber a good place to stretch his legs during a May 7 visit to the Capitol.

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 new provision, effective Aug. 1, reduces that to seven days when the cars are sold by most types of auto dealerships.

Under the present system, car dealers have only 10 days to transfer titles to buyers after a vehicle is sold. This can be 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.

The law also includes a change in state law regarding the mounting of television screens in motor vehicles.

That provision, effective May 8, allows television screens in any place except where visible by the driver of an automobile.

Under the new law, Minnesota dealers will now be able to sell the Oldsmobile Silhouette

minivan. The van's television screen previously did not fit state law, which restricted screen mounting to a space specifically behind the driver.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF790/SF778*/CH131

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

To find out who represents you at the Capitol . . .

Call the House Public Information Office at (651) 296-2146

Administration	296-6013
Agriculture	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning	582-8200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Economic Security	296-3644
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Health	215-5800
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704

Minnesota State Agencies

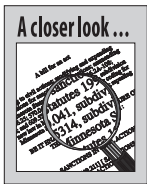
(Area code 651)

Human Services	296-6117
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency	296-6300
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services	296-6911
Fire Marshal	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division	296-6159

State Patrol	297-3935
Public Service	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013

Ethics bill passes without cup-of-coffee exemption

By Jon Fure



A campaign finance and ethics bill passed the House May 11 without a controversial provision for a \$5-and-under exemption to the state's so-called gift ban on lawmakers. The vote on the bill was

69-63.

Current law prohibits elected officials from receiving gifts from lobbyists or principals — organizations that hire lobbyists. But some lawmakers have argued that the gift ban should not apply to food or beverages in some situations.

Rep. Doug Reuter (R-Owatonna) told colleagues of one such situation that arose shortly after he was elected, when he met with a lobbyist for the city of Owatonna. Reuter said the lobbyist provided background information and described the city's positions on certain laws and pending legislation.

The meeting lasted about three hours, and Reuter said he had three cups of coffee. As he got up to leave, he was told he had to pay for the coffee.

"I thought, 'This is ridiculous,'" he said. "Since then I have made it a point to ask people in my district if I should be impeached — if I should lose my office — for taking a cup of coffee from a lobbyist, and not one person has said yes."

But lawmakers voted against an amendment proposed on the House floor by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) that would have exempted food and beverages costing up to \$5 from the ban. Bishop called the current gift ban a "loony provision of law." He said buying someone a cup of coffee is common courtesy and his proposal would allow a "minimal level of hospitality."

Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud), sponsor of the bill (HF441/SF516*), strongly opposed Bishop's proposal. He said a former representative from his district had described the days before the gift ban, when lobbyists would pay for a legislator's breakfast, lunch, and dinner. And many receptions would be held throughout the year with food and beverages provided by lobbyists.

"Sometimes it's a bit of a pain, I know, but I feel we're better off with zero tolerance rather than (a \$5 exemption)," Knobloch said.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) agreed.

"We've learned to live with it, and we don't have to worry about whether something costs



The House rejected a proposed exemption to the state's gift ban that would have allowed lawmakers to accept a cup of coffee and other food items valued at less than \$5.

\$5 or \$5.02," she said. "It seems to be working well."

While the House voted against the \$5 exemption, the bill does contain some other exemptions to the ban. Under the proposal, a lobbyist could give a gift to an elected official at a wedding or other significant family event if they have a history of gift exchanges prior to the recipient becoming an elected official. A gift given in that instance would only be allowed if the person who paid for the gift does not seek a business reimbursement or tax deduction and does not give a similar gift to other people attending the event.

The bill also would allow elected officials to accept a gift or a meal from their employers in the normal course of business, provided that all other employees receive the same gift. Under current law, an elected official who works as a teacher, for example, would have to pay for a meal provided to all other teachers at an event sponsored by the teachers' union, Education Minnesota. The House measure would not require the elected official to pay for the meal or gift in those kinds of situations.

Knobloch's bill would modify several provisions of state law relating to campaign spending.

Current law requires political candidates to file statements of economic interests, to declare their sources of income. The bill would expand those provisions to apply to income that a candidate earns as an independent contractor or consultant. Candidates who are independent contractors or consultants would have to disclose their sources of income that

are more than \$1,100 per year.

Another provision would require candidates to disclose assets of spouses and dependents, so that a person couldn't avoid disclosing a conflict of interest by transferring an asset to a family member.

The bill also would extend disclosure laws to apply to special funds that are created by candidates, such as a legal defense fund or a fund for an inaugural party. Under current law, disclosure requirements do not apply to those types of funds. This issue drew attention when Gov. Jesse Ventura undertook a drive to raise private funds for his inaugural celebration.

Another disclosure-related provision was removed from the bill. Lawmakers voted to uphold current law that requires a candidate to disclose the name, address, employer, and occupation of anyone who donates more than \$100 to his or her campaign.

House members deleted a provision that would have required such information only from people who donate more than \$250, which is the requirement for federal candidates. For donations of less than \$250, the bill would have required only the name and address of the donor.

Other provisions that were removed from the bill on the House floor would have allowed corporations and nonprofit organizations to communicate with their employees, members, or shareholders to advocate political candidates. Knobloch said he felt those provisions were reasonable, but he proposed removing

Continued on page 26

Fans of Capitol architect join to honor his work

By Sarah Telljohm

No matter what, architect Cass Gilbert will always be remembered in Minnesota for his design of the Capitol.

But a group of his fans want to ensure the famed architect is honored for the other nearly 80 buildings he designed in and around the Twin Cities. Of those structures, about half are private residences.

About 60 members make up the Cass Gilbert Society, formed in response to a 1998 seminar that focused on his work on the East Coast. The Oct. 11, 1998, event honored the 100th anniversary of the opening of Gilbert's New York office.

Gilbert designed six buildings in New York City, including the Woolworth Building, the U. S. Customs House, the Broadway Chambers Building, and the Brooklyn Army Terminal.

He is also famous for the U.S. Supreme

Gilbert rowhouse left in the city. Comprised of five units, the structure was most likely intended to be rental property and does not have as many intricate details as some of Gilbert's other homes, Velleu said.

However, the homes are treated today as individual units. They are sold separately, much like condominiums.

The couple has lived in the 2,300 square-foot rowhouse for 24 years. Years earlier, Cass Gilbert and his new bride, Julia Finch, lived in the Velleu's 5-bedroom home when it was first built.

Velleu said construction began on the building in 1884 and the entire structure was completed in 1888.

"We celebrated the birthday two times in order to be right," Velleu said. "Another reason to have a party, I guess."

Velleu and her husband have renovated the home a bit, exposing a brick wall and wooden

The non-profit society's members consist of Cass Gilbert homeowners, architecture enthusiasts, scholars, and people who are just fond of his work. Corporate members include Macalester College, Edina Realty, the University Club of St. Paul, the New Louisiana Cafe, and Ace Grand Avenue Hardware Co.

A board of directors, comprised of four officers and committee chairs makes decisions on the group's long-range plans.

Those plans include publishing a catalog of Gilbert's work and offering walking tours around neighborhoods that contain the architect's residential or church designs. Another proposal is a traveling exhibit about Cass Gilbert, which could be used nationally.

The society is in the middle of sponsoring a four-piece lecture series. One of the lectures, held in March, focused on the Minnesota Capitol building. The next lecture is set for 7 p.m. June 8 at the University Club in St. Paul. The speaker will be Geoffrey Blodgett, a professor at Oberlin College and author of a book about Gilbert.

Memberships are available for \$25 per household (\$50 for corporations). Send name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and fax number, as well as a check, to: Cass Gilbert Society, 550 Portland Ave., St. Paul, MN 55102. 🐾



Minnesota State Capitol architect Cass Gilbert designed and briefly lived in this house on Portland Avenue in St. Paul, which today is home to the president and founder of the Cass Gilbert Society.

Court in Washington, D.C., and state capitols in Arkansas and West Virginia. At least 10 other states also boast samples of his work.

A group of Minnesotans who attended the New York celebration were concerned that Gilbert's Minnesota work was going unnoticed. So they invited some of the New Yorkers to tour the Minnesota Capitol and, consequently, the society was born.

Jean Velleu, the society's president, lives at 550 Portland Ave. in St. Paul. She and her husband Richard reside in the only existing

ceiling beams. But the place had already been changed from its original state when they arrived; the large sitting area in the front used to be two rooms. The newel posts that used to sit atop the house's carved banisters were sawed off, too.

Velleu said the unique windows in her house show Gilbert's technique for bringing in natural light. Common features in his other homes include leaded glass, sunbursts in wood or stone, eyebrow windows, and sawtooth shingles.

Cass Gilbert creations

Public buildings

Minnesota Capitol
U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.
U.S. Customs House, New York

Commercial structures

Woolworth Building, New York
Great Northern Railway Depot, Willmar
Endicott Building, 141 Fourth St., St. Paul

Residential designs

Cass Gilbert House, 1 Heather Place, St. Paul
William Lightner House, 318 Summit Ave., St. Paul
Elizabeth Wheeler Gilbert House, 471 Ashland Ave., St. Paul
Crawford Livingston House, 339 Summit Ave., St. Paul

Ecclesiastical architecture

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, Dayton Avenue at Mackubin Street, St. Paul
Virginia Street Church, 170 Virginia St., St. Paul
Saint John's Episcopal Church, Moorhead

Lawmakers in Minnesota and elsewhere face limits

By Grant Martin

While some people might say that May 17 is just another day of waiting before the new *Star Wars* movie opens, lawmakers in Minnesota have had that day circled on their calendars all year.

For them, it represents the finish line.

The Minnesota Constitution requires the Legislature to have its work done by the third Monday after the first Saturday in May — May 17 this year. And lawmakers will probably work right up to the midnight deadline.

And if they don't get their work done by that date, they face an option that, at this point, may be scarier than the *Phantom Menace* — a special session.

If lawmakers need to meet after the May deadline, a special session is necessary. And under the Constitution, only the governor can call a special session.

Minnesota's regular legislative session calendar is dictated by the state constitution, state law, and resolutions passed in both houses of the Legislature.

The first year of the two-year legislative cycle — the odd-numbered year — doesn't offer too many surprises. State law requires the Legislature to convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January — Jan. 5 this year.

And because the first year is used to develop the two-year budget for state government, lawmakers need all the time allotted and typically meet right up to the deadline.

The second year of the legislative cycle — the even-numbered year — is typically used to approve a capital improvement budget and any supplemental budgets.

Lawmakers are allowed to establish the start-date for the second year. At the end of the first year, leadership in both the House and Senate make a motion to adjourn to a date in the following year, and lawmakers in both bodies must give the thumbs up.

The end-date in the second year is also flexible. The constitutional provision prohibiting the Legislature from meeting past the

1999 end dates for state legislatures	
February	Virginia
March	Georgia, Idaho, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming
April	Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington
May	Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and Vermont
June	Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and South Carolina
July	North Carolina
August	Oregon
Year-round legislatures	California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
Did not meet in 1999	Kentucky

Source: Stateside Associates

May deadline is still in place, but it is typically another constitutional provision that dictates the end-date in the second year.

The constitution prohibits lawmakers from meeting more than 120 legislative days over the two-year cycle. So, for the second year, lawmakers can use any days that they didn't use in the first year.

Legislative days are different from calendar days. The constitution defines a legislative day as any day that either the House or Senate meet in session. As of May 13, lawmakers have used 64 legislative days this year.

Minnesota lawmakers have yet to decide on an opening day for the 2000 legislative session. Most recently, the Legislature has reconvened in late January of the odd year and adjourned in early April.

State legislative sessions around the country are also governed by several factors, including state constitutions, state laws, and sometimes simply custom.

Most states began their legislative sessions in January this year. Nevada and Oklahoma started their sessions in February. And Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana began in March.

Kentucky is the only state where lawmakers didn't meet in 1999. Legislators in the Bluegrass State meet for only three months every two years. The Kentucky Legislature meets next in January 2000.

Nine state legislatures meet year round with schedules similar to the U.S. Congress. Those states are California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.


Of the part-time legislatures, end dates for the sessions vary quite a bit. The majority of states end their legislative sessions in March, April, May, or June. North Carolina ends in July, and Oregon lawmakers go home in August.

Virginia finishes in February. The Virginia Legislature meets one month in the odd year of their legislative cycle and two months in the even year.

Six state legislatures won't meet in regular session next year. Arkansas, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, and Texas only meet in the odd year of their two-year legislative cycles.

Unlike Minnesota, 30 states have mechanisms for members of the state legislature to call themselves back into special session without the governor's approval. Most require supermajorities — such as two-thirds or three-fifths of the members — to call a special session.

In Maine, lawmakers can call a special session without the governor's approval. But in order to do so, the presiding officers in both bodies must get approval from a majority of members from each individual party within each house.

That task could be difficult because each house of the Maine Legislature has an independent lawmaker. If those members don't agree to a special session, it's no go. 

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

Many famous politicians are together in the end

By Grant Martin

Even in death, two of Minnesota's most influential early political figures are at a standoff.

On a grassy hill in St. Paul's Oakland Cemetery sits a six-foot-tall, white stone monument to Minnesota's first governor, Henry H. Sibley. On the same hill, barely 50 feet to the southeast, sits the new granite monument to the state's second governor, Alexander Ramsey.

In the 1860 governor's race, Ramsey — the prominent Republican appointed as Minnesota's first territorial governor — defeated Sibley — the Democrat who had been the first elected representative for the Minnesota Territory and was the first governor after statehood.

The two monuments don't face each other. Ramsey's monument looks south toward the Capitol less than a mile away, and on the other side of the hill, Sibley's monument looks to the north.

The monuments themselves — with their backs to each other — seem to suggest the politicians' lifelong rivalry, which was a friendly but hard-fought one.

Ramsey and Sibley are just two of the four Minnesota governors buried at Oakland Cemetery.

Oakland Cemetery and Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis have come to host a large number of Minnesota's prominent political figures after their deaths. Both have become the final resting place for several former governors, judges, state lawmakers, and members of the U.S. Congress.



The worn gravestone for Henry H. Sibley, Minnesota's first governor, stands facing north in St. Paul's Oakland Cemetery. The headstone for Alexander Ramsey, the state's second governor, sits to the left of Sibley's monument, facing south. Oakland Cemetery and Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis are the final resting places for many prominent Minnesota politicians.

Before becoming an official cemetery, Oakland Cemetery had been an unofficial burial ground for the newly developing village of St. Paul.

In 1853, the cemetery organized as a non-profit company and all funds earned from sale of the plots went back into the development of the property. Sibley and Ramsey actually served as trustees of the cemetery — at different times, of course.

About 15 years after Oakland opened, Col. William S. King, a Minneapolis newspaper publisher, approached several community-minded businessmen with the idea of a public cemetery in the village of Minneapolis.

The group organized a search committee in 1871 and began looking for sites to develop such a facility. The group first settled on a location next to present-day Loring Park; however, a speculator got wind of the proposal and swiped up the land.

Luckily, King had a 130-acre plot of land along Lake Calhoun that he was willing to part with. He agreed to sell the land for \$21,000 to be paid over one year's time at 7-percent interest.

The group met later that year and formed the Lyndale Cemetery Association. The following year, the group changed the name to Lakewood Cemetery.

The last major political figure to be buried at either Oakland or Lakewood was Muriel Humphrey Brown, the wife of former Vice President Humbert H. Humphrey Jr. and mother of former Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. "Skip" Humphrey III. In 1978, Brown was appointed to the U.S. Senate when her husband died during his term.

Brown died in 1998 and was buried next to her husband at Lakewood.

Politicians buried at Oakland Cemetery, St. Paul, include:

Henry H. Sibley (1811-1891) — Sibley was the Minnesota Territory's first representative to the U.S. Congress from 1848 to 1853, and the first governor of the state of Minnesota from 1858 to 1860.

Alexander Ramsey (1815-1903) — Ramsey served as the first territorial governor from 1849 to 1853, as the state's second governor from 1860-1863, and in the U.S. Senate from 1863-1865.

Henry Mower Rice (1816-1894) — Rice served as a U.S. senator from 1858 to 1863.

Edmund Rice (1819-1889) — Brother to Henry Mower Rice, served in the Minnesota Legislature, as mayor of St. Paul, and ran unsuccessfully for governor.

Willis A. Gorman (1816-1876) — Gorman was appointed the second territorial governor from 1853 to 1857 and also served in the Minnesota House.

Samuel James Renwick McMillan (1826-1897) — McMillan served as U.S. senator for the state from 1875 to 1887.

Arthur Emanuel Nelson (1892-1955) — Nelson was the mayor of St. Paul from 1922 to 1926. He also served in the U.S. Senate.

Frederick Clement Stevens (1861-1923) — Stevens served in the U.S. Congress from 1897 to 1915 and in the Minnesota House.

Christopher Columbus Andrews (1829-1922) — Andrews served as foreign minister to Sweden from 1869 to 1877.

Politicians buried at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, include:

John S. Pillsbury (1828-1901) — Pillsbury was the state's eighth governor from 1876 to 1882. He also served in the Minnesota Senate.

John Lind (1854-1930) — Lind was governor from 1899 to 1901 and served several terms in U.S. Congress.

Floyd B. Olson (1891-1936) — Olson was elected as the first Farmer-Labor governor in 1931, and served until 1936.

Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. (1911-1978) — Humphrey served as mayor of Minneapolis from 1945 to 1948, as U.S. senator from Minnesota from 1949 to 1964 and 1971 to 1978, and as U.S. vice president from 1965 to 1969. He ran unsuccessfully for president in 1968.

Muriel Humphrey Brown (1912-1998) — Brown was the wife of Hubert H. Humphrey Jr. She was appointed to the U.S. Senate when her husband died in 1978.

Rudy Perpich (1928-1995) — Perpich was governor of Minnesota from 1976 to 1979 and 1983 to 1991. He also served as lieutenant governor and in the state Senate.

Charles A. Lindbergh (1859-1924) — Lindbergh was a U.S. congressman from 1907 to 1917. He also ran unsuccessfully for both governor of Minnesota and U.S. senator. He was the father of Charles Lindbergh Jr., the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

William Drew Washburn (1831-1912) — Washburn served in the Minnesota House from 1861 to 1879, in the U.S. Congress from 1879 to 1885, and in the U.S. Senate from 1889 to 1895.

Cyrus Aldrich (1808-1871) — Aldrich was a congressman from Minnesota from 1859 to 1863. He also served in the Minnesota House.

John Grant Alexander (1893-1971) — Alexander served in the U.S. Congress from 1839 to 1841. He also ran unsuccessfully for governor.

Governor's Desk

CH1-CH165

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	Resolution for Minnesota/Ontario border lakes trade agreements violation resolution.	3/26/99	
Res. 2	719	757*	Resolution to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.	3/29/99	
Res. 3	426*	534	Resolution for Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness management facilitation.	4/23/99	
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 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	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
26	438	407*	McLeod West School District #2887; secondary educational facility grant.	3/29/99	
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 dependency admission and 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.	4/16/99	
61	643*	676	All persons under civil commitment status provided the same legal rights.	4/16/99	
62	408*	170	Pharmacy practice definition modification.	4/16/99	
63	1714*	1693	Pharmacists to pharmacy technicians ratio requirements waiver.	4/16/99	
64	735*	495	Crime of adulteration scope expansion and penalty increases.	4/20/99	
65	841	881*	Stearns, Benton, and Sherburne counties regional parks and trails plan.	4/20/99	
66	645*	651	Water and wastewater treatment system modifications.	4/20/99	
67	1421*	1239	Podiatry temporary permits extension.	4/20/99	
68	1809	1554*	Duluth Seaway Port Authority new name.	4/20/99	
69	908	465*	County recorders minimum security deposits requirement authority.	4/20/99	
70	1507	1600*	Motor vehicle registration requirements modified.	4/20/99	
71	1153	973*	Juror compensation system study.	4/20/99	
72	197	198*	Criminal trials closing arguments rebuttal limits elimination.	4/20/99	
73	1151	1176*	Waste Management Act technical modification.	4/20/99	
74	53	129*	Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act modifications.	4/20/99	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
75	182	257*	Statutory cities special elections to fill office vacancies.	4/20/99	
76	868*	866	Crime of theft expansion to personal property rental.	4/20/99	
77	67*	32	Killing or injuring a search and rescue dog provided felony penalties.	4/20/99	
78	793*	1497	Rental motor vehicle lien and right of retainer.	4/20/99	
79	1171	98*	Crime victims' and witnesses' birthdates confidentiality.	4/20/99	
80	960	829*	Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority surplus state land purchase.	4/20/99	
81	1404	972*	Migratory waterfowl refuge designation.	4/20/99	
82	1097	1188*	Uniform municipal contracting law dollar limit increases.		4/22/99
83	40*	25	Nursing home residents allowed to request the use of restraints.	4/22/99	
84	463*	578	Ambulance services and first responders health care review.	4/22/99	
85	836*	833	Business corporations regulation provisions modifications.	4/22/99	
86	1037*	950	Revisor's bill.	4/22/99	
87	872*	682	Construction contracts environmental liability modifications.	4/23/99	
88	528*	1259	Underground fuel storage tanks specifications requirements.	4/23/99	
89	627*	616	Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority commissioners term modification.	4/23/99	
90	1968*	1827	Medicare supplemental insurance regulation provisions modifications.	4/23/99	
91	1975	1920*	State archaeologist position appointment process modification.	4/23/99	
92	1248	1528*	Harmful exotic species provisions modifications.	4/23/99	
93	1046	1324*	Commercial motor vehicle disqualification and violations modifications.	4/23/99	
94	566	673*	Health plans network shadow contracting restriction.	4/23/99	
95	1944	1470*	Paul Bunyan state trail route modification.	4/23/99	
96	896	854*	Counties, cities, or towns lawful land uses termination prohibition.	4/23/99	
97	1178*	1253	Landlords' prelease deposits acceptance regulation.	4/26/99	
98	142*	1634	Subsequent controlled substance conviction definition expanded.	4/26/99	
99	1003*	840	Legislative Audit Commission modifications.	4/26/99	
100	1150	1182*	Funeral or burial insurance sales restrictions eliminated.	4/26/99	
101	101	1527*	Convicted sexual offenders prohibited from school board candidacy.	4/26/99	
102	1309	1273*	Nursing home administrators licensing and examiners board modifications.	4/26/99	
103	661	832*	Small company securities offering registration modifications.	4/27/99	
104	1035	1017*	Marriage dissolution summonses alternative dispute resolution requirements.	4/27/99	
105	1052	451*	Uniform Commercial Code agricultural crops financing modifications.	4/27/99	
106	462	303*	Seat belt use evidence admissibility clarification.		4/27/99
107	877	1218*	Re-employment insurance housekeeping changes.	4/27/99	
108	451	436*	Emergency telephone service (911) dispatchers liability immunity.	4/27/99	
109	984	983*	Psychologists licensing and regulation provisions.	4/27/99	
110	893	1041*	Warehouse operators regulations modified.	4/27/99	
111	1125*	1087	Local correctional fees imposition responsibility transferred.	4/27/99	
112	1*	106	Agricultural assistance and tax relief.	filed without signature	
113	1538	1463*	Towns capital reserve funds.	5/3/99	
114	1161	480*	Port authorities revenue retention.	5/3/99	
115	673	1012*	Itasca County road and bridge money authority.	5/3/99	
116	1622	1368*	Certain professions payment requirements exemption.	5/3/99	
117	1169	496*	Financial institution search warrants extension.	5/3/99	
118	489	283*	Civil commitment procedures modified.	5/4/99	
119	585*	595	Isle School District grant modification.	5/4/99	
120	1708*	1675	FAIR plan modifications.	5/4/99	
121	1106*	1075	Insurers restricted from using HIV vaccine information.	5/4/99	
122	863	834*	Putative fathers adoption registry modified.	5/4/99	
123	483	296*	Special education provisions modified.	5/4/99	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
124	92*	397	DWI implied consent law modified.	5/6/99	
125	359*	684	Public Utilities Commission powers expansion.	filed without	signature
126	1553*	2078	Department of Corrections conditional release and other provisions modified.	5/6/99	
127	1707*	1602	Sex offender registration plea negotiation modified.	5/6/99	
128	132*	1138	Nursing home bingo game regulation modified.	5/6/99	
129	1905*	1993	Governor veto authority over state agency rules.	5/6/99	
130	270*	470	Increasing maximum benefits for Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association.	filed without	signature
131	790	778*	Vehicles' security interests release time reduced.	5/7/99	
132	1168	1144*	Elections provisions modified.	5/7/99	
133	1183	1060*	Secretary of state records provisions modified.	5/7/99	
134	684	521*	Certain no-fault insurance benefits to cover translation services.	5/7/99	
135	1568*	1209	State building and energy code provisions modified.	5/10/99	
136	1359*	1023	Crime victims unclaimed restitution payments requirements.	5/10/99	
137	1564	1715*	Department of Commerce enforcement bill.	5/10/99	
138	1051*	971	Employment and training programs information collection and report.	5/10/99	
139	1310	184*	Juvenile delinquency and child protection provisions recodified.	5/11/99	
140	1384	1357*	Public Utilities energy conservation improvement program modified.	5/11/99	
141	none	2234*	State departments deficiency appropriations.	5/11/99	
142	263	411*	Crime of counterfeited intellectual property.	5/11/99	
143	1131	1115*	Delinquent taxes collection legal actions process modified.	5/11/99	
144	2023	1746*	Occupational regulation legislation supporting documentation requirement.	5/11/99	
145	258	376*	Certain sanitary districts' board members per diems increased.	5/11/99	
146	1658	1268*	Health maintenance organizations home care providers prompt payment.	5/11/99	
147	174*	156	Paynesville area hospital district Richmond annexation authority.	5/11/99	
148	70*	197	Law enforcement agencies forfeited firearms sale and use authority.	5/11/99	
149	1414*	1584	Deaf and hard-of-hearing services division provisions modified.	5/13/99	
150	1613	1471*	Tenant screening fee limits.	5/13/99	
151	1175	1330*	Department of Commerce banking bill.	5/13/99	
152	1933	1615*	Mental retardation day training payment rate structure task force.	5/13/99	
153	2021	1539*	Vertical heat exchanger contractors licensing and regulation.	5/13/99	
154	1641	1645*	Milk transporters seasonal highway weight restrictions exemption.	5/13/99	
155	371*	461	Senior center, youth center, and historical work appropriations approval requirements.	5/13/99	
156	60*	591	Medical assistance reimbursement for spousal private duty nursing.	5/13/99	
157	1301	1449*	State park additions, deletions, and name changes provided.	5/13/99	
158	1477	1541*	Environmental improvement pilot program modified and made permanent.	5/13/99	
159	1393	1585*	Human services technical changes.	5/13/99	
160	1008	1047*	Garnishment, attachment, or levy of execution exemption for Roth IRAs.	5/13/99	
161	502	626*	Wabasha county tax-forfeited land sale.	5/13/99	
162	949	383*	Midwifery practice regulation.	filed without	signature
163	1255	2120*	Gamma hydroxybutyrate as controlled substance.	5/13/99	
164	1112	1180*	Juvenile court habitual truants jurisdiction extension.	5/13/99	
165	66	9*	Police civil service commissions abolishment by city council vote.	5/13/99	

Bill Introductions

HF2439-HF2450

Friday, May 7

**HF2439—Kahn (DFL)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis upper harbor area redeveloped, state and local funds provided, tax increment financing districts authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2440—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Amateur Sports Commission required to develop a statewide new facilities plan, grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2441—Seifert, J. (R)
Civil Law**

Revisor's bill correcting miscellaneous oversights, inconsistencies, ambiguities, unintended results, and technical errors.

Monday, May 10

**HF2442—Mulder (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Policy**

Pipestone aquatic center litigation losses grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2443—Mullery (DFL)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs**

Hennepin County human resources system modifications provided.

Tuesday, May 11

**HF2444—Paymar (DFL)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs**

Airport noise abatement council elected, and powers and duties specified.

**HF2445—Krinkie (R)
Commerce**

Land surveyor and appellate boards established, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, May 12

**HF2446—Abeler (R)
Education Policy**

Reading and mathematics basic competency level provided.

Thursday, May 13

**HF2447—Holsten (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**

Recreational vehicle, hunting, and firearm training course provisions modified; and money appropriated.

**HF2448—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention**

Inmate name change request notice to victims and criminal justice system officials provided, and inmate name changes for harassment purposes prohibited.

**HF2449—Davids (R)
Commerce**

Board of Accountancy membership expanded, educational requirements modified, licensed accounting practitioners certified, and money appropriated.

**HF2450—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention**

Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon possession prohibited for persons under age 21.

Continued from page 18

them due to strong opposition from DFL House members.

The bill would also change how inflationary increases in campaign spending limits are calculated. Those limits are currently based on the consumer price index, and the bill would base them on the media cost-per-thousand index instead. Knobloch said the media cost-per-thousand index is more relevant to campaign spending, because it is based on advertising rates. Those costs increase at a different rate than those of other products that influence the consumer price index, he said.

The House also voted to accept a proposal from Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) that would prohibit a city, county, town, or other governmental subdivision from using tax money to pay a registered lobbyist.

The bill now moves to a House-Senate conference committee. 🐼

Continued from page 4

included in the Senate version of the bill. Ventura recently sent letters to all of the members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee revealing his intent to veto any bill that contains new abortion restrictions.

Another issue not included in the brokered deal is what will happen to the Profile of Learning, a plan designed to improve public education in the state. The House voted to dump the plan entirely, while both the Senate and Ventura want to keep the program and make changes to make it more acceptable to teachers, administrators, and parents.

The timing of the agreement means a showdown between the Legislature and Ventura over a special session may have been averted. Ventura said he was willing to "shut down the government" if necessary if no agreement were reached.

The Legislature is obligated by the Minnesota Constitution to adjourn by May 17. If no agreement is reached on the major spending bills, Ventura would have to call a special session or the state would begin running out of money July 1, when the next fiscal year begins. That has never occurred in the state's history. 🐼

Committee Schedule

As *Session Weekly* went to press, the times for House floor sessions had not been set. Please check the House Web site at: www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/schedule.htm or call the House Public Information Office at 651-296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 for schedule updates.



It's so hard to find good help these days — especially given Minnesota's current labor shortage. And that trend will likely continue through the next decade, according to a recent report from Minnesota Planning.

The shortage can be attributed to the fact that a smaller number of workers are joining the work force while labor demand has remained relatively constant. The labor force will only grow at a 1.1-percent annual rate over the next few years. Meanwhile, jobs will grow at a 1.4- to 1.5-percent rate, according to the report.

The planning department says that the shortage may cause employers to develop new technologies to make fewer workers more productive. Or, the department warns, the shortage could result in businesses choosing to locate or expand elsewhere, an effect that could have dire consequences on the state's economy.

Order a free copy of *New Laws 1999*

Complete this form to receive your copy of *New Laws 1999*, a publication describing the new laws passed this year. The publication will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 1999* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.

Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 1999*? Yes No

Please place this form (with the mailing label on the back) in an envelope.

Mail it by June 15, 1999, to:

New Laws 1999, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave.,
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.



Readership Survey: 1999 *Session Weekly*



Please take a moment to tell us what you think about the *Session Weekly*. Your opinions will help us plan for next year.

1. Where do you live? (Please check one.)

Minneapolis/St. Paul Greater Minnesota Twin Cities Suburbs Other _____

2. How often do you read the *Session Weekly*? (Please check one.)

Once a month Twice a month Three times a month Every week

3. Which sections of the *Session Weekly* do you most often read? (Please check all that apply.)

- Reflections (page 2)
- First Reading (page 3)
- It's a Fact (page 4)
- Highlights

- Features
- A Closer Look
- Committee Schedule
- Member Profiles

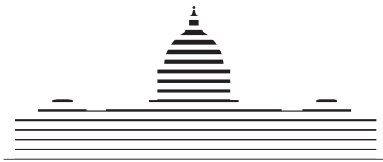
- Governor's Desk
- Bill Introductions
- Information (i.e., lists)
- Minnesota Index

4. Please rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly* by checking one answer in each set.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard to understand | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat understandable | <input type="checkbox"/> Easy to understand |
| Story Length | <input type="checkbox"/> Too short | <input type="checkbox"/> Too long | <input type="checkbox"/> Just right |
| Readability (type size) | <input type="checkbox"/> Too small | <input type="checkbox"/> Too large | <input type="checkbox"/> Just right |
| Photographs | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent |
| Layout | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent |

5. What do you like about the *Session Weekly*? _____

6. Do you have any suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*? _____



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

Minnesota's health

Minnesotans covered by health insurance in 1997, as percent	90.8
Rank in United States	3
Minnesotans lacking access to primary health care in 1998, as percent	4.2
Rank in United States	48
Minnesotans lacking access to mental health care in 1998, as percent	10.7
Rank in United States	28
Percent of Minnesota adults who had been tested for AIDS, 1997	32
Rank in United States	45
AIDS cases reported in Minnesota in 1998, per 100,000 population	3.8
Rank in United States	43
E-coli cases reported in Minnesota in 1998, per 100,000 population	4.4
Rank in United States	3
Estimated new cancer cases in Minnesota in 1999, per 100,000 population	410.5
Rank in United States	41
Minnesotans who used vehicle safety belts in 1998, as percent	65
Rank in United States	20
Minnesota adults whose children used a car safety seat in 1997, as percent	93.9
Rank in United States	28
Gallons of alcohol consumed per Minnesota adult, 1996	2.65
Rank in United States	16
Minnesota adults who were considered binge drinkers in 1997, as percent	15.6
Rank in United States	15
Minnesota adults who smoked in 1997, as percent	21.9
Rank in United States	37
Percent of 1996 Minnesota births to women who smoked during pregnancy	13.1
Rank in United States	29
Minnesota adults who were overweight in 1997, as percent	29.7
Rank in United States	33
Minnesotans who used exercise equipment, 1998	600,000
Rank in United States	27
Golfers in Minnesota, 1998	472,000
Rank in United States	19

Source: *Health Care State Rankings 1999: Health Care in the 50 United States*; Morgan Quitno Press.

For more information

For general information, call:
House Information Office
(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(651) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or
 the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(651) 296-6646

For up-to-date recorded message
 giving committee meeting times and
 agendas, call:
Committee Hotline
(651) 296-9283

The House of Representatives can be
 reached on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>

Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired.
 To ask questions or leave messages,
 call:
TTY Line (651) 296-9896 or
1-800-657-3550

Check your local listings to watch
 House committee and floor sessions
 on TV.

This document can be made available
 in alternative formats.