

SESSION WEEKLY

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MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1999-2000 MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1999-2000 MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 81ST LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1999-2000



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION 1999-2000

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

Director
LeClair G. Lambert

Acting Assistant Director/Editor
Nick Healy

Acting Assistant Editor
Sandy Donovan

Art & Production Coordinator
Paul Battaglia

Writers
Jonathan Fure, Sarah Hallonquist,
Grant Martin, Paul Wahl

Photographers
Tom Olmscheid, Laura Phillips,
Andrew Von Bank

Office Manager
Nicole Wood

Staff Assistants
Ivan Weiss Jr., Jennifer Ridgeway

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Reflections

A highly important official in state government is the speaker of the house, who presides over the largest legislative body.

On Jan. 5 when Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) was elected speaker of the house, he became the 60th person to hold the office since Minnesota's territorial government began in 1849. The last Republican speaker (then called an Independent-Republican) was David Jennings (IR-Truman), who presided from 1985 to 1987.

As Minnesota prepares to celebrate its 150th year since becoming a territory and 141st year as a state, Speaker Sviggum joins a historically unique and politically diverse cadre of elected officials. This group — 58 men and one woman — helped to shape, lead, and direct the passage of laws that now govern the state and its residents.

Speakers have come to the Capitol from many political parties and all parts of the state. They've come from northern, north-central, southwestern, northwestern, and west-central parts of the state, including the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and the metropolitan-area suburbs.

In 1849, Joseph W. Furber (Cottage Grove) controlled the gavel as Minnesota's first speaker. He served in the House as a member of the Whig Party. Another Whig speaker, John Quincy Farmer of Spring Valley also served as a Republican.

Unlike the political makeup of the 1999 Minnesota state government — there is a Republican-controlled House, a DFL-controlled Senate, and a Reform Party governor — many early speakers and Senate leaders were members of the same political party as the governor. One speaker, Ezra T. Champlin (Garden City) was a member of the lesser known Democratic Alliance Party. Others were the Conservative, Liberal, Conservative/Republican, Independent, Liberal/Democrat, Farmer-Labor, Independent Republican, and Democratic Farmer-Labor parties.

In 1913, when Henry Rines (Mora) was elected speaker, the Progressives controlled both houses. Speaker William I. Nolan (Minneapolis), a Conservative/Republican whose party gained control in 1919 from the Progressives, was elected with the endorsement of members of the Nonpartisan League and the Working People's Nonpartisan Political League.

Over the years, other rare activities took place. The speaker in 1859, Amos Cogswell (Aurora), was in the Republican Constitutional Convention, then ran as the Democratic candidate for secretary of state in 1867. Lawrence M. Hall (St. Cloud) was elected to serve as a Democrat in 1934, but he caucused with the Conservatives in 1939 to become the youngest speaker.

A very different election for speaker took place exactly 20 years ago in 1979 when the House was evenly divided. Rod Searle (IR-Waseca) was elected as a compromise. When changes in members necessitated elections that put the DFL in the majority by two members, and factions split the party, a coalition of 26 DFLers and 49 IRs elected Norton as speaker.

Speaker Sviggum joins a unique group of officials who served their state in a most honorable manner.

—LeClair G. Lambert

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On the cover: A photo illustration depicts the 134 Minnesotans who serve in the House of Representatives.

—Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Giving it back . . .

Tax rebate plans top the 1999 legislative agenda

By Paul Wahl

A proposed rebate of much of the state's budget surplus was a major topic of conversation in the House during the first full week of the 1999 session. But the tone of the conversation changed as the week progressed.

Monday, hearings were announced on a House bill that would provide a rebate based on income tax paid. But by week's end, a plan that would provide a refund based on sales tax paid appeared to have the upper hand.

In a televised appearance Jan. 11, Gov. Jesse Ventura said he favors the sales tax proposal because he sees it as simpler to implement and he believes it has a better chance of being exempt from federal taxes. A formal rebate plan was expected from Ventura before the week's end.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said he was "all ears" to the idea. However, the bill (HF1) that contains the House Republicans' rebate plan was heard in the House Taxes Committee Jan. 12 and is expected to come up for a vote in that committee after the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday Jan. 19.

The rebate plan, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), would refund about \$1.1 billion. Most taxpayers would receive a rebate of about 20 percent of their 1997 state income taxes.

A separate bill (HF8) would provide a mechanism for returning \$80 million to Minnesota farmers. Language from that bill was adopted as an amendment to HF1 in the Taxes Committee Jan. 12.

Under provisions of HF1, all individuals or couples who paid up to \$150 or less in state income taxes for 1997 would get the entire amount back. Those who paid more than \$150 would get back the \$150 plus 20 percent of all taxes paid over that amount.

The maximum rebate would be \$7,600 for married couples and \$3,800 for all other taxpayers. Taxpayers would receive their rebate checks 60 to 90 days after final passage of the bill.

The average taxpayer would receive a \$575 check, according to statistics supplied by Minnesota Department of Revenue.



Tax bills being debated in the House would send money back to Minnesotans. One plan would provide an income tax rebate, and another proposal would send money to farmers.

Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid

Meanwhile, the farm rebate language aims to give "true farmers" a boost, said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), chair of the House Agriculture Policy Committee and an architect of the legislation.

"Currently, farmers are in great need of on-hand cash to help pay their upcoming property taxes or [to buy] farm supplies for the spring," Finseth said.

The proposal is separated into aid for livestock and for cropland-intensive farmers. Livestock farmers with 160 acres or less would receive half their property tax payment, not including taxes due for their house, garage, and one acre of land for their home.

Farmers with more than 160 certifiable acres for the 1998 crop year would receive \$4 per acre to apply toward their property taxes.

Farmers would have to complete a simple form and send it to the Department of Revenue to receive the rebate. Rebates would be capped at \$10,000 per farmer.

Both plans faced scrutiny in hearings before the Taxes Committee Jan. 12 and before a joint meeting of the Taxes Committee and the House Agricultural & Rural Development Finance Committee Jan. 11.

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) said there is no way of knowing whether the farm proposals would benefit those most in need, and

he asked for a distributive analysis of the potential rebates.

Orfield said it appears to him that large farmers would get the most aid, and he wondered whether they would be considered the most needy.

But Finseth said that help would be channeled to every farmer "who's taking the risk out there." He said it was unfair to say that because a farmer owns 2,500 acres he is more prosperous than a farmer with only 500 acres. He added that three or four members of a family may be making their living from the larger acreage.

Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook) was concerned that farmers who grow minor crops that don't require certification, including wild rice growers like himself, wouldn't benefit from the legislation.

Under the proposal, only acres growing crops that are part of a federal program are eligible for the per-acre payment.

"If you're trying to benefit all the farmers of the state, then you should benefit all the farmers of the state," Skoe said.

Finseth said 90 percent or more of the state's 19.6 million acres are planted in certifiable crops.

"The attempt was to include the largest number [of farmers] possible," he said,

adding that he hasn't found a farmer yet that isn't hurting.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virgina) said he would like to see the state's 4,800 loggers — tree farmers, as he described them — included in the proposal.

"They've had three bad years in a row," he said.

Several legislators questioned why agriculture was being singled out for help when other sectors of the economy are also in dire straits.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he represents an inner-city neighborhood where additional money for police protection is needed because "families believe it's too dangerous to let their children play outside. They're also in dire straits."

Finseth said there are probably thousands of things the state should be doing, but added that agriculture is 40 percent of the state's economy and the agricultural rebate plan is targeted specifically at keeping that sector healthy.

"This spring, you're going to see more foreclosures in agriculture than ever before," Finseth said.

Representatives from a handful of organizations whose members are concerned about taxes and state spending also testified on the proposals, mostly lauding the effort to provide the rebate immediately.

According to some, any dollars refunded under both the farm rebate plan and the income tax rebate plan would be taxable under federal income tax statutes. That provides impetus for the plan that Ventura and some DFLers have advanced to base rebates on established estimates of sales tax paid, linked to income.

No one was prepared to say conclusively that the sales tax based refund wouldn't be taxable by the federal government, but most admitted chances were better than those of the rebate based on income taxes.

Between \$100 million and \$200 million would be paid in taxes to the federal government under the income tax rebate plan as it's written, according to some estimates.

Hints that the rebate may grow even larger were also sounded by the revenue department Jan. 12 when officials revealed that state revenues for November and December were \$98 million over projections.

One plan to permanently reduce income tax rates is contained in another bill (HF2), sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), that has not yet received a hearing in a House committee. 🐾

Amendments and the 'extraordinary majority'



You can't sit on the fence when it comes to constitutional amendments in Minnesota. If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

In fact, it says so right on the ballot: "Failure to vote on a constitutional amendment will have the same effect as voting no for the amendment."

That's because Minnesota's constitution requires that amendments be approved by a "majority of all electors voting at said election." For an amendment to pass it must be approved by an extraordinary majority — a majority of all voters voting in the election, not just those voting on that particular question.

Prior to 1898, the process to amend the Minnesota Constitution was one of the easiest in the country. Amendments had to be approved by a simple majority of the Legislature and a simple majority of voters voting on that question.

Critics argued that the constitution could be amended too easily, subjecting the document to the whims of an often-fickle electorate. Minnesota's first governor, Henry Sibley, lambasted the fact that the state's answer to the Magna Carta could be so easily altered.

In 1897, legislators sent an amendment to the voters that put the current extraordinary majority requirement in place. Voters approved the amendment in the 1898 election.

That amendment is often referred to as the "brewers' amendment" because the proposal was allegedly pushed through the Legislature by anti-prohibition forces who wanted to make it difficult to regulate liquor.

The effects of the 1898 amendment can be seen in the numbers. From 1858 to 1898, voters approved 48 of 66 amendments to the constitution, a 73 percent approval rate. In contrast, from 1898 to 1998, voters approved 71 of 145 amendments, slightly less than 50 percent.

Ironically, the 1898 amendment would not have passed under its own terms. The change was approved by a majority of voters who voted on that particular ballot question. However, the amendment fell 55,866 votes short of a majority of all voters who went to the polls that year.

In effect, about 28 percent of Minnesota voters in the 1898 election decided that all future constitutional amendments would have to be ratified by over 50 percent of all voters.

In 1974, legislators passed a proposed constitutional amendment that would have eased the extraordinary majority requirement. Under the proposal, an amendment would have become law upon receiving 55 percent of the votes on that

particular question.

Although the 1974 amendment was approved by almost 59 percent of voters voting on the question, it failed to meet the 1898 extraordinary majority requirement and was not approved.

Constitutional amendments have done well for themselves in the last 10 years. Despite the 1898 requirement, voters have approved nine out of 10 amendments, including the three amendments approved

in November 1998 — one giving constitutional protection to hunting and fishing; one abolishing the state treasurer's office; and one extending state lottery proceeds to an environmental trust fund.



An 1898 amendment to the Minnesota Constitution made it more difficult to amend the constitution.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Turning waste to watts

A British firm is considering building a power plant in Minnesota that would turn poultry manure into electricity and leave behind a high-quality farm fertilizer.

Rupert Fraser, who represents London-based Fibrowatt, outlined his plans before the House Agriculture Policy Committee Jan. 13.

Fibrowatt has developed a high-tech system for burning poultry "litter" that Fraser said would benefit growers as well as the state's environment and economy.

The company's three operating power stations in the United Kingdom obtain poultry droppings from surrounding farms. The waste is transported in tightly covered trucks to the station's fuel-receiving site and kept at negative pressure to prevent odors from escaping.

At the plant, a furnace burns the manure at 1,500 degrees, heating water in a boiler to produce steam, which drives a turbine linked to an electricity generator. The ash is recovered and sold as fertilizer.

Fraser said the plan is deceptively simple.

The idea drew mixed response from committee members.

Responding to concerns of Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) about emissions from the plant, Fraser said the plants meet stringent U.K. limits for emissions and that officials of the Environmental Protection Agency said preliminarily that the plant would pass muster here.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) said she is skeptical of the plan because Minnesota is notorious for creating systems for environmental protection that end up being costly. She pointed to the state's refuse dried fuels program as an example.

She suggested the current method of spreading poultry waste on fields might be adequate.

Greg Langmo, a poultry farmer from Litchfield, Minn., who accompanied Fraser to the hearing, said the existing method of poultry manure disposal is cumbersome.

"In the spring, farmers don't want you on the fields, and in the fall, you may only have a few days to spread because of the weather," Langmo testified. "We can't move enough of it far enough at the right time."

He said more than 600,000 tons of poultry waste is generated each year in Minnesota.



Rupert Fraser, representing the British company Fibrowatt, testifies before the House Agriculture & Rural Development Policy Committee Jan. 13. Fibrowatt built the world's first power station fueled by poultry "litter."

Fraser said he isn't ready to ask the Legislature for anything specific at this time, but he said federal subsidies were under consideration. Langmo said it would be helpful to include poultry manure in any renewable energy language in existing renewable energy programs.

The committee took no action.



BONDING

High hurdle awaits bond shift

Any proposal to repeal the 1998 law requiring the state to pay \$400 million in cash for that year's capital projects will require 81 House votes and 41 Senate votes, according to an interpretation issued by the state's bond counsel.

In a letter provided to members of the House Capitol Investment Committee Jan. 14, the counsel says that it will not certify the sale of bonds unless they are authorized in the form of a bonding bill, which requires a three-fifths majority under the state constitution.

According to the letter, the 1998 law "has terminated the authority to issue bonds for the projects in question and the appropriation of funds necessary to pay the bonds; the authorization of bonds for such projects must be

accomplished by a bonding bill complying with the stated language of the constitution; and the bond counsel opinion standard would prevent us from approving bonds not authorized by such a bonding bill."

The firm does not believe that a new bonding bill would require the detail of the 1998 bonding law.

"As an aside, we note that bonding bills typically contain language amplifying and describing projects already identified," the letter states. "We do not believe such provisions are constitutionally required here, so long as the purposes for the bonds and proceeds allocated to those purposes are clearly set forth."

Wishing to free up surplus funds for potential tax rebates, House Republicans had expressed interest in repealing the 1998 law which replaces the bonds with cash.

With the ruling of the counsel, Republicans said that they won't pursue the bond funds.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said that his caucus does not need the bond funds because its \$1.1 billion tax rebate plan makes use of the first tobacco settlement payments. He said that the governor and the Senate DFLers may need the bond money because their rebate plans don't call for using the settlement money.

Last year's \$999 million capital projects law authorized the state to issue bonds and pay cash for a myriad of capital improvements statewide. Under the law, the state was to bond for approximately half of the projects and pay cash for the other half.

A provision in last year's tax law directed the Department of Finance to replace \$400 million of the bonded sum with a \$400 million cash payment if a sufficient budget surplus was projected for the remainder of the 1998-1999 biennium.

In November 1998, the Department of Finance announced a \$1.56 billion projected surplus. Of that amount, \$400 million is scheduled to pay for the capital projects.

The law firm of Dorsey and Whitney in Minneapolis has acted as the state's general obligation bond counsel since the 1960s. The firm was selected to certify and give opinions concerning state bonds by the attorney general.

Peter Sausen, assistant commissioner with the Department of Finance, provided the Jan. 13 letter to members of the Capital Investment Committee.



DEVELOPMENT

Job one: finding workers

Minnesota's high employment rate has forced the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) to adjust priorities, officials told legislators at the House Jobs & Economic Development Finance Committee meeting Jan. 11.

Gary Fields, deputy commissioner with the DTED Business and Community Development Division, reported that the agency is working hard to respond to the labor shortage.

"Workforce availability is our greatest challenge," he said.

According to the department's 1998 performance report, statewide employment increased 16.9 percent from 1991 to 1997. Nationally, employment increased only 12.1 percent in that period.

Fields told the committee that the department is working on issues such as employee recruitment and affordable housing projects to attract and retain workers. He also said that the department is concerned with the creation of high-quality, livable-wage jobs.

"Such targeted job creation is important so that all regions have an adequate number of well-paying jobs which will enhance future career opportunities for all Minnesotans and fuel the state's long-term economic prosperity," the performance report states.

Recently-appointed DTED Commissioner Jerry Carlson responded to questions during his first appearance before a committee of the Legislature.

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) asked the Ventura appointee if he thought that it was fair for welfare recipients to have to prove the need for assistance when businesses often receive assistance without much scrutiny.

"I think that it's dangerous ground to try and make some black-and-white comparison between the human welfare side and what I hesitate to call the business welfare side," Carlson said.

He told the committee that he feels business results can often be quantified, while results for individuals should be qualified.

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EDUCATION

Disbanding the state board

The nuts and bolts of dissolving the State Board of Education were discussed at a meeting of the House Education Policy Committee Jan. 14.

A measure signed into law in 1998 by then-Gov. Arne Carlson included a provision to abolish the 80-year-old board effective Dec. 31 of that year.

Under the law, the board's duties will be transferred to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, unless the Legislature passes other recommendations this session.

And it's likely that lawmakers will come up with those additional recommendations partly based on a Dec. 15, 1998, report issued by the Task Force on Transitional Issues.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), both members of the task force, briefed their fellow committee members on the report.

While most of the duties will be handed over to the commissioner, the report suggests that some responsibilities be transferred elsewhere to prevent overload at the department. Suggestions include allowing school boards to appeal commissioner decisions to administrative law judges, and finding new home bases for licensing administrators and for overseeing bilingual and English as a second language teachers.

In addition, the report recommends that advisory committees be set up to handle charter schools and rulemaking.

But some witnesses and legislators questioned the need for advisory committees. They pointed out that if open meeting laws are followed, members of those committees (who often serve on other boards or committees together) would be in danger of violating the law if they happen to meet quorum somewhere other than the actual meeting — at a different committee meeting, for instance — and happen to discuss relevant issues.

And creating a suitable organization for licensing administrators drew fire from some witnesses, who advocated that the process be kept separate from teacher licensing and also subject to peer review.

Representatives from the state academies for the deaf and blind in Faribault, and the State Special Education Advisory Council also testified at the committee. Both favored repealing the 1998 law and reinstating the board, citing benefits the board brings to their organizations.

Originally, the House version of the 1998 omnibus education bill did not call for abolishing the nine-member board. A Senate provision to eliminate the board was added in conference committee. But the process was left largely undefined.

"Anything done in haste should be examined later on," Greiling said.



EMPLOYMENT

League offers labor solutions

The Minnesota Citizens League presented its plan to address the state's labor shortage to members of the House Jobs & Economic Development Finance Committee Jan. 13.

The nonprofit public interest group released "Help Wanted: More Opportunities than People" in November 1998. The report consists of a review of the state's labor situation and policy recommendations.

Janna King, a member of the Citizen League's Twin Cities Labor Shortage Committee, said that policymakers have dealt with labor surpluses for 63 of the last 68 years. She said the switch to dealing with a shortage is difficult.

"This is such a huge shift," she said. "I don't think we have a clue how to act. It presents a lot of challenges."

In its report, the Citizens League articulates a new approach for economic development and labor policy.

"New paradigms, programs, and collaboratives should look to improve the productivity of the regional economy, making up through sheer innovation what it lacks in terms of sheer numbers of workers," the report says.

Here are some of the policy recommendations made in the report.

- Policy makers should move away from generic job creation to improved productivity, including focusing on "industry clusters" over individual businesses. The report advocates supporting strong niche industries, such as computers and medical devices, that can have long-term effects on quality job creation.
- The Legislature should pass tax policies that encourage technology-based investments. A new economy based on a labor shortage will rely heavily on technology.
- Education and training programs should provide longer term assistance to entry-level workers and those who are underemployed. These programs should focus on meeting the needs of employers, especially employers identified in the industry clusters. Training should also provide workers who are

underemployed with skills not only to get a job, but to keep that job and advance.

Legislators were interested in recommendations on how to make employment training programs more effective. The report outlines a "best practices" review process that would give funding bodies the power to reward effective programs and eliminate those which don't produce.

The report also suggests introducing more competition by placing the funding power directly with the trainee. One suggestion is a voucher system, where a worker could choose the program that most suits his or her needs.

State Demographer Tom Gillaspay also testified before the committee. He said that Minnesota's labor growth since World War II was based on the natural aging of a young population and the entry of women in to the work force. These factors have leveled off.

He said that employment growth averaged 1.6 percent annually over the last seven years, while the labor force only grew by an average of 1.4 percent per year over the same period.



ENVIRONMENT

New plan targets stud ban

A statewide ban on the use of snowmobile studs would be removed under a proposal approved Jan. 14 by the House Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), sponsor of the bill (HF6), said it would cause state



Mark Hugunin, from the Minnesota Parks and Trails Council, testifies against a bill that would repeal the snowmobile stud ban. Critics of the bill say that the ban is necessary because of damage to the state's paved trails.



Doug Franzen, representing the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association, testifies in favor of a bill that would repeal the 1998 snowmobile stud ban. The bill was approved by the House Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee Jan. 14.

snowmobiling rules to revert to 1997 law. Snowmobiling with studs would still be prohibited on paved trails, but it would be legal in other public areas.

A 1998 law is set to ban the use of snowmobile studs on any public lands, roads, or trails after July 1. In other words, this is the last winter studs will be allowed in the state, except on private lands and frozen lakes.

Hackbarth's plan also would eliminate the current \$50 annual surcharge for snowmobiles with studs. The temporary surcharge, mandated by the 1998 law to be in place until the ban takes effect, is earmarked for the repair of paved state trails.

Greg Sorenson and Doug Franzen of the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association appeared in support of the bill. Sorenson said banning the use of studs would be devastating to businesses in the tourism industry. And Franzen said studs improve snowmobile safety by enabling people to stop faster, especially on ice.

But Mark Hugunin, of the Minnesota Parks & Trails Council, said snowmobiles with studs have caused tremendous damage to trails. Repairing the damage on state-operated trails would cost about \$1 million, he said. Repairing trails that are maintained by counties or townships would increase the amount to \$3 million.

Hugunin recommended that any legislation include establishing a fund to pay for repairs to trails and enforcement of the rules. Money should also be designated for public education efforts, he said.

Hackbarth said preventing future damage to trails could be addressed in a separate bill.

"I think a lot of snowmobilers were not aware that they couldn't go on paved trails (when using studs). But this has been a hot topic, and I would hope to see a decline," Hackbarth said.

The bill now goes to the House Environment & Natural Resources Finance Committee.



GOVERNMENT

The rules have changed

"Windbag" was the word of the day during a Jan. 11 floor debate over proposed changes to the permanent rules of the House.

Members adopted the permanent rules of the House on a 79-52 vote, but only after nearly five hours of lengthy debate — or "wind-bagging," as some members called it.

Much of the time was spent discussing changes to the "previous question" motion, which allows excessive debate to be terminated and an immediate vote to be taken on the proposal in question.

Approved changes call for minimum time limits before the previous question can be called, including a two-hour debate allowance for major finance or revenue bills, one hour for other bills, and 20 minutes for debate on amendments or motions.

DFL members questioned the need to change the previous question rule, which has rarely been used. They said that creating time limits would encourage members to invoke the rule and effectively impose censorship and create artificial time limits on debate.

"I need to hear the debate," said Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby). "I don't make up my mind before I get here."

Republican members countered that the changes in fact provided for minimum debate times, whereas the old rules allowed the previous question to be called at any time.

"This is a modest, gentle reform that on its face gives the minority more rights than they currently have," said Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan).

In another rule change, members approved an amendment offered by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), that adds the word "non-denominational" to the description of the type of prayer allowed in the House chamber. (Each floor session begins with a prayer by the House chaplain or, as is often the case, by a visiting chaplain for the day.) The amendment also added that the prayer must "respect the religious diversity of the House."

Members also passed significant changes to the rules governing bills.

The General Orders calendar (once the list of bills awaiting floor action) is no more. It has been replaced by the General Register. The Committee of the Whole process that went along with General Orders bills also has been eliminated.

The Special Orders calendar (the list of bills designated for floor action on a given day) is gone, too. It has been replaced with the Calendar of Day.

There also is a new deadline on selecting bills for the Calendar of the Day. The House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee must set the Calendar of the Day by 5 p.m. on the day before the floor session. But that rule only applies until late April, allowing more flexibility in the weeks before adjournment. (Previously, Special Orders were often designated just minutes before the beginning of a floor session, and critics said that provided too little notice for interested parties.)

There will no longer be "Rule 1.10" bills. The list of fiscal bills called up on the floor by the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee will now be called the Fiscal Calendar. Also, the number of co-sponsors allowed for a bill has been increased from five to 35.

Other changes to the House rules require recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance at each floor session (instead of weekly) and require the process by which budget priorities are set to be publicized.

The new rules took effect immediately.



HUMAN SERVICES

Report: programs need help

Some lawmakers have questioned whether the state should build more facilities for juvenile out-of-home placements, but a Legislative Audit report recommends increasing the quality of services rather than the number of beds.

Legislative Auditor Jim Nobles said out-of-home placement is often associated with juvenile crime, but the majority of such placements are made because of the conduct of parents, not children.

The report says placements are caused by a child's behavior only 30 percent of the time. Parents' conduct, such as abusing or neglecting a child, is the cause 46 percent of the time. Other placements are ordered because children have drug or alcohol problems or are emotionally disturbed.

The variety of reasons for placements makes it a challenge to design and administer appropriate programs, Nobles said. The adminis-

tration — and funding — of those programs is handled primarily by county governments in Minnesota. Approaches vary between counties, as do the costs of providing services in different counties. The state spends \$225 million annually on out-of-home placements.

The auditor's report involved interviews and surveys of human services directors and corrections supervisors who work with out-of-home placement throughout the state. Among suggestions for improving "treatment care" foster homes, group homes, and correctional, mental health, and chemical dependency facilities are:

- Increase options for short-term placement. (Some officials said "standard" programs are longer — and more costly — than necessary.);
- Tailor programs to meet the needs of families;
- Preserve family ties by allowing more frequent parental visits, especially in correctional facilities and group homes;
- Provide more "aftercare" services for children who have returned home after completing programs; and
- Improve sensitivity to cultural and ethnic differences in children served. The report showed disproportionate percentages of out-of-home placements involve children of ethnic minorities.

Other major recommendations of the report include a proposal to require courts to set more specific placement goals and to require state agencies to monitor and report on the success of those goals.

The report also suggests that counties be required to establish juvenile screening teams and to develop community-based alternatives to out-of-home placements.

Joel Alter, program evaluation coordinator with the Office of Legislative Auditor, said the task that remains is determining how successful the programs are.

Most counties evaluate the success of programs, but gathering statewide information is just getting started, said Erin Sullivan Sutton, Director of the Family & Children's Services Division of the Department of Human Services. She said her department will be releasing reports that evaluate outcomes of child welfare programs and other related areas. Sullivan Sutton said the reports, which were requested by the 1998 Legislature, will create a base of information that will make it easier to continue gathering data in future years.

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



TRANSPORTATION

Growing transit demands

Officials from the Metropolitan Council gave lawmakers a glimpse of their public transit budget request at a joint meeting of the House Transportation Finance and House Transportation Policy committees Jan. 12.

The council's \$120.6 million request includes provisions for basic operations and investment packages to provide for future planning. In addition, Metro Transit is asking for \$52 million in bond revenue for capital projects.

Metro Transit officials and representatives from the Suburban Transit Association briefed lawmakers on their budgets and operations as part of the committees' first meeting of the legislative session.

The two organizations make up the majority of public transit services in the metro area, with the Suburban Transit Association providing small, suburban-based commuter routes and carpool programs in cities that are not part of the Metro Transit system, such as Burnsville, Eagan, Shakopee, Rosemount, and Prior Lake. Metro Transit runs the area's public bus system and Metro Mobility, a transit service for people with disabilities.

Jim Solem, a regional administrator with the Metropolitan Council, told committee members that in order to keep up with the growing traffic congestion in the Twin Cities metro area, the transit system will have to be doubled by 2020.

Art Leahy, general manager for Metro Transit, said ridership is at its highest rate in five years and is exceeding service increases.

To keep pace with that growth, Metro Transit would use the state funding to increase service by 8.3 percent and increase Metro Mobility service by 7.7 percent.

The package also would provide additional funding for the Hiawatha Avenue Corridor project, a planned light-rail transit line from downtown Minneapolis to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. Funds also would be earmarked to help with adjustments in property taxes as service increases.

Metro Transit would use the \$52 million in bond funds to replace 292 buses, construct five new park-and-ride lots and nine transit hubs, and complete a garage in the eastern metropolitan area. The money also would cover matching funds for federal transportation grants.

Minnesota House of Representatives

1999 Committee Assignments by Member

Abeler, Jim (R)-Anoka 49A Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Policy K-12 Education Finance	Carruthers, Phil (DFL)-Brooklyn Center ... 47B Civil Law, DFL lead Capital Investment Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes	Entenza, Matt (DFL)-St. Paul 64A Commerce Education Policy K-12 Education Finance Ways & Means
Abrams, Ron (R)-Minnetonka 45A Taxes, chair Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Property Tax Division Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	Cassell, George (R)-Alexandria 10B Agriculture Policy Education Policy Higher Education Finance Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Erhardt, Ron (R)-Edina 42A Property Tax Division, chair Commerce Taxes
Anderson, Bruce (R)-Buffalo Township ... 19B Crime Prevention, vice chair Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State Government Finance	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)-Fridley 52A Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Erickson, Sondra (R)-Princeton 17A Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance
Anderson, Irv (DFL)-International Falls 3A Capital Investment Environment & Natural Resources Policy Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Clark, James T. (R)-Springfield 23A Transportation Policy, vice chair Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Property Tax Division Taxes	Finseth, Tim (R)-Angus 1B Agriculture Policy, chair Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Ways & Means
Bakk, Thomas "Tom" (DFL)-Cook 6A Commerce Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy	Clark, Karen (DFL)-Minneapolis 61A Commerce Jobs & Economic Development Finance Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Folliard, Betty (DFL)-Hopkins 44A Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Higher Education Finance
Biernat, Len (DFL)-Minneapolis 59A Education Policy K-12 Education Finance Transportation Policy	Daggett, Roxann (R)-Frazee 11A Taxes, vice chair Capital Investment Jobs & Economic Development Policy Property Tax Division	Fuller, Doug (R)-Bemidji 4A Capital Investment Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance Ways & Means
Bishop, Dave (R)-Rochester 30B Ways & Means, chair Capital Investment Civil Law Crime Prevention	Dauids, Gregory M. (R)-Preston 31B Commerce, chair Agriculture Policy Ethics Jobs & Economic Development Finance Transportation Policy	Gerlach, Chris (R)-Apple Valley 36A Commerce Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State Government Finance
Boudreau, Lynda (R)-Faribault 25B Health & Human Services Policy, vice chair Civil Law Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Finance	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)-St. Paul 65A Civil Law Jobs & Economic Development Policy Taxes	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)-Richfield 63B Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs State Government Finance
Bradley, Fran (R)-Rochester 30A Health & Human Services Policy, chair Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Finance Rules & Legislative Administration	Dehler, Steve (R)-St. Joseph 14A Higher Education Finance, vice chair Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy	Goodno, Kevin (R)-Moorhead 9A Health & Human Services Finance, chair Crime Prevention Health & Human Services Policy
Broecker, Sherry (R)-Vadnais Heights 53B Judiciary Finance, chair Civil Law Crime Prevention	Dempsey, Jerry (R)-Hastings 29A Capital Investment, vice chair Education Policy K-12 Education Finance	Gray, Gregory (DFL)-Minneapolis 58B Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Buesgens, Mark (R)-Jordan 35B Education Policy K-12 Education Finance Transportation Policy	Dorman, Dan (R)-Albert Lea 27A Agriculture Policy Jobs & Economic Development Policy Property Tax Division Taxes	Greenfield, Lee (DFL)-Minneapolis 62A Health & Human Services Finance, DFL lead Health & Human Services Policy Ways & Means
Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)-Crystal 46B Education Policy, DFL lead Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Higher Education Finance Ways & Means	Dorn, John (DFL)-Mankato 24A Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy Higher Education Finance	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)-Roseville 54B Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance

Gunther, Bob (R)-Fairmont 26A Jobs & Economic Development Finance, vice chair Agriculture Policy Commerce Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Jaros, Mike (DFL)-Duluth 7B Jobs & Economic Development Policy, DFL lead Civil Law Jobs & Economic Development Finance	Kuisle, William (R)-Rochester 31A Property Tax Division, vice chair Taxes Transportation Finance Transportation Policy
Haake, Barb (R)-Mounds View 52B Crime Prevention Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation Finance Transportation Policy	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)-Harris 18B Commerce, DFL lead Health & Human Services Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes	Larsen, Peg (R)-Lakeland 56B Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, chair Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance
Haas, Bill (R)-Champlin 48A Ways & Means, vice chair Commerce Environment & Natural Resources Policy Health & Human Services Policy	Johnson, Alice M. (DFL)-Spring Lake Park.. 48B K-12 Education Finance, DFL lead Education Policy Transportation Policy Ways & Means	Larson, Dan (DFL)-Bloomington 40A Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation Finance Transportation Policy
Hackbarth, Tom (R)-Cedar 50A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, vice chair Environment & Natural Resources Policy Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Juhnke, Al (DFL)-Willmar 15A Agriculture Policy Transportation Finance Transportation Policy	Leighton, Rob (DFL)-Austin 27B Civil Law Jobs & Economic Development Policy Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes
Harder, Elaine (R)-Jackson 22B Ethics, chair Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Property Tax Division Taxes	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)-Minneapolis 59B Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy, DFL lead Commerce State Government Finance	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)-Bloomington 40B Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Property Tax Division Taxes
Hasskamp, Kris (DFL)-Crosby 12A Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs, DFL lead Commerce Property Tax Division Taxes	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)-Walters 26B Capital Investment, DFL lead Transportation Policy Ways & Means	Leppik, Peggy (R)-Golden Valley 45B Higher Education Finance, chair Capital Investment Education Policy
Hausman, Alice (DFL)-St. Paul 66B Transportation Policy, DFL lead Environment & Natural Resources Policy Transportation Finance	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)- Minneapolis 60A Environment & Natural Resources Policy Transportation Policy Ways & Means	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)-Crookston 2A Transportation Finance, DFL lead Commerce Transportation Policy
Hilty, Bill (DFL)-Finlayson 8B State Government Finance, DFL lead Commerce Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy	Kielkucki, Tony (R)-Lester Prairie 20B Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance	Lindner, Arlon (R)-Corcoran 33A Jobs & Economic Development Policy, chair Capital Investment Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Holberg, Mary Liz (R)-Lakeville 37B Judiciary Finance, vice chair Civil Law Commerce Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Knoblach, Jim (R)-St. Cloud 16B Capital Investment, chair Civil Law Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes Ways & Means	Luther, Darlene (DFL)-Brooklyn Park 47A Capital Investment Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy
Holsten, Mark William (R)-Stillwater 56A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, chair Commerce Environment & Natural Resources Policy Ways & Means	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)-Coon Rapids 49B Health & Human Services Finance Health & Human Services Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)-St. Paul 67A Civil Law Crime Prevention Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Howes, Larry (R)-Hackensack 4B Commerce Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Health & Human Services Policy	Krinkie, Philip (R)-Shoreview 53A State Government Finance, chair Capital Investment Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Ways & Means	Mares, Harry (R)-White Bear Lake 55A Education Policy, chair Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy K-12 Education Finance
Huntley, Thomas (DFL)-Duluth 6B Health & Human Services Policy, DFL lead Commerce Health & Human Services Finance	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)-Granite Falls 15B Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Jobs & Economic Development Finance Jobs & Economic Development Policy	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)-St. Paul 65B Education Policy Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Policy
		Marko, Sharon (DFL)-Cottage Grove 57B Capital Investment Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation Policy

McColum, Betty (DFL)-North St. Paul 55B Environment & Natural Resources Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Health & Human Services Policy Rules & Legislative Administration	Opatz, Joe (DFL)-St. Cloud 16A Education Policy Higher Education Finance Transportation Policy	Reuter, Doug (R)-Owatonna 28A Commerce Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs State Government Finance
McElroy, Dan (R)-Burnsville 36B Jobs & Economic Development Finance, chair Jobs & Economic Development Policy Property Tax Division Taxes	Orfield, Myron (DFL)-Minneapolis 60B Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Property Tax Division Taxes	Rhodes, Jim (R)-St. Louis Park 44B Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy, chair Capital Investment State Government Finance Ethics (alternate)
McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)-Falcon Heights 54A Family & Early Childhood Education Finance, DFL lead Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance	Osskopp, Mike (R)-Lake City 29B State Government Finance, vice chair Environment & Natural Resources Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)-La Crescent 32B Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes Transportation Policy
Milbert, Bob (DFL)-South St. Paul 39B Ethics, co-chair Property Tax Division, DFL lead Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)-St. Paul 66A Environment & Natural Resources Finance, DFL lead Commerce Environment & Natural Resources Policy Ways & Means	Rostberg, Jim (R)-Isanti 18A Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy, vice chair Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Molnau, Carol L. (R)-Chaska 35A Transportation Finance, chair Capital Investment Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Transportation Policy Ways & Means	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)-Long Prairie 11B Agriculture Policy Education Policy Health & Human Services Finance Health & Human Services Policy	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)-Virginia 5A Jobs & Economic Development Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Taxes
Mulder, Richard (R)-Ivanhoe 21B Health & Human Services Finance, vice chair Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Policy Ways & Means	Ozment, Dennis (R)-Rosemount 37A Environment & Natural Resources Policy, chair Commerce Environment & Natural Resources Finance Rules & Legislative Administration	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)-Princeton 17B Agriculture Policy Education Policy K-12 Education Finance
Mullery, Joe (DFL)-Minneapolis 58A Civil Law Crime Prevention Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State Government Finance	Paulsen, Erik (R)-Eden Prairie 42B Commerce, vice chair Property Tax Division Rules & Legislative Administration Taxes	Seagren, Alice (R)-Bloomington 41A K-12 Education Finance, chair Education Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Ways & Means
Munger, Willard (DFL)-Duluth 7A Environment & Natural Resources Policy, DFL lead Environment & Natural Resources Finance Ways & Means	Pawlenty, Tim (R)-Eagan 38B Rules & Legislative Administration, chair	Seifert, Jim (R)-Woodbury 57A Civil Law, vice chair Commerce Health & Human Services Finance Health & Human Services Policy
Murphy, Mary (DFL)-Hermantown 8A Judiciary Finance, DFL lead Capital Investment Crime Prevention Ethics	Paymar, Michael (DFL)-St. Paul 64B Crime Prevention Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Judiciary Finance	Seifert, Marty (R)-Marshall 21A Education Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Higher Education Finance Rules & Legislative Administration
Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)-Dassel 20A Agriculture & Rural Development Finance, chair K-12 Education Finance, vice chair Agriculture Policy Education Policy	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)-Winona 32A Higher Education Finance, DFL lead Education Policy Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Skoe, Rod (DFL)-Clearbrook 2B Agriculture Policy Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Nornes, Bud (R)-Fergus Falls 10A Family & Early Childhood Education Finance, vice chair Education Policy Health & Human Services Policy K-12 Education Finance	Peterson, Doug (DFL)-Madison 13B Agriculture & Rural Development Finance, DFL lead Agriculture Policy Environment & Natural Resources Policy	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)-Minneapolis 62B Crime Prevention, DFL lead Civil Law Judiciary Finance
Olson, Mark (R)-Big Lake 19A Education Policy, vice chair Civil Law Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Health & Human Services Policy	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)-South St. Paul 39A Rules & Legislative Administration Ways & Means	Smith, Steve (R)-Mound 34A Civil Law, chair Crime Prevention Judiciary Finance
	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)-New Hope 46A Taxes, DFL lead Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Property Tax Division Ways & Means	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)-Bovey 3B Ways & Means, DFL lead Capital Investment Rules & Legislative Administration

Stanek, Rich (R)-Maple Grove 33B
 Crime Prevention, chair
 Civil Law
 Judiciary Finance

Stang, Doug (R)-Cold Spring 14B
 Education Policy
 Higher Education Finance
 Jobs & Economic Development Policy
 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
 Ways & Means

Storm, Julie (R)-St. Peter 24B
 Jobs &
 Economic Development Policy, vice chair
 Agriculture Policy
 Education Policy
 Higher Education Finance

Sviggum, Steve (R)-Kenyon 28B
 Rules & Legislative Administration
 Taxes
 Ways & Means

Swenson, Howard (R)-Nicollet 23B
 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance,
 vice chair
 Agriculture Policy
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy
 Transportation Policy

Sykora, Barb (R)-Excelsior 43B
 Family & Early Childhood
 Education Finance, chair
 Education Policy
 Jobs & Economic Development Finance
 Jobs & Economic Development Policy
 Rules & Legislative Administration
 Ways & Means

Tingelstad, Kathy (R)-Andover 50B
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy
 Health & Human Services Policy

Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)-Chisholm 5B
 Commerce
 Education Policy
 K-12 Education Finance

Trimble, Steve (DFL)-St. Paul 67B
 Jobs &
 Economic Development Finance, DFL lead
 Capital Investment
 Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Tuma, John (R)-Northfield 25A
 Local Government &
 Metropolitan Affairs, vice chair
 Capital Investment
 Education Policy
 Higher Education Finance
 Rules & Legislative Administration

Tunheim, Jim (DFL)-Kennedy 1A
 Agriculture Policy
 Education Policy
 K-12 Education Finance

Van Dellen, Henry Todd (R)-Plymouth 34B
 Property Tax Division
 Taxes
 Transportation Policy
 Ways & Means

Vandever, Ray (R)-Forest Lake 51B
 Transportation Finance, vice chair
 Capital Investment
 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
 Transportation Policy

Wagenius, Jean (DFL)-Minneapolis 63A
 Commerce
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy
 Ethics (alternate)

Wejcman, Linda (DFL)-Minneapolis 61B
 Agriculture Policy
 Capital Investment
 Health & Human Services Policy
 Rules & Legislative Administration

Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)-Little Falls 12B
 Agriculture Policy, DFL lead
 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
 Crime Prevention
 Ways & Means

Westerberg, Andrew (R)-Blaine 51A
 Crime Prevention
 Jobs & Economic Development Finance
 Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Westfall, Robert L. "Bob" (R)-Rothsay 9B
 Environment &
 Natural Resources Policy, vice chair
 Agriculture Policy
 Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Westrom, Torrey (R)-Elbow Lake 13A
 Agriculture Policy, vice chair
 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
 Transportation Finance
 Transportation Policy

Wilkin, Tim (R)-Eagan 38A
 Health & Human Services Finance
 Health & Human Services Policy
 Taxes

Winter, Ted (DFL)-Fulda 22A
 Agriculture Policy
 Property Tax Division
 Rules & Legislative Administration
 Taxes

Wolf, Ken (R)-Burnsville 41B
 Commerce
 Education Policy
 K-12 Education Finance

Workman, Tom (R)-Chanhasen 43A
 Transportation Policy, chair
 Commerce
 Environment & Natural Resources Policy
 Transportation Finance

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

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

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Minnesota State Agencies

(all numbers are area code 651)

Agriculture	297-2200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Children, Families and Learning	582-8200
Economic Security	296-3644
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Gaming	
Gambling Control Division ...	639-4000
MN State Lottery Division	635-8100
Toll Free	1-800-475-4000
Health	623-5000
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ...	296-6911
Fire Marshal	643-3080
Liquor Control	296-6159
State Patrol	297-3935
Pollution Control Agency	296-6300
Public Service	296-5120
Revenue	
Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and	
Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013

House Information 296-2146
 Senate Information 296-0504

Pugh hopes to fare well in his new role guiding DFL

By Sandy Donovan

Ask a lawmaker from either side of the aisle to describe new House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), and chances are the word "fair" will be mentioned.

"I do think he'll be fair to deal with," said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

And colleagues agree. "He strikes me as a fair person, trying to preserve a congenial attitude," said Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), an assistant majority leader.

Pugh's caucus elected him to the top DFL post in the House last November, after the elections reduced the 70-seat DFL majority to a 63-seat minority.

"My style has always been one of consensus builder rather than bomb thrower," Pugh said. "The choice is to deadlock on partisan issues or to bridge differences and to find solutions. That's been my style and I was elected because of that. If the party felt we needed a table pounder, I wouldn't have been the choice."

As a lawmaker since 1989, Pugh has worked on issues from tobacco restrictions to property tax relief. Now, he said, he's ready to focus on finding ways to keep DFL-friendly legislation afloat in a Republican-controlled House.

To that end, he'll be working closely with the DFL-controlled Senate and new Reform Party Gov. Jesse Ventura.

"There are certainly opportunities for what we see as basic DFL positions," Pugh said. "Ventura has talked about issues that are similar to DFL positions — lower class sizes, opposing school vouchers. We have a new political experiment in Minnesota with three-party government, so really the chances for one party controlling even one branch of government is gone."



House Minority Leader Tom Pugh aims to be a consensus builder — not a bomb thrower — as he guides the DFL Caucus.

He said he'll lead his caucus with the same style he's maintained throughout his career.

"Your leadership style has to be similar to your style in real life," Pugh said. "My style has always been to get a lot of information, to have people involved, and to reach common ground. That's especially important in our current climate, with people extremely upset and tired of partisan politics. I think the November elections spoke a bit to that."

Pugh called himself a moderate DFLer who's less partisan than some and said that those

qualities will lead to enhanced cooperation between all three parties this session.

"Also, I come from a suburban district, which is an area Democrats have been struggling with," he said. "The need for a suburban voice was one of the topics within the caucus. The alliance between rural and big-city districts has squeezed the suburbs on tax and education issues."

The new minority leader said he's particularly optimistic about working with new Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan). The two grew up just seven houses away from each other in South St. Paul and continue to play hockey together.

"I'm definitely encouraged by Tim's election. He's also more of a consensus builder than a bomb thrower," he said. "We looked at [his election] as a sign that there's not going to be open warfare."

Substitute "Tom" for "Tim" and those words could be a comment from any number of Republican members about Pugh himself. In addition to noting the minority leader's sense of fairness on the floor, members say he has often reached out with a friendly hand.

"My first encounter with Rep. Pugh was two years ago as a freshman when he and [Rep.] Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) led the new members' retreat," recalled Assistant Majority Leader Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie). "I found him very cordial and easy to work with, and he made everybody feel very welcome to the Minnesota House of Representatives."

"I look forward to working with him," Kielkucki said. And he added a final, familiar opinion: "I think he'll be fair to work with."



Frequently called numbers

Secretary of the Senate

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211 Capitol (651) 296-2314

Index, Senate

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Index, House

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Anoka lawmaker hoping for a successful rookie year

By Sarah Hallonquist

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) said he feels a little bit like Minnesota Twins rookie Chuck Knoblauch during the 1991 World Series.



Rep. Jim Abeler

Abeler, 44, is a freshman legislator serving in public office for the first time, and his party is in the majority in the House for the first time in 13 years.

"I'm a man very blessed," he said.

Abeler fills the District 49A seat vacated by former Rep. Charlie Weaver — now the state's public safety commissioner — who ran an unsuccessful bid for state attorney general last November.

Abeler narrowly defeated DFLer Jerry Newton, a Coon Rapids City Council member, with 51 percent of the vote. During his campaign, Abeler focused on three issues: education, taxes, and crime.

His House committee membership will only allow him to work directly on one of his campaign platform issue. He serves on three important education-related panels.

And Abeler said he plans to work in other ways to fulfill campaign promises to lower taxes and support law enforcement.

One of his main legislative priorities is changing the formula for compensatory funding for school districts. He is one of 17 legislators representing the Anoka-Hennepin School District, one of the largest districts in the state. Some districts, Abeler said, have a large population of students with special needs, but they are spread out over a large area and the money doesn't always go where it's needed most.

Abeler serves on the House Education Policy, K-12 Education Finance, Family and Early Childhood Education Finance, and Health and Human Services Policy committees.

Even though he's a first-termer, he's confident his personal abilities will help him succeed in his legislative career. In his committee work, Abeler said he hopes to focus on the big picture when considering complex, controversial issues.

"I'm good at deciding where to plant the next tree in the forest," said Abeler. "I'm not a detail guy."

He said he believes his strengths will balance with those who tend toward an interest in technicalities.

Abeler is well-versed in education concerns. He and his wife, Barb, co-founded a charter school, Parents Allied with Children and Teachers (PACT), now in its fifth year of operation. Five of his sons have attended the school.

Helping to establish PACT is a good example of Abeler's support of local control.

Parents, he said, should be actively involved with their children's education. And local school boards should be given more freedom to make decisions that best suit their districts, he said.

"It's not one-size-fits-all," he said.

Abeler believes community members will become better leaders if they are given the chance to make decisions — and mistakes — on their own.

After attending Hamline University and the University of Minnesota, Abeler graduated from Northwestern College of Chiropractic. He owns and operates Abeler Chiropractic Clinic in Anoka with his brother. The clinic

was founded by Abeler's father in 1951.

Twenty years working in health care have provided him with an understanding of all different kinds of people in many facets of society, Abeler said.

"I have a real spot in my heart for the working poor," he said. "You have to help them transition."

To explain his views, Abeler uses a favorite analogy of government acting as the training wheels on a bicycle. He said at some point, the training wheels do have to come off to let people ride on their own. He wants to use job development to help people come off state welfare rolls and enter the work force.

"It's important to recognize the lower and lower-middle classes aren't static," Abeler said. "My dream is to help them on their way through."

One way Abeler would like to help is finding ways to get more child care for poor families. Too many people are on waiting lists for sliding-fee child care subsidies, he said.

Abeler and his wife live in Anoka with their children: Jamie, 16; Jesse, 14; Jordan, 11; Josiah, 9; Jude, 6. The couple's sixth son, Judson, was born Jan. 5. In his spare time, Abeler plays piano, enjoys novels by Tom Clancy and John Grisham, sails, and cross-country skis.

District 49A

1995 population: 34,469

Largest city: Coon Rapids

County: Anoka

Location: Northwestern Twin Cities suburbs

Top concern: "The top concerns I have for my district are strong academics, lower taxes, less government, strong families, and an infrastructure that works."

— Rep. Jim Abeler



Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) donned a black feather boa and white gloves during the first meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee, which she chairs.

"I do feel thoroughly prepared to meet with the governor — at least halfway," she said, throwing the boa over her shoulder.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) noticed Leppik's newfound attitude as she scolded him for being tardy to the meeting.

"Not only do you look like him, you're as tough as he is," Tuma said.

"Basically, Minnesota is a very hard working state," State Demographer Tom Gillaspay told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee Jan. 13.

According to Gillaspay, the state ranks third among states in the proportion of population employed (72 percent). It ranks second in participation of women in the labor force (69 percent). It ranks third in participation of men in the labor force (81 percent). And it

ranks first in proportion of workers with more than one job (10 percent).

Gillaspay said that the demand for workers will only increase, given the state's labor shortage. He said that while high employment is good, it does raise serious policy questions about the costs — physically, emotionally, and financially — on the state.

"We also need to be concerned about people working too much," he said.

Gleason's House career takes off with airport action

By Paul Wahl

The din of everyday activity in the Minnesota House should not be a problem for newly elected Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield).



Rep. Mark Gleason

He's accustomed to noise, living adjacent to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

In fact, the airport and its impact on his district will likely consume much of his time this coming session.

On Dec. 22, 1998, Gleason filed a suit against the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) challenging the validity of an Environmental Impact Statement prepared for a proposed runway expansion. The commission wants to build a new runway in the buffer zone between the airport and residences in east Richfield.

Gleason said that the environmental document completed didn't adequately address noise and other issues. And when the Richfield City Council voted to strike an accord with the commission and not contest the study, Gleason saw few options.

"I went home that night and began drafting my lawsuit," said Gleason. "It was always assumed the city would file a suit against MAC on the grounds of noise and that the investigation of noise concerns was inadequate."

Gleason said he didn't believe MAC's "vague promise to work with the city to get the Legislature to provide money to address noise issues" went far enough. And he didn't believe the city should give up its rights to challenge the project on an environmental basis.

Oddly enough, concern over the airport expansion was not Gleason's pivotal issue during his House campaign.

It was education — particularly improving public education.

The airport issue "took on a life of its own," he said. And it will continue to live and breathe throughout the upcoming session.

Gleason, who will serve on the House Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs, Local Government, and State Government Finance committees, believes he can have an impact on the airport issues from his seat in the House.

"The Legislature has the ultimate responsibility for making people whole when they've been harmed or injured by the action of a state agency like the MAC," he said. "This district needs a strong voice to make sure people are protected."

Gleason's bid for the District 63B seat began with a contested endorsement. His opponent for the DFL endorsement was Richfield City Councilor Susan Rosenberg.

Gleason said there were hard feelings at the time, but the two have since patched up their differences. Rosenberg, who voted against the Richfield decision not to challenge the environmental study of the airport expansion, was at Gleason's side when he held a press conference last December to announce the filing of his suit.

Among the items Gleason would like to see accomplished this session is making the MAC an elected body, but he admits it's probably too late to introduce that concept and push it through this year.

He said the main benefit of that change

would be to make the commission more responsive. Currently, the governor appoints members.

"Right now, the MAC doesn't have a lot of empathy for people," he said.

As an accountant and tax attorney, Gleason also has views on how the state's taxes should be restructured and the state budget surplus returned to the people.

"I campaigned on property-tax reductions because property taxes are the most unfair," Gleason said.

He will also work to increase the state's share of finance for public education.

Gleason, whose wife is a physician, is also an advocate of patients' rights when it comes to dealing with health insurance companies.

This was Gleason's first campaign for public office, although he's not a complete stranger to the House. For six months in 1994, he served as the House controller.

Gleason said he found campaigning to be a lot of fun, but also a lot of hard work.

District 63B

1995 population: 32,603

Largest city: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

Location: South Minneapolis/Richfield

Top concern: "Because of the airport and other transportation issues and how they impact residents, representing this district poses a special challenge."

— Rep. Mark Gleason



While advocating that the 4,800 loggers in Minnesota be included in a tax rebate program aimed at Minnesota's farmers, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) couldn't help but get in a plug for the many Finnish loggers in his area, who he says are among the world's best.

When the first television shots of the moon were transmitted back to Earth, his father-in-law — who is Finnish — told him it was no big deal, the Finns had already been there.

Incredulous, Rukavina asked how he knew that.

"You don't see any trees there, do you?" his father-in-law responded.

Gene Hugoson had been appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture by Gov. Jesse Ventura just three hours before he stepped in front of the House Agriculture Policy Committee Jan. 13 to provide an overview of his department.

But he was well prepared. Hugoson had served in the commissioner's seat since July 1995 when he was appointed by then-governor Arne Carlson. His appointment expired at noon Jan. 4.

Hugoson, a corn and soybean farmer in Martin County near East Chain, Minn., is also

no stranger to House committees. He served in the House from 1986 to 1995, logging four years as assistant minority leader.

Committee members and others applauded enthusiastically as Hugoson took his seat at the witness table.

He thanked those present, and said his only regret was that Sharon Clark would now have to return to deputy commissioner of agriculture status. Clark moved into the commissioner's chair after Hugoson's appointment expired.

Model government is no joke to Minnesota students

By Jon Fure

While the real 1999 Legislative Session was just getting started, a group of high school students completed an entire model session Jan. 7-10.

And although it's only a model session, students in the YMCA Youth in Government program approach the four days with a level of seriousness that rivals that of their adult counterparts.

Meagan Shea, a senior at Hopkins High School who was selected as governor for the mock government, said one of her goals was to pass model legislation that would enable youth to seek health care for eating disorders or other concerns without notifying their parents.

She also advocates a tobacco tax to fund health care reform. She said her own experience influenced her emphasis on health-related issues.

"My dad died of a heart attack about five years ago when he was 40, partly because he didn't get treatment that we thought was necessary," she said.

Shea and Lt. Gov. Kelli Snaza of Mankato ran as a ticket. Shea said the two campaigned at several schools and events, and their experience was a key to their success.

"We've both been in the program four years," she said. "Kelli was secretary of state last year, and I was attorney general. I think our experience was important, especially with all the changes. We added two new lower houses, and we gave the lieutenant governor signing power so we can get more bills passed. So it helps that we both have been involved."

Jordan Janke of Spring Lake Park participated in the model House of Representatives this year for the first time. He said a friend had asked him to participate in previous years, and he has been pleasantly surprised since he agreed to give it a try this year.

He said he's had fun spending time in the Capitol, and it's given him a better understanding of how government works. Janke describes himself as "fiscally conservative" and had no trouble articulating his political philosophy.



Tia Tilbury, House speaker for the model session and a junior from Savage, Minn., and Shana Kalland, a junior from Minnetonka, Minn., who was chief clerk for the session, take part in floor activities Jan. 8.

"I think our government has gotten too big, and I would like to make it more efficient and preserve as many liberties as possible," he said.

Janke was enjoying a friendly conversation with Kyla Hynes of Blue Earth, a first-year senator who finds herself on the other end of the political spectrum from Janke.

"I'm more concerned with social issues," Hynes said. "I'm extremely liberal. I believe in basic human rights. That matters more to me than money."

Nevertheless, she said she was impressed by the opposing arguments in committee meetings. The whole session, she said, made her realize how complicated legislative decisions are.

One bill that was being discussed would

have required greater accessibility in Minnesota's state parks. While Hynes supports the concept, she said she voted against it because of the high costs of paving miles of trails and the shaky environmental impacts.

That's exactly the kind of thoughtfulness that Peter Rodosovich, state executive director of the Youth in Government program, likes to see.

The program, which began in 1946, is designed to make the students' version of the session as much like the real session as possible. Students seek election for various offices, including governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, state auditor, and seats in the state House of Representatives and Senate. Other students participate as lobbyists, journalists, administrative staff, Supreme Court justices and appellate court judges.

There are some obvious differences between the real and model sessions, Rodosovich said. The language of the bills in the Youth in Government session isn't quite up to the standards of the Office of the Revisor of Statutes, for example. But students perform basically all of the tasks and have similar constraints as if it were a real session. For example, the student governor has exactly one hour to sign or veto a bill before it automatically becomes law—the *real* governor has at least three days.

"These are highly motivated kids," Rodosovich said. "They spend a lot of time trying to prepare arguments and draft bills. What's impressive is that they seriously consider these issues and get a feel for how difficult it is, and how to listen to contrasting opinions and try to come up with solutions."

Adult advisors are a vital part of the program's success. About 250 attorneys, lobbyists, and community journalists help teach students what it's like to walk in their shoes.

The program has enjoyed tremendous support from former participants. Roger and Andrine Nelson donated \$35,000 in memory of their son Brian Nelson. He had participated as a student, including being chosen by his peers to be a speaker pro-tempore in the 1990 - 91 session, and as an adult advisor. He died in February 1998 due to complications of



Tia Tilbury presides over the House of Representatives.

a degenerative muscular disease.

"It was a pretty moving experience to visit with the Nelson family, reminiscing about what [Youth in Government] meant to their son," Rodosovich said.

Major donations also have been made by alums Tad and Skip Wilke. They recently donated \$10,000 for the second time. Skip Wilke was the executive director before Rodosovich.

The donations are added to the program's endowment, which was started by former Minnesota Congressman Tim Penny in 1996. Penny contributed \$25,000 and challenged the YMCA to match it with another \$25,000. Rodosovich said they have far exceeded those goals: The endowment is now at about \$95,000. Costs of operating the program and scholarships come from the endowment's interest revenue. About 5 percent of the interest pays the costs for one year, and the rest is returned to the principle, Rodosovich said.

The success of the Youth in Government program is also apparent in the increasing number of participants. Orville Lindquist, state

program director, said 1,469 students from 30 delegations participated this year. Youth in Government has expanded its scope to accommodate the participants. Besides the regular House and Senate, it has four lower legislative bodies: the Humphrey House, Sibley House, Ramsey Senate, and Stassen Senate.

A somewhat controversial new rule was initiated this year: No joke bills. In past years, gag

bills have received some media attention, giving the program a less serious image than its board of directors would like. Some student lobbyists protested the rule, but Lindquist said they plan to keep it.

"We want it to be some fun and a good educational objective, and I think it can be fun if you stay on that course — focusing on serious issues that are designed to make Minnesota a better place," he said. "Students are encouraged to come up with ideas about how government could be changed or laws that could be added based on their personal experience. It was a very good event. There were very productive and high-level debates on issues that are being discussed in real government like tax refunds and educational issues."

The bills that were introduced in the House in the 45th Youth in Government session included proposals that would:

- Automatically give back any tax surplus at the end of each session. (Surplus revenue would be divided among taxpayers, based on how much they paid in income and property taxes, within three months of the end of the legislative session.);
- Reduce estate (inheritance) tax by 40 percent;
- Reimburse jurors for travel, child care, parking expenses, and lost wages;
- Require all public schools to recycle paper;
- Require public high schools to offer classes on practical living skills — managing credit cards, debit cards, checking accounts, bank loans, and taxes;

- Give students unrestricted access to Internet and e-mail;
- Require school boards to have a student representative;
- Legalize fireworks;
- Reduce the legal drinking age to 18;
- Establish a death penalty for repeat murder offenders;
- Legalize prostitution;
- Abolish statute of limitations on sexual abuse cases;
- Ban curfew laws; and
- Legalize marijuana for medical purposes.



Gov. handles job pressures

Meaghan Shea, governor in the YMCA's Youth in Government model session held at the Capitol Jan. 7-10, got at least one opportunity to practice keeping her cool under pressure.

She stopped in to check on the progress of an education committee meeting just as Sen. Ryan Rasmussen — whose back was to the door — was telling fellow committee members, "I feel the governor is misinformed on this issue." The other members laughed, prompting Rasmussen to turn around and see Shea standing behind him.

Rasmussen was commenting on a bill that would give unrestricted e-mail and Internet access to students in schools throughout the state.

"I go to the same school (Hopkins High School) as the governor, and we have Internet access and e-mail available to all students," he continued. "All they need is their parents' consent. I feel that all students in Minnesota should have easy access to e-mail and the Internet."

Shea, who had voiced opposition to the proposal, listened to the debate briefly and left without interrupting the discussion. However, in an interview she clarified her position on the bill.

"I support having Internet access, but e-mail can be abused a lot of times," she said. "If somebody sends something out that's offensive, the school gets blamed. I just don't think it's necessary at this time."



Neil Ellingson, an 11th grader from Hopkins High School, debates a bill during a YMCA Youth in Government mock session Jan. 8. Neil's father, Bob Ellingson, served as a state representative from 1977 to 1986.

Name Pronunciation Guide

1999 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abeler, Jim	ABE-ler	Holsten, Mark William	Ozment, Dennis	AHZ-ment
Abrams, Ron		Howes, Larry	Paulsen, Erik	
Anderson, Bruce		Huntley, Thomas	Pawlenty, Tim	paw-LENTY
Anderson, Irv		Jaros, Mike	Paymar, Michael	
Bakk, Thomas (Tom)	BOCK	Jennings, Loren Geo	Pelowski Jr., Gene	
Biernat, Len	BE-AIR-nat	Johnson, Alice M.	Peterson, Doug	
Bishop, Dave		Juhnke, Al	Pugh, Thomas W.	PEW
Boudreau, Lynda	boo-DROH	Kahn, Phyllis	Rest, Ann H.	
Bradley, Fran		Kalis, Henry J.	Reuter, Doug	ROOT-er
Broecker, Sherry	BROKE-er	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson	Rhodes, Jim	
Buesgens, Mark	BISK-ens	Kielkucki, Tony	Rifenberg, Michelle	RIFF-en-berg
Carlson, Lyndon R.		Knobloch, Jim	Rostberg, Jim	
Carruthers, Phil	ka-RUH-thers	Koskinen, Luanne	Rukavina, Tom	roo-ka-VEEN-a
Cassell, George	CASTLE	Krinkie, Philip	Schumacher, Leslie J.	SHOE-mocker
Chaudhary, Satveer	CHAW-dree, SUT-veer	Kubly, Gary W.	Seagren, Alice	
Clark, James T.		Kuistle, William	Seifert, Jim	SY-fert
Clark, Karen		Larsen, Peg	Seifert, Marty	SY-fert
Daggett, Roxann	DAG-et	Larson, Dan	Skoe, Rod	SKOY
Davids, Gregory M.		Leighton, Rob	Skoglund, Wes	SKOHG-lund
Dawkins, Andy		Lenczewski, Ann	Smith, Steve	
Dehler, Steve	DAY-ler	Leppik, Peggy	Solberg, Loren A.	
Dempsey, Jerry		Lieder, Bernie L.	Stanek, Rich	
Dorman, Dan		Lindner, Arlon	Stang, Doug	
Dorn, John		Luther, Darlene	Storm, Julie	
Entenza, Matt		Mahoney, Tim	Sviggum, Steve	SWIG-um
Erhardt, Ron	AIR-hart	Mares, Harry	Swenson, Howard	
Erickson, Sondra		Mariani, Carlos	Sykora, Barb	sick-OR-ah
Finseth, Tim		Marko, Sharon	Tingelstad, Kathy	
Folliard, Betty	FOLLY-ard	McCollum, Betty	Tomassoni, David J.	tom-a-SONY
Fuller, Doug		McElroy, Dan	Trimble, Steve	
Gerlach, Chris	GER-lock	McGuire, Mary Jo	Tuma, John	TOO-ma
Gleason, Mark S.		Milbert, Bob	Tunheim, Jim	TON-hyme
Goodno, Kevin		Molnau, Carol L.	Van Dellen, Henry Todd	
Gray, Gregory		Mulder, Richard	Vandever, Ray	
Greenfield, Lee		Mullery, Joe	Wagenius, Jean	wa-GHEEN-yus
Greiling, Mindy	GRY-ling	Munger, Willard	Wejcman, Linda	WAITS-man
Gunther, Bob		Murphy, Mary	Wenzel, Stephen G.	WEN-zel
Haake, Barb	HOCKEY	Ness, Robert "Bob"	Westerberg, Andy	
Haas, Bill	HAHZ	Nornes, Bud	Westfall, Robert L. (Bob)	
Hackbarth, Tom		Olson, Mark	Westrom, Torrey	
Harder, Elaine		Opatz, Joe	Wilkin, Tim	
Hasskamp, Kris		Orfield, Myron	Winter, Ted	
Hausman, Alice		Osskopp, Mike	Wolf, Ken	
Hilty, Bill		Osthoff, Tom	Workman, Tom	
Holberg, Mary Liz		Otremba, Mary Ellen		

Bill Introductions

HF48-HF149

Monday, Jan. 11

HF48—Wolf (R) Commerce

Performance-based gas purchasing plans sunset abolished.

HF49—Ozment (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Health coverage for survivors of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty expanded to include spouses.

HF50—Dempsey (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Goodhue County levy limit adjustment authorized for certain payments in lieu of tax.

HF51—Finseth (R) Taxes

Agricultural assistance provided to Minnesota farmers and livestock producers in the form of property tax relief and payments, and money appropriated.

HF52—Haas (R) Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF53—Biernat (DFL) Civil Law

Uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act adopted.

HF54—Finseth (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Personal watercraft surcharge removed.

HF55—Tomassoni (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Trained force of firefighters maintained by the commissioner of natural resources, and public employee definition expanded.

HF56—Van Dellen (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Health care provider civil action limitation provisions modified.

HF57—Paymar (DFL) Taxes

Local governing bodies required to disclose and vote on property tax increases due to declining market value.

HF58—Erickson (R) Education Policy

Independent School District No. 912, Milaca, retroactively authorized to begin its school year prior to Labor Day.

HF59—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Snowmobile trail grants-in-aid provisions modified to include maintenance of Voyageurs National Park trails.

HF60—Haas (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Supplemental private duty nursing services reimbursement allowed for spouses and others meeting financial hardship criteria.

HF61—Haas (R) Transportation Policy

Trunk Highway No. 252 three-lane construction project provided.

HF62—Rukavina (DFL) Commerce

Automobile insurance nonrenewals regulated relating to physical damage portion of policies.

HF63—Marko (DFL) Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF64—Kahn (DFL) Agriculture Policy

Hemp; industrial hemp classified as an agricultural crop, regulation and registration required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF65—Huntley (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy

Health care conscience and religious liberty protection provided.

HF66—Johnson (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Spring Lake Park police civil service commission abolished.

HF67—Luther (DFL) Crime Prevention

Killing or injuring a search and rescue dog provided felony penalties.

HF68—Rukavina (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Eveleth police and fire trust fund benefit increases provided.

HF69—Rest (DFL) K-12 Education Finance

General education basic formula allowance increased, and money appropriated.

HF70—Daggett (R) Crime Prevention

Law enforcement agencies authorized to sell forfeited firearms, ammunition, and accessories to eligible persons.

HF71—Rest (DFL) Taxes

Sales and use tax rates reduced; and June accelerated sales, liquor, and tobacco tax payments abolished.

HF72—Rukavina (DFL) Taxes

Biwabik community pavilion construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF73—Hilty (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Year 2000; local government units mutual aid authority clarified, health department required to collect and disseminate information regarding possible problems and solutions, immunity provided, and money appropriated.

HF74—Luther (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy

Health care directive suggested form modified.

HF75—Wenzel (DFL) Taxes

Sales and use tax rate reduced.

HF76—Seagren (R) Education Policy

K-12 education technical changes provided; governor's workforce development council, state interagency coordinating council, and certain lease purchase installment buys and transportation aid repealed.

HF77—Stang (R) Transportation Policy

Surviving spouses authorized to continue to purchase special license plates issued to veterans.

HF78—McCollum (DFL) Taxes

Sales and use tax rate reduced.

HF79—Solberg (DFL) Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF80—Solberg (DFL) Transportation Policy

Passenger automobile and hearse additional registration tax rate reduced, and motor vehicle sales tax revenue distribution provided.

HF81—McCollum (DFL) Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

Thursday, Jan. 14

HF82—Seifert, M. (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State correctional facility art acquisition with the use of state appropriations prohibited.

HF83—Murphy (DFL) K-12 Education Finance

School district debt service equalization eligibility modified.

HF84—Greiling (DFL) Education Policy

Nonpublic schools subject to state graduation requirements if families of students have claimed education-related expense tax reimbursements.

HF85—Dehler (R) Agriculture Policy

Feedlot operators' names and addresses provided data classification.

HF86—Rest (DFL) Taxes

Pollution control and solar energy equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF87—Kahn (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minnesota Twins community ownership process provided.

HF88—Milbert (DFL) Taxes

Market value limits increased for 1998 property tax purposes.

HF89—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Nonprofits provided grants for volunteer assistance to low-income taxpayers, and money appropriated.

HF90—Sviggum (R)**Civil Law**

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

HF91—Erickson (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Pollution control agency required to terminate the Mille Lacs water resources agreement for the purposes of implementing the underground injection control program.

HF92—Carruthers (DFL)**Civil Law**

Driver's license revocation for chemical test implied consent violations, judicial review petition content requirements modified, and scope of discovery limited.

HF93—Tunheim (DFL)**Education Policy**

Adult basic education aid funding formula modified to include eligibility for a sparsity allowance, and money appropriated.

HF94—Jaros (DFL)**Education Policy**

International study opportunities provided for foreign language teachers, and international education emphasis established.

HF95—Jaros (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Certain place identification signs required to display the Ojibwe or Dakota language equivalent, and money appropriated.

HF96—Kuisle (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Environmental assessment worksheet signature requirements modified.

HF97—Dehler (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Gambling tax exemption provided to certain organizations.

HF98—Osskopp (R)**Taxes**

Property tax refund payments provided to personal representatives of deceased claimants.

HF99—Osskopp (R)**Taxes**

Television commercials and production materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF100—Jaros (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Consumer protection office and human rights department decentralized.

HF101—Rostberg (R)**Transportation Policy**

Identification card fees specified for persons with serious and persistent mental illness.

HF102—Osskopp (R)**Taxes**

Local government aid base increased for certain cities.

HF103—Marko (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Passenger automobile tax rate reduced, transportation trust fund created and revenue dedicated, state patrol funded through the general fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF104—Hackbarth (R)**Taxes**

Local government base aid increased for certain cities.

HF105—Tunheim (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Farm relief; Congress memorialized to designate and implement financial relief for livestock and grain farmers.

HF106—Rukavina (DFL)**State Government Finance**

Eveleth, Gilbert, Mountain Iron, and Virginia; Iron Range Veterans Memorial Park construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF107—Dehler (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

24-hour angling license fee reduced, and lottery machine issuance authorized.

HF108—Pawlenty (R)**Taxes**

Charitable contribution income tax credit provided.

HF109—Pawlenty (R)**Taxes**

Charitable contribution income tax credit provided.

HF110—Pawlenty (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Term limits imposed on legislative and executive offices, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF111—Rest (DFL)**Commerce**

Homeowner's insurance policy nonrenewals regulated, and automobile and homeowner's insurance discriminatory practices prohibited.

HF112—Bishop (R)**Crime Prevention**

Fraudulent use of another's personal identity provided felony penalties, and civil forfeiture of property authorized.

HF113—Broecker (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Bomb disposal expense reimbursement provided to the commissioner of public safety, and money appropriated.

HF114—Stanek (R)**Judiciary Finance**

FBI drugfire computer program grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF115—Ness (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Willmar and Litchfield; volunteer rescue squad relief associations and service pensions authorized.

HF116—Erhardt (R)**Transportation Policy**

Passenger automobile registration tax rate reduced.

HF117—Gunther (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Fairmont Police Relief Association additional annual postretirement adjustment mechanism provided, and surviving spouse benefits clarified.

HF118—Erickson (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State agency and department heads to be confirmed by the Senate within one year of appointment.

HF119—Jaros (DFL)**Jobs &****Economic Development Policy**

State policy declared that no one be homeless, hungry, or without health care; and money appropriated.

HF120—Rostberg (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

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

HF121—Nornes (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State primary election date changed, and precinct caucuses eliminated.

HF122—Rukavina (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Elective office age eligibility lowered.

HF123—Carruthers (DFL)**Taxes**

Partial compensation earned for service in the armed forces income tax exemption provided.

HF124—Murphy (DFL)**Taxes**

Prefabricated home sales tax provided.

HF125—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Noncommercial seasonal residential recreational property second tier property tax class rates reduced.

HF126—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

MinnesotaCare provider tax reduced then repealed.

HF127—Luther (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Minnesota organ donor decision campaign funded, and money appropriated.

HF128—Rostberg (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Seniors accompanying persons under age 16 provided angling license requirement exemption.

HF129—Greiling (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State agency legislative rulemaking notification requirements modified.

HF130—Finseth (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District Nos. 2854, Ada-Borup, 2176 Warren-Alvarado-Oslo, 846, Breckenridge, and 595, East Grand Forks provided declining pupil unit aid.

HF131—Harder (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 330, Heron Lake-Okabena, provided Southwest Star Concept School grant extension.

HF132—Ness (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Bingo conducted by senior citizen organizations exempt from regulation.

HF133—Stanek (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis and St. Paul local residency requirements repealed.

HF134—Erickson (R)**Jobs &****Economic Development Policy**

Marketing and infrastructure changes due to Ontario waters and Mille Lacs Lake limitations funded, and money appropriated.

HF135—Bishop (R)**Crime Prevention**

Repeat assault offenders with prior delinquency adjudications provided enhanced penalties.

HF136—Rostberg (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Persian Gulf War veterans bonus application period extended.

HF137—Rostberg (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Collector watercraft licensing requirement exemption provided.

HF138—Seifert, M. (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lazarus Creek/LQP-25 floodwater retention project appropriated money.

HF139—Rhodes (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board member qualifications specified.

HF140—Dehler (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State-administered financial assistance programs catalog provided, and money appropriated.

HF141—Dehler (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Snowmobile metal traction device use restrictions modified.

HF142—Pawlenty (R)**Crime Prevention**

Subsequent controlled substance conviction definition expanded to include convictions subsequent to a stay of adjudication.

HF143—Pawlenty (R)**Crime Prevention**

Domestic assault enhanced penalty provisions expanded to include malicious punishment of a child convictions.

HF144—Seifert, M. (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Joint county drainage authority membership modified.

HF145—Ness (R)**State Government Finance**

National World War II memorial contribution funded, and money appropriated.

HF146—Kahn (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Ticket scalping crime repealed.

HF147—Rest (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

New Hope; Civil service merit system abandonment allowed.

HF148—Marko (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Trunk highway fund expenditures required, transportation spending goals established, transportation trust fund created and revenue dedicated, state patrol funded through the general fund, and money appropriated.

HF149—Osskopp (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Snowmobiles equipped with metal traction devices operation on public lands, roads, and trails prohibition repealed, and prohibition on paved public trail maintained.

Correction

The Bill Introductions section of the Jan. 8 *Session Weekly* included an error. The following is the correct entry for the first bill introduced this year.

HF1—Abrams (R)**Taxes**

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

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Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
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MONDAY, Jan. 18

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed. No
House committee meetings scheduled.**

TUESDAY, Jan. 19

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: HF74 (Luther) Health care directive
suggested form modified.
HF60 (Haas) Supplemental private duty
nursing services reimbursement allowed for
spouses and others meeting financial hardship
criteria.
Discussion of member initiatives.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: Department of Trade and Economic
Development overview;
HF44 (Osskopp) Wabasha water and sewer
extended to Reads Landing, and money
appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman
Agenda: to be announced.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkle
Agenda: performance report presentations,
departments of finance and employee
relations.

10 a.m.

Joint CRIME PREVENTION/ JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Rich Stanek,
Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: criminal justice process and state
judicial branch presentation, House Research.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: Profile of Learning history overview,
Lisa Larson, House Research; Profile of
Learning rule overview, George Beck,
administrative law judge;
HF15 (Kielkucki) Graduation Standards
advisory panel recommendations
implemented, Profile of Learning
requirements modified, state performance
packages eliminated, and advisory group
established.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: tour 520 Lafayette Road,
St. Paul, MN.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: HF1 (Abrams) One-time individual
income tax rebate provided, and money
appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: testimony from farm groups and
individual farmers representing corn, wheat,
soybean, barley, potato, rice, and sunflower
producers.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach
Agenda: to be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids
Agenda: industry overviews of issues before
committee: Insurance Federation of
Minnesota, Minnesota Bankers Association,
and Office of Tourism.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: confirmation hearing of
Gov. Arne Carlson's Campaign Finance and
Public Disclosure Board appointees;
HF139(Rhodes) Campaign finance and public
disclosure board member qualifications
specified.
Veterans benefits, Rep. Jim Rostberg.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: discussion of tobacco settlement and
current spending relating to tobacco cessation
and prevention; presentations, Joe Flores,
House Fiscal Analysis Department, and
Department of Health.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: 1998 performance report reviews,
Department of Public Service, and Public
Utilities Commission.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: overview by John Williams, House
Research.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: member and staff introductions;
committee procedures.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: Department of Children, Families
and Learning overview and preview of agency
performance report, Deputy Commissioner
John Hustad.

11 a.m.

Working Group/ JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

400N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Gunther
Agenda: discussion and development of
results-based criteria for state funded job
training programs.

12:30 p.m.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: Adult Basic Education (ABE)
Supervisor Barry Shaffer, Department of
Children, Families and Learning;
Carlye Peterson, manager, Minneapolis Adult
Literacy; past and present ABE participants.

1:15 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth
Agenda: HF105(Tunheim) Farm relief;
Congress memorialized to designate and
implement financial relief for livestock and
grain farmers.
HF85 (Dehler) Feedlot operators' names and
addresses provided data classification.
Department of Agriculture overview,
Commissioner Gene Hugoson and division
directors.

THURSDAY, Jan. 21

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: nursing home bed rails.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: Housing Finance Agency overview;
workforce investment act presentation,
Department of Economic Security.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: performance report presentation,
Department of Administration.

10 a.m.

**Joint CRIME PREVENTION/
JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Rich Stanek,
Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: gang strike force overview, retail
protection; introduction to identity fraud,
Rep. Dave Bishop.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

Department of Natural Resources
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: tour 500 Lafayette Road,
St. Paul, MN.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: to be announced.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: Department of Children, Families
and Learning overview, executive staff and
managers.

12:30 p.m.

**AGRICULTURE &
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: testimony from farm groups and
individual farmers representing sugar, canola,
dairy, beef, poultry, sheep, and horse
producers.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach
Agenda: to be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids
Agenda: industry overviews of issues before
the committee: Minnesota Association of
Realtors, Minnesota Credit Union Network,
and Minnesota Business Partnership.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

Hennepin County Delegation

118 State Capitol
Chrs. to be announced
Agenda: election of co-chairs; unit market
value discussion, county officials.

FRIDAY, Jan. 22

8 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: HF9 (Sviggum) Former legislators
prohibited from lobbying for one year after
leaving office.
Testimony: Dave Schultz, Common Cause.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: tobacco settlement and current
spending relating to tobacco cessation and
prevention discussion continued;
Blue Cross Blue Shield presentation.

**JOBS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: 1998 performance report review,
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

10 a.m.

**Joint CRIME PREVENTION/
JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Rich Stanek,
Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: panel on state crime statistics:
Department of Corrections, Sentencing
Guidelines Commission, House Research, and
a court system representative.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: to be announced.

Minnesota's U.S. Senators

Senator

Rod Grams (R)

2013 Second Ave. N.
Anoka, MN 55303
(612) 427-5921
Fax: (612) 427-8872

U.S. Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 257
Washington, D.C. 20510
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Fax: (202) 228-0956
E-mail: mail_grams@grams.senate.gov

Senator

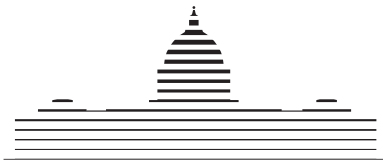
Paul Wellstone (DFL)

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417 W. Litchfield Ave. S.W.
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Speaker of the House: Steve Sviggum
Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Income growth and taxes

1997 per capita personal income in Minnesota	\$26,295
in United States	\$25,298
Minnesota's rank in nation	13
1996 percentage of Minnesotans age 16 to 64 who are employed	84.1
in United States	74.6
Minnesota's rank in nation	1
1995 percentage of Minnesotans with income below the federal poverty level	9.5
in United States	13.8
1996 median Minnesota income for family of four	\$56,200
in United States	\$51,518
1992-97 per capita income growth in Minnesota, in percent	24.5
in United States	23.1
1996-97 per capita income growth in Minnesota, in percent	4.1
in United States	4.7
1992-97 per capita income growth in seven county metro area, in percent	20.8
in 80 counties outside metro area	21.2
1992-96 per capita income growth in Jackson County (highest in state), in percent	39.4
in Kittson County (lowest in state)	2.2%
1996 per capita income in Hennepin County (highest in state)	\$34,574
in Todd County (lowest in state)	\$15,391
in Ramsey County	\$29,170
1992-96 average annual pay increase in Minnesota, in percent	14
in United States	11.7
Total Minnesota state income tax collections in fiscal year 1997, in billions	\$4.4
in fiscal year 1996	\$4.1
in fiscal year 1995	\$3.7
Minnesota's lowest individual income tax rate in 1998, in percent	6
Highest rate	8.5

Sources: *The Book of the States*, 1998-99, Council of State Governments; *Minnesota Milestones 1998: Measures that Matter*, 1998, Minnesota Planning; *Population Notes*, 1998, Minnesota Planning.

For more information



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