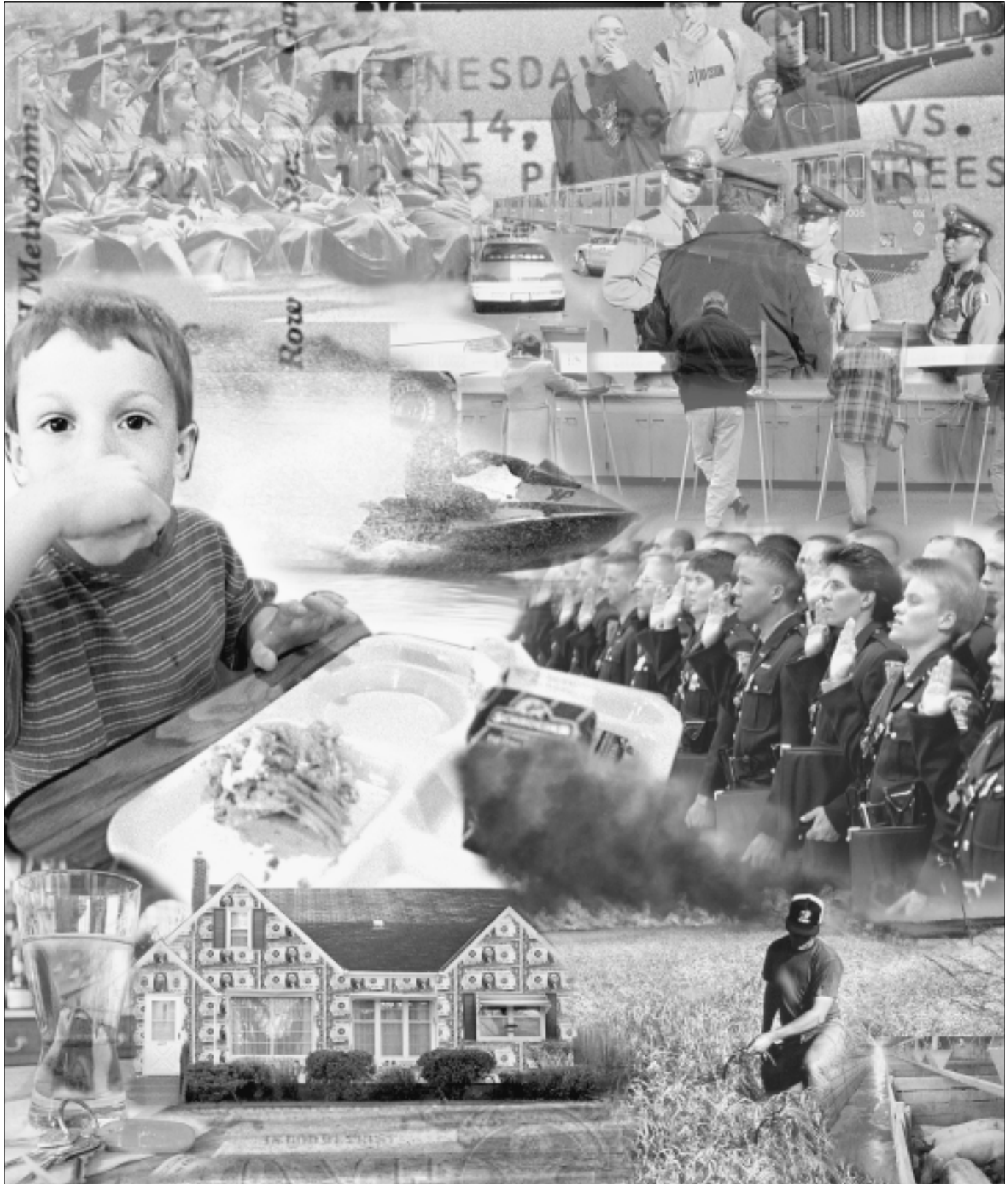


SESSION WEEKLY

A Nonpartisan Publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives ♦ January 22, 1999 ♦ Volume 16, Number 3



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SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections



Each January, people across the country commemorate the life of one of America's great men, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1999, many Minnesotans highlighted his commitment to equal rights for all by celebrating his 70th birthday Jan. 15 with marches, speeches, and song. Some paid homage by visiting a bust dedicated to him in the Minnesota State Capitol.

Dr. King's bust is located in a small niche near the foot of the east grand staircase that leads to the second floor of the Capitol. The bust faces west toward the rotunda, the building's spiritual center designed by architect Cass Gilbert.

The idea of a bust in the Capitol to honor Dr. King was generated by a citizens' group in the local African-American community to create a fitting and lasting monument devoted to America's renowned advocate for nonviolence. The bust was conceived as a significant tribute to a man who was called a "drum major for peace" and one who led marches for justice and freedom for everyone.

The group, headed by Mrs. Phyllis Ellis of Minneapolis, held meetings early in 1985 to select a sculptor. Once selected, a bust was completed and even presented in the Capitol's rotunda. But the artist's work was oversized and did not meet approval standards.

Later in the year, the bust that now resides near the Capitol's east wing was created by a different sculptor and approved by the citizens' group and the Minnesota Historical Society.

And on Jan. 20, 1986, the bronze bust of Dr. King, on a black marble base, was installed for posterity in its southeast niche. Then-Gov. Rudy Perpich addressed 1,500 people at the ceremony.

Sculptor George M. Bassett aptly captured the strength and dignity once seen in Dr. King's facial expressions.

Bassett is a Minnesota native known around the Capitol for other busts he executed. These include a bust of conservationist Sigurd F. Olson and one of Hubert H. Humphrey, the former U.S. senator and vice president of the United States.

If the paintings on the walls and ceiling are not included, King's bust is possibly the only artwork of an individual in the building who was not a Minnesota resident.

But the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a Nobel Peace Prize recipient. As "a seeker of peace, justice, and truth for all mankind," he devoted his life for others to live out the true meaning of democracy.

Dr. King's bust occupies a reverent place in the state Capitol as a gift "From the People of Minnesota."

—LeClair Grier Lambert

INSIDE

Highlights	5
House Majority Leader	13
Feature: Creating Web-friendly government	14
Committee Information	15
Bill Introductions (HF150 - HF244)	19
Committee Schedule (Jan. 25-29)	21

On the cover: A photomontage depicts issues faced by lawmakers in recent years, several of which may crop up again this session.

—Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid

First Reading

Profile of Learning . . .

K-12 initiative faces tough test in the Legislature



Lawmakers this session are considering changes to the state's graduation requirements. The members of the class of 1998 from Mounds View High School in Arden Hills, Minn., finished school before the controversial Profile of Learning — now the center of debate — began to take effect. This photo shows the students as they prepared to receive their diplomas during commencement exercises last June.

By Sarah Hallonquist

Legislators got their first official crack at the controversial Profile of Learning this session during a Jan. 19 meeting of the House Education Policy Committee.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) is sponsoring **HF15**, one of several proposals to change the current academic standards and guidelines that students must meet in order to graduate from a Minnesota high school.

Since the beginning of the state's two-pronged graduation rule in 1993, the Legislature has tinkered with details in response to public opposition to the standards and recommendations from various advisory groups. The Profile of Learning has been roundly criticized by some teachers, parents, and lawmakers alike for being too rigorous and too difficult to implement and document.

Mandatory standardized tests taken in math, reading, and writing — the other half of the graduation standards initiative — have already been implemented statewide.

Meanwhile, the deadline for districts to start adhering to the entire Profile of Learning under current law is the 2001-02 school year. Some districts began implementing parts of the profile at the beginning of the current school year, and those districts will receive additional funding for early implementation.

However, as outside criticism grows and

there is still time left before the final deadline, some lawmakers are committed to amending the Profile of Learning in some form this session.

Kielkucki's bill contains five parts which are based on recommendations from the Graduation Standards Advisory Panel. The panel was established in 1998 to examine how the profile plan should generally be carried out in schools and if any changes were necessary.

sory panel to create a plan for students who do not pass standardized tests or meet other graduation requirements.

Kielkucki said the Profile of Learning has generated many comments from his colleagues and constituents. And since he introduced the bill, he said he has been inundated by calls and e-mails — positive and negative — about the changes he's proposing.

"I have received more comments on this bill than I did on the Twins stadium," he said.

In explaining his position to his colleagues on the education panel, Kielkucki stressed his experience as a teacher.

"Looking at this from an educator's standpoint, there was no way I would have taught those performance packages," he said.

Much of the controversy surrounding the new standards includes the plan's performance packages, which are state curriculum models. Although their use is not mandatory, teachers are encouraged to develop their own packages that match or exceed the state's examples. But many teachers and school administrators have complained that the sample performance packages are too difficult to teach and will dramatically change what is expected of students in the K-12 system.

The new rule has also been criticized for having too many learning areas. Currently, the 10 areas are Read, View, and Listen in English; Write and Speak in English; Litera-

"Looking at this from an educator's standpoint, there was no way I would have taught those performance packages,"

—Rep. Tony Kielkucki

Kielkucki's proposal would reduce the core learning areas from 10 to five and allow districts to add other areas if desired. It would also reduce the number of content standards required in each learning area. It would provide delayed plans for districts who have not yet implemented the plan, eliminate state performance packages, and require schools to assess students in 11th grade using standardized tests that compare with other states and nations. Finally, the bill would set up an advi-

ture and the Arts; Mathematical Applications; Inquiry; Scientific Applications; People and Cultures; Decision Making; Resource Making; and World Languages (optional).

Under the 10 learning areas, there are groups of content standards. The content standards describe certain subjects students must master, such as academic writing or chemistry concepts. In order to graduate from high school, students are required to complete a minimum of one content standard from each

group in learning areas one through nine (each area has one to four groups) and from two of the groups in area six. They must satisfy a total of 21 content standards.

Last year, lawmakers approved \$70 million for school districts to implement the Profile of Learning. A phased-in system was developed for schools so they would not have to implement all 10 learning areas at once.

And about the same time legislators were drawing up the 1998 K-12 omnibus bill, administrative law judge George Beck was completing a report on the Profile of Learning that examined the reasonableness of the plan. He reviewed his March 1998 report for the House education committee. The report includes his recommendation that the required content standards be brought from 21 to 18.

Although he cannot rule on the profile's policy or give his personal opinion, Beck did say he would label the program as "rigorous."

"It will require students, parents, and teachers to work harder than they have in the past," he said.

HF15 was referred to the House Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Committee for approval of the advisory panel provision of the bill. The education committee is slated to hear additional public testimony on the bill Jan. 26.

Meanwhile, the Senate is scheduled to take up a similar measure, and there is a separate House plan that calls for the repeal of the Profile of Learning statutes altogether. That bill, **HF27**, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) has not yet been heard in committee. 🗽

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

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

Report says the future is in the suburbs



If you live in the Twin Cities metro and find it a bit more crowded than you like, this is bad news.

About 87 percent of Minnesota's population growth from 1995 to 2025 will occur in nine primarily suburban counties in the metropolitan area, according to a report prepared by Minnesota Planning and released in September 1998.

Where will all of those people come from? Most likely, the state's rural areas.

Minnesota Planning projects that 42 of the state's 87 counties will experience population losses during the 30 years preceding 2025. Western Minnesota is projected to have the highest rates of loss.

Many of the report's projections are based on underlying assumptions about how the economy will perform in different regions of the state, with fertility and mortality factored in.

In rural areas, large population losses are expected to be produced by continued farm consolidation, an older age structure, and the flight of young people.

From 1995 to 2005 the state's total population is projected to increase about 7 percent, the report reveals.

But the population will continue to age, which carries an inevitable result — the number of deaths is expected to rise and births to fall.

Rapidly growing suburban counties, however, are projected to have a rising number of births because those areas will likely be populated by many young families.

Deaths are projected to go up in most counties, with large numerical increases in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Suburban counties will see a large gain in deaths because their populations are both growing and aging.

Statewide, the number of children ages

14 and under is projected to fall about 10 percent between 1995 and 2005. The annual number of Minnesota births has fallen in the 1990s, as women born during the baby bust of the 1960s and 1970s are now the prime child-bearing population.

Only a handful of counties, mostly in the Twin Cities suburbs, will see growth in child population in the near future.

By 2025, more than half of Minnesotans will be older than 40, and about 17 percent will be African-American, Asian, American Indian, or Hispanic, the report states. The state's population is expected to top 5.3 million in 2025 — up from today's estimated population of 4.6 million.

"The numbers are higher than those in our 1993 projections, mainly because the strong economy has attracted more new residents," said Ann Schluter, director of Minnesota Planning at the time the report was written. "However, the basic trends are the same — slower growth, more diversity, and a noticeable aging of the population."

The number of Minnesotans older than 45 is projected to grow substantially as the baby boomers move into their later years.

As the population ages there will be fewer births and more deaths, leading to slower population growth overall.

"These projections are used by government planners, businesses, schools and many others," said Tom Gillaspay, state demographer. "For example, state budget analysts look at the projected number of working-age people to get an idea of

trends in future income tax revenues."

The Minnesota Demographic Center — operated by the planning department — tracks the state's population and economy, and is Minnesota's link with the U.S. Bureau of Census. The center helps develop long-range plans for the state, stimulates public participation in Minnesota's future, and coordinates activities among all levels of government.

TOP GROWING COUNTIES

County	Percent Change 1995-2025
Sherburne	92%
Scott	73%
Carver	79%
Washington	57%
Chisago	54%

TOP SHRINKING COUNTIES

County	Percent Change 1995-2025
Lac Qui Parle	-28%
Big Stone	-28%
Lincoln	-24%
Traverse	-22%
Murray	-22%

Source: *Faces of the Future*, September 1998, Minnesota Planning.

Highlights



AGRICULTURE

Company brews ethanol plan

It's a short trip from making beer to making ethanol, but it can take a long time to get there.

That's what officials from the Minnesota Brewing Company told the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee Jan. 19.

The firm has been attempting to secure financing for ethanol production since last fall to no avail.

Minnesota Brewing purchased the former Schmidt Brewery in St. Paul from G. Heilman Brewing in 1991 and has most recently been turning out Grain Belt, Pig's Eye, and Yellow Belly products.

Bruce Hendry, chairman of the board of Minnesota Brewing, said the plant has consistently lost money — as much as \$100,000 a month — and would be closed, idling its roughly 200 employees, if not for the hope that ethanol production could boost profits.

He estimates it will cost about \$20 million to refit the plant, which he said is ideal for ethanol production.

"We'll have the best-tasting ethanol available," he joked.

While there are subsidies in place to promote ethanol production, Hendry told the committee that federal money isn't available because the plant is in an urban area and state guarantees don't amount to enough to convince bankers of the viability of the plant.

In addition, Minnesota Brewing's production costs are high because of union contracts and the fact that it doesn't have a mechanism to purchase corn directly from farmers as cooperative-owned plants do.

Minnesota Brewing President Jack Lee told the committee the company is also planning to capture and sell its carbon dioxide byproduct, adding another \$3 million annually to the operation.

Lee said that if the company's small production payment from the state were increased by \$600,000, bankers would probably be convinced of the viability of the plan, jobs would be saved, and a demand for Minnesota-grown corn assured.

Committee members expressed sympathy for the company's plight.

But Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) wondered why a committee devoted to agriculture should



Bruce Hendry, chairman of the board of the Minnesota Brewing Company, right, uses a drawing to illustrate to members of the House Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Committee how the St. Paul plant could be retrofitted to produce ethanol. Minnesota Brewing CEO Jack Lee, left, also appeared before the committee Jan. 19.

fund an operation in the middle of St. Paul.

Hendry said his plant would strengthen rural ethanol programs and added that Minnesota Brewing had their support. He also pointed out that the plant would be a tour facility for city residents who would gain a better understanding of ethanol, its use, and its production.

"To a lot of folks in urban areas, ethanol is just a big scam to raise the price of corn," Hendry said.

Several committee members suggested that the company look closely at farmer-direct purchase of the 5.5 million to 6 million bushels of corn it would use annually.

Lee said that no firm plan had been fashioned for obtaining corn but that transportation costs would be a major consideration.

Hendry said he wasn't sure exactly how much longer Minnesota Brewing would continue to operate at a loss, but he said the company has come too far to abandon the plan to convert to ethanol production without trying every avenue to obtain the funding.

The committee took no action on the matter.

Fostering ag innovation

Entrepreneur Cliff Larson knew he was on to something when he noticed that exposure to soybeans seemed to soothe the rough, chapped hands of electricians working at his Meeker County plant.

He soon developed Soysoft, the first lotion made from soy lipids, but with product in hand, he still needed marketing assistance.

That's where the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute came in. The group, headed by former Rep. Edgar Olson, aims to provide markets for Minnesota products like Larson's.

"Without (the institute), we'd probably still be standing at the gate," Larson told the House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee at a Jan. 14 meeting.

The research institute provides development and marketing services, such as product assessment, research, business development, and technical assistance, to producers of Minnesota products. With its help, Larson was able to launch Soysoft. The lotion is currently available in gift shops around the state and will soon be featured on the Home Shopping Network.

The institute, now in its 10th year, receives about \$4 million a year from the state. Olson said that funding is matched with about \$6 from grower cooperatives and commodity

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boards for every \$1 invested by the state.

Some of the more prosperous relationships have been with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association and, more recently, the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council.

"Over the past number of years, numerous people and companies, both large and small, have come to our office with what seem to be fantastic ideas or concepts for new products that utilize soybeans or soybean products," said Doug Proehl, head of the growers association.

"Most of the time they were seeking more than funding to get their product to the marketplace; they were also seeking assistance with questions like: Is this product unique? Will it work? Can I produce this product competitively? Will it sell?"

The institute can help answer all of those questions, Proehl said.

Recent projects include a plan to develop fast-growing hybrid poplars as a cash crop on poor-quality land. The trees would be sold for their fiber and used in a variety of products.

Olson shared with committee members some samples of Minnesota products, including Great River Vineyards wine, molded bird feeders, Capt. Ken's Beans, and Prairie Smoke Barbecue Sauce.

The institute will return to the committee with a formal budget request.

Seeking federal farm help

Two resolutions calling on Congress to act immediately to alleviate problems down on the farm were approved by the House Agriculture Policy Committee Jan. 20.

Rep. Jim Tunheim (DFL-Kennedy) is sponsoring one bill (**HF105**), and Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) is carrying the other (**HF151**).

Tunheim said that to get a complete picture of how bad things are in agriculture, you need only look at the rising cost of nearly everything farmers buy in relationship to what they are paid for commodities such as wheat.

He told the committee that in 1950, wheat sold for \$2.09 a bushel and a full-size Ford automobile sold for \$1,600. In July 1998, wheat was selling for \$3.16 a bushel and a full-size Ford cost \$24,800.

"Everything is going up except the price farmers get for a bushel of wheat," Tunheim said.

Noting that in Kittson County, with a population of 5,500, there were only 20 births in 1998, he said continued struggles in the agricultural sector could lead to the devastation of much of rural Minnesota.

Tunheim's resolution calls upon Congress to repeal the Freedom to Farm Act of 1996, to purchase more pork and pork products to help drive prices up, and to investigate the proposed merger between Cargill Inc. and Continental Grain Co., among other things.

Meanwhile, Harder's resolution calls for increasing available livestock slaughter capacity in the U.S. and Canada, expanding food exports, and reviewing the Freedom to Farm Act, among other requests. Harder said the federal government has the largest role in providing broad-based relief to farmers.

Adhering to the wishes of Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), committee chair, there was no discussion on either proposal prior to a vote.

Both resolutions now move to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.



CRIME

Fraud victims want action

Law enforcement agencies, bankers, and retailers are seeking changes to make the investigation and prosecution of check and identity fraud crimes more efficient and effective. Members of the House Crime Prevention and House Judiciary Finance committees heard presentations on the issue during a joint meeting Jan. 21.

Jane Chase of St. Louis Park told the com-

mittees that she had \$7,000 in forged checks written against her account after her checkbook was stolen. She said that although she did not have to accept the loss because she had canceled the checks, the incident has been a major inconvenience.

"I understand that this is seen as a victimless crime," she said. "But in reality, we are victims."

Chase said that she was surprised that local police departments would not invest energy in investigating and prosecuting cases in other jurisdictions.

"I was appalled at how limited the authorities were at prosecuting individuals who steal checkbooks," she said.

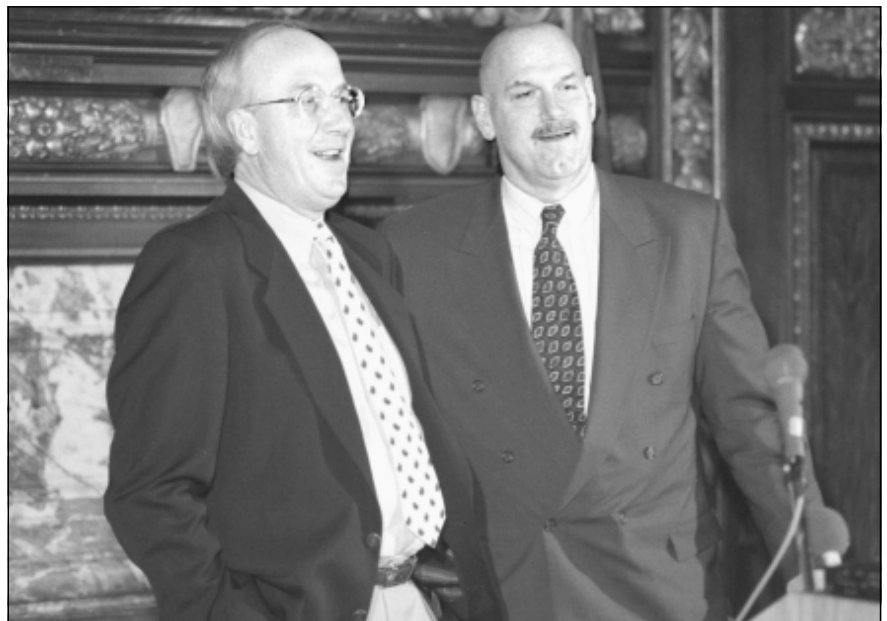
Anoka County Attorney Bob Johnson said that local police have no idea when other cases involving the same suspect or suspects exist in other jurisdictions. He said that local police do not place a high priority on these investigations because they don't realize how large the crime actually is.

"Our structure — our criminal justice system — calls for a lot of local control," he said. "And it may not be as flexible as it could be."

Current law allows cases to be aggregated and prosecuted in one jurisdiction. However, local law enforcement agencies do not investigate cases that involve retailers and financial institutions in many different jurisdictions, Johnson said.

John McCullough of the Minnesota Retail-

Former speaker, new commissioner



Newly appointed as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Commerce, former House Speaker David Jennings, *left*, shares a laugh with Gov. Jesse Ventura. The governor noted at the Jan. 20 news conference that Jennings' sons had voted for Ventura in the 1998 election. Asked which gubernatorial ticket he cast his vote for, Jennings, the last Republican to be speaker until this year replied, "Humphrey-Moe."

ers Protection Association demonstrated how technology designed for employers who issue paychecks is being used for check fraud. He showed the committee how easy it is to use software to create fake payroll checks and deposit slips.

Representatives of the groups told the committees that they will be bringing ideas to legislators on how the law could be changed to make investigation and prosecution more effective.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is sponsoring a bill (**HF112**) that would make it a felony to use another person's identity. The bill was not before the committees at the time of the hearing.

Bishop told the committees that he hopes to work with the groups and to have the bill ready soon for presentation before the Crime Prevention Committee.



ENERGY

Energy program blown off

Helping Minnesota farmers harvest the wind was the goal of a program approved by the 1997 Legislature. So far, the crop has been sparse.

A report prepared by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture reveals that not a single farmer has applied to the Rural Finance Authority for a loan of up to \$500,000 to cover 45 percent of costs to build a wind energy conversion facility.

The report was presented to the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee Jan. 19.

Jim Boerboom, director of the Agricultural Finance Division of the agriculture department, said a survey of farmers and bankers in western Minnesota unearthed several reasons for the lack of activity in the program.

Farmers cited high capital costs, lack of understanding of wind energy economics, lack of operating knowledge, difficulty in selling electricity, and low profits. Lenders said the technology is unproven and indicated they would make credit decisions based on an applicant's resources unrelated to the wind project.

Turning a profit in the wind-to-electricity business can be an involved process. According to the agriculture department's testimony, there is no shortage of the supply — average wind-speed is clocked at between 15.7 and 16.8 miles per hour in western Minnesota, specifically on the Buffalo Ridge near Lake Benton.

The wind machines required to produce electricity are big and expensive. The 143 units

on a wind farm built by Enron Wind Corporation near Lake Benton are each as tall as a 25-story building. Each 750-kilowatt machine generates enough power for 250 homes.

A single 600-kilowatt machine to run one turbine costs just under \$600,000. Although pricey, the machines take up only a small portion of land, and farmers can grow traditional crops in and among the turbines.

Additionally, a market for wind-generated electricity has been assured. In 1994, Northern States Power committed to purchase 425 megawatts of wind-generated energy by 2002 in exchange for extended storage of nuclear waste at Prairie Island Nuclear Facility.

Wind power is more expensive than electricity produced from coal or natural gas.

To encourage the development process, the Legislature adopted a host of incentives and subsidies to help farmers get a piece of the action.

A survey of farmers in western Minnesota revealed that many of them would be interested in some type of wind energy cooperative, but they had little interest on an individual basis.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), who chairs the House agriculture panel, said there was nothing in the original legislation that specifically prohibited co-ops from qualifying for funding.

Boerboom said the wind-energy situation is not quite analogous to Rural Electric Cooperatives, which are a more familiar concept for farmers. He said most cooperatives are farmer-owned and a benefit is derived from patronage. In the case of electrical generation from wind, the product is sold to NSP, a private corporation, and most of the farmers don't receive their electricity from NSP.

The department has suggested the committee look at fashioning incentives directed toward a rural electric cooperative or other farmer ownership models.

The committee took no action.



ENVIRONMENT

Stud plan passes floor

The House passed a bill Jan. 21 that would remove a statewide ban on snowmobile studs. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), now moves to the Senate.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) said the bill (**HF6**) is necessary because legislation that was passed in the 1998 session did not have enough public input.

That law, which bans stud use on any public lands after July 1, includes a \$50 sticker fee to

be charged to snowmobilers who want to use metal studs until that date. However, it does not include a mechanism to spend that money, which was intended to go toward trail repairs.

"What we want to do is take this back to the citizens so that all can have fair input," Ozment said.

Ozment, chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee, and Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee, have established the Outdoor Recreation Task Force to address concerns related to snowmobile studs.

One of the major concerns is how to pay for damage to paved trails in the state. Hackbarth, who will chair the task force, said snowmobiles with studs are still banned on state-owned paved trails, and he will work toward solutions to repair the damage caused by snowmobiles. Other members of the task force will be Reps. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), and Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

Holsten said the task force has not met, but he intends to deal with the issues and introduce trail repair legislation this session.

Hackbarth said the statewide ban on snowmobile studs is causing the state to lose tourism revenue and it should be removed as soon as possible. He said repealing the statewide ban is necessary to start the process of resolving the other issues.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) proposed an amendment that addressed repairing the damage to trails and private property, but the amendment was voted down.

Hackbarth said McCollum's proposal represented just one of many possible ways of dealing with the problem.

"There are many different ideas and many safety issues," he said. "This is the problem. We don't have enough input on this issue."



GOVERNMENT

Reform Party getting on board

The election of Gov. Jesse Ventura has prompted action on a bill that would clarify state law that assumes certain appointees would come from either the DFL or Republican party.

The bill (**HF139**), sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), was approved Jan. 20 by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee.

The law in question outlines the makeup of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to avoid having too many board members from the same political party. The board

responds to questions about campaign finance and economic interest disclosure of candidates for state offices.

Current law requires two members to be former legislators — one from the same political party as the governor and one of a different political party than the governor — and no more than three board members who support the same political party.

But the law has no provisions for how to proceed with appointments when there are no former legislators from the governor's political party, as is the case with Ventura's Reform Party.

The bill would remove the reference to the governor's political party. Under the bill, it would be mandated only that the board include two former legislators who belong to different parties.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

The committee also confirmed the appointments of three attorneys to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Wilbur Fluegel of Maple Grove, Thomas Heffelfinger of Eden Prairie, and Nancy Wilson of Minnetonka were appointed to the six-member board by former Gov. Arne Carlson before he left office. The appointments must be confirmed by three-fifths majorities of the House and Senate.

Fluegel is a partner at Wentzel & Fluegel; Heffelfinger is a partner at Bowman and Brooke; and Wilson is in private practice.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) asked if it's necessary to be an attorney in order to be on the board. Wilson said it is not a requirement, and that in fact none of the current members are attorneys. However, she said a legal background is helpful because laws on campaign finance are complex.



HEALTH

Bed rail policy disputed

Controversy over the use of restraints in Minnesota's nursing homes was the topic of a Jan. 21 hearing before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Family members, nursing home administrators, and representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health shared their views on the issue and on pending legislation.

Linda Sutherland, head of the health department's Division of Facility and Provider Compliance, said the controversy surfaced last April when her department began levying fines on nursing homes for improper use of restraints as defined in federal law.

The department conducts nursing home



Joan Kaiser of Stacey, Minn., speaks in favor of reducing restrictions on the use of bed rails in Minnesota nursing homes. Kaiser, whose mother was severely injured when she fell out of her nursing home bed after the rails were removed, appeared before the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 21.

inspections for the federal government's Food and Drug Administration.

"The nursing homes were never told to remove bed rails," one of the more common forms of restraints used, Sutherland told the committee.

But to avoid fines, which could run as high as \$1,000 for each day a home was deemed out of compliance, most facilities reacted by removing the rails completely, Sutherland said. In many cases rails were removed without contacting family and with disregard for the wishes of patients and physicians.

Sutherland said the inspections came after nearly 10 years of warning that the federal government wanted reductions in the use of restraints. She said action was only taken against facilities that were putting residents in "immediate jeopardy" by using restraints.

The overnight disappearance of bed rails seemed punitive to patients and their families.

But health department officials said that a doctor's order to keep bed rails in place could be honored without fear of retribution.

However, Greg Carlson, administrator of Grandview Christian Home in Cambridge, Minn., said his home was eventually fined \$85,000 and its nursing assistant training program lost its accreditation after an incident in

which a patient was restrained as prescribed.

Concerns were also expressed about retaining the dignity of nursing home residents and providing them with choice.

Without bed rails, some homes resorted to placing residents' mattresses directly onto the floor to avoid falls.

"It's a shame that the system can take the decision for care out of your hands," said Joan Kaiser of Stacey, Minn., whose mother fell and suffered a severe injury following the removal of her bed rails. Her mother died in September 1998.

While the health department argued that restraints are unsafe and contribute to more than 100 deaths annually nationwide, most who spoke said they believe more injuries were caused from falls after the restraints were removed.

But proponents of limiting the use of restraints said the only risk without restraints is from falling; however, with restraints, strangulation, pressure sores, agitation, frustration, incontinence, and others are possibilities.

Sutherland said research clearly shows there is more danger from having the restraints in place, especially when a patient slides between the rails or attempts to climb over them.

Under federal guidelines, restraints may not be used to punish a resident or for the convenience of staff but may be used to treat a medical symptom when ordered by a doctor.

Committee members are slated to continue the discussion when a bill that would clarify the law on the use of restraints comes up for debate.

Tobacco money debated

Lawmakers are now debating how Minnesota will spend the windfall coming from tobacco companies.

Under terms of a settlement with the companies announced last summer, the Legislature eventually will have more than a half-billion dollars to spend on "diminishing the human consequences" of tobacco use.

The House Health and Human Service Finance Committee took up the matter during a hearing Jan. 20.

The tobacco companies will pour \$6.1 billion in dedicated and undedicated revenue into the state in the next 25 years. That amount could be adjusted up or down, depending upon sales volume of cigarettes and whether the federal government is successful in taking a portion of the money. Regardless of those factors, there will be a huge sum available for state efforts to mitigate the impacts of smoking.

The committee began its work by looking at existing tobacco prevention and control programs.

About \$2.1 million in state health department funds is spent annually on anti-tobacco programs. Another \$276,000 is received from the Food and Drug Administration, but that amount is targeted primarily for undercover compliance checks conducted at establishments that sell tobacco.

Jan Jernell, director of the health department's Division of Family Health, told the committee that other agencies and departments spend additional funds on anti-smoking programs, making the total state investment much more than the amount spent on health department initiatives alone.

The committee also heard testimony from Kim Miner, a research scientist with the health department, who detailed both the need for programs and the recommended approach.

Miner said cigarette smoking in Minnesota has remained static among adults (about 22 percent), noting that nationwide the number of smokers has dropped 15 percent in recent years.

She said smoking among youth is increasing in Minnesota and exceeds the national average.

She suggested that a comprehensive approach be taken to any anti-smoking program to assure its effectiveness, and she listed specific areas for potential action.

Committee members weighed in on several of the options.

Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie) said she believes there are more "gentle ways" of preventing youths from using tobacco than compliance checks on retailers.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said he is skeptical about a health department approach outlined in Miner's testimony to hike the price of cigarettes as a deterrent to smoking.

"The price has gone up regularly, yet the number of smokers hasn't gone down," he said. "With all of the young people I've talked with, price is a factor only for a short while."

Miner said nationally statistics point to a relationship between higher prices and a lower number of smokers.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said his main concern is that whatever programs are funded produce the desired effects.

"We can't just be throwing money at the problem," he said. "If we look down the road five, 10, or 15 years and more kids are smoking than ever, we'll have wasted it."

He asked Jernell whether existing anti-smoking programs would provide any clues as to effectiveness. Jernell said none of them had

been in place long enough to produce empirical data.

The committee took no action on the matter.

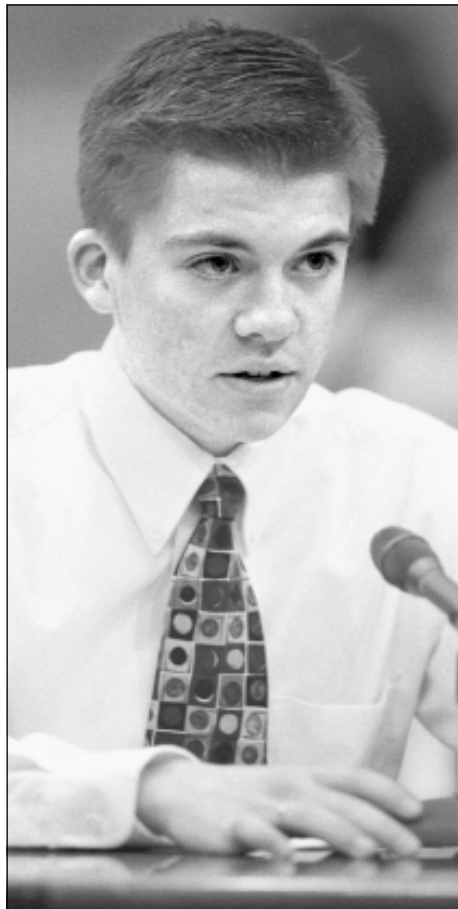
Clarification for organ donors

Most doctors know that human tissue and eyes are organs, but the average person considering donating his or her organs upon death may not always consider that fact.

That's why Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) is sponsoring **HF74**.

Luther told members of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 19 that her bill would make a small change in the state's health care directive. The committee approved the bill.

A person can use a health care directive to address all aspects of advanced planning for health care by appointing an agent to make the person's health care decisions or by making statements about how the person's health care should be handled.



Benson Lund, 17, of Edina, recalls how a cornea transplant saved his eyesight after he accidentally splashed hydrochloric acid in his right eye two years ago. Lund appeared in favor of a bill that would clarify organ donation laws. The plan was approved by the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 19.

Luther's bill modifies the suggested form for the directive by allowing a person who signs a directive to authorize their health care agent to decide whether the person's tissue and eyes are donated upon death.

Under current law, the form allows a person completing the directive to give the health care agent the power to decide whether the person's organs are donated upon death.

The proposal perplexed Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), who is a physician. He wondered whether the bill might be in response to a court ruling that may have held that tissue or eyes weren't "organs."

Luther said there was no such decision she is aware of. She said the proposed addition of wording related to tissue and eyes is an attempt at clarification.

Susan Gunderson, executive director for LifeSource, an organ donation and procurement organization, said it is her firm's experience that potential donors don't always understand the full meaning of the word "organ."

"Under informed consent, donors must specify which organs they are giving consent for," Gunderson explained. "Usually, they only consider major organs."

She added that there is a shortage of donated tissue. Only 30 percent of the skin needed for burn patients is immediately available.

More than 1,300 people are awaiting transplants in Minnesota. Approximately 100 individuals die each year waiting.

The committee also heard from Benson Lund, a 17-year-old from Edina who was the recipient of a cornea and other eye tissue in late 1997 and early 1998.

Lund had hydrochloric acid splashed into his right eye during a chemistry experiment outside of school.

Doctors determined he needed a certain treatment prior to a corneal transplant. The procedure uses a central "button" of corneal tissue from an eye donor to replace the patient's damaged tissues.

Lund said donors made it possible for him to see again and added that he was thankful.

Luther told the committee that changing the directive form would not result in additional cost to the state.

The bill moves to the House Civil Law Committee.

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Yudof seeks budget boost

University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof introduced himself to lawmakers Jan. 21 at a meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

It was his first official visit to the Legislature since the U of M received its unusually large windfall last year. Almost \$243 million went to the university in 1998, including capital improvement funds, debt-service forgiveness, and a supplemental budget increase.

This year, university officials plan to ask the state for roughly \$1.28 billion for the next biennium. After Gov. Jesse Ventura releases his budget, which could be as soon as Jan. 28, the school will come back to the committee to present its formal biennial budget request.

Some of that money would be earmarked for lowering faculty-student ratios and for adding more freshman seminars. The seminars are designed to be small discussion-based classes in which new students can get to know each other early in their academic careers. Yudof taught one himself last fall, called Students and the Constitution.

"I learned a lot about tattoos and body piercing," Yudof said. "They learned something about the Constitution."

While Yudof's presentation was intended to serve as an introduction to the university system, committee members quizzed him on enrollment statistics and graduation rates. Some were also concerned with the size of the school's administration, which Yudof acknowledged was too big even though it's an average-sized staff.

"That's one area I don't even want to be average," he said.

And Yudof outlined some of his other philosophical goals for the U of M, including preserving its heritage, improving the school's research ranking, bettering its service to students, and providing hands-on education.

"The university is in the business of producing human capital," he said. "Minnesota will stand or fall on its human capital."

Yudof came flanked by several other university officials including Board of Regents Chair William Hogan II, Regent David Metzen, and institutional relations vice president Sandra Gardebring, a former member of the Minnesota Supreme Court.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Repealing residency rules

A bill that would repeal residency requirements for city employees in Minneapolis and St. Paul was approved Jan. 20 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), who is sponsoring the bill (**HF133**), said requiring city employees to live within the city limits has reduced the number of applicants for jobs and made it difficult to retain workers.

Carri Sampson, an emergency dispatcher in Minneapolis, said her department has had a lot of turnover, and the residency requirement for new employees has made it difficult to fully staff the department. In turn, she said, the stress level has risen.

"We don't have work that can wait," she said. "When we're shorthanded, employees work 12-hour shifts."

Al Berryman, president of the Police Officers Federation of Minneapolis, said the Minneapolis Police Department has received fewer applicants for jobs than cities that don't have residency requirements. Minneapolis has recently received 47 applications for 30 jobs available, he said. In that time, West St. Paul has had 120 applications for two positions, and the State Highway Patrol has had more than 900 applications for 30 positions, Berryman said.

Living in Minneapolis can be unsafe for

some city employees, said Lisa Thomas, who works in the city's attorneys office. She said her car has been vandalized twice and she has been harassed when recognized by people who have been prosecuted by her office.

A similar bill passed out of committee during the 1998 session, but the measure did not come up for a vote on the House floor.

Stanek said that then-Speaker Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) encouraged the labor organizations and city officials to try to work out their differences. The groups met many times throughout the year but did not reach consensus, Stanek said.

The Minneapolis City Council approved a program Jan. 8 that allows employees or departments to request a waiver from the residency requirement, said Kathy Thurber, a council member. The waiver could resolve hardships such as those that had been discussed, she said, and the city has made good-faith efforts to resolve the problems.

"It became clear that short of repealing (residency requirements), nothing we could do would satisfy the labor groups," she said.

The overall labor shortage in the Twin Cities contributes to the low number of applicants for city jobs, said Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, especially in information technology and other high-demand areas. The city is responding by offering competitive wages and benefits, she said. She and Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) added that their constituents have expressed strong support for requiring city employees to live in Minneapolis.



Rebecca and Reid Brown, both Minneapolis police officers, testify about the difficulty they have maintaining two homes because of the city's residency rule. She has a home in Minneapolis while her husband, who was exempt from the rule because of a grandfather clause, has a home in the Annandale, Minn., area. The couple appeared before the House Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Committee Jan. 20.

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"This is a local decision made by the city with the support of its residents," Sayles Belton said. "Some decisions are best made locally."

She also said the residency requirement is fiscally responsible. The city employs about 5,000 people, and having people with good jobs living within the city contributes to the tax base. It also promotes community involvement and strengthens neighborhoods, she said.

Orfield said Michigan prohibits residency requirements for Detroit city employees, making it the only state that prohibits cities from making those requirements. He said Boston, Chicago, and San Francisco all have residency requirements and have seen lower crime rates in recent years.

St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman did not attend the committee meeting but submitted a letter indicating support for repealing the requirements.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

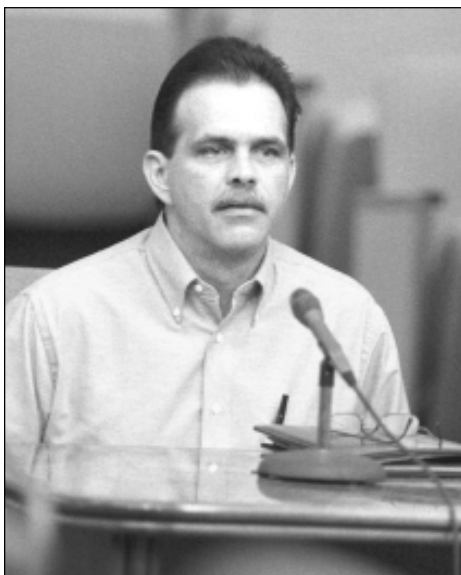
Big problem in tiny town

Rick McCaleb of Reads Landing, Minn., made a good case for a bill that would provide a special appropriation to extend sewer and water services from the city of Wabasha to his hometown.

"We've got ditches with raw sewage going right down to the Mississippi," McCaleb told members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee Jan. 19.

McCaleb described the problems caused by failing and inadequate septic systems in his community of 71 homes.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), who is



Rick McCaleb of Reads Landing, Minn., testifies in support of a bill that would provide funding for a water and sewer extension to his tiny town. McCaleb appeared before the House Jobs & Economic Development Policy Committee Jan. 19.

sponsoring the bill (HF44), said that residents of the community cannot afford the increase in water and sewer rates that would come as a result of financing the project without the state's assistance.

Some members expressed concern that a request of this sort could open the gates to more requests later.

"I'm a little worried about the precedent of doing this for one community, and then all of a sudden there's a dozen needing to do the same thing," said Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul).

The bill was laid on the table for consideration at a later date.



TAXES

Selling a rebate plan

The House Taxes Committee was expected to debate HF1, a plan to rebate a portion of the state's budget surplus based on income taxes paid, but when the gavel fell Jan. 19, the agenda changed considerably.

Members instead discussed a proposal, supported by Gov. Jesse Ventura, to rebate the state's budget surplus based on a sales tax formula.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), who chairs the committee and is sponsoring the income-tax rebate bill, said the change was made as a courtesy to the governor. He said the income tax based plan would "rest awhile" while the committee takes a look at the sales tax proposal.

Under that plan, rebate amounts would be determined from a schedule based on each eligible filer's Minnesota taxable income and estimates of average household expenditures for consumer sales tax at that income level.

The minimum rebate would be \$202 for single filers and \$384 for married joint and single head of household filers. The maximum rebate would be \$1,000 for singles and \$2,000 for others.

Rebates would be payable in August, after the state's books for the current fiscal year are closed.

Matt Smith, commissioner of the Department of Revenue, presented further details to the committee, along with Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Smith said a major plus for the plan is that the money returned wouldn't be subject to federal income tax.

But that notion was challenged by Abrams, who pressed Smith and John Haugen, a legal adviser for the Department of Revenue, to

admit there is no actual ruling on the issue and there is a "remote possibility" that the sales tax rebates may eventually be ruled taxable income.

Abrams said he doubts the state would succeed in a plan to "gin the federal government out of \$200 million." That's the estimated amount of federal income tax that would be paid under HF1.

Abrams also painted a scenario under which the plan could be challenged in a class-action suit on behalf of out-of-state residents, who paid sales tax in Minnesota but who, under the plan, would not receive any rebate money.

Smith said that in attempting to make the plan simple, there was no way to account for those consumers, including tourists and out-of-state shoppers at the Mall of America, among other retail sites.

Other challenges to the Ventura plan came from House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), who said he was dismayed that the proposal so far contained no specific help for farmers and that businesses and corporations would not receive rebates.

Sviggum said 40 percent of sales tax revenue collected was from businesses and the Ventura plan "cuts them out."

Sviggum also chided revenue department officials for telling the Legislature in the last biennium that a sales tax-based rebate plan was "not a good way to go."

Smith said that at the time that was good advice, but since the rebate based on property tax has been implemented, the vehicle is in place to easily apply the sales tax formula in the Ventura plan.

Sviggum later noted that the plan as presented requires reversing a cash-for-bonding proposal approved last year, which would require 81 votes to pass.

Sviggum said the 81 votes would be "a problem" and, given the "redistributive nature" of the plan, even 68 votes could be "somewhat of a problem."

Several DFL members spoke during the hearing, generally in favor of the plan.

"We want taxpayers to receive the benefit of every dollar that we put into the rebate program," said Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), lead DFLer on the taxes panel. "Washington didn't create our budget surplus. The hard-working Minnesota taxpayer did."

Bishop is expected to introduce a bill containing the governor's rebate plan. The committee took no action on the matter.

Skoe brings rural perspective to state policymaking

By Jon Fure

Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook) attributes his success in the 1998 election to his diverse background, but it probably didn't hurt that



Rep. Rod Skoe

as a farmer he grows two of the main ingredients in any Minnesota hot dish — wild rice and potatoes.

Skoe said the sparse population in District 2B consists of people with many different interests. Family farms can be found throughout the district, and logging is the main industry on the district's eastern edge, which is near the northwestern corner of the state. The district contains two American Indian reservations, and it attracts tourists to the Itasca State Park area.

Before he started farming with his father and uncles in 1985, Skoe worked in the logging industry. He has served as a Clearwater County commissioner and as a member of his local commodities council and school board.

"My background in logging and then farming, and my work with the school board and other committees makes me uniquely prepared to represent this diverse district," he said.

Skoe's wife, Sarah Hoagberg, is a former teacher who now works with the local school district in early childhood education and has worked with HeadStart and other programs. They have two children in junior high school — Mary, who has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and Patrick, who is active in many team sports.

Serving as a representative means he has less

time to spend with his family, but Skoe said it's a worthwhile sacrifice. He said his parents were always active in the community when he was growing up, and he credits them for being good role models.

"The only reason to do this is to make a commitment to do something positive for the area you live in," he said.

Life in St. Paul is quite a bit different than in Skoe's hometown, which has a population of about 680. But while Skoe has spent most of his life in his district, having grown up in Kelliher, Minn., big city life isn't completely foreign to him. He earned undergraduate degrees in psychology and sociology from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. His education is a little unusual for a farmer, but Skoe said it has helped him in many ways.

"I tell people I study plant populations instead of people populations," he said. "Actually, farming is a lot more than understanding the numbers. It's a business, and you have to be able to deal with people. And it's helped on the boards I've been on. You have to affect the board so that it makes good decisions."

As a county commissioner, Skoe's perspective helped influence decisions surrounding the newly formed Clearbrook Economic Development Board, which aims to grow jobs for rural residents. The board includes representatives from all of the local cities and school districts, some townships, and quite a few businesses.

As a legislator, he hopes to advocate continued crop research at the University of Minnesota, which he believes will help boost the economy throughout the state. Some of the

farms in his district have some not-so-traditional livestock — such as ostrich, emu, and buffalo — that could benefit from continued research.

"Soybeans were an experimental crop in the 1950s, and now (they are) a major crop," he said. "You can see huge economic impacts if crops are developed properly and the market is there."

Skoe doesn't expect changes to occur overnight. His first goal is to get familiar with the process of effectively moving legislation along. He describes his approach to leadership as quiet and thoughtful, and he said he doesn't plan to speak much unless his comments can benefit the whole group.

He might not be quiet for too long, as he serves on House committees that will likely benefit from his experience: Agriculture Policy, Agriculture and Rural Development Finance, and Environment and Natural Resources Policy.

Skoe also indicated an interest in speaking up during the general session to remind lawmakers from larger cities about small-town concerns.

District 2B

1995 Population: 33,412

Largest city: Bagely

Counties: Becker, Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahnomon, and Polk

Location: northwestern Minnesota

Top concern: "To bring a rural perspective to the discussion; to make sure that the way laws and regulations affect rural areas is discussed as part of the process."

— Rep. Rod Skoe



Several members of the House Taxes Committee expressed concern in a hearing Jan. 18 that Gov. Jesse Ventura's sales tax rebate plan could be considered redistribution of wealth.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and potential sponsor of the governor's proposal, said that if you look carefully, you could probably find other instances in which Minnesota law redistributes wealth.

"We are somewhat of a Marxist state," Bishop reminded the committee.

To which Rep. Ron Abrams

(R-Minnetonka) responded, "Would that be Harpo or Groucho?"

"If there's a page around, could they please throw Commissioner Weaver out of the well?" joked Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), chair of the House Crime Prevention Committee, at a Jan. 19 meeting.

Apparently former Rep. Charlie Weaver, newly appointed commissioner of public safety, isn't used to his new position — away from the committee table. He was greeting members behind the table, breaching informal separation of power etiquette.

Members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee were deep into discussion regarding the settlement between the state and large tobacco companies during a hearing Jan. 20.

Suddenly, a metal device used to cover an access spot in the ceiling above Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) let loose and fell with a clang inches in front of the committee chair.

Startled, he remarked, "I guess we'll take that as a comment on this matter from the tobacco companies."

Pawlenty aims to score on issues, put bickering on ice

By Grant Martin

With plenty of talk of bipartisan cooperation coming from both sides of the aisle, it's almost refreshing to hear new House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty talk about playing pick-up hockey with House Minority Leader Tom Pugh.

"We haven't yet been there together this year," said Pawlenty (R-Eagan). "But when he does show up, I've got my elbow pads ready for him."

The two floor adversaries — praised by members for their fairness and mild-mannered leadership — play hockey Sunday nights with a group called the Golden Sea Horses. Pawlenty calls it "clutch-and-grab hockey." Checking is not allowed.

However, Pawlenty said that Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) likes to dish it out on the ice.

"He's kind of a cheap little player," he said. "He's one of the shorter players out there, and he's not the youngest player anymore. He's not adverse to a few slashes and hacks and elbows and stuff like that."

Pugh shook off Pawlenty's criticism, claiming it stems from over-exuberance.

"We lived our glory days in high school," Pugh said. "He's still trying out for the varsity team."

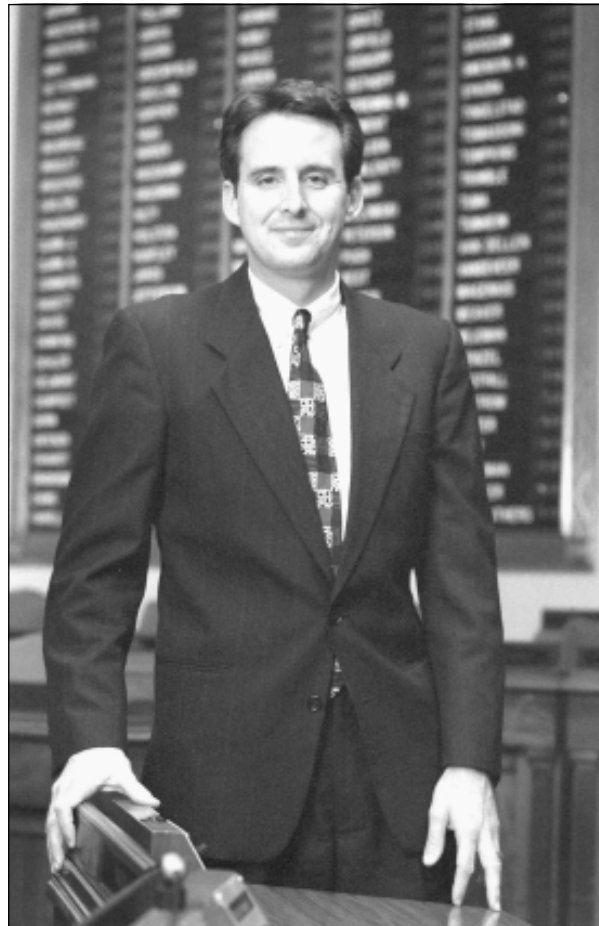
Pawlenty, the youngest in a family of five, grew up in a working class neighborhood in South St. Paul. His father worked as a truck driver, and his mother was a homemaker.

He said his background inspired him to work hard in school.

"I was a pretty serious student," he said. "My mom passed away when I was a sophomore in high school, and my dad lost his job not long after that. So I realized that I wasn't going to get a lot of financial help because I wasn't from a wealthy family. I was going to have to do it on my own. So I buckled down pretty hard."

Pawlenty attended the University of Minnesota as both an undergraduate and a law student, working several different jobs to pay for school. He said those experiences helped shape his political philosophy.

"I was working my tail off working part-time jobs, actually almost approaching full-time jobs, while going to college full time," he said. "I started to understand that there are circumstances in life where people need some help. But they also need to be accountable and



House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty hopes to build success on the "bread and butter" issues on which he believes most people support the Republican positions.

responsible and exercise initiative on their own."

Pawlenty lives in Eagan with his wife and two children. When he's not serving in the Legislature or playing hockey, he practices law with a downtown Minneapolis firm, focusing on personnel and employment issues.

His political career began in college with an internship for former U. S. Senator Dave Durenberger. Later, he became active in local government, serving as chair of Eagan's planning commission and on the Eagan City Council. He was first elected to the House in 1992.

Pawlenty has been outspoken on the direction of the Republican Party. He said that polls show that while people agree with the party on issues such as taxes, education, crime, and government reform, the party has not been entirely successful courting voters.

"As Republicans we have the right product, the right approach, on these bread and butter issues," he said. "But we have a mediocre track record in terms of how people respond to us

and if they allow us to win elections in Minnesota."

Pawlenty said that Republicans must do a better job communicating their priorities to the voters, especially groups that don't traditionally vote Republican.

"We need to make sure that we have messengers and a tone and a sense of priorities that reflects where most people are at," he said.

Inspired by the need for new leadership, Pawlenty threw his hat into the ring for governor in 1998. He dropped out of the race when St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman entered. He said he was satisfied that Coleman offered the leadership he was looking for.

When the Republicans won control of the House in November of last year, Pawlenty's peers elected him majority leader.

Pawlenty said he'll use his leadership post to enact the Republican agenda on the "bread and butter" issues. It will pay off, he said.

"If we can at the end of session say, 'We cut your taxes substantially and permanently, we cut your class sizes, we adequately funded schools, we cracked down on crime, and we cleaned up government,' that's a winning message," he said. "It's one that people in Minnesota respond to. We will be back in power, and we will retain control in 2000."

Pawlenty said that he also hopes to use his role as majority leader to keep the floor debate focused on the issues.

"My hope is that — particularly with the new era of Jesse in Minnesota — we can dial down the bickering, the sniping, the partisanship, and demonstrate to the people in Minnesota that while we have our differences — and we do have differences and they're legitimate differences — we can debate those differences in a constructive manner," he said.

However, that attitude doesn't carry over to the ice.

When asked if he's ever seen anyone take Pugh to task while playing hockey, Pawlenty said he hasn't yet.

"But I might," he said laughing.

Pugh sent the puck right back.

"If you see him after Sunday with bandages, that means I caught up with him," he said.



Lawmakers urged to create Web-friendly government



By Sarah Hallonquist

Lawmakers should begin making the most of the Internet and other technological advances to improve government services in the 21st century, Dr. Diana Oblinger told about 80 legislators at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 20.

An authority on information technology and higher education, Oblinger spoke to Minnesota lawmakers as part of the Capitol Forum, an annual series of lectures sponsored by the McKnight Foundation and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

This year's theme is information technology, and Oblinger kicked off the first forum with the topics of e-commerce and e-business. The first is the practice of buying and selling goods and services over the Internet, and the latter refers to companies who convert many of their operations to be online compatible.

For example, Oblinger said that many companies, such as IBM and Chrysler Corp., use the Internet for internal business. Human resources services can be available online 24 hours a day at IBM, and the process of ordering auto parts online saved Chrysler \$1 billion in the 1997 model year. Taking out the middleman by using the Internet has allowed companies to save money, get their products to market faster, and improve efficiency.

"What you can do with the Internet is bypass many of those steps," she said.

Oblinger spoke accompanied by a laptop computer, which she used to show World Wide Web sites to her listeners. She displayed stock pages, children's learning activities, shopping, employment networks, and government services to demonstrate the range of opportunities available via the Web.

"The real technology that we're concerned about here is the network," she said.

Oblinger acknowledged common fears some people often have about using the Internet, such as privacy and security. But she was quick to point out that because the technology will not go away, people should learn to use it.

"There is a whole new set of rules out there," she said.

Although her speech was called, "Changing Business As We Know It," Oblinger stressed



Dr. Diana Oblinger urges lawmakers to embrace new technology, especially the Internet, as they head into a new century. Oblinger spoke at the first of the 1999 Capitol Forum series events at the Minnesota History Center Jan. 20.

that many of the tactics businesses use on the Internet can also be applied to government and education. She noted several schools, including the University of Minnesota, that employ the Internet for distance education. Students can attend a "virtual university" away from campus via their computers.

In addition, some state and city governments use the Internet to provide services to citizens. In the state of Washington, there are public kiosks that provide information about 25 government agencies in multiple languages. Some states allow citizens to register for driver's licenses over the Internet, too.

"Part of the reason for this to become a growing trend in government is that there is never enough money to do what you want," she said.

Oblinger called this type of use "customer care," and said the government can enjoy some of the same benefits businesses do.

In the case of a bank, Oblinger showed figures that compared customer service costs. For a customer to go to a teller's window, the cost is \$1.50; an ATM machine reduces that cost to 35 cents. The cost is even lower over the telephone at 17 cents, and banking over the Internet is a mere 5 cents for the institution.

With the right technological infrastructure and resources, Oblinger said governments would be able to reap benefits that could be spread across otherwise ignored areas.

A question-and-answer format followed the lecture. Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) inquired about online voting, and Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) wondered if the House's office supply system could be simplified with Internet technology.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said that Minnesota's laws are made up of multiple layers and asked how the government can adapt to technology.

Oblinger responded that it would be difficult, but possible.

"We have to sometimes go completely out of the box" because the fundamental base (paper) is evaporating, she said.

After the program, Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said he found the topic interesting, especially for its potential in rural areas. However, he noted that getting areas in Greater Minnesota wired into the Internet would be a lot like rural electrification earlier in the century. And he noted that lawmakers might not jump on the Internet bandwagon too quickly.

"There are a lot of representatives and senators who are still dinosaurs when it comes to technology," Juhnke said.

Oblinger is on leave from IBM and works as the special advisor to University of North Carolina President Molly Corbett. She is the author of "What Business Wants from Higher Education" and has edited two books. She has three degrees from Iowa State: a bachelor's in botany, a master's in plant breeding, and a doctorate in cytogenetics. 🐼

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Committee Information

1999 Minnesota House of Representatives

Agriculture Policy

517 State Office Building ... (651) 296-9918

Meets: Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 22

Chair: Finseth-R

Vice Chair: Westrom-R

Lead Democrat: Wenzel-DFL

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Davids-R	Schumacher-DFL
Dorman-R	Skoe-DFL
Gunther-R	Storm-R
Harder-R	Swenson-R
Juhnke-DFL	Tunheim-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Ness-R	Westfall-R
Otremba-DFL	Winter-DFL
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Brad Biers (651) 296-4172

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebecca Lowden (651) 296-4230

Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

509 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4344

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 10

Chair: Ness-R

Vice Chair: Swenson-R

Lead Democrat: Peterson-DFL

Finseth-R	Skoe-DFL
Harder-R	Wenzel-DFL
Kubly-DFL	Westrom-R
Rostberg-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andy Gildea (651) 296-1540

Committee Legislative Assistant

Tami Charles (651) 296-9676

Fiscal Analyst

Peter Skwira (651) 296-4281

Capital Investment

451 State Office Building ... (651) 296-6316

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 21

Chair: Knoblach-R

Vice Chair: Dempsey-R

Lead Democrat: Kalis-DFL

Anderson, I.-DFL	Marko-DFL
Bishop-R	Molnau-R
Carruthers-DFL	Murphy-DFL
Daggett-R	Rhodes-R
Fuller-R	Solberg-DFL
Krinkie-R	Trimble-DFL
Leppik-R	Tuma-R
Lindner-R	Vandever-R
Luther-DFL	Wejcman-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Sarah Anderson (651) 296-8187

Committee Legislative Assistant

David Yakes (651) 296-7191

Fiscal Analyst

John C. Walz (651) 296-8236

Civil Law

503 State Office Building ... (651) 296-9188

Meets: Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in BHR*

Members: 16

Chair: Smith-R

Vice Chair: Seifert, J.-R

Lead Democrat: Carruthers-DFL

Bishop-R	Leighton-DFL
Boudreau-R	Mahoney-DFL
Broecker-R	Mullery-DFL
Dawkins-DFL	Olson-R
Holberg-R	Skoglund-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Stanek-R
Knoblach-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dennis Virden (651) 296-6860

Committee Legislative Assistant

Scott Wiggins (651) 296-5356

Commerce

367 State Office Building ... (651) 296-9278

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 26

Chair: Davids-R

Vice Chair: Paulsen-R

Lead Democrat: Jennings-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Hilty-DFL
Clark, K.-DFL	Holberg-R
Entenza-DFL	Holsten-R
Erhardt-R	Howes-R
Gerlach-R	Huntley-DFL
Gunther-R	Kahn-DFL
Haas-R	Lieder-DFL
Hasskamp-DFL	Osthoff-DFL

Ozment-R	Wagenius-DFL
Reuter-R	Wolf-R
Seifert, J.-R	Workman-R
Tomassoni-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Brian S. Fahey (651) 296-9302

Committee Legislative Assistant

Cris Wohlford (651) 297-8139

Crime Prevention

543 State Office Building ... (651) 296-5502

Meets: Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. in BHR*

Members: 17

Chair: Stanek-R

Vice Chair: Anderson, B.-R

Lead Democrat: Skoglund-DFL

Bishop-R	McGuire-DFL
Broecker-R	Mullery-DFL
Fuller-R	Murphy-DFL
Goodno-R	Paymar-DFL
Haake-R	Smith-R
Larsen-R	Wenzel-DFL
Mahoney-DFL	Westerberg-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Amy Roberts (651) 296-5533

Committee Legislative Assistant

Laurie Middleton (651) 296-4119

Education Policy

401 State Office Building ... (651) 296-5363

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 36

Chair: Mares-R

Vice Chair: Olson-R

Lead Democrat: Carlson-DFL

Abeler-R	Kielucki-R
Biernat-DFL	Leppik-R
Buesgens-R	Luther-DFL
Cassell-R	Mariani-DFL
Chaudhary-DFL	Ness-R
Dehler-R	Nornes-R
Dempsey-R	Opatz-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Otremba-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Pelowski-DFL
Erickson-R	Schumacher-DFL
Folliard-DFL	Seagren-R
Gray-DFL	Seifert, M.-R
Greiling-DFL	Stang-R
Johnson-DFL	Storm-R

Sykora-R
Tomassoni-DFL
Tuma-R

Tunheim-DFL
Wolf-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Rebecca J. Pryse (651) 296-9469

Committee Legislative Assistant

Betty L. McConnell (651) 296-5394

Environment &

Natural Resources Finance

381 State Office Building ... (651) 296-3018

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 13

Chair: Holsten-R

Vice Chair: Hackbarth-R

Lead Democrat: Osthoff-DFL

Bakk-DFL	Ozment-R
Finseth-R	Swenson-R
Howes-R	Tingelstad-R
McCollum-DFL	Wagenius-DFL
Munger-DFL	Westfall-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Ryan S. Bronson (651) 297-5723

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen S. Anderson (651) 296-8871

Fiscal Analyst

Peter Skwira (651) 296-4281

Environment &

Natural Resources Policy

479 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4306

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 10 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 22

Chair: Ozment-R

Vice Chair: Westfall-R

Lead Democrat: Munger-DFL

Anderson, I.-DFL	Osskopp-R
Bakk-DFL	Osthoff-DFL
Finseth-R	Peterson-DFL
Haas-R	Rostberg-R
Hackbarth-R	Skoe-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Swenson-R
Holsten-R	Tingelstad-R
Howes-R	Wagenius-DFL
Kelliher-DFL	Workman-R
McCollum-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Marilyn Brick (651) 296-8893

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary H. Lee (651) 296-5994

Ethics

487 State Office Building ... (651) 296-5373

Meets: Call of the Chair

Members: 6

Chair: Harder-R

Vice Chair: Milbert-DFL

Davids-R	Wagenius-DFL [†]
Murphy-DFL	[†] -alternate
Rhodes-R [†]	

Family & Early Childhood

Education Finance

403 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4315

Meets: Mon., Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 12

Chair: Sykora-R

Vice Chair: Nornes-R

Lead Democrat: McGuire-DFL

Abeler-R	Mahoney-DFL
Boudreau-R	Mariani-DFL
Bradley-R	Mulder-R
Chaudhary-DFL	Olson-R
Gray-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jared Jordal (651) 296-5318

Committee Legislative Assistant

Scott Neske (651) 296-7167

Fiscal Analyst

Cynthia Coronado Templin (651) 296-5384

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

409 State Office Building ... (651) 296-9889

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in BHR*

Members: 22

Chair: Rhodes-R

Vice Chair: Rostberg-R

Lead Democrat: Kahn-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Krinkie-R
Carlson-DFL	Lenczewski-DFL
Dehler-R	Mares-R
Erickson-R	Mullery-DFL
Folliard-DFL	Osskopp-R
Gerlach-R	Paymar-DFL
Gleason-DFL	Rest-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Reuter-R
Hilty-DFL	Seifert, M.-R
Kielkucki-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Judd L. Schetnan (651) 296-5336

Committee Legislative Assistant

Jeff Davidman (651) 296-9194

Health &

Human Services Finance

563 State Office Building ... (651) 296-5515

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 10

Chair: Goodno-R

Vice Chair: Mulder-R

Lead Democrat: Greenfield-DFL

Boudreau-R	Otremba-DFL
Bradley-R	Seifert, J.-R
Huntley-DFL	Wilkin-R
Koskinen-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Karen M. Russell (651) 296-5065

Committee Legislative Assistant

Holly Iverson (651) 296-4265

Fiscal Analyst

K. Joseph Flores (651) 296-5483

Health &

Human Services Policy

559 State Office Building ... (651) 296-9249

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 22

Chair: Bradley-R

Vice Chair: Boudreau-R

Lead Democrat: Huntley-DFL

Abeler-R	McCollum-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Mulder-R
Goodno-R	Nornes-R
Greenfield-DFL	Olson-R
Haas-R	Otremba-DFL
Howes-R	Seifert, J.-R
Jennings-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Koskinen-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Luther-DFL	Wilkin-R
Mariani-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Christine Eilertson (651) 296-7185

Committee Legislative Assistant

Cheryl A. Burke (651) 296-4375

Higher Education Finance

485 State Office Building ... (651) 296-7026

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 300S*

Members: 12

Chair: Leppik-R

Vice Chair: Dehler-R

Lead Democrat: Pelowski-DFL

Carlson-DFL	Seifert, M.-R
Cassell-R	Stang-R
Dorn-DFL	Storm-R
Folliard-DFL	Tuma-R
Opatz-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Christie Ahern (651) 296-4091

Committee Legislative Assistant

Michele Schroeder (651) 296-7168

Fiscal Analyst

Douglas E. Berg (651) 296-5346

Jobs & Economic

Development Finance

437 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4212

Meets: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 10

Chair: McElroy-R

Vice Chair: Gunther-R

Lead Democrat: Trimble-DFL

Clark, K.-DFL	Lindner-R
Davids-R	Sykora-R
Jaros-DFL	Westerberg-R
Kubly-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Denise Stephens (651) 296-5069

Committee Legislative Assistant

Ann Hoffmann (651) 296-5999

Fiscal Analyst

Ronald R. Soderberg (651) 296-4162

Jobs & Economic

Development Policy

417 State Office Building ... (651) 296-7806

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 22

Chair: Lindner-R

Vice Chair: Storm-R

Lead Democrat: Jaros-DFL

Anderson, I.-DFL	Kubly-DFL
Cassell-R	Leighton-DFL
Chaudhary-DFL	McElroy-R
Clark, K.-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Daggett-R	Stang-R
Dawkins-DFL	Sykora-R
Dorman-R	Trimble-DFL
Gray-DFL	Westerberg-R
Gunther-R	Westfall-R
Hackbarth-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Carrie Felber (651) 296-4283

Committee Legislative Assistant

Doris J. Ocel (651) 296-5355

Judiciary Finance

533 State Office Building ... (651) 296-7153

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 300S*

Members: 10

Chair: Broecker-R

Vice Chair: Holberg-R

Lead Democrat: Murphy-DFL

Fuller-R	Skoglund-DFL
Larsen-R	Smith-R
McGuire-DFL	Stanek-R
Paymar-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

John A. Lang (651) 296-3108

Committee Legislative Assistant

Denise Berger (651) 296-8857

Fiscal Analyst

Gary G. Karger (651) 296-4181

K-12 Education Finance

477 State Office Building .. (651) 296-7803

Fax: (651) 296-8803

Meets: Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 5*;
Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 17

Chair: Seagren-R

Vice Chair: Ness-R

Lead Democrat: Johnson-DFL

Abeler-R	Kielkucki-R
Biernat-DFL	Mares-R
Buesgens-R	Nornes-R
Dempsey-R	Schumacher-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Tomassoni-DFL
Erickson-R	Tunheim-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Wolf-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Gregory L. Marcus (651) 296-9468

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathryn L. Musty (651) 296-3316

Fiscal Analyst

Greg O. Crowe (651) 296-7165

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

551 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4244

Meets: Mon., Wed., 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 22

Chair: Larsen-R

Vice Chair: Tuma-R

Lead Democrat: Hasskamp-DFL

Abrams-R	Holberg-R
Clark, J.-R	Jennings-DFL
Gleason-DFL	Koskinen-DFL
Haake-R	Larson-DFL

Lenczewski-DFL

Marko-DFL

Molnau-R

Orfield-DFL

Pelowski-DFL

Reuter-R

Rifenberg-R

Rukavina-DFL

Seagren-R

Stang-R

Vandever-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Blair Tremere (651) 296-5376

Committee Legislative Assistant

Clayton J. Helmer (651) 296-5998

Rules & Legislative Administration

459 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4128

Meets: Call of the Chair

Members: 18

Chair: Pawlenty-R

Abrams-R	Pugh-DFL
Bradley-R	Seifert, M.-R
Carruthers-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Knoblach-R	Sviggum-R
Leighton-DFL	Sykora-R
McCullum-DFL	Tuma-R
Milbert-DFL	Wejcman-DFL
Ozment-R	Winter-DFL
Paulsen-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Georgie Hilker (651) 296-4276

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lesley Hinz (651) 296-9183

State Government Finance

365 State Office Building ... (651) 296-2907

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in BHR*

Members: 10

Chair: Krinkie-R

Vice Chair: Osskopp-R

Lead Democrat: Hilty-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Mullery-DFL
Gerlach-R	Reuter-R
Gleason-DFL	Rhodes-R
Kahn-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Craig Stone (651) 296-5367

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathy Heimel (651) 296-3367

Fiscal Analyst

Helen G. Roberts (651) 296-4117

Taxes

585 State Office Building ... (651) 296-9934

Meets: Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 25

Chair: Abrams-R

Vice Chair: Daggett-R

Lead Democrat: Rest-DFL

Carruthers-DFL	Lenczewski-DFL
Clark, J.-R	McElroy-R
Dawkins-DFL	Milbert-DFL
Dorman-R	Orfield-DFL
Erhardt-R	Paulsen-R
Harder-R	Rifenberg-R
Hasskamp-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Jennings-DFL	Sviggum-R
Knoblauch-R	Van Dellen-R
Kuisle-R	Wilkin-R
Leighton-DFL	Winter-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jason Rohloff (651) 296-8880

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen M. Kieffer (651) 296-5991

Fiscal Analyst

Matt Massman (651) 296-7171

Paul Wilson (651) 297-8405

Property Tax Division

591 State Office Building ... (651) 296-4363

Meets: Mon., Wed., 10 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 17

Chair: Erhardt-R

Vice Chair: Kuisle-R

Lead Democrat: Milbert-DFL

Abrams-R	Lenczewski-DFL
Clark, J.-R	McElroy-R
Daggett-R	Orfield-DFL
Dorman-R	Paulsen-R
Harder-R	Rest-DFL
Hasskamp-DFL	Van Dellen-R
Jennings-DFL	Winter-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Margaret Amundson (651) 296-7427

Committee Legislative Assistant

Erin Buie (651) 296-4999

Transportation Finance

443 State Office Building ... (651) 296-8872

Meets: Mon., Wed., 8 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 10

Chair: Molnau-R

Vice Chair: Vandever-R

Lead Democrat: Lieder-DFL

Haake-R	Larson-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Westrom-R
Juhnke-DFL	Workman-R
Kuisle-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Erik Rudeen (651) 296-5528

Committee Legislative Assistant

Margaret Dannenberg (651) 296-5336

Fiscal Analyst

John C. Walz (651) 296-8236

Transportation Policy

537 State Office Building ... (651) 296-5066

Meets: Tues., Thurs., 8 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 22

Chair: Workman-R

Vice Chair: Clark, J.-R

Lead Democrat: Hausman-DFL

Biernat-DFL	Lieder-DFL
Buesgens-R	Marko-DFL
Davids-R	Molnau-R
Haake-R	Opatz-DFL
Johnson-DFL	Rifenberg-R
Juhnke-DFL	Swenson-R
Kalis-DFL	Van Dellen-R
Kelliher-DFL	Vandever-R
Kuisle-R	Westrom-R
Larson-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Mary K. Cummins (651) 296-3244

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lois J. Spadgenske (651) 297-5603

Ways & Means

453 State Office Building ... (651) 296-0573

Meets: Call of the Chair

Members: 27

Chair: Bishop-R

Vice Chair: Haas-R

Lead Democrat: Solberg-DFL

Abrams-R	Holsten-R
Carlson-DFL	Johnson-DFL
Entenza-DFL	Kalis-DFL
Finseth-R	Kelliher-DFL
Fuller-R	Knoblauch-R
Greenfield-DFL	Krinkie-R

Molnau-R
Mulder-R
Munger-DFL
Osthoff-DFL
Pugh-DFL
Rest-DFL

Seagren-R
Stang-R
Sviggum-R
Sykora-R
Van Dellen-R
Wenzel-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Chas Anderson (651) 296-8875

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joyce G. Rogers (651) 296-9710

Fiscal Analyst

William F. Marx (651) 296-7176

This list is subject to change.

Committee Deadlines

Each year the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the process. The deadlines serve to weed out some of the thousands of bills introduced each year.

This year, committee deadlines will officially be determined by a joint House-Senate resolution. While that resolution still must be formally approved, it is set to contain the following deadlines and language further defining each deadline.

The first committee deadline will be **Friday, March 19**. That means any bill must pass out of all necessary policy committees in its house of origin.

The second committee deadline will be **Wednesday, March 31**. By that date, all bills other than those containing appropriations will have to be passed out of all policy committees in the both the House and the Senate. To meet the second deadline, bills will have to be acted upon before 4 p.m. March 31.

The third deadline will be **Friday, April 16**. All appropriations bills will have to pass out of a finance or tax committee by that date.

Of course, there are exceptions to the deadlines. The taxes committees and rules committees in both bodies are exempt. And a bill can be heard after the deadlines if the rules committee in

Where to find information

Chief Clerk's Office

211 State Capitol (651) 296-2314

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

Bill Introductions

HF150-HF244

Tuesday, Jan. 19

HF150—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Absentee ballot voting provisions modified.

HF151—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
Farm crisis; President and Congress memorialized to form a federal effort to alleviate the farm crisis.

HF152—Rostberg (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Cambridge Regional Human Services Center extended treatment options; program employees provided correctional employee retirement plan coverage.

HF153—Seifert, M. (R)
Commerce
Marshall authorized to issue additional on-sale liquor licenses.

HF154—Paulsen (R)
Crime Prevention
Motor vehicle owner allowing vehicle operation by driver with revoked license provided criminal penalties, and vehicle forfeiture authorized.

HF155—Seifert, M. (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Passing on the Farm center appropriated money.

HF156—Pawlenty (R)
Civil Law
Paternity proceedings stay of adjudication provided in certain cases during proposed adoptions.

HF157—Kuisle (R)
Transportation Policy
Laura Ingalls Wilder historic highway route modified.

HF158—Stanek (R)
Crime Prevention
Credit for time served intent clarified, presumption in favor of consecutive sentences created, specific findings required for concurrent sentences, and sentencing guidelines conforming changes required.

HF159—Sviggum (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Unicameral legislature provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF160—Bishop (R)
Civil Law
Public service corporations private property easements definite and specific descriptions provided, and requirement retroactively applied.

HF161—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Sales and use tax and motor vehicle sales tax rates reduced, and political subdivisions and lottery tickets sales tax exemption provided.

HF162—Molnau (R)
Transportation Policy
Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

HF163—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Individual income tax rates reduced.

HF164—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF165—Stang (R)
Transportation Policy
Disability license plate issuance allowed for motor vehicles modified for use by disabled persons.

HF166—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Sales and use tax rate reduced.

HF167—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
State-paid agricultural property taxes provided, and money appropriated.

HF168—Mulder (R)
Taxes
Smoking cessation devices sales tax exemption provided.

HF169—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
MinnesotaCare provider tax exemption provided for free of charge services.

HF170—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Nursing facility technology room grant program established in the Department of Health, and money appropriated.

HF171—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Infection control continuing education requirement for health-related board licensees repealed.

HF172—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Substantial bodily harm definition expanded.

HF173—Entenza (DFL)
Civil Law
Equality of rights for men and women provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF174—Stang (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Richmond annexed to the Paynesville area hospital district.

HF175—Murphy (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Nursing facility residents allowed to request the use of restraints.

HF176—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Local government correctional service retirement plan created, and actuarial cost provisions modified.

HF177—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Partial-birth abortions prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties provided.

HF178—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided.

HF179—Kielkucki (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Constitutional standard established relating to abortion, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF180—Wolf (R)
Commerce
Safety regulated for persons on amusement rides.

HF181—McCollum (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislator per diem payments eliminated and salary recommendations required.

HF182—Buesgens (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Special elections permitted in cases of certain vacancies in city offices.

HF183—Buesgens (R)
Civil Law
Civil commitment; minor chemical dependency treatment parental consent provisions modified.

HF184—Krinkie (R)
State Government Finance
United Nations trade point development previous appropriation canceled.

Thursday, Jan. 21

HF185—Opatz (DFL)
Education Policy
Elementary and middle school teachers allowed to remain with their students for multiple, consecutive school years pilot program created, and money appropriated.

HF186—Mares (R)
Commerce
Cochlear implant health plan coverage required.

HF187—Mares (R)
Transportation Policy
Century College directional signs required on both sides of I-694 before its intersection with Trunk Highway No. 120.

HF188—Kuisle (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Nursing homes' immediate jeopardy fines imposed by the Department of Health waived.

HF189—Dempsey (R)
Transportation Finance
Port development assistance program funded and money appropriated.

HF190—Harder (R)
Taxes
S corporations federal tax treatment conformity provided.

HF191—Rifenberg (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Houston County surplus state land sale authorized.

HF192—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Volunteer firefighter relief associations monthly benefit service pensions 30-year cap eliminated.

HF193—Paymar (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Emergency telephone call interference provided criminal penalties.

HF194—Juhnke (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 347, Willmar, magnet school authorized, and money appropriated.

HF195—Howes (R)**Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**

Hubbard County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF196—Anderson, B. (R)**Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**

Drainage systems transfer of access easements to storm sewer improvement districts authorized.

HF197—Pawlenty (R)**Crime Prevention**

Criminal trail final argument prosecution rebuttal provided.

HF198—Carruthers (DFL)**Taxes**

Seasonal recreational property included in the 1997 and 1998 property tax rebates.

HF199—Bishop (R)**Taxes**

Sales tax rebate provided, automatic tax rebate established, tobacco settlement proceeds deposited, capital project financing converted to general obligation bonding, capital improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF200—Milbert (DFL)**Taxes**

Market value increases limited for property tax purposes.

HF201—Mulder (R)**Taxes**

Income tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

HF202—Boudreau (R)**Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs**

Faribault tax increment financing district activities ratified.

HF203—Greenfield (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical education and research endowment fund, children's endowment fund, and tobacco prevention endowment fund created; and money appropriated.

HF204—Entenza (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; maximum allowable blood alcohol level lowered for operation of motor vehicles, recreational vehicles, watercraft, and while hunting or handling explosives.

HF205—Workman (R)**Commerce**

Professional engineering governing provisions modified.

HF206—Entenza (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

American sign language/English interpreters and transliterators required to be certified and registered, criminal and civil penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF207—Winter (DFL)**Commerce**

Electric energy installed capacity generated by wind energy conversion systems requirement clarified.

HF208—Haas (R)**Commerce**

Minnesota comprehensive health association funding continued, certain insurance-related assessment reductions allowed, medical assistance and MCHA relationship specifications sunset repealed, and money appropriated.

HF209—Bishop (R)**Capital Investment**

Capital project financing converted to general obligation bonding, capital improvements authorized, previous tax reform and reduction account funds restored to the general fund, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF210—Tuma (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Assigned student responsibility reduced for the purposes of determining grant stipends, and private college tuition cap indexed to inflation rate.

HF211—Abrams (R)**Taxes**

Noncommercial seasonal residential recreational second-tier property tax class rate reduced.

HF212—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Northome; Big Bear Country Education Center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF213—Greiling (DFL)**Education Policy**

Oral deaf education teachers exempted from American sign language licensure requirements.

HF214—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Volunteer ambulance attendant definition provided, and reimbursement provisions modified.

HF215—Howes (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Comprehensive advanced life support rural medical personnel training program established, and money appropriated.

HF216—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Pretrial status prisoner transfers between jail and workhouse authorization clarified.

HF217—Rhodes (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Chana Malka Oppen provision for least invasive procedure; mandated autopsy religious exemption created.

HF218—Tingelstad (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Youth housing programs funded and money appropriated.

HF219—Wagenius (DFL)**Education Policy**

Staff development grants established to ensure reading ability by the end of second grade, and money appropriated.

HF220—Solberg (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax penalties and interest distribution modified.

HF221—Solberg (DFL)**Taxes**

Regional high school league tournament admission tickets sales tax exemption provided.

HF222—Olson (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 882, Monticello, fund transfer authorized.

HF223—Leppik (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Tobacco prevention board and endowment fund created, and money appropriated.

HF224—Ozment (R)**Taxes**

Charitable contributions excluded from alternative minimum taxable income.

HF225—Krinkie (R)**Taxes**

Income tax rates and brackets modified, and property tax reform account repealed.

HF226—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Veto override legislative sessions provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF227—Osskopp (R)**Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**

State fire marshal special Minnesota state retirement system benefits provided.

HF228—Bishop (R)**Crime Prevention**

Sex offender registration and community notification laws expanded to include certain persons committed as mentally ill and dangerous.

HF229—Jaros (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Duluth Technology Village development grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF230—Munger (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Duluth; Lake Superior Mississippi Railroad scenic railway improved and money appropriated.

HF231—Schumacher (DFL)**Taxes**

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF232—Bishop (R)**Civil Law**

Petit juries provided in certain civil and criminal cases.

HF233—Rukavina (DFL)**Commerce**

Fireworks; limited personal use of fireworks authorized, safety guidelines affidavit required, and penalties imposed.

HF234—Lindner (R)**Taxes**

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF235—Hackbarth (R)**Taxes**

Agricultural property tax classification extended to include property used for insect sales production.

HF236—Dawkins (DFL)**Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public Employees Retirement Association service credit purchase authorized for a certain person.

HF237—Skoglund (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Automobile insurance identification card standards adopted by the commissioner of public safety.

HF238—Stanek (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Peace officer posttraumatic stress syndrome considered an occupational disease for the purpose of workers' compensation.

HF239—Rukavina (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Legal drinking age lowered to 18.

HF240—Smith (R)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; sheriffs authorized contingent fund expenditures for DWI-related violation investigations.

*Bill introductions continued
on page 23*

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.

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MONDAY, Jan. 25

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board overview, Jeanne Olson, executive director; Minnesota State Lottery overview, George Anderson, executive director.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: juvenile out-of-home placement discussion.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Department of Commerce and Department of Labor and Industry 1998 performance report reviews.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: Department of Transportation overview: Ed Cohoon, deputy commissioner; Julie Skallman, division director, State Aid for Local Transportation; Deb Levina, director, Regulatory and Policy Analysis; Al Schenkelberg, director, Office of Investment Management.

9:30 a.m.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

Harvest Prep School / Seed Academy
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: tour 1300 Olson Memorial Highway, Minneapolis, MN; hearing and testimony on challenges faced by charter schools, Tim Strom, House Research; Bill Allen, Department of Children, Families and Learning; and Bob DeBoar, New Visions Charter School.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: administrative law judge overview: Judge Duane Harves, Dakota County; Ken Nickolai, State of Minnesota Chief Administrative Law Judge; Laura Kadwell, Child Support Enforcement Division director, Department of Human Services.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources fisheries stocking program overview.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: presentation by Frank Cerra, Academic Health Center.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: family service collaboratives testimony: Joyce Krupey, supervisor, Community & Systems Collaboration, Department of Children, Families and Learning (DCFL); Barbara Yates, assistant commissioner, DCFL; John Puglesa, Beltrami County Collaborative; Chris Oldakowski, PACT 4 Families; Richard Cronk, South Hennepin Familink; Jeannie Peterson, Pope County Family Services Collaborative.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: overview presentations by Metropolitan Council and Association of Metropolitan Municipalities.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: member and staff introductions; committee rules and procedures; matters concerning telecommunications, energy, public utilities, and deregulation issues presentations, House Research, and Public Utilities Commission.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3:30 p.m.

WAYS AND MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: bill(s) referred from Capital Investment.

TUESDAY, Jan. 26

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: testimony by the Department of Health on nursing home restraints continued. HF40 (Bradley) Nursing facility residents allowed to request the use of restraints. HF60 (Haas) Supplemental private duty nursing services reimbursement allowed for spouses and others meeting financial hardship criteria.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: Workforce Investment Act presentation continued, Department of Economic Security.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Auto Theft Prevention Board's 1998 annual report; Department of Human Rights 1998 performance report; Department of Corrections contract income and expenditures from housing inmates 1998 annual reports.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: Department of Transportation presentation continued. HF77 (Stang) Surviving spouses authorized to continue to purchase special license plates issued to veterans.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration performance report presentation.

10 a.m.

**Joint CRIME PREVENTION/
JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Rich Stanek,
Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Minnesota Heals and Minneapolis
CODEFOR overviews.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF15 (Kielkucki) Graduation standards
advisory panel recommendations implemented,
Profile of Learning requirements modified, state
performance packages eliminated, and advisory
group established.

Public testimony.

Note: public testimony continued at 5 p.m.
meeting.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: to be announced.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: to be announced.

12:30 p.m.

**AGRICULTURE &
RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: testimony by spokespersons for dairy
producers, soybean growers, potato farmers,
farmer cooperatives, ethanol plants, and grain
elevators.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

Agenda: HF26 (Solberg) Mississippi Education
Center previous grantee changed to the city of
Grand Rapids, and condition imposed.

Department of Administration overview;
presentations on the building process, CAPRA,
and Americans with Disabilities Act.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids

Agenda: industry overviews of issues before the
committee; presentations by the National
Federation of Independent Business-MN,
Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota,
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, Hospitality
Minnesota, and Minnesota Parks and Trails
Council.

5 p.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF15 (Kielkucki) Graduation standards
advisory panel recommendations implemented,
Profile of Learning requirements modified, state
performance packages eliminated, and advisory
group established.

Public testimony continued.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 27

8 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: rulemaking overview, Dave Orren,
Department of Health; Jocelyn Olson, attorney
general's office; Norma Coleman, Pollution
Control Agency.

HF15 (Kielkucki) Graduation standards advisory
panel recommendations implemented, Profile
of Learning requirements modified, state
performance packages eliminated, and advisory
group established. (Discussion of Sec. 5-
Department of Children, Families and Learning
directed to convene an advisory group.)

HF118 (Erickson) State agency and department
heads to be confirmed by the Senate within one
year of appointment.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Provider Tax and Health Care Access
Fund discussion.

**JOBS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
1998 performance report review.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: Department of Public Safety budget
presentation.

9:30 a.m.

The House meets in session.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: child support collection overview, Susan
Gaertner, Ramsey County attorney; Dakota
County Attorney's Office; Laura Kadwell,
Department of Health and Human Services.

**ENVIRONMENT &
NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Citizens' Advisory Committee to
Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Heritage
presentation; overview by Department of Natural
Resources Wildlife Section.

**Joint HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE/
K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Peggy Leppik,
Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: presentation on teacher preparation
and continuing education for new teachers, Joe
Nathan, director, Center for School Change,

University of Minnesota (U of M); Jim Walker,
superintendent, North Branch; U of M School of
Education staff; national board certification and
INTASC, Mike Tillman and Judy Wain,
Department of Children, Families and Learning
(DCFL); review of teacher licensure
requirements, past and present, Lisa Larson,
House Research; improvement contracting and
aligning goals, Zona Sharp-Burke, DCFL;
mentorship, district personnel.

**Property Tax Division/
TAXES**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: to be announced.

11 a.m.

Working Group

JOBS &

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

300S 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.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

Minneapolis Grain Exchange
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: tour 400 South 4th Street, Minneapolis.

FAMILY &

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: types of child care overview; basic sliding
fee, licensing, and emerging priorities; testimony
to be announced.

**Working Group on the Taxation of
Telecommunications Services/**

Legislative Communications Commission

125 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Alice Johnson,
Sen. Steve Kelley

Agenda: to be announced.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: overview presentations by Judy Dutcher,
state auditor, and Jim Nobels, legislative auditor.

7 p.m.

FAMILY &

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

Anoka County Government Center

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka, MN; child care;
testimony to be announced.

THURSDAY, Jan. 28

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: discussion of health care costs.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: Department of Labor and Industry overview.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: review of Department of Corrections (DOC) 1998 reports on inmate health care and school based pilot project; review of DOC use of Camp Ripley facilities.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman
Agenda: HF7 (Haake) Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkle
Agenda: Department of Revenue performance report review.

10 a.m.

Joint CRIME PREVENTION/ JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Rich Stanek,
Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: Department of Corrections overview.

Joint EDUCATION POLICY/ HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares,
Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: enrollment reports presentations, Kerry Fine, House Research, and Dr. Robert Boch, Higher Education Services Office.
HF14 (Fuller) Persons convicted of criminal sexual conduct considered ineligible to be a licensed teacher.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: to be announced.

TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: to be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: Animal Health Board and Minnesota Horticultural Society.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

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

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gregory M. Davids
Agenda: industry overviews of issues before the committee; presentations by Minnesota Association of Realtors and Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

4 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener
Agenda: release and discuss program evaluation report on animal feedlot regulation.

FRIDAY, Jan. 29

7:45 a.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

Minnesota History Center
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: tour 345 Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul.

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Department of Revenue
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: tour (address to be announced).

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: to be announced.

10 a.m.

Joint CRIME PREVENTION/ JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Rich Stanek,
Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: Department of Corrections and sentencing guidelines overviews.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities overview.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: member bills.

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Bill introductions continued from page 20

HF241—Dawkins (DFL)

K-12 Education Finance

Integration revenue following students to charter schools authorized.

HF242—Dawkins (DFL)

K-12 Education Finance

School district compensatory revenue modified to reflect enrollment changes.

HF243—Dawkins (DFL)

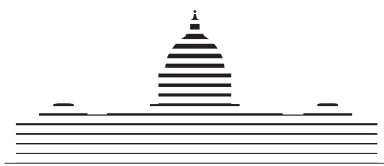
Civil Law

Public building code violations data classification provided.

HF244—Erhardt (R)

Capital Investment

Tax reform and reduction account previous additional revenue allocations modified.



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

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota Tourism

1996 total travelers to and through Minnesota, in millions	25.9
U.S. pleasure travelers	20.5
U.S. business travelers	4.4
International travelers	1.0
Visitors to Twin Cities area, as percent of total 1996 visitors	48.5
To southern Minnesota	19
To north-central or western Minnesota	17
To northeast Minnesota	15.5
Percent of 1996 tourists who went hunting, fishing, or hiking	20.4
Those who shopped	24.2
Those who gambled	5.7
Total 1997 visitors to Mall of America (state's top attraction), in millions	42.5
To Mystic Lake Casino, in millions	5.2
To Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, in millions	2.8
To Brainerd International Raceway	251,000
International flights per week into Minnesota in 1998	252
Those from Canada	189
Those from Europe	26
Those from Japan and Hong Kong	14
International visitors to Minnesota in 1996	989,000
Those from Canada	569,000
Statewide economic impact of tourism in 1996, in billions	\$9.1
Per day, in millions	\$25
Percent of Minnesota tourist dollars spent on lodging, 1996	30
On food	24
1996 tourism-related jobs in Minnesota	170,300
Total wages, in billions	\$3.7
Total Minnesota tax receipts from tourism wages and tourist spending in 1996, in billions	\$1.1

Source: 1998 Minnesota Travel and Tourism Passport, Minnesota Office of Tourism.

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