

SESSION WEEKLY

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SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • January 8, 1999 • Volume 16, Number 1

Welcome ...

Welcome to the 81st session of the Minnesota Legislature.

This issue of *Session Weekly* begins our 16th year of providing easily digestible highlights of committee and floor action from the Minnesota House of Representatives. Each week of coverage begins and ends on Thursday afternoons.

Each issue is published on Fridays throughout the session. In each issue you will find the committee schedule for the coming week — all the information you will need to attend committee hearings, all of which are open to the public.

The “First Reading” section in this issue takes a look at the opening day of the 1999 session. In other issues, it will focus on specific bills of major importance to the general public. We’ll also provide you with articles each week about the Legislature and state government that will help you follow the legislative process.

“Highlights” will give you an understandable synopsis of bills discussed in committees. Other informational features such as “Bill Introductions,” “It’s a Fact!” and the “Minnesota Index” will be helpful as you follow proceedings throughout the session.

Each week we’ll also introduce you to the newest members of the House, beginning this week with Reps. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) and Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan).

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We hope you like our nationally recognized newsmagazine. Please contact us if you have suggestions for improving the *Session Weekly*, if you need answers to general questions, or if you need further help in following the Legislature.

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—The staff

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On the cover: Rep. Steve Sviggum is sworn in as speaker by Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz Jan. 5.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

The 81st Legislative Session . . .

Speaker Sviggum calls for cooperation, tax cuts



Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives take the oath of office Jan. 5.

By Grant Martin

Following one of the most interesting election years in Minnesota's history, members of the House of Representatives opened the 81st Legislative Session Jan. 5 with discussions of bipartisan — even tripartisan — cooperation.

Speaker-to-be Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) smiled from ear to ear as he greeted members at the House chamber door before the gavel dropped.

He has reason to smile.

Under Sviggum's leadership, Republicans have grabbed something they haven't held since 1986 — the majority.

Republicans gained seven seats last November, creating a 71-63 split. The majority allows Republicans to name the speaker and committee chairs, and gives the caucus power to set the agenda.

In a chamber stuffed with family and friends, Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz administered the oath of office to members, including 21 freshmen.

To no one's surprise, Sviggum was elected speaker over the minority candidate Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) by a 72-61 vote. One DFLer crossed over to vote for Sviggum.

In nominating speeches, members praised Sviggum as a person of integrity, common sense, and kindness. Members said that he had "earned the honor of being speaker" through his six years of hard work as minority leader.

In his acceptance speech, Sviggum

promised the people of Minnesota that he will work with DFLers.

"I pledge to bring cooperation and a bipartisan attitude to the House of Representatives and to the governing of this great state," Sviggum said.

Sviggum told members that he looks forward to a close working relationship with Pugh, who will serve as DFL minority leader. He also had kind words for the two former speakers, Reps. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) and Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

"I will work hard to handle this podium with the same professionalism that you did," he said.

Sviggum also pledged to work with Gov. Jesse Ventura. He said he agreed with Ventura's words at his inauguration that those in public service should "do their best and do it with honor."

"The citizens of this state deserve no less," Sviggum said.

Addressing the public, Sviggum promised that tax cuts would be high on the agenda for the House.

"You have my word that this body will permanently and significantly cut your taxes," he said.

Having just been sworn in the day before, Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer had the honor of convening the session.

Kiffmeyer spoke to legislators about avoid-

ing the dangers of partisanship. She passed along advice that her father gave her when she was learning to drive.

"Keep your eyes down the road a little bit," she said. "The car will follow."

Kiffmeyer said that members should look past partisanship and special interests and focus on their own principles.

"The legislative car will follow," she said.

The Tuesday opener also marked the kickoff of what many say could be one of the most interesting legislative sessions in Minnesota history. Three parties will be vying to set the agenda of the state's government, with Republicans controlling the House, DFLers controlling the Senate, and a new Reform Party governor.

The projected \$1.5 billion budget surplus may provide the first challenge to state's new government.

House Republicans held a press conference Jan. 6 to announce their plans for a quick rebate totaling \$1.1 billion, along with other initiatives. Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) noted that his caucus was the first to deliver its legislative goals.

"We are proud to be the first leg of the three-legged stool that forms the government in Minnesota to come out with an agenda," he said.

Although full details of the income tax rebate plan were not released, leaders said it

would be based on taxes paid and would be returned as soon as a mechanism for payment could be set up.

Ventura has disagreed with the timing of Republican proposals. Arguing that the surplus exists now only as a projection, he has suggested that the funds should only be returned at the end of the fiscal cycle when all the money has been actually collected. Under Ventura's plan the rebates would be sent out some time after June 30.

House DFLers are also critical of the Republican plan, saying that the rebate would disproportionately benefit high-income taxpayers. Democrats favor a continued approach of property tax relief and reductions. Here are some other issues that legislators will consider.

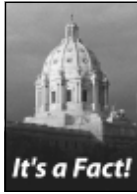
- **Taxes:** Following several years of surplus budgets, House Republicans have announced that they are working on a permanent income tax cut. DFLers have proposed permanent property tax cuts, which they say would provide more equitable tax reduction.
- **Tobacco settlement:** Minnesota received its first payment of the \$6.1 billion settlement from tobacco companies this year, and legislators will decide what to do with the money. Ventura has proposed creating an endowment to fund medical research. House Republicans propose to use the money for tax cuts and to fund MinnesotaCare.
- **Education:** Ventura campaigned heavily on the issue of reducing class sizes in Minnesota's public schools. Republicans and DFLers agree. The question that remains is how to do it, and those plans should be forthcoming.
- **Farm crisis:** With pork prices at a historic low, Minnesota farmers are feeling the crunch. Republicans and DFLers are working on plans to provide relief to farmers.
- **Budget:** The governor will be submitting his budget for the biennium before the middle of February. With a new governor, this means new funding initiatives and priorities for state agencies. 🐷

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.



Could St. Paul be a cold Lincoln?

There's little doubt that the issue of unicameralism will come before lawmakers during the 1999 legislative session.

The past two sessions have seen at least nine bills proposing that the state Legislature be reduced to a single lawmaking body.

And this year, the topic could have stronger support than before. Gov. Jesse Ventura and House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), a longtime fan of unicameralism, have both indicated they would favor efforts to consider the one-body system in the North Star State.

Currently, Nebraska is the only state with a unicameral legislature, meaning that one house instead of two passes legislation. The District of Columbia, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands also operate with unicameral assemblies.

Nebraska's 49 legislators have been elected on a nonpartisan ballot since the state's first unicameral session in 1937. Each lawmaker represents about the same number of people as members of the Minnesota House do.

Previous bills in Minnesota for a unicameral system have recommended as many as 135 members, which would closely resemble the current House membership (134).

There is no party leadership in the Nebraska system. Leaders and committee members are elected by the whole body on a regional or geographic basis. Committee chairs are elected on the floor by secret ballot, and a nine-member Executive Board (chosen by the whole body) prepares a slate of committee members, which the full body then approves by a floor vote.

Because a significant amount of time is spent in floor debates, the Nebraska session lasts 30 days longer than the Minnesota session, starting in early January and ending in late May or early June.

Unlike the Minnesota Legislature, there is no constitutional deadline for adjournment, but the Unicameral has several other deadlines to prevent last-minute bill introductions and hasty passage of omnibus bills. All general appropriation bills must be passed 10 legislative days before the session ends, and general revenue bills must be passed five legislative days before adjournment.

	NEB.	MINN.
Members	49	134 (House)/67 (Senate)
Term limits	NO	NO
Overlapping terms	YES	NO
Staff	5/member 40 session temps	3/member 190 session temps
Costs per year	\$15 million \$9.15/capita \$312,000/legislator	\$50 million \$10.85/capita \$274,000/legislator
Salary	\$12,000/year	\$31,140/year
Per diem	\$83/day (session only)	\$56/day (session and interim official business)

Source: *Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature*, January 1998, House Research Department.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Not so high on the hog

Members of two House agriculture committees attempted to get to the meat of low hog prices and how they impact Minnesota at a joint hearing Jan. 7.

Representatives from many sectors of the agriculture industry — from economists to farmers to processors — agreed that prices are at a historic low, but they did not find much other common ground.

“We are concerned about the hog issue and its impact on the broader farm sector,” said Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), chair of the House Agriculture Policy Committee. “Good decisions are based on the best available information, reasoned thought, and input from the people involved.”

Although the stated purpose of the hearing wasn’t to discuss solutions, Ness hinted that any recommendations would dovetail with expected federal assistance for vexed hog producers. He also suggested that the ultimate solution should be a public-private partnership “to provide a measure of market stability for farmers.”

Also suggested was a property tax decrease targeted at smaller pork producers.

Hog prices began falling several months ago and bottomed out in early December, when prices paid to producers fell under 10 cents per pound. That’s lower than average prices paid to farmers during the Great Depression, and about one-fourth of what is generally believed to be a break-even point for producers.

The precipitous drop in prices has meant huge losses for many farmers, some of whom may be forced to discontinue operations.

Who gets the blame depends upon perspective, but many who testified said the explanation is simple.

“Production is far ahead of what was expected,” said Perry Aasness, assistant commissioner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Actual hog numbers have risen 10 percent over last year, nearly triple federal predictions.

Compounding the problem is a bottleneck in meat-packing operations caused by the closure of three plants in the past year, a widespread lack of workers, and an influx of Canadian hogs due to record low dollar exchange rates.

On the upside, lawmakers learned that demand for pork is at record levels and more pork than ever is being shipped to foreign markets. Recent efforts by the federal government have begun making a dent in the problem, and prices have risen slightly.

Although by some estimates over 10,000 producers will eventually go under before market prices rebound, not all are hurting. Producers who have signed contracts with packers have seen only slight fluctuations in the price they’ve received for hogs.

Much of the debate centered on the effect

— and even the legality — of those contracts.

“Contracts are the problem,” said veteran hog farmer Bernie Herkenhoff of Alexandria. “There is no mistake about it. None. The farmers with contracts aren’t looking at the market signals; they just keep producing.”

He added that contracts take away incentives for the market price to fluctuate.

His view was shared by Nobles County producer Jim Joens Jr. who said he believes as much as 63 percent of the hogs in Minnesota are raised on a contract basis.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) suggested contracts may be discriminatory and therefore illegal.

“If the only difference between receiving the contract price or the market price is this piece of paper, then that’s discrimination,” he said, waving several sheets over his head.

But producer Scott Hislop of Mapleton and several others said that contracts were part of an overall strategy for successful farming.

Paul Zimmerman of Waseca, chair of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Swine Committee, said he first heard of contracts in 1994 but he declined to secure one because his economic risk was low at the time. Two years later, after borrowing money to expand, contracts weren’t

only more attractive, they were required by his lending institution.

A spokesman for Hormel Foods Corp., which uses contracts extensively, said the practice has kept a steady stream of high-quality hogs flowing into the Austin company.

Most of the company’s contracts are with small- and medium-sized growers, said Brian Stevens, a Hormel executive. He said the contracts have become a necessity because pork production is moving away from the Midwest to states such as North Carolina, Texas, and Oklahoma, where environmental regulations are lax and tax



Jim Joens Jr. of Wilmont, left, says that he cannot get a decent price for his hogs because other producers have contracted with meat packers. Scott Hislop of Mapleton, right, says he gets a good price because he signed a contract. Both testified before a joint hearing of the House Agriculture Policy and House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance committees Jan. 7.



breaks are more common. He said the company's efforts have also kept the pork industry in Minnesota strong.

Stevens said Hormel is often criticized for its size but that the size of production operations has grown, too. Today, 50 percent of the pork produced comes from the largest 50 growers, only one of which is in Minnesota.

Stevens also said his company is not slacking in its processing capacity. Workers at the Austin plant put in 78,000 overtime hours in the eight weeks prior to Christmas.

The panel also heard testimony regarding the spread between what farmers are receiving for live hogs and what consumers pay for pork chops and other products has been falling, it hasn't dipped as noticeably as live hog prices.

Members of the House Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Committee attended the hearing along with their colleagues on the policy committee.



BUDGET

Lawmakers eye the surplus

The projected \$1.5 billion budget surplus was the subject of an informal audit by members of the House Ways & Means Committee Jan. 7.

Finance Commissioner Wayne Simoneau, Assistant Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison, and State Economist Tom Stinson gave an overview of the process by which the Department of Finance formulates its projections and answered questions from the members.

According to the department, the \$1.5 billion surplus comes from three identifiable sources. The largest portion — \$803 million — is from increased revenues due to the unanticipated strength of Minnesota's economy. Higher wages and capital gains drove this increase.

The state also will collect \$46.1 million this fiscal year from tobacco companies in the first payments from the state's \$6.1 billion settlement. In addition, \$262 million comes from lower than projected expenditures.

Of the \$1.5 billion, \$608.8 million is already spent under current law. The 1998 Legislature stipulated that this money would be appropriated if a budget surplus occurred.

The Legislature allocated \$400 million to pay cash for bonding projects in last year's bonding law. Also, legislators dedicated \$8.8 million to go to a budget reserve account and \$200 million to a tax reform account.

That leaves \$953 million of undedicated funds.

The Department of Finance is also projecting a \$1.8 billion surplus for the 2000-2001 biennium. A new budget forecast is due in February.



HOUSING

Building code problems

The number of agencies responsible for the state building code would be reduced from five to two under a bill that is expected to be introduced this session.

A group of legislators discussed the overlapping oversight of state building and fire codes at a Jan. 7 Legislative Audit Commission meeting. The Office of the Legislative Auditor released its report on the state building code at the meeting.

According to the report, enforcement of the building and fire code is currently shared by the State Board of Electricity and the departments of administration, health, public safety, and public service. Several other agencies also have input in inspecting and reviewing building plans for public buildings.

Disagreements between building and fire officials and poor coordination between the various state agencies has caused unnecessary delays in construction, the report states. A possible solution would be to give one department responsibility for developing and enforcing the building code.

Several people at the meeting said input from the different organizations is critical because each has a different area of expertise. Pat Bloomgren, director of the health department's Environmental Health Division, said public buildings must comply with federal regulations, which vary depending on the type of building. Any restructuring would need to include people with experience in those areas, she added.

State Fire Marshal Thomas Brace added that his department has unique areas of expertise, such as sprinkler systems and other fire-protection equipment.

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) said it would be more realistic to divide the responsibilities between the public safety and administration departments. Wiener, who chairs the Legislative Audit Commission, said she plans to introduce such a bill this session, and Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) plans to introduce a version of the bill in the House.

"The goal is to take down some of those barriers and make the process more streamlined, with public safety being utmost important," Wiener said.



TAXES

Top billing for tax rebate

Minnesota taxpayers would benefit from nearly \$1.1 billion in rebates this year, under the first bill introduced in the House this session.

HF1 is sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the House Taxes Committee. The bill calls for a 20 percent income tax rebate to be returned within 60 days of enactment.

The proposal's designation as the session's first bill is a signal that the measure is a top priority for House leaders. The rebate plan outlined in the bill was included by Republican leaders in an agenda outline announced Jan. 6. The bill was formally introduced Jan. 7.

"We feel that Minnesota families are paying too much to the government's house and not being able to keep enough in their own houses," said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), a co-sponsor of the bill.

Under the bill, those who paid \$1 to \$150 in state income taxes in 1997 would receive back the entire amount. Those who paid more than \$150 would get the \$150 plus 20 percent of taxes paid in excess of that amount. The rebates would be capped at \$3,800 for single people and \$7,600 for couples.

Tax proposals have not been common as the first House file to be introduced in recent sessions. Measures such as wetlands preservation, jury membership, and farm funding have topped the House's agenda in past years.

In 1997, the first bill introduced proposed repealing funding caps for K-12 education that had been established by the previous Legislature. Welfare reform topped the House's agenda in 1995, and in 1993 a streamlined House committee structure was proposed first — an issue which Republicans also took up after gaining the majority this past November.

Although his budget recommendations have not yet been made public, Gov. Jesse Ventura has indicated support for an income tax rebate. However, he differs with legislators on the timing of the rebate. Ventura has said he would prefer waiting until the end of the fiscal year to return the money, while legislators are proposing the rebate be effective 60 to 90 days after the bill passes.

Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower) is sponsoring **SF1**, which calls for a 22 percent income tax rebate. The Senate bill calls for a cap of \$900 for single people and \$1,800 for married couples who filed a joint tax return. A \$313 minimum is also part of the proposal.

HF1 was referred to the House Taxes Committee.

Speaker of the House . . .

Sviggum promises balance, openness in House

By Sandy Donovan

New House Speaker Steve Sviggum has been a lawmaker for 20 years, but it's his experience as a high school basketball referee that gives him confidence as he assumes his new post.

"Once you've called a foul on someone's daughter or someone's son and they don't think it's a foul, once you've heard those heated words and those criticisms from the sidelines, you can come to St. Paul and take on anything," he said.

Sviggum (R-Kenyon) traded in his role of minority leader — a job he held since 1993 — for the speaker's post after leading his caucus in 1998 to gain its first House majority in more than a decade.

He said the switch will call for a different kind of leadership style, and he pledges to be fair to members on both sides of the aisle.

"I'm truly and honestly going to try to be speaker for the entire House, not just an advocate of the Republican position," he said.

And he said a new level of cooperation will be needed between the Republican-controlled House, DFL-controlled Senate, and Reform Party governor.

"I think that all of us are trying to cozy up to each other," Sviggum said. "None of us by ourselves — not the House, not the Senate, and not Governor Ventura — can enact legislation alone."

Still, Sviggum said the tripartisan setup won't stall the legislative process.

"I'm optimistic that it's not a formula for gridlock, but that the opposite is true, that it's a formula for balance and for openness," he said.

To that end, Republican caucus meetings will continue to be open to the press.

"The strategies, the decisions, and the options are going to be much more available than in the past to the press and to the citizens," Sviggum said.

And the new speaker has already overseen a change in committee structure that he said will streamline the lawmaking process. With five fewer total committees than last year, Sviggum said the new structure will line up more closely with the Senate committee structure and allow for increased efficiency in conference committees.

Also this year, spending bills will go directly from finance committees to the Ways and Means Committee, eliminating a stop at the related policy committees.



When he's not keeping things in order in the House, Speaker Steve Sviggum is a basketball referee. Here he officiates a boys state high school tournament game.

"I think that's appropriate from the standpoint of trying to keep the bills as clean as possible, not getting policy issues into appropriations bills," he said. "I'm not going to say I can entirely prevent that from happening. This is an attempt to do so."

But, Sviggum stresses, neither a third-party governor nor a new committee structure will distract his caucus from focusing on a top-priority.

"First and foremost we need to pass a significant, permanent tax cut," he said.

Education reforms will also be high on the House Republicans' agenda this year.

"That will include enhancing classroom discipline, closing the disparity between the high-spending and low-spending districts, addressing the Profile of Learning, and reducing class sizes," Sviggum said.

Also expected is a package of government reforms including a measure that would require a super-majority vote to raise taxes and closing the revolving door that Sviggum said sends too many ex-legislators into the lobbying profession.

"And we'll certainly be doing some rules changes," he said. "For instance, we'll be expecting that when one offers a spending amendment on the House floor, it will have to be balanced. In other words, you won't be able to just step forward and say you're going to spend more money on nursing homes without saying where that money will come from."

Sviggum said he's looking forward to a good

relationship with House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul).

"I like Rep. Pugh, and I think he will be fair to deal with and honorable. And that's all I'd ever ask," he said. "I understand we're going to have differences, that he has his job to do, and that that job is to bring forward the (DFL) platform."

As for his own new job, Sviggum said he's waiting to see how well he can maintain a balance between his professional life and his personal one. The former teacher continues to run a farm with his two brothers.

At home, he said, he remains "the fifth most powerful member of the family" — right behind his wife Debra and their three children, 18-year-old Hans, 16-year-old Eric, and 14-year-old Marit.

"I'm just Dad to them," he said. "They don't deal with me as a state representative. They want to know if I can make it to their basketball game."

And basketball, of course, will remain as important part of Sviggum's life.

"My hobby is refereeing, and a hobby is something you need to keep your fingers in," he said. "Just because you become speaker of the House, you don't want to change from who you are. It would be like taking the farm out of me. I'm a farmer so you can't take the farm out of me, or, hopefully, the referee."

Election brings new majority, shifts demographics

Things changed from the time the gavel fell to end the 1998 session to when it banged Jan. 5 to convene the 1999 Minnesota House of Representatives.

Perhaps most visible was the change in the person given the job of holding the gavel. Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) became the first person from his party to preside in the House since 1986.

Sviggum, who was minority leader in the House for six years, oversaw the Republicans' successful sweep into control of the House in the 1998 elections.

Republican victories in November 1998 left the DFL on the short end of a 71-63 partisan split in the House. Republicans picked up seven seats in the elections, in which the parties battled to claim 15 open seats and to hold other districts.

The DFL won an open suburban Twin Cities district that was previously held by a Republican, but the GOP claimed two open rural

1998 was hardly a banner year for diversity in the House. Only one of the 134 House seats is held by an African-American. That's the same number as 100 years ago when J.F. Wheaton became the first African-American person to serve in the House.

In all, 20 House members are new to the Capitol, and one — Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) — reclaimed the seat he lost in 1996.

Lawmakers come from all walks of life, but there are some noticeable changes among the occupations most commonly listed by House members.

occupation for all House members. There were 26 farmers serving in 1989, but that number has been falling steadily for years. By the time lawmakers convened two years ago there were just 11 farmers serving in the House. Now the number of farmers has slipped into the single digits.

The House also includes a family physician, a chiropractor, a carpenter, a freelance artist, a writer, a handful of homemakers, and several retirees.

The current crop of lawmakers is a bit more educated than the last. Seventy-five percent of House members hold at least a four-year college degree. That's up from 74 percent in 1997 and 66 percent a decade ago.

Forty-nine 1999 House members hold graduate degrees, compared to 43 in 1997 and 31 a decade ago.

Currently, the largest class of lawmakers is composed of the 25 members beginning their third term. The next largest is the 24 entering their second term. Twenty lawmakers are in their fourth term, and 20 more are in their first term.

The longest-serving lawmaker is Rep. Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth), who is in his 22nd term. Sviggum, who is entering his 11th term, is the longest-serving Republican.

The average age of House members continues its upward trend. Now at 48.7 years, the average age has risen from 40.8 years in 1975.

Munger, 87, is the oldest member. At 24, Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) is the youngest.



Voters line up outside the Grant Town Hall on Election Day, Nov. 3, 1998.

seats previously held by DFLers. And Republicans knocked off six DFL incumbents, mostly in suburban Twin Cities districts.

It is unlikely that anyone will declare 1998 the Year of the Woman in Minnesota politics. In fact, five of the six DFL incumbents who lost at the polls were women, and only one of them was beaten by another woman. The number of women holding House seats dropped from a record high 40 in 1998 to 35 at the beginning of the 1999 session.

Other election results also demonstrate that

Business has displaced education as the field in which most House members work. The 1999 House includes 24 business people and 19 educators. The total of 17 attorneys in the House ranks third.

Fourteen members list themselves as full-time legislators, which is down from 18 in 1997.

Meanwhile, the number of farmers in the House continues to decline. The 1999 House includes only nine farmers, a record low.

A decade ago farming was the top-ranking

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

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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>

1999 House Profile

Membership					
	1999	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
DFL	63	70	71	86	79
R	71	64	63	47	53
Men	99	95	102	101	103
Women	35	39	32	32	29

Age					
	1999	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
21-30	6	5	6	5	6
31-40	23	27	24	28	23
41-50	51	45	51	50	44
51-60	38	43	34	34	26
61-70	13	11	16	15	12
over 71	3	3	3	1	1†
Average age	48.7	48.3	47.9	47.7	47†
† Ages not available for 20 members					

Education					
	1999	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
High School	4	5	5	6	7
Some College	17	19	24	20	18
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	39	40	41	47	45
Some Graduate Work	13	16	14	16	17
Graduate Degree	49	43	37	32	29
Technical College	6	10	11	6	6
2-yr. Undergraduate Degree	6	1	—	—	3
No listing	—	—	2	6	7

Current Term					
	1999	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
1	20	22	26	33	21
2	24	29	29	16	15
3	25	25	16	11	27
4	20	14	11	25	12
5	10	7	20	8	16
6	5	14	7	13	9
7	10	6	4	3	9
8	4	3	2	6	6
9	3	1	3	6	5
10	1	3	5	3	10
11	2	3	3	7	1
12	3	2	6	1	—
13	2	4	1	—	—
14	4	—	—	—	—
Other	1 (22)	1 (21)	1 (20)	1 (19)	1 (18)

Occupation					
	1999	1997	1995	1993*	1991**
Business	24	21	20	14	20
Educator	19	22	20	20	19
Attorney	17	17	18	16	18
Legislator	14	18	19	17	19
Farming	9	11	14	16	20
Consultant	6	6	6	8	7
Homemaker	5	5	3	3	7
Communications	4	4	3	—	—
Insurance	4	3	3	3	—
Retired	4	3	3	3	—
Real Estate	3	2	2	2	3
Trades	3	2	4	3	4
Government	2	3	3	—	4
Retail	1	3	3	2	—
Other	19	14	13	27	11

* The 1993 session began with 133 members due to one resignation.

** The 1991 session began with 132 members due to two resignations.

Orientation retreat . . .

New lawmakers consider opportunities, challenges

By Nicole Wood

Barely two months fall between an election-night victory and the swearing-in ceremony for new representatives, leaving little time to prepare for the role of lawmaker.

To help with the transition from private citizen to public servant, nearly two dozen new representatives — 18 freshmen and three one-year veterans — attended a three-day crash course last November.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) chaired the retreat, held Nov. 16-18 at the Riverwood Conference Center near Monticello, Minn. The agenda included guest speakers, legislative workshops, panel discussions, and a rousing round of the House's own Get to Know Me game.

House Speaker-designate Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) came to greet freshman members and to enthuse about the unique state of affairs in Minnesota politics.

"Ask the media — this is the greatest job in the country right now," he said.

Former U.S. Rep. Tim Penny, a member of Gov. Jesse Ventura's transition team, shared some insight on the new head of state.

"I think you're going to like him," Penny said. "One of his greatest strengths is that he's quite altruistic about government and public service."

Just two weeks after the general election, Ventura's victory was a hot topic at the retreat. Penny also addressed ways in which Republicans and DFLers could reach out to those who voted for the Reform Party governor.

"[Ventura] will challenge you to put your partisan instincts aside," he said.

Also featured was House Chief Clerk Ed-



Rep. Jim Seifert jokes that his first bill will be to make the Toro lawnmower the official lawnmower of Minnesota. His comments came during a mixer at the new member orientation session. Seifert is a vice president for the Toro Corporation.

ward A. Burdick, who presented a seminar on the fundamentals of parliamentary procedure and the legislative process.

"Parliamentary procedure is not an exact science," Burdick explained. "It's a slow, deliberative process, one that is designed to encourage maximum discussion, heated debate, and compromise."

Seagren, a fourth-term legislator, led a panel discussion on the personal and professional challenges of the job.

As part of that forum, Rep. Tony Kielucki (R-Lester Prairie) said striking a balance between home and House is key.

"The first time I missed one of my kid's

band concerts, it tore me up inside," he said. "Plan your family time wisely."

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) advised incoming members of the seemingly unusual alliances — liberal/conservative, urban/rural — that often develop between first-termers.

"You are in the room right now with your best friends in the Legislature," she said.

Also on the agenda were newly-appointed Revisor Michele Timmons, House Research Department Director Tom Todd, and members of the Capitol press corps.

Meet the newly elected 1999 House members



Abeler, Jim (R) 49A
581 State Office Building (651) 296-1729
E-mail: rep.jim.abeler@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Anoka
3400 Rum River Drive 55303 (612) 245-3764
Business: Anoka
*600 E. Main St. 55303 (612) 421-3722
Born: 5/18/54. **Married:** spouse Barb, 5 children. **Occupation:** Chiropractor. **Education:** DC, chiropractic, Northwestern College of Chiropractic. **Elected:** 1998.
Term: 1st.



Buesgens, Mark (R) 35B
415 State Office Building (651) 296-1072
E-mail: rep.mark.buesgens@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Jordan
*113 Stewart Drive 55352 (612) 492-2992
Born: 5/14/61. **Married:** spouse Sara, 5 children. **Occupation:** Educator. **Education:** BS, mathematics, Mankato State University; Specialist, educational administration, Minnesota State University-Mankato. **Elected:** 1998.
Term: 1st.



Cassell, George (R) 10B
 421 State Office Building (651) 296-4317
E-mail: rep.george.cassell@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Alexandria
 *2500 County Road 22 N.W. 56308 (320) 762-2471
Born: 5/25/35. **Married:** spouse Carol, 3 children. **Occupation:** Retired Educator/Administrator. **Education:** BS, education/psychology, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; MS, educational administration/psychology, University of Wyoming; EdD, educational administration, University of Wyoming. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Gray, Gregory (DFL) 58B
 229 State Office Building (651) 296-8659
E-mail: rep.gregory.gray@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Minneapolis
 1507 Oakpark Ave. N. 55411 (612) 377-5270
Business: Minneapolis
 Minnesota State Bar Association
 514 Nicollet Mall, Suite 300 55402
Married: spouse Renee. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BS, business administration, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; JD Hamline University School of Law. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Dorman, Dan (R) 27A
 579 State Office Building (651) 296-8216
E-mail: rep.dan.dorman@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Albert Lea
 *445 Lakeview Blvd. 56007 (507) 377-9441
Business: Albert Lea
 505 E. Main 56007 (507) 373-0636
Born: 10/16/62. **Married:** spouse Mary Jo, 2 children. **Occupation:** Small Business Owner. **Education:** BA, political science, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Haake, Barb (R) 52B
 429 State Office Building (651) 296-0141
E-mail: rep.barb.haake@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Mounds View
 3024 County Road I 55112-4309 (612) 786-1022
Business: St. Paul
 P. O. Box 120760 55112 (651) 784-8260
Born: 11/13/40. **Single:** 3 children. **Occupation:** Employee Benefits Broker. **Education:** University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Fuller, Doug (R) 4A
 525 State Office Building (651) 296-5516
E-mail: rep.doug.fuller@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Bemidji
 *817 Minnesota Ave. N.W. 56601 (218) 751-1055
Business: Bemidji
 P. O. Box 781 56619-0781 (218) 751-1055
Born: 5/14/68. **Married:** spouse Jeri Lynn. **Occupation:** Senior District Manager, American Cancer Society. **Education:** Accounting, finance, Bemidji State University. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Hackbarth, Tom (R) 50A
 *575 State Office Building (651) 296-2439
E-mail: rep.tom.hackbarth@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Cedar
 19255 Eidelweiss St. N.W. 55011 (612) 753-3215
Born: 12/28/51. **Married:** spouse Mary, 3 children. **Occupation:** Automotive Parts. **Education:** North Hennepin Community College. **Elected:** 1994. **Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).



Gerlach, Chris (R) 36A
 531 State Office Building (651) 296-5506
E-mail: rep.chris.gerlach@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Apple Valley
 *173 County Road 42 55124 (612) 432-4100
Business: same.
Born: 11/17/64. **Married:** spouse Shelli. **Occupation:** Telecommunications Sales. **Education:** BA, political science, University of St. Thomas; MBA, business, University of South Dakota. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Holberg, Mary Liz (R) 37B
 433 State Office Building (651) 296-6926
E-mail: rep.maryliz.holberg@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Lakeville
 *12195 Upper 167th St. 55044 (612) 435-8723
Married: spouse Thomas, 2 children. **Occupation:** Home-maker. **Education:** Elementary education, St. Cloud State University. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Gleason, Mark S. (DFL) 63B
 313 State Office Building (651) 296-5375
E-mail: rep.mark.gleason@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Richfield
 *6434 Irving Ave. S. 55423 (612) 861-4542
Business: same.
Born: 11/26/53. **Married:** spouse Michelle, 2 children. **Occupation:** CPA. **Education:** BA, business administration, University of St. Thomas; JD, William Mitchell College of Law. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Howes, Larry (R) 4B
 431 State Office Building (651) 296-2451
E-mail: rep.larry.howes@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Hackensack
 *4390-44th St. N.W. 56452 (218) 675-6587
Business: Hackensack
 4384-44th St. N.W. 56452 (218) 675-6144
Born: 6/30/47. **Married:** spouse Myrna, 5 children. **Occupation:** Manager. **Education:** High School. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL) 60A
 *231 State Office Building (651) 296-0171
E-mail: rep.margaret.kelliher@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Minneapolis
 229 Sheridan Ave. S. 55405 (612) 377-9836
Born: 3/68. **Married:** spouse David, 2 children. **Occupation:** Community Organizer/Writer. **Education:** BA, history, political science, Gustavus Adolphus College. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Skoe, Rod (DFL) 2B
 321 State Office Building (651) 296-4265
E-mail: rep.rod.skoe@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Clearbrook
 *Route 2, Box 80 56634 (218) 776-3420
Born: 8/9/54. **Married:** spouse Sarah Hoagberg, 2 children. **Occupation:** Farmer. **Education:** BA, psychology, BA, sociology, Augsburg College. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Larson, Dan (DFL) 40A
 *225 State Office Building (651) 296-7158
E-mail: rep.dan.larson@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Bloomington
 9025-13th Ave. S. 55425 (612) 854-8550
Born: 6/29/65. **Married:** spouse Sheila, 2 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, history, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Storm, Julie (R) 24B
 527 State Office Building (651) 296-7065
E-mail: rep.julie.storm@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: St. Peter
 *1202 S. Minnesota Ave. 56082-2208 (507) 931-1850
Business: same.
Married: spouse Chuck, 3 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** Abbott-Northwestern-Macalester Nursing Program; state certification, interior design, Lawrence Institute, Sarasota, Fla. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Lenczewski, Ann (DFL) 40B
 337 State Office Building (651) 296-4218
E-mail: rep.ann.lenczewski@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Bloomington
 *10306 Humboldt Circle 55431 (612) 881-8627
Business: same. **Born:** 5/9/60. **Married:** spouse Nels Erickson, 4 children. **Occupation:** Full-time Legislator. **Education:** BA, psychology, College of St. Benedict; public policy, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Westerberg, Andrew (R) 51A
 523 State Office Building (651) 296-4226
E-mail: rep.andrew.westerberg@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Blaine
 *13070 Goodhue St. N.E. 55449 (612) 757-5097
Business: Coon Rapids
 10600 University Ave. N.W. 55448 (612) 754-1600
Married: spouse Catherine, 4 children. **Occupation:** Insurance. **Education:** AA, Anoka-Ramsey Community College; CLU designation, The American College. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Mahoney, Tim (DFL) 67A
 *223 State Office Building (651) 296-4277
E-mail: rep.tim.mahoney@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: St. Paul
 1157 Breen St. 55106 (651) 776-3200
Single: 2 children. **Occupation:** Pipe Fitter. **Education:** pipe fitting, St. Paul Technical College. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Wilkin, Tim (R) 38A
 413 State Office Building (651) 296-3533
E-mail: rep.tim.wilkin@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Eagan
 *3364 Heritage Lane 55121 (651) 686-8179
Business: Mendota Heights
 1295 Northland Drive 55120 (651) 688-4679
Born: 11/5/65. **Married:** spouse Eileen, 2 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BBA, finance, University of Iowa. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.



Seifert, Jim (R) 57A
 577 State Office Building (651) 296-7807
E-mail: rep.jim.seifert@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Woodbury
 *3322 Churchill Drive 55125 (651) 731-2331
Married: 2 children. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** MS, engineering, University of St. Thomas; JD, Creighton University, Omaha, Neb. **Elected:** 1998. **Term:** 1st.

The Dahl house . . .

Old house may find a new home with nonprofit group

By Paul Wahl

When William Dahl built his modest home on St. Paul's 13th Street between Robert and Jackson streets in 1858, he couldn't have imagined it would be a topic of discussion more than 130 years later. But it is.

The question of what to do with the house — one of St. Paul's oldest remaining residential structures — has been asked informally hundreds of times and has been formally considered at least three times in the past few years. The small wood-framed dwelling has sat forlornly at 625 Robert St. since Nov. 25, 1997, when it was moved from its original site about a block away.

Proposed uses for the old home have included a museum and a Capitol-area coffee shop.

Now, a private, nonprofit organization — the West 7th/Fort Road Federation — has stepped forward and offered to pay the state the \$1 purchase price for the house. The group proposes to relocate, refurbish, and potentially resell it as a single-family residence.

The group's proposal must be approved by an ad hoc committee, whose members repre-

The neighborhood organization — a collection of businesses, churches, community and government entities devoted to economic development — plans to rehabilitate the home, adding a kitchen and a garage, before eventually selling it.

Johnson said if the plan is approved, the next step would be moving the dwelling to its new site.

"Getting it moved down West Seventh and out to the site will be a challenge," Johnson said. "We're in the process of obtaining bids for that work."

He said he doesn't see any obstacle that would deter the group's plan.

"It would be a real focal point of the redeveloped neighborhood there," he added.

Minnesota was still a territory when William Dahl arrived from England. He was a man of many trades, working as a clerk, a census taker, a bookstore operator, and a part-time cordwood seller.

He married Catherine Margaret Murphy and a child was born in March 1854 while the family lived at the "Mansion House" on Third Street. With a growing family and a prospering business, Dahl planned and built the home he hoped his family would enjoy together for decades to come.

But he died young of consumption in September 1858, just a year after the house was completed. His widow lived in the house until 1901 when her son, Edward, inherited it. He lived there until 1936 when the property was sold to an investment firm.

The Roy E. Patterson family occupied the house from 1936 until

the state purchased it in 1974, at which time it was the last surviving single-family residence in the area and only one of three remaining structures on its block.

In 1977, the house was being considered for demolition to make way for growth in what is called the East Capitol Area.

Fearing the continued loss of historical assets, a group of concerned individuals from both the private and public sectors began the quest to have the house placed on the National

Register of Historic Places, citing its status as "the last surviving residence in Lowertown."

The group further invoked the home's significance as an example of how the "common man" lived in St. Paul in its status request, which was granted.

Eyeing further expansion into the area, state officials took another look at the Dahl house in 1992, when a study outlined a variety of options, including restoration, relocation, and use as a bookstore, information center, or adjunct to a major state building.

The study largely sat on the shelf until 1997, when a decision was made to build a new Department of Revenue building in the 600 block of North Robert Street.

The house was then moved about a block north of its original site, out of the way of the new construction.

The effort to find a use for the historic house intensified in December 1997 when the committee was formed to decide its fate.

The first idea was to tap funds from a program funding arts enhancements for state buildings. Plans called for a sculpture garden in front of the Department of Revenue complex, with the restored Dahl house as its centerpiece.

But that plan was short-circuited in March when inspectors from the City of St. Paul hinted that having the house in front of the building might create a safety hazard for the public and employees in case of emergency.

The panel then tried a new avenue, sending requests for information to business, civic, and community groups asking them if they would be willing to rent the refurbished Dahl house were the state to rehabilitate it and find a permanent site.

Only one response was received — from the company that operates St. Paul's trolleys, who proposed using it for office space but also allowing public access.

However, after state officials determined how much it would cost to do the renovation and calculated an annual rent of \$30,000, the trolley company backed away.

Finally, a letter was sent out in June saying the state would sell the Dahl house for a \$1. That's when the West 7th/Fort Road Federation stepped forward.



The historic Dahl house, with a selling price set at a whopping \$1, may be moved to the West Seventh Street neighborhood in St. Paul and restored as a single family dwelling.

sent several historical societies and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board. The committee is expected to act on the proposal soon.

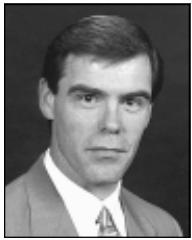
Ed Johnson, executive director of the neighborhood organization, said his group plans to move the house to a spot at Jefferson Avenue and West Seventh Street, near Minnesota Brewing (formerly the Schmidt brewery). It would join several other historical homes that the group hopes to relocate and restore.

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

Republican educator seeks voice in K-12 debates

By Paul Wahl

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) has been an educator all of his adult life, and he approaches life from an educator's viewpoint.



Rep. Mark Buesgens

In many ways, he views his recent election to the House as the latest in a series of assignments, albeit a formidable one.

"Educators get into the field not because they love to teach but because they love to learn," Buesgens said. "I look forward to the challenge of learning as much about the House as fast as I can."

Buesgens (pronounced Bisk-enz) is a native of Jordan, Minn., and is the youngest of nine children. After graduating from Jordan High School and later earning a degree in math education at Mankato State University, he took a teaching job at a private American school in balmy Guayaquil, on Ecuador's western edge.

"I had just graduated and had three brothers in the military overseas," Buesgens said. "I spoke one word of Spanish and that was 'no,' the same as in English."

The language barrier wasn't a problem during the day because courses were taught in English, but Buesgens had other reasons to learn Spanish.

He soon learned enough to say, "Quiero que me casen?" to his future wife, Sara, and the couple's first child was born in Ecuador. After four years, they returned to Minnesota.

"Ecuador is a beautiful country, but it's still the Third World and we wanted to raise our children in the States," Buesgens said. "With everywhere open to us, we ended up moving back to Minnesota just because of the quality of life."

They soon had three more children, and the family recently welcomed an Ecuadorian foster son.

Buesgens' teaching assignments since Ecuador have included seven years as a math instructor and curriculum planning positions in the Chaska and Rosemount/Apple Valley/Eagan school districts. His most recent job was assistant principal at Blackhawk Middle School in Eagan.

The family has continued to live in Jordan. Buesgens' introduction to public service came when he joined the town's volunteer fire department. In 1996, at the urging of his fellow firefighters, he ran for a seat on the Jordan City Council and won.

His interest in state office began with a phone call from state Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake) who urged him to consider running.

"And after months and months of soul-searching and talking to other people and talking with my wife, we decided to make a go of it," Buesgens said.

He knew the task would be gargantuan. His opponent, former Rep. Becky Kelso (DFL-Shakopee), had served 12 years in the House and had an excellent reputation as a leader on education issues. In fact, Kelso was chair of the

House panel that handled K-12 education finance.

As a Republican, Buesgens is in the minority among educators, and he said he takes good-natured ribbing from his colleagues. Upon moving into Buesgens' former office, one colleague declared, "That picture of Ronald Reagan has to come down."

The new lawmaker said he expects to spend the first part of the session learning and connecting with people.

As a member of the House Education and the K-12 Finance committees, he said he expects to delve into the issue of state and local funding splits for public schools. And although he said he doesn't have a target percentage in mind, he believes there must be a considerable local effort.

"One of the critical components in making public schools work is for the public to feel ownership of their schools," he said. "When we pay for something, versus when we get it free, we take more responsibility for making it successful."

District 35B

1995 Population: 37,256

Largest city: Shakopee

County: Scott

Location: southwest metropolitan area

Top concern: "I believe that the framers of our country envisioned that the most important vote a person could cast would be for mayor and city council members. I am motivated to help reverse the trend of the larger and expanding role of state government in people's lives."

—Rep. Mark Buesgens



The election of a Reform Party governor has caused several snags in how state government operates. The most recent of which involves an appointment to a vacancy on the state's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

State statute provides that one of the board's members "shall be a former member of the Legislature from the same political party as the governor." There are two former legislators on the board.

"There are no former members of the Leg-

islature from the same political party as the governor," said Jeanne Olson, executive director of the board.

The board will ask the Legislature to change the wording to solve the problem, allowing Gov. Jesse Ventura to fill the appointment. The board is suggesting appointments be either "two former members of the Legislature who shall not support the same political party" or "two former members of the Legislature from different major political parties."

The board term of Carolyn Rodriguez, a former DFL legislator, expires this month. She did not reapply. If the Legislature approves the statute change, Ventura will likely have to appoint another former DFL lawmaker to fulfill the criteria.

Hormel Foods Corp. executive Brian Stevens couldn't resist getting in a plug for one of his company's most popular Minnesota-produced products when he testified at a hearing on pork prices before a joint hearing of two House agriculture committees Jan. 7.

"Now I know that if I went around this room, not one of you would admit to eating Spam," Stevens said.

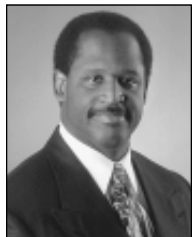
Nevertheless, he declared, someone is obviously eating it.

"We produce 450 cans of Spam a minute," he told the committee members.

Gray aims to create jobs, foster urban development

By Grant Martin

Newly elected Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) said that running for the House was the furthest thing from his mind following his



Rep. Gregory Gray

unsuccessful bid for the Minnesota Senate in 1996.

"I was not interested in ever running for office again," Gray said.

After that race, which may be remembered most for the controversy involving a misplaced newspaper photo of candidate John Derus, Gray remembers feeling "burned out."

He and his wife, Renee, had handled all aspects of his Senate campaign, from newsletters to finances, and he could not fathom the idea of starting all over again.

Following his failure to gain the DFL endorsement at the Senate district convention, Gray was about to pack up his things and leave when he was approached by then-Rep. Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls), who served Gray's home district in the House.

"He said he really thought I had done an excellent job and that I ought to keep an open mind about politics," Gray said. "He said he thought some good things might happen in the future."

Gray headed for home, not realizing the seed had been planted for a future run at Jefferson's seat when the six-term representative retired in 1998.

"I thanked him," Gray said. "But I didn't think much of it."

Later Jefferson was influential in recruiting Gray and putting together a larger group of supporters to assist with the campaign.

"That is one of the number one reasons I was successful this time was the fact that there was a large group of real supportive folks who helped me throughout the process," he said.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Gray worked as an internal auditor for several Twin Cities corporations before getting his law degree from Hamline University. He currently works as director of member services for the Minnesota State Bar Association, and he has been an active volunteer with several redevelopment projects in north Minneapolis.

Gray said that campaigning for the House was difficult because he considers himself an introvert, but he feels it helped him refine his legislative goals.

"I learned that people really love the district and want it to be a better place than it is today," he said. "People are entrusting you to make their vision a reality."

Gray said he will focus attention on affordable housing, education, and jobs and economic development — issues he feels are important in his urban district.

"People are very optimistic about the district," he said. "The people I talk to don't want to leave. They want to build. They want better housing stock. And they want to make sure the system of public schools is not only good, it's the best."

Gray, who takes Jefferson's place as the only African-American member of the Legislature, said diversity is essential to the political process.

"I believe very strongly in diversity," he said. "Not only is it the right thing, it provides creativity and the mix of ideas that make the process run better."

He says he's excited about the prospect of working with the new Reform Party governor this session.

"I think it is good for the process," he said. "It will keep people thinking, keep people on their feet. We won't have quite as much partisanship because people will be trying to play for (Ventura's) approval."

Gray said that when it's his turn to leave the House, he hopes that people will remember him for his integrity.

"I want to leave respected, and that may mean some people don't like you," he said. "I'd like people to say he had some core values, he was honest, he told us where he stood, and he did what he said he'd do."

District 58B

1995 population: 32,096

Largest city: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

Location: inner city

Top concern: "I think if you were to poll the district the top concern would be economic development and jobs. The top concern I heard [when I was] door knocking is affordable housing."

—Rep. Gregory Gray

Constitutional Officers

Governor

Jesse Ventura

130 State Capitol

75 Constitution Ave.

St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Lieutenant Governor

Mae Schunk

130 State Capitol

75 Constitution Ave.

St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Attorney General

Mike Hatch

102 State Capitol

75 Constitution Ave.

St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-6196

Secretary of State

Mary Kiffmeyer

180 State Office Building

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St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-2803

State Auditor

Judith H. Dutcher

Suite 400

525 Park St.

St. Paul 55103 (651) 296-2551

State Treasurer

Carol Johnson

303 Administration Building

50 Sherburne Ave.

St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-7091

House exhibit features information, not politics

By Nick Healy

Politics has always had a home at the Minnesota State Fair.

In the past, U.S. presidents, including Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, Teddy Roosevelt, and Dwight Eisenhower, have visited the fair to make speeches and push political initiatives, and each year a parade of candidates for state and federal offices stake out turf on the fairgrounds.

But, strange as it may sound, politics is one thing that is largely left off the agenda at the Minnesota House of Representatives' exhibit.

"It's really great to be out there, and everybody is relaxed and at ease," said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin). "It's not a political thing, so there's less pressure. It's very comfortable for people to ask questions and get the information they need."

Each year the House and Senate run side-by-side exhibits in the Education Building at the fairgrounds. The nonpartisan booths feature no campaign literature or partisan slogans. The aim of the exhibits is to help fairgoers discover resources that can connect them to state government.

This year, 46 representatives volunteered to spend time at

no single issue — such as the 1997 stadium debate — that evoked passion from citizens of all corners of the state.

"People are interested in things that are specific to their lives, so you hear a lot of ideas on a lot of different issues," McGuire said. "The fair certainly broadens the scope of the issues you hear about."

Of all the lawmakers who worked at the exhibits, McGuire's ties to the fair may be the strongest. McGuire, whose legislative district includes the fairgrounds, grew up just blocks from that territory. As a teenager, she worked selling T-shirts at the fair, and now she spends time each year at the House exhibit and takes part in more political activities, such as her party's fair exhibit.

"There are three things I love to do at the fair," she said. "I love seeing the exhibits in the buildings. I love the food. And I love the people-watching."

The 12 days of the fair, which ran from Aug. 27, 1998, to Sept. 7, 1998, brought thousands of visitors to the House booth.

When not busy talking to lawmakers, visitors could load up on educational material about the House and the legislative process, and they could sign up to receive *Session Weekly*, as more than 2,500 fairgoers did.

The exhibit also included an unofficial opinion poll — long a fixture of the House booth. But this year's poll was different from the others because it allowed fairgoers to test an experimental electronic touch-screen voting system.

The 10-question survey gathered opinions on issues ranging from concealed weapons laws to personal watercraft regulations. (See poll results on the following page.)

Fairgoers also could test their knowledge of Minnesota history and state laws by taking computerized quizzes at the House booth.

Haas, who has worked at the House booth each of the four years he has held office, said he was pleased by the response from fairgoers who visited the House booth in 1998.

"First of all, it's a chance to help people become a part of the process and to get them involved," Haas said. "Secondly, it gives me a chance to talk to people to find out what they're thinking on the issues."



Fairgoers visiting the House exhibit could write messages to their legislators, register to vote, discuss political issues of the day, and take a public opinion poll.

the House exhibit to meet fairgoers and hear their concerns. Then-House Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) and then-House Majority Leader Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) were among those who appeared at the exhibit.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) said she would not miss the chance to spend time at the fair exhibit.

"It is a great opportunity to talk to people from all over the state," McGuire said. "I think it's important that we have a presence at the state fair and that state representatives are there to hear from people."

McGuire said she heard questions and concerns from fairgoers on an exceptionally wide range of issues. There was



Charissa, Nathaniel, Rebecca, and Anna Smith, left to right, Cottage Grove, test their knowledge of Minnesota state symbols — such as the state bird and the state flower — on a computer game at the 1998 House exhibit at the Minnesota State Fair.

Minnesota House of Representatives

1998 State Fair Poll Results

1. Should state law be changed to require that law enforcement officials issue a license to carry a concealed weapon to any adult who requests one, with exceptions for the mentally ill and convicted felons?

Yes 43.1% (1,282)
 No 50.2% (1,495)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 6.7% (198)

2. Should school districts be allowed to begin the school year before Labor Day?

Yes 57.3% (1,709)
 No 37.7% (1,124)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 5.0% (149)

3. The November 1998 ballot will include the following proposed constitutional amendment: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to affirm that hunting and fishing and the taking of game and fish are a valued part of our heritage that shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good?" How do you expect to vote?

Yes 56.5% (1,669)
 No 30.7% (906)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 12.8% (377)

4. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the state Senate and House of Representatives and replace them with a unicameral (one-house) legislature?

Yes 38.6% (1,138)
 No 50.3% (1,485)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 11.1% (328)

5. Should personal watercraft be banned from small lakes — those less than 200 acres in surface area — in Minnesota?

Yes 62.3% (1,821)
 No 30.5% (891)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 7.2% (209)

6. Should the state reduce the threshold of legal drunkenness for driving while intoxicated from 0.10 percent to 0.08 percent blood-alcohol content?

Yes 60.5% (1,772)
 No 36.5% (1,069)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 3.0% (88)

7. Should the state help finance the construction of a new stadium for the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, or any other major sports team?

Yes 22.8% (668)
 No 72.2% (2,111)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 5.0% (145)

8. Should the state place a moratorium on construction of large animal feedlots — those holding 750 heifers or the equivalent of other livestock — on Minnesota farms?

Yes 51.8% (1,503)
 No 28.3% (820)
 Undecided/
 No Opinion 19.9% (578)

9. What is your age range?

18-35 31.2% (862)
 36-50 40.3% (1,113)
 51-65 21.7% (601)
 66-over 6.8% (188)

10. Please indicate your opinion about the touch-screen voting system you are using to vote on this poll.

Easy/
 Very Easy to Use 86.2% (2,359)
 Average 11.9% (325)
 Difficult 1.9% (52)

House members who appeared at the fair

Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township)
 Hilda Bettermann (R-Brandon)
 Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)
 Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal)
 Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center)
 Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley)
 Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph)
 Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings)
 John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)
 Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)
 Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton)
 Edwina Garcia (DFL-Richfield)
 Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls)
 Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)
 Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont)
 Bill Haas (R-Champlin)
 Elaine Harder (R-Jackson)
 Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby)
 Richard Jefferson (DFL-Mpls)
 Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris)
 Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park)
 Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)
 Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)
 Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)
 Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids)
 Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland)
 Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley)
 Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran)
 Mark Mahon (DFL-Bloomington)
 Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul)
 Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)
 Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls)
 Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)
 Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City)
 Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount)
 Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope)
 Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)
 Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti)
 Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton)
 Marty Seifert (R-Marshall)
 Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls)
 Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)
 Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior)
 Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover)
 Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls)
 Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)

Minnesota House of Representatives 1999 Members

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

House Public Information Office • 175 State Office Building • 100 Constitution Ave. • St. Paul, MN 55155 • (651) 296-2146

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of Jan. 7, 1999

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

Minnesota Senate 1999 Members

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

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

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Rep. Jim Tunheim-DFL B • Rep. Tim Finseth-R Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-DFL	15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-DFL B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-DFL Sen. Dean E. Johnson-R	29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-R B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-R Sen. Steve Murphy-DFL	43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-R B • Rep. Barb Sykora-R Sen. Edward C. Oliver-R	57 A • Rep. Jim Seifert-R B • Rep. Sharon Marko-DFL Sen. Leonard R. Price-DFL
2 A • Rep. Bernie L. Liedner-DFL B • Rep. Rod Skoe-DFL Sen. Roger D. Moe-DFL	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-DFL B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-R Sen. Dave Kleis-R	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-R B • Rep. Dave Bishop-R Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-R	44 A • Rep. Betty Folliard-DFL B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-R Sen. Steve Kelley-DFL	58 A • Rep. Joe Mulleury-DFL B • Rep. Gregory Gray-DFL Sen. Linda I. Higgins-DFL
3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-DFL B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-DFL Sen. Bob Lessard-DFL	17 A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-R B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-DFL Sen. Dan Stevens-R	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-R B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-R Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-R	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-R B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-R Sen. Martha R. Robertson-R	59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-DFL B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-DFL Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-DFL
4 A • Rep. Doug Fuller-R B • Rep. Larry Howes-R Sen. David J. Ten Eyck-DFL	18 A • Rep. Jim Rostberg-R B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-DFL Sen. Janet B. Johnson-DFL	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-DFL B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-R Sen. Steven Morse-DFL	46 A • Rep. Ann H. Rest-DFL B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-DFL Sen. Ember R. Junge-DFL	60 A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-DFL B • Rep. Myron Orfield-DFL Sen. Allan H. Spear-DFL
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-DFL B • Rep. David J. Tomassoni-DFL Sen. Jerry R. Janezich-DFL	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-R B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-R Sen. Mark Ourada-R	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-R B • Rep. Rich Stanek-R Sen. Warren Limmer-R	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-DFL B • Rep. Phil Carruthers-DFL Sen. Linda Scheid-DFL	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-DFL B • Rep. Linda Wejcman-DFL Sen. Linda Berglin-DFL
6 A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakke-DFL B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-DFL Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-DFL	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-R B • Rep. Tony Kielucki-R Sen. Steve Dille-R	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-R B • Rep. Henry Todd Van Dellen-R Sen. Gen Olson-R	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-R B • Rep. Alice M. Johnson-DFL Sen. Don Betzold-DFL	62 A • Rep. Lee Greenfield-DFL B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-DFL Sen. Carol Flynn-DFL
7 A • Rep. Willard Munger-DFL B • Rep. Mike Jarvis-DFL Sen. Sam G. Solon-DFL	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-R B • Rep. Richard Mulder-R Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-R	35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-R B • Rep. Mark Buegens-R Sen. Claire A. Robling-R	49 A • Rep. Jim Abeler-R B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-DFL Sen. Leo Foley-DFL	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-DFL B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-DFL Sen. Jane B. Ranum-DFL
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-DFL B • Rep. Bill Hilty-DFL Sen. Becky Lourey-DFL	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-DFL B • Rep. Elaine Harder-R Sen. Jim Vickerman-DFL	36 A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-R B • Rep. Dan McElroy-R Sen. David L. Knutson-R	50 A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-R B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-R Sen. Paula E. Hanson-DFL	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-DFL B • Rep. Michael Paymar-DFL Sen. Richard J. Cohen-DFL
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-R B • Rep. Robert L. (Bob) Westfall-R Sen. Keith Langseth-DFL	23 A • Rep. James T. Clark-R B • Rep. Howard Swenson-R Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-R	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-R B • Rep. Liz Holberg-R Sen. Pat Pariseau-R	51 A • Rep. Andrew Westberg-R B • Rep. Ray Vandever-R Sen. Jane Krentz-DFL	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-DFL B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-DFL Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-DFL
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-R B • Rep. George Cassell-R Sen. Cal Larson-R	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-DFL B • Rep. Julie Storm-R Sen. John C. Hottinger-DFL	38 A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-R B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-R Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-DFL	52 A • Rep. Satveer Chaudhary-DFL B • Rep. Barb Haake-R Sen. Steven G. Novak-DFL	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-DFL B • Rep. Alice Hausman-DFL Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-DFL
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-R B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-DFL Sen. Dallas C. Sams-DFL	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-R B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-R Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-R	39 A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-DFL B • Rep. Bob Milbert-DFL Sen. James P. Metzen-DFL	53 A • Rep. Phillip Krinkie-R B • Rep. Sherry Broecker-R Sen. Linda Runbeck-R	67 A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-DFL B • Rep. Steve Trimble-DFL Sen. Randy C. Kelly-DFL
12 A • Rep. Kris Hasskamp-DFL B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-DFL Sen. Don Samuelson-DFL	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-R B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-DFL Sen. Tracy L. Beckman-DFL	40 A • Rep. Dan Larson-DFL B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-DFL Sen. Dave Johnson-DFL	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-DFL B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-DFL Sen. John Marty-DFL	
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-R B • Rep. Doug Peterson-DFL Sen. Charles A. Berg-IND.	27 A • Rep. Dan Dorman-R B • Rep. Rob Leighton-DFL Sen. Pat Piper-DFL	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-R B • Rep. Ken Wolf-R Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-R	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-R B • Rep. Betty McCollum-DFL Sen. Charles W. Wiger-DFL	
14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-R B • Rep. Doug Stang-R Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-R	28 A • Rep. Doug Reuter-R B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-R Sen. Dick Day-R	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-R B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-R Sen. Roy Terwilliger-R	56 A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-R B • Rep. Peg Larsen-R Sen. Gary W. Laidig-R	

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1999 House Standing Committee Schedule

Committee

Chair Phone
Meeting Day Room Time
(All Rooms are in the State Office Building)

Agriculture Policy

Finseth 296-9918
Wed. 10 12:30 p.m.

Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Ness 296-4344
Tues., Thurs. 10 12:30 p.m.

Capital Investment

Knoblach 296-6316
Tues., Thurs. 5 12:30 p.m.

Civil Law

Smith 296-9188
Mon., Wed. B 10 a.m.

Commerce

Dauids 296-9278
Tues., Thurs. 200 12:30 p.m.

Crime Prevention

Stanek 296-5502
Tues., Thurs., Fri. B 10 a.m.

Education Policy

Mares 296-5363
Tues., Thurs. 5 10 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Ozment 296-4306
Tues., Thurs. 10 10 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Holsten 296-3018
Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 10 a.m.

Ethics

Harder 296-5373
Call of the Chair

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Sykora 296-4315
Mon., Wed. 5 12:30 p.m.

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Rhodes 296-9889
Mon., Wed., Fri. B 8 a.m.

Health & Human Services Policy

Bradley 296-9249
Tues., Thurs. 10 8 a.m.

Health & Human Services Finance

Goodno 296-5515
Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 8 a.m.

Higher Education Finance

Leppik 296-7026
Mon., Wed., Fri. 300S 10 a.m.

Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Lindner 296-7806
Tues., Thurs. 200 8 a.m.

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

McElroy 296-4212
Mon., Wed., Fri. 200 8 a.m.

Judiciary Finance

Broecker 296-7153
Tues., Thurs. 300S 8 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance

Seagren 296-7803
Mon., Wed., Fri. 5 10 a.m.

Local Government

Larsen 296-4244
Mon., Wed. 200 12 :30 p.m.

Rules & Legislative Administration

Pawlenty 296-4128
Call of the Chair

State Government Finance

Krinkie 296-2907
Tues., Thurs. B 8 a.m.

Taxes

Abrams 296-9934
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 200 10 a.m.

Property Tax Division

Erhardt 296-4363
Mon., Wed. 200 10 a.m.

Transportation Policy

Workman 296-5066
Tues., Thurs. 5 8 a.m.

Transportation Finance

Molnau 296-8872
Mon., Wed. 5 8 a.m.

Ways & Means

Bishop 296-0573
Call of the Chair

B-Basement Hearing Room

Bill Introductions

HF1-HF47

Thursday, Jan. 7

HF1—Abeler (R) **Taxes**

One-time individual income tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

HF2—Dorman (R) **Taxes**

Individual income and property tax class rates modified, HMO and nonprofit insurance premiums tax repealed, health care taxes phased out, education homestead credit increased, and general education levy reduced.

HF3—Seifert, J. (R) **K-12 Education Finance**

Early elementary class size reduced, and money appropriated.

HF4—Paulsen (R) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Initiative and referendum provided and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF5—Wilkin (R) **Taxes**

Three-fifths legislative majority vote required for sales and income tax and general education levy increases.

HF6—Hackbarth (R) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Snowmobile metal traction device use restrictions modified, and recreational vehicle rulemaking authority modified.

HF7—Haake (R) **Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

HF8—Westfall (R) **Taxes**

Agricultural property tax credit and state reimbursement provided, and money appropriated.

HF9—Sviggum (R) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Former legislators prohibited from lobbying for one year after leaving office.

HF10—Pawlenty (R) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

School stability initiative for homeless children established under the housing finance agency, and money appropriated.

HF11—Abeler (R) **K-12 Education Finance**

General education basic formula allowance inflationary increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF12—Seifert, J. (R) **Crime Prevention**

Three strikes; mandatory life sentence imposed for persons convicted of a third violent felony offense.

HF13—Stanek (R) **Crime Prevention**

Criminal gang oversight council and strike force operation funded, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF14—Fuller (R) **Education Policy**

Persons convicted of criminal sexual conduct considered ineligible to be a licensed teacher.

HF15—Kielkucki (R) **Education Policy**

Graduation standards advisory panel recommendations implemented, Profile of Learning requirements modified, state performance packages eliminated, and advisory group established.

HF16—Pawlenty (R) **Education Policy**

Public school students entitled to an education without serious classroom disruption, and remedy provided.

HF17—Hasskamp (DFL) **Taxes**

Nisswa tax increment financing district duration extension authorized.

HF18—Anderson, I. (DFL) **Education Policy**

School district bond sale limitations removed for certain outstanding capital loans.

HF19—Jaros (DFL) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Companies required to show financial need to qualify for subsidies.

HF20—Jaros (DFL) **Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

International trade promoted in East Central Europe, India, Southeast Asia, and Latin America; and money appropriated.

HF21—Jaros (DFL) **Civil Law**

Family statutory definition expanded for the purposes of state administered programs.

HF22—Jaros (DFL) **Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Minnesota office of international affairs established, and money appropriated.

HF23—Jaros (DFL) **Commerce**

Shopping cart child protective device requirement established.

HF24—Jaros (DFL) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Simulated elections provided for minors at polling places.

HF25—Pawlenty (R) **Taxes**

Charitable contributions federal income tax subtraction allowed for persons who do not itemize deductions.

HF26—Solberg (DFL) **Education Policy**

Mississippi Education Center previous grantee changed to the city of Grand Rapids, and condition imposed.

HF27—Seifert, M. (R) **Education Policy**

Profile of Learning portion of high school graduation rule repealed.

HF28—Anderson, I. (DFL) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lifetime crossbow permits provided for persons with permanent physical disabilities.

HF29—Tunheim (DFL) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Snowmobiles with metal traction devices operation prohibition on certain public lands repealed.

HF30—Murphy (DFL) **Taxes**

Property tax rebate made permanent, and money appropriated.

HF31—Folliard (DFL) **Education Policy**

Nonpublic schools subject to the fair pupil dismissal law if families of

students have claimed education-related expenses tax credits.

HF32—Anderson, I. (DFL) **Commerce**

International Falls authorized to issue a temporary on-sale liquor license.

HF33—Anderson, I. (DFL) **Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

All-terrain vehicle operation provisions modified.

HF34—Greiling (DFL) **Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Unicameral legislature provided with 135 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF35—Haas (R) **Health & Human Services Policy**

Tobacco settlement money transferred from the general fund to the health care access fund, and MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed.

HF36—Erickson (R) **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Onamia permitted an extension for commencement of tax increment financing district activities.

HF37—Erickson (R) **Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Milaca authorized tax increment financing district expenditures outside the district.

HF38—Luther (DFL) **Transportation Policy**

Anatomical gift donor designation automatically included on driver's license and identification card renewals.

HF39—Lieder (DFL) **Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds dedicated to roads and public transit, passenger automobile registration tax rate reduced, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF40—Bradley (R) **Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing facility residents allowed to request the use of restraints.

Continued on page 23

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Jan. 11

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: member and staff introductions; subcommittee discussion; Mark Shepard, House Research; review of 1997-1998 government operations committee, Rep. Phyllis Kahn.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: member and staff introductions; joint House Research/House Fiscal Analysis Department presentation.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Department of Trade and Economic Development review of 1998 performance report.

10 a.m.

Joint AGRICULTURE POLICY/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Tim Finseth, Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HFXXXX (Westfall) farm property tax relief.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: new member orientation — the ABCs of K-12 finance.

Legislative Audit Commission

107 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener

Agenda: release evaluation report on juvenile out-of-home placement.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: member and staff introductions; committee procedures; agency overview of Department of Children, Families and Learning.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

TUESDAY, Jan. 12

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: continuation of joint House Research/House Fiscal Analysis Department presentation.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: member and staff introductions; House Research presentation; plan for January meetings; questions and comments.

Joint TRANSPORTATION POLICY/TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Tom Workman,

Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: to be announced.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkle

Agenda: introductions and scope of committee jurisdiction; update on state agency preparations for Y2K, Department of Administration; update on Year 2000 Task Force, Rep. Bill Hilty.

10 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: education overview by Tim Strom, House Research, and Greg Crowe, House Fiscal Analysis Department.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: introduction of members and staff; issue update and preview by John Helland and Jeanne Cochran, House Research.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF1 (Abrams) tax rebate.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: review of 1997-1998 Department of Agriculture programs and projects.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblauch

Agenda: introduction of members and staff; organizational issues; role of committee; informational presentation by Peter Sausen, Department of Finance; presentation on the flow of legislation, Jeanne LeFevre, House Research.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: introduction of members and staff; rules and procedures of committee; presentations by House Research staff.

2:30 p.m.

WAYS & MEANS

454 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: discussion on National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) services in the fiscal area, Ron Snell, NCSL.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 13

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: Department of Veterans Affairs overview, Commissioner Bernie Melter; Department of Military Affairs overview, General Gary Le Blanc; video presentation, history of benefits, Rep. Jim Rostberg; veterans issues, Jim Cleary, House Research.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: presentation by Department of Health.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: to be announced.

10 a.m.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: member and staff introductions;
committee operation and organizational
details.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: introduction of committee rules and
other guidelines; history of K-12 finance and
planning estimates.

**Property Tax Division/
TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: member and staff introductions;
presentation by House Research.

12:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

After Session

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth
Agenda: overview of Department of
Agriculture.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: fiscal overview; legislative history of
committee programs.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen
Agenda: member and staff introductions; to be
announced.

1:30 p.m. or Immediately
Following Session

WAYS AND MEANS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop
Agenda: bill(s) referred from House Taxes
Committee.

THURSDAY, Jan. 14

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: presentation by Department of
Human Services.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
POLICY**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: to be announced.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: member and staff introductions;
committee mission statement, goals, rules,
procedures and expectations; committee time
line and deadlines, agencies that receive
appropriations from committee, Gary Karger,
House Fiscal Analysis Department; reports
that are due to committee, member ranking of
reports to be heard by committee, House
Research.

**Joint TRANSPORTATION POLICY/
TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Tom Workman,
Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: to be announced.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: history and overview of the
Minnesota Office of Technology, House
Research; review of the legislative auditor's
financial audit of the
Minnesota Office of Technology,
Claudia Gudvangen, Deputy Legislative
Auditor, Jeanine Leifeld, Audit Manager;
update on master plan and expenditure
tracking, Minnesota Office of Technology.

10 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: overview of the Task Force on
Transitional Issues report; public testimony.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: HF6 (Hackbarth) repeal of
snowmobile stud ban.

12:30 p.m.

**AGRICULTURE &
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: review 1997-1998 Agricultural
Utilization Research Institute programs and
projects.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch
Agenda: continuation of presentation by Peter
Sausen, Department of Finance; presentation
on the flow of legislation, Jeanne LeFevre,
House Research; information on the debt
capacity forecast.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids
Agenda: agency overviews and presentations
by the Office of Tourism, Department of
Trade and Economic Development, and
Department of Commerce.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

107 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener
Agenda: release and discuss program
evaluation report on mosquito control.

FRIDAY, Jan. 15

8 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: to be announced.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FINANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: Department of Commerce review of
1998 performance report.

Bill Introductions continued from page 21

HF41—Pelowski (DFL)

Education Policy

Minnesota science and mathematics foundation es-
tablished, and money appropriated,

HF42—Folliard (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Medical malpractice action statute of limitations modi-
fied.

HF43—Juhnke (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Green Lake sanitary sewer and water project wastewa-
ter infrastructure funded, bonds authorized, and
money appropriated.

HF44—Osskopp (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Wabasha water and sewer extended to Reads Landing,
and money appropriated.

HF45—Folliard (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

City councils authorized to establish procedures for
imposing ordinance violation civil penalties.

HF46—Bakk (DFL)

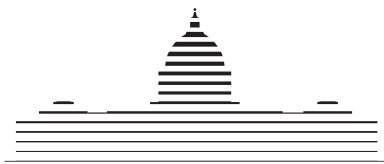
Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Snowmobile metal traction device use restrictions and
definitions modified.

HF47—Bishop (R)

Civil Law

Domestic abuse victim civil cause of action provided.



MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Speaker of the House: Steve Sviggum
Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota House of Representatives: Election 1998

Republican members	71
DFL members	63
Number of men	99
Number of women	35
DFL women	20
Republican women	15
Women serving at the end of the 1998 session (record high)	40
Percent of current first-termers who are women	23.8
Percent of all members who are women	26.1
Percent of House members who did not serve last session	15.7
Number of newly elected members	21
Newly elected Republican members	14
Newly elected DFL members	7
Percent of incumbents re-elected	94.9
Number of incumbents who lost	6
Number of those who were Republicans	0
Open seats	15
Open seats previously held by a DFLer, now held by a Republican	2
Open seats previously held by a Republican, now held by a DFLer	1
Uncontested House races, 1998	6
Number of those in DFL-held districts	0
Change in DFL Caucus membership from January 1997 level	-7
Change in Republican Caucus	+7
Republican Caucus' cumulative loss of legislative experience since the end of the 1998 session, in years	58
DFL Caucus' loss, in years	112
Votes cast in Minnesota for the 1998 general election	2,105,377
As a percent of all eligible voters	60.45
Districts with a Reform Party candidate, 1996	14
Districts with a Reform Party candidate, 1998	14
Greatest percentage of votes garnered by a Reform Party candidate, District 35A	20.6
By a Grassroots Party candidate, District 59A	9.7
By a Libertarian Party candidate, District 27B	8.4
By a Better Life Party candidate, District 34A	4.9

Sources: Office of the Secretary of State, Legislative Reference Library, and House Public Information Office.

For more information



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