

SESSION WEEKLY

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Reflections

A century ago, the 31st Legislature convened on Jan. 3, 1899, with 119 members serving in the House and 63 in the Senate.

Unlike today's 81st Legislature, Republicans were in the majority in both the House and the Senate in 1899.

But the governor's political affiliation at the end of the 19th century was similar to that of Gov. Jesse Ventura as we head out of the 20th century. The 1899 governor, John Lind, was the first successful candidate of a fusion of political parties to hold this office. Lind was nominated in a joint convention in 1898 by the Democratic Silver Republicans and the Populists.

Before his election as governor, Lind, from New Ulm, Minn., served three terms as a Republican U.S. congressman. After one two-year term as governor, he ran for re-election in 1900 and lost. Again, in 1902, he won election to Congress — this time as a Democrat — and later served as an advisor to President Woodrow Wilson.

Some of Lind's proposals and some 1899 legislative decisions suggest similar actions as today's deliberations concerning issues of tax rebates, new methods for educating young people, ethical practices, and rights of individuals.

Lind suggested shifting more of "the burdens of taxation from the possessions of the poor to the various forms of wealth," including imposing franchise taxes on foreign and domestic corporations. As an ethics principle, Lind strongly recommended abolishing free railroad passes, and that lobbying "be legislated out of existence."

Members of that 31st Legislature, including the state's first African-American legislator, John Francis Wheaton of Edina, voted in a new civil rights law that more clearly defined the civil and legal rights of all persons. They also prohibited the docking and mutilation of horses, and established state boards of forestry and electricity and a library commission.

The Legislature also increased certain taxes; provided that students who enlisted in the Spanish-American War be entitled to free tuition at the University of Minnesota; and increased the age of consent from age 14 to 16 years. The 1899 Legislature, with the governor's signature, enacted 380 bills into law, plus four congressional resolutions and memorials to Congress.

Given the amount it costs to run a state government in 1999, Minnesota residents will never again pay the same for the far-reaching policies created by its elected officials in 1899. Gov. Lind's salary was \$5,000, while others in the executive branch earned an average of \$2,000. The 182 legislators received mileage at a rate of 15 cents a mile round-trip to and from the capitol, and \$5 a day for the legislative session that took the state into the 20th century.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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On the cover: Cass Gilbert's cantilevered marble staircase graces the northeast corner of the Capitol.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

First Reading

Senior care controversy . . .

Safety of bed rails questioned, patient needs debated



Since the Minnesota Department of Health began levying fines on nursing homes for using certain bed restraints, many facilities have removed all bed rails, prompting concern by some residents' families for the safety of their relatives.

By Paul Wahl

Are bed rails helpful devices that keep Minnesota's frail nursing home residents safely in their beds or silent killers that promote inactivity and a lower quality of life?

It depends on who you ask.

But the question has become one of the top concerns in the realm of health care policy this session.

The controversy began last spring when the Minnesota Department of Health began levying large fines on nursing homes they believed were putting residents in "immediate jeopardy" by improperly using restraints, usually bed rails.

The fines sent a ripple through the nursing home industry. In many cases, bed rails were swiftly removed in hopes of avoiding fines, an act which Linda Sutherland, head of the health department's Division of Facility and Provider Compliance, said was "overreaction."

The sudden disappearance of the bed rails left some residents, their families, and doctors perplexed. Many blamed the health department for being heavy-handed in its enforcement efforts. The department said initially it was only following guidelines handed down by the federal government.

However, Sutherland told the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Jan. 26 that the enforcement effort was based on a misunderstanding of the federal rules.

After more than \$750,000 in fines had been levied, Sutherland said federal officials offered clarification.

"We were under the understanding that in cases of immediate jeopardy, we had to fine," Sutherland said. "Later we learned that the fines weren't mandatory."

The department has since gone back and asked that most of the fines be rescinded, an idea federal officials have spurned.

By late summer, despite several educational efforts initiated by the health department, a firestorm of protests had begun reaching the ears of legislators. Constituents complained loudly that the capricious actions of the department had put their loved ones in harm's way, and people wondered about their rights as consumers.

Sheldon Tollin's story was similar to those heard repeatedly by the committee. Tollin's wife has been a nursing home resident for the past nine years. For most of those years she's had full bed rails.

He told the committee that she's 72 years

old, blind, confused, and has a convulsive disorder, yet her bed rails were ordered modified to half the length of her bed to serve as "mobility expeditors."

"She's not ambulatory," Tollin told the committee. "These people from the health department have all their degrees, but they don't have a degree in common sense."

Peg Neumann of Prior Lake told the committee her elderly mother's bed rails were removed July 24, 1998. A week later, she fell out of bed. Two days later, she fell out of bed twice in one day.

The next day the nursing home placed a mattress on the floor alongside her bed to cushion any future falls, rather than replace the bed rails as the family requested.

Neumann said she was concerned the mattress may have presented yet another danger—suffocation. She testified that she placed her head face-down on the vinyl-covered mattress and found breathing difficult.

Sutherland and others from the department say the use of restraints—including bed rails—is what's most dangerous, and much of the impetus for removing them has come from the federal government.

In 1987, the U.S. Congress passed a law that

called for reducing the use of restraints. The federal government said it believed nursing homes too often were using restraints for their convenience, to keep residents in check rather than as therapeutic devices.

In 1992, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued a safety alert to the potential hazards of restraints after finding that reduced use of restraints coincided with decreases in injury. Federal regulators said the risks from immobilization — including infections, pressure ulcers, chronic constipation, and mental confusion — were far greater than the risk of falling out of bed.

They also cited instances in which patients had been strangled while struggling with restraint devices or had suffered more severe falls attempting to climb over bed rails.

“There is no study finding that restraints, on balance, benefit nursing home residents,” Dr. Steven Miles of the University of Minnesota Department of Geriatric Medicine told the committee in a written statement. “Restraints harm the mental and physical health of residents. Restraints are ineffective at preventing falls and may increase injurious falls in the person most likely to fall.”

The emotional nature and complexity of the issue has proven to be a formidable challenge in crafting legislation that will clarify when bed rails can be used.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) is sponsoring a bill (**HF40**) that he says will affirm the rights of patients and their families when dealing with nursing homes, doctors, and the health department.

Hearings on the bill began Jan. 26.

“Whether it’s fact or perception, many families feel powerless today,” Bradley said. “Right now, there’s a lot of confusion, frustration, and fear.”

The bill would give nursing facility residents, family members of residents who are not competent, and legal representatives the right to request and consent to the use of physical restraints.

It also would assert that use of bed rails must be prescribed by a physician and that the prescription must be based on medical symptoms, including concern for the physical safety of a resident.

Sutherland said that some homes were fined, despite the fact that bed rails were being used under doctor’s orders, because there was no compelling medical reason. To complicate matters further, bed rails are not always considered a restraint under federal definition. They may instead be considered assistive or positioning devices.

Bradley admits that if his bill becomes law,

Bed rails continued on page 14

Many original furnishings in use, many gone



Most office buildings don’t have furniture designed along with their architectural blueprints. But plans for the Minnesota State Capitol tell a different story.

Cass Gilbert, the architect who crafted the vision for the Capitol, specially designed many of the 1,600 pieces of original furniture placed there in 1905.

Today, slightly more than half of those pieces are known to still be around the Capitol complex. Those that are left — including benches, chairs, signs, and the oval table in the governor’s reception room — are purposely kept in the Capitol’s public spaces and offices.

The House speaker’s chair, for example, was kept in the House retiring room, just behind the chamber, for many years. At one time, the House sold the original desk chairs to members. But because too many people were interested in buying the speaker’s chair, with its swivel base and ornate carving, the House decided to keep it.

During the 1989 restoration of the House chamber, the chair was repaired and put back in its original place. Its match sits in the Senate chamber for use by the president of the Senate.

But the fate of other original Capitol furnishings has not always been so easy to trace.

In 1989, a report called “Attention To Detail: 1905 Furniture of the Minnesota State Capitol” was published by the Capitol Historic Site Program, part of the Minnesota Historical Society. The document is a catalog of efforts in the mid-1980s to preserve the original furniture. It includes design sketches of each piece, along with manufacturers, and then-and-now quantity lists for the hundreds of chairs, desks, wardrobes, and tables that grace the Capitol’s public spaces and offices.

Working from the original inventory list, historians and researchers went about looking for the 1905 pieces. And it was no easy task.

“You just had to do a lot of walking

through,” said Carolyn Kompelien, manager of the historic site.

There are two categories of the 1905 furniture: pieces designed by Gilbert and specially commissioned and standard pieces ordered from furniture companies in Cleveland and New York City.

Many pieces were found in Capitol offices or the House and Senate chambers. But in the end, Capitol furniture turned up in 15 different buildings, including the Hastings Veterans Home. One easy chair was even located on a loading dock waiting to be discarded.

Sometimes people were hesitant to give up pieces found in their offices. In fact, the House speaker once had to write a letter requesting that a certain piece of furniture be returned to the Capitol.

“I think the biggest question was, ‘Are you going to take this away from me?’” Kompelien said.

But most people have been cooperative in helping to restore the furniture for use in public parts of the Capitol. With the furniture project and other restoration efforts, the grandeur of the building has been able to be maintained for nearly a century.

“Try to imagine the House and Senate (chambers) without their desks,” Kompelien said.

The future of furniture searches and restoration remains uncertain. Kompelien said the issue is always included in her program’s capital budget requests, but its fate depends on the people in elected office. Last year, the Legislature appropriated

money to finish the renovations of the Capitol cafeteria, a project scheduled for completion in January 2000.

Former Gov. Rudy Perpich and his wife, Lola, took an interest in historical preservation

efforts during his administration, which allowed for the furniture project in the mid-1980s. But there hasn’t been much funding dedicated to it since then.

“It’s not something you can do without that support,” Kompelien said.

It’s a Fact continued on page 14



Phylliss Miller, right, of Prior Lake, Minn., and Ed Gold of Rochester, Minn., both students in wood refinishing at Dakota County Technical College, put their skills to work on an original Capitol bench.

Highlights



CRIME

Taking a byte out of crime

Serious crime in the city of Minneapolis is down 16 percent from 1997 — the largest drop in about two decades. Officials say that a strategy called CODEFOR is the one of the main reasons.

City officials reported their findings to a joint meeting of the House Crime Prevention and Judiciary Finance committees Jan. 26.

"I've been in policing 32 years, and I've been in charge of four police departments," said Minneapolis Police Chief Robert Olson. "I have never seen such a remarkable result stemming from a management strategy."

Officials reported that compared with 1997 numbers, robbery is down 28 percent, auto theft is down 22 percent, burglary is down 21 percent, and rape is down 13 percent. They said that the homicide rate stayed relatively the same with 61 murders in 1998 compared to 58 in 1997.

CODEFOR, which stands for Computer Optimized Deployment — Focus on Results, was implemented by the department in February 1998. The plan uses computer analysis to deploy police resources based on daily reports of crime. Officers also meet weekly to refine the overall strategy.

The management plan also seeks to actively involve the community in policing, holds precincts and divisions accountable for results, and focuses on crime reduction as the overall police mission.

Officials said that the plan's focus on effective results has meant more collaborations between precincts and community groups, and has meant a more active response to misdemeanor and quality of life crimes by police.

Lucy Gerold of the Minneapolis Police Department said that CODEFOR was modeled on a program in New York City. She said they took the best parts of the plan and changed what they felt wouldn't work.

For example, New York City saw a 60 percent increase in complaints against officers as a result of their program, but Minneapolis actually saw a 40 percent decrease in complaints, she said.

Police officials told the committee that prior to CODEFOR, they relied on random patrols and 911 responses as their main anti-crime strategy.

Improving data on criminals

A consortium made up of corporate, community, and law enforcement groups is calling on legislators to address what they call the "non-system" of criminal justice information.

Representatives of Minnesota HEALS — which stands for Minnesota for Hope, Education, and Law and Safety — told members of the House Crime Prevention and Judiciary Finance committees Jan. 26 that they will be seeking funds for a criminal justice information pilot project in Hennepin County.

The project would strengthen law enforcement efforts, connecting police, courts, and social service agencies. For example, a new information system would standardize all arrest information into one system. The same information on a suspect would be available in the squad car, the county attorney's office, and the courtroom.

If successful, the county project could then become the model for a statewide criminal justice information system.

Minnesota HEALS was started by corporate leaders in 1997 in response to a rise in violent crime. The organization is working in several at-risk Twin City neighborhoods to address crime, housing, employment, and health issues.

Curt Johnson, former chair of the Metropolitan Council and Minnesota HEALS spokesperson, said the current information system varies from large databases to files in shoe boxes. He said a more comprehensive system is necessary to restore confidence in the system.

"It will restore credibility to the citizen, the real customer of the system," he said.

Johnson said the proposal would call for a long-term commitment from the Legislature to fund statewide systems, and may require a serious look at the state's data privacy laws.

Johnson said he will be back before lawmakers this session with specifics of the plan.



EDUCATION

Profile program in jeopardy

The jury is still out on the Profile of Learning.

The House Education Policy Committee continued testimony Jan. 26 on a bill that would amend the controversial Profile of

Learning portion of the state's Graduation Standards initiative.

The bill (HF15), sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), aims to trim Profile of Learning requirements for satisfying the state's graduation requirements. The bill would reduce the required learning areas, eliminate performance packages, and allow standardized testing in 11th grade.

The committee heard public testimony from more than 50 parents, teachers, school administrators, and students.

In a packed hearing room, witnesses voiced both support and opposition for the Profile of Learning, which is still in its beginning phases of implementation throughout the state.

"You're being asked to undo 10 years of work . . . because in the first five months there has been some alarm," said Joe Wemette, a curriculum director for the North St. Paul-Maplewood School District. "I'm alarmed at House File 15."

Others cited cost and time-management concerns with the Profile of Learning, which directs teachers to document each student's progress as they complete 21 required and three elective content standards.

Instead of improving education, La Crescent teacher Cheryl Moen said, the Profile of Learning "has all the earmarks for lowering educational standards."

Moen urged the committee to eliminate the initiative altogether.

"Educators have no ownership in this program," she said.

Many witnesses expressed support for some part of the Profile of Learning, but asked for more implementation time and more precise record-keeping procedures. However, there was little common ground to be found amid the bulk of testimony, demonstrating that the debate is far from a clear-cut solution.

After hearing the many perspectives from witnesses, Kielkucki said it was hard to say where his bill was headed. But he did say there will be some changes to the current bill.

"What we want to have come out (of committee) is something that's going to work," Kielkucki said.

He said he was especially moved by testimony from Brendon Roediger, a former student of the St. Paul Learning Center, a school for children with chemical dependency problems.

Roediger and teacher Paul Grehl both

stressed the importance of the school's impact on at-risk children and said the Profile of Learning would not work with those students, who often do not follow mainstream lesson plans.

"If I am forced to implement those standards, I've got to close my doors," Grehl said.

Kielkucki said he had not considered what kind of impact the plan would have on non-traditional schools like St. Paul Learning Center or special education programs.

"You don't realize that your legislation can have a negative impact," he said.

Because of the packed schedule of witnesses, the committee did not discuss the testimony, and more testimony is expected from teacher organizations before the committee takes action on the bill.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee also considered a portion of the bill Jan. 27. That portion calls for an advisory committee to deal with the problem of students failing to meet Profile of Learning requirements.

That committee added an amendment to the bill that would increase the advisory group's membership to include more students, parents, and teachers, as well as representatives from state boards and colleges.

HF15 awaits action in the Education Policy Committee.

Teacher license changes mulled

Minnesotans aspiring to be educators may soon be faced with new rules for obtaining a teacher's license.

Possible licensing changes were discussed at a joint meeting of the House Higher Education Finance and K-12 Education Finance committees Jan. 27.

The proposed changes stem from 1993, when the Legislature directed the state Board of Teaching to adopt new rules for teacher licensure. The board's proposal is a set of 48 rules (reduced from the current 128) that focus on outcomes related to the state's graduation rule.

Those rules are currently being reviewed by an administrative law process, and could be adopted by the board as early as March. If adopted, they would affect teachers obtaining licenses on or after Sept. 1, 2001.

Committee members heard from several groups who currently train or want to train students in the educational field.

Jim Walker, superintendent of the North Branch School District, presented an informal plan for creating a teacher training academy in his district. The plan would allow for on-the-job training while students attend a post-secondary institution.

Officials from the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota also detailed their post-baccalaureate program for teacher licensing. U of M students must have a bachelor's degree before enrolling in the 12- to 18-month program for teacher training.

Joe Nathan, of the Center for School Change at the U of M, shared results from a survey of administrators' views of teacher preparation. Nathan said that while respondents reported that new teachers are well prepared in subject areas, they are not as well prepared to teach the state's graduation requirements. To help new teachers, Nathan suggested longer student teaching time and a master's program offered on-site at K-12 schools that are performing well.



EMPLOYMENT

Federal jobs program examined

Last year, the U.S. Congress passed legislation seeking to streamline job training nationwide, but some Minnesota groups worry that the changes may not address the state's employment issues.

Officials from the Minnesota Department of Economic Security reviewed the new Workforce Investment Act with members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee Jan. 22.

The new law, signed by President Clinton in August 1998, does not change funding levels, but seeks to make current resources more effective.

Borrowing from Minnesota's Workforce Centers, the Workforce Investment Act stresses the "one-stop" approach, where job services are housed in one neighborhood office.

The new law also establishes workforce investment boards made up of representatives of business, labor, and community organizations to establish state and local job training strategies. And the law provides criteria to assess the individual program's success based on employee and employer expectations.

However, Lyle Wray of the Citizens League said he isn't sure the changes will necessarily lead to substantial improvements.

"Is the (Workforce Investment Act) just rearranging the deck chairs or is it an opportunity for serious change?" he said.

Wray said that while the new law does a good job at tailoring job training for the individual, the criteria for performance is still based on unemployment reduction. He said that performance should be based on providing better skills for higher wage jobs, especially

considering Minnesota's current labor shortage.

Kristine Jacobs, of the Jobs Now Coalition, told the committee that the new federal program still uses labor market indicators that do not give an accurate picture of the economy.

Jacobs referred to a study done by her organization that examined the federal government's poverty guidelines compared to minimum family budgets in Minnesota. According to the study, the cost of meeting the basic needs for a single-parent family with one child in Minnesota is two times the poverty guideline.



FAMILY

Child support cases in question

A state Supreme Court ruling will force the Legislature to change the way most child support hearings are conducted in Minnesota.

In a ruling released Jan. 28, the court stated that the administrative hearing process for child support cases violates the separation of powers outlined in the state constitution.

Under current law, child support cases involving public authorities are heard through an administrative law process. Because counties often enforce child support payments, these cases account for most child support cases.

The Legislature created a pilot project in 1987 and moved these cases from the state's district courts in 1995. Supporters argued that such cases should be moved to provide a more expedient process and a more informal setting in which to decide them.

The Office of Administrative Hearings had about 12,000 child support hearings last year. Officials said that 93 percent of all child support orders were issued within 30 days of the hearing.

But last year, the state Court of Appeals ruled that the administrative hearing process violates the separation of powers clause in the Minnesota Constitution. The court concluded that such decisions belong in the judicial branch and not in the executive branch. The appeals court suspended the effect of their ruling until the case could be heard by the Supreme Court. Those arguments were heard on Dec. 7, 1998.

The Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's ruling.

"While evidence of the administrative child support process's efficacy is hotly disputed by the parties, there is no controversy about the importance of streamlining child support mechanisms," the Supreme Court ruling states. "Nonetheless, the importance of this shared

goal cannot ignore separation of powers constraints.”

The Supreme Court stayed the effect of the ruling until July 1 to give the Legislature time to modify the system.

Officials of the Office of Administrative Hearings told members of the House Civil Law Committee Jan. 25 that lawmakers might have to redraft rules governing the process through which certain cases are heard.

Ken Nickolai, chief administrative law judge, told the committee that the Legislature might have to change the way these cases are handled by the administrative process or may have to consider how to place these cases back to the district courts.

Duane Harves, chief judge of the 1st Judicial District, said that he favors keeping the process as it is. He said that expedient child support hearings are an important factor in keeping people off of welfare.

“As we know, if we get these people child support, and get it to them early, we can keep these people off public benefits,” he said.

Harves said that with an already increasing caseload, judges in his district didn’t want the added responsibility of hearing the cases.

But Gary Meyer, chief judge of the 10th Judicial District, said child support cases belong in the courts and that the transition could be made back to an efficient judicial process.

“I believe that child support cases belong back in the judicial branch,” he said. “You give it back to us, and we would handle it — as long as you give us the resources to do it.”

No pay, no play

If you don’t pay your child support, you may lose your right to hunt and fish in Minnesota.

Officials from the Minnesota Department of Human Services gave a presentation on the state’s child support collection efforts before the House Civil Law Committee Jan. 28.

Laura Kadwell, director of the department’s Child Support Enforcement Division, said she will be bringing forward legislation that would give the state the power to revoke recreational licenses for individuals who don’t pay.

She said the 1996 federal welfare law requires all states to enact such penalties and that the state could lose up to \$13 million in federal funding if it doesn’t pass the law. Minnesota is one of two states that has yet to comply.

Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner also testified about her agency’s efforts to collect support payments. She said that her office views itself as a collection agency, not a social service organization.

“The end result of treating this like a business is that the children in my community are being cared for,” she said.

Gaertner said she supports the proposal to make recreational licenses revocable. She said that it would give her agency another tool to make sure payments are made.

“If someone cannot provide for their responsibilities in their community, do we really want to protect their right to hunt and fish?” she asked.



GAMBLING

Slots for horse track

Don’t think of a proposal to allow casino gaming at Canterbury Park as an expansion of gaming in Minnesota. Think of it as a way to help yet another ailing sector of the state’s agricultural economy.

That was the apparent message from Richard Woodruff, past vice president of the Minnesota Thoroughbred Association, to the House Agriculture and Rural Development

Finance Committee Jan. 21.

Woodruff said plans to use proceeds from gaming to enhance thoroughbred racing purses could spur a resurgence in Minnesota breeding farms, whose numbers have dropped from 400 to under 50 in the past 15 years.

Woodruff said Canterbury shortened the number of racing days to increase purse size, but it’s still not enough.

Burt Dahlberg of Lakeville, who operates a thoroughbred farm, said not only have farms disappeared but many of the remaining ones have moved portions of their operations to other states. That means money that would normally be spent in Minnesota is spent elsewhere.

“Purse drives the business,” Dahl explained to the committee. “Bigger purses mean better mares and better stallions and more farms, and that snowballs into more commerce. We think it can be a good industry once again.”

Both Woodruff and Dahlberg testified that a similar plan to link gaming and horseracing in Iowa has worked well.

They produced a chart that showed substantially higher purses in Iowa as a result of gaming revenue being added.

Their testimony was part of a plan by committee chair Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) to hear from as many areas of agriculture interests in the state as possible. Also testifying Jan. 21 were representatives of the Minnesota Barley Growers Association, Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers, Minnesota Turkey Producers, Minnesota Sugar Beet Growers, and Minnesota Cattlemen’s Association.

Non-smoking guns



Dan Johnson, front, executive director of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, and William R. Gold, the insurance company’s chief medical officer, testify about current smoking cessation, prevention, and research efforts. The two appeared before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Jan. 22.



GOVERNMENT

From lawmaker to lobbyist

Former legislators would be prevented from lobbying at the Capitol for one year after leaving office, under a bill approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Jan. 22.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), the bill’s sponsor, said his goal is to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

“This is not meant to be a cure-all for everything, but I think it is a step in the right direction to solve, if not a problem, a perception of a problem that there is a revolving door where legislators are cashing in on their friendships by immediately taking a job as a lobbyist for a special interest group,” he said.

Sviggum said lobbyists play an important role in the legislative process and that his bill is not meant as a critical statement on the lobbying profession.

But, he added, legislators have a special bond, and they develop friendships while working together. Those friendships with former colleagues could give former legislators an unfair advantage over other lobbyists.

But Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) said in his experience, former legislators have not taken advantage of friendships when they've become lobbyists. He said a better approach would be to try to educate the public to correct this misconception.

"This seems to be a solution in search of a problem. If we do this it suggests to the public that something is wrong, and that isn't true," he said.

Dave Schultz, president of the government watchdog group Common Cause, testified in favor of the bill. He said the measure would be similar to a business owner or employee signing a covenant not to compete. And he said the bill would also take away the incentive for exchanging favors, such as a legislator agreeing to support a cause in exchange for a job after leaving office.

Lobbyist Wy Spano testified against the bill, saying Minnesota already has better regulations on lobbying than any other state.

Similar legislation has been introduced and voted down in recent years, but Sviggum said that was partly because so many amendments were added to earlier bills. He encouraged committee members to pass the bill without amendments and said that separate legislation could address the other concerns.

Several committee members asked whether the bill should apply to legislative staff, judges, or commissioners of state departments or agencies, but Sviggum said his goal is to keep it specific to former legislators.

The bill (**HF9**) goes to the House floor.

Time limit on confirmations

A bill that would give the Senate a deadline for confirming the appointments of state agency commissioners was approved Jan. 27 by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), the Senate would have to confirm the appointment of a commissioner within one year of the governor making the appointment.

A new commissioner would have to be appointed if the Senate fails to confirm the appointment within the given time.

The bill also states that no person would be allowed to serve as temporary or acting commissioner for more than one year in a consecutive term.

The bill (**HF118**) goes to the House floor.

Going with the grain



Members of the House Agriculture Policy Committee take a look at a lively trading pit during a Jan. 27 tour of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange.



HIGHER EDUCATION

Back pains and health gains

"Sit and be fit" was the lesson legislators learned during a meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 25.

Rachel Bakken, a second-year student in physical therapy at the University of Minnesota, taught committee members how to stay relaxed while sitting in committee meetings and floor sessions all day long.

"I'm here because you guys sit all day long," said Bakken, who was on hand as part of an overview of the university's Academic Health Center.

Bakken demonstrated neck rolls, stretches, and muscle toning exercises designed to relieve the stress that long hours of sitting can put on body muscles and posture.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) was impressed enough to ask that the exercises be included in every meeting. Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), committee chair, declared that exercises would be allowed halfway through meetings, at 11 a.m.

Dr. Frank Cerra, senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota, introduced lawmakers to the Academic Health Center's programs and faculty.

The center houses the university's medical school and six other departments including public health, nursing, and veterinary medicine. Operating on a \$544 million budget, the center receives about 16 percent of its funding from the state. Nearly two-thirds of the state's

health professionals are educated through the U of M system.

Of the U of M's expected \$1.28 billion biennial budget request this year, \$37 million would go toward health professional education.

About 5,000 students and residents and 1,300 faculty members make up the Academic Health Center. Sixty-two degree programs are offered in 32 medical disciplines. Medical school students and faculty work in Fairview University Medical Center, a hospital that is the product of a merger two years ago of the old university hospital and Fairview Health Systems.

In addition to the cadre of deans and administrators Cerra brought with him, a bald eagle and a falcon came along to advertise the school's Raptor Center.

The university will return to the Legislature to make its formal budget request following Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget recommendations.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Residency rules face repeal

Minneapolis and St. Paul would not be able to continue to require city employees to live within their cities, under a bill passed by the House Jan. 25.

The bill (**HF133**) would repeal existing laws that allows those cities to make residency a condition for employment.

Proponents of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), argued that

residency requirements make it more difficult for those cities to hire and retain qualified employees.

Stanek, who works as a Minneapolis police officer, said residency requirements also violate people's basic right to choose where they live.

The Legislature passed measures allowing residency requirements for Minneapolis in 1993 and for St. Paul in 1994. People hired since the requirements took effect have been required to live in the city (after a grace period to allow time to find housing).

The requirements do not apply to people already working for the cities when the residency requirements were approved.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) called Stanek's bill a "deal breaker" and urged members to vote against it.

"The deal was, if you get hired for this job — and these are good jobs — all you have to do is live there," Skoglund said. "It's not something anybody sprung on them."

Rep. Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls) also spoke against the bill, saying his constituents strongly support residency requirements, especially for police officers. Some areas in larger cities have more poverty and crime than do suburbs, he said, and police officers who live outside Minneapolis are less sympathetic to victims of crimes than officers who live in the city.

Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) asked Stanek, who is exempt from the residency requirements because of the grandfather clause, if he would lead efforts to ensure the police will have empathy for city residents should the requirements be lifted. Stanek said he has worked hard to do that and will continue to do so.

St. Paul has had fewer complaints about its employment policies, said Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), who proposed an amendment that would have preserved St. Paul's right to set residency requirements. The amendment failed.

The bill, which passed on a 94-37 vote, moves to the Senate.



MILITARY

Special plates for spouses

Surviving spouses of war veterans would be able to purchase special license plates, under a bill approved by the House Transportation Policy Committee Jan. 26.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring), would extend the privilege of purchasing veterans' plates to surviving spouses of all veterans from both world wars and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf. Spouses of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, Pearl Harbor survivors, and combat-wounded veterans would benefit from the bill, too.

Under current law, only spouses of ex-prisoners of war can continue to purchase the special plates after their spouses die. Stang said a few of his constituents contacted him requesting the bill. They want to continue recognizing their spouses' veteran status.

"There was an inconsistency," Stang said. "We just took up the provisions that were not included and added them."

There is an additional \$10 fee for veterans' plates, but ex-POWs and Congressional Medal of Honor recipients do not pay the fee. The veterans' plates have to be renewed each year and replaced every seven years like regular state-issued plates.

An amendment allowing those waiting for the special plates in the mail to display a 21-

day permit in their rear car windows was added to the proposal during the committee hearing. Currently, people who apply for veteran plates must affix regular plates to their cars, then remove them again when the veterans' plates arrive.

Jack Wildes, of the public safety department's Driver and Vehicle Services Division, said the amendment was merely a housekeeping issue. Wildes said the measure would save the state \$2.50 for each set of plates and would save consumers the time of switching license plates several times.

The bill (HF77) moves to the House floor.



TAXES

Setback for bonding plan

A portion of Gov. Jesse Ventura's sales tax rebate plan — flying solo — was rejected by the House Jan. 28 on a 66-67 vote.

The bill (HF209) would repeal a provision in the 1998 tax law requiring that \$400 million of the projected budget surplus be used to pay for projects in last year's capital projects law.

The cash-to-bonding proposal is an essential element in the governor's \$1.1 billion rebate plan, which would provide a rebate based on projected sales tax payments. Also, under his plan, the governor would use the first \$400 million payment of the tobacco settlement to create a medical research fund.

Bill sponsor Rep. Dave Bishop

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.

Home-school hunt



Karen Stiehl and her two daughters, fourth-grader Samantha, left, and third-grader Lauren, all of Cannon Falls, Minn., prepare to go on a hunt to learn more about the art and architecture of the Capitol. Stiehl, who home-schools her daughters, brought them to a Capitol rally celebrating home schooling Jan. 26.

(R-Rochester), who is also sponsoring the governor's full tax rebate plan (**HF199**), said that approving the first part of the governor's proposal would represent a step toward cooperation.

"This is the first important piece of genuine collaboration in the three-party government," Bishop said.

But the bill didn't come close to getting the 81 votes required by the constitution to approve a bonding bill.

Some DFLers said that while they supported the governor's sales tax proposal and the cash-to-bonding provision, they couldn't support the cash-to-bonding plan by itself.

Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) said that his caucus could not support the plan without knowing where the funds would go.

"We don't know how it is to be dispersed," Pugh said.

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

A provision in last year's tax law directed the Department of Finance to replace \$400 million of the bonded sum with a \$400 million cash payment if a sufficient budget surplus was projected for the remainder of the 1998-1999 biennium. That makes the bonding package 90 percent cash.

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

Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) said he would offer a motion to reconsider the cash-to-bonding proposal when a tax rebate bill is debated.

Millions in unclaimed rebates

While legislators are focused on the state budget surplus and proposals for rebates, the House Governmental Operation and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee discussed the status of rebates that were payable in 1998.

Of the property owners and renters who were eligible for those rebates, only 70 percent have filed, said Bev Driscoll, assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Some of the people who did not file for rebates may have been confused about the difference between a tax rebate and a tax refund, Driscoll said.

The rebate was new last year, so some people may not have understood that it was in addition to the refund. Others may have chosen not to file if the rebate was too small, she said.

A revenue department report states that the average rebate in 1998 was \$265 and the rebates were given to 1.2 million homeowners and 415,000 renters.

One of the department's highest priorities is to completely re-engineer its computer system. The computer system consists of about 300 different applications in many different programming languages, Driscoll said.

The department has requested \$8 million for that purpose. Some parts of the system have been used for 30 years and are long outdated, she said.

The department processes returns for 3 million taxpayers and collects and distributes millions of dollars in taxes, so a system failure would be disastrous, she said.

Driscoll said the department made adjustments in 72,000 returns in processing last year's tax returns. Those adjustments led to \$10 million that was returned immediately, because people made errors and paid too much. The department also took in \$20 million in additional taxes collected due to errors that caused taxpayers to pay too little. The adjustments netted \$10 million in additional revenue.



When Bev Driscoll, assistant commissioner of the Department of Revenue, presented her agency's annual report to the House Taxes Committee Jan. 28, she mentioned her department's move to a new building as a major accomplishment of the past year.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the committee, asked why there is no identifying sign in front of the new building. "They could be making widgets or playing basketball in there," Abrams said of the new Capitol complex building.

Driscoll said she would welcome his efforts to determine why there is no sign on the building, and Abrams wondered whether a letter or a bill would be most appropriate.

"Money for a sign for the Department of Revenue . . . try getting that out of Krinkie," joked Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), referring to Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the House State Government Finance Committee, who has a reputation for frugality.

Eagle eyed



Luke, a bald eagle rescued by the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, focuses all his attention on the center's educational staffer Nell Henry during a meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee. The pair appeared Jan. 25 with other representatives of the U of M's Academic Health Center to give an overview of the school's programs.

Minnesota House of Representatives

1999-2000 Standing Committee Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9:45 a.m.	Health & Human Services Finance Jobs & Economic Development Finance Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Transportation Finance	Health & Human Services Policy Jobs & Economic Development Policy State Government Finance Transportation Policy Judiciary Finance	Health & Human Services Finance Jobs & Economic Development Finance Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Transportation Finance	Health & Human Services Policy Jobs & Economic Development Policy State Government Finance Transportation Policy Judiciary Finance	Health & Human Services Finance Jobs & Economic Development Finance Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
10-11:45 a.m.	K-12 Education Finance Higher Education Finance Property Tax Division Civil Law Environment & Natural Resources Finance	Education Policy Taxes Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Policy	K-12 Education Finance Higher Education Finance Property Tax Division Civil Law Environment & Natural Resources Finance	Education Policy Taxes Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Policy	K-12 Education Finance Higher Education Finance Taxes Crime Prevention Environment & Natural Resources Finance
12:30-2:15 p.m.	Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs	Capital Investment Commerce Agriculture & Rural Development Finance	Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Agriculture Policy	Capital Investment Commerce Agriculture & Rural Development Finance	
2:30-4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION			HOUSE IN SESSION	

Ways & Means, Rules & Legislative Administration, and Ethics meet at the call of the chair.

B=Basement Hearing Room

Full committees are in bold.

All rooms in State Office Building.

Jan. 28, 1999

Board monitors the interaction of lawmakers, lobbyists

By Paul Wahl

There are about 1,400 lobbyists roaming the halls of the Capitol. And each year, millions of dollars are spent in an effort to sway lawmakers.

The task of monitoring those activities falls to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.

Jeanne Olson has headed the agency — formerly the Ethical Practices Board — since 1995. And the board itself has been around since 1975, when there were just 750 registered lobbyists in the state, and their combined spending was just one-tenth of what it is today.

The word “lobbyist” was coined in 1863, shortly after the committee system began developing in the U.S. Congress. The term referred to those who waited in the lobby to buttonhole elected officials to convince them to favor one side or another.

In some respects Minnesota makes the life of a lobbyist an easy one, but state law also complicates their efforts.

The Minnesota Ethics Commission was created in 1974, an outgrowth of a public perception for the need for government watchdogs in the wake of Watergate, Olson said.

“The idea here has always been to make it as simple as possible for lobbyists to fulfill state requirements,” she said. “Registration is free. It’s permanent until they terminate. The whole statute is based on simply disclose. Just disclose. If you put a charge in there, it’s a disincentive to register and disclose.”

By statute, lobbyists who spend more than \$250 per year on their efforts must register. Lobbyists here must be particularly careful how they conduct business.

In 1994, the Legislature adopted one of the strictest gift bans in the country.

“It’s simple, too, and it says lobbyists can’t give gifts to public officials — a zero tolerance, no cup of coffee rule,” Olson said.

The ban extends to state employees and can be difficult to deal with at times, she added.

“We all have friends in the lobbying community and we may go out with them after work,” Olson said. “You have to be careful not only that you’re paying your own way, but that perception of what’s going on isn’t a problem.”

She said many people who see a lobbyist with a Legislator don’t stop to think the Legislator is paying his own way.

Olson said officials in other states often ask about the strict gift ban. They don’t under-



The more than 1,400 registered lobbyists who work the halls of state government are governed by the state’s Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board.

stand the bill got passed without referendum or initiative in place.

“I tell them (lawmakers) did it to themselves,” Olson said.

Minnesota’s Ethics in Government Act, under which the board, Olson, and her eight full-time employees operate, is hailed as one of the best in the country. It contains a strong public subsidy program, which is put to use by 99 percent of those who are eligible. Under the subsidy, legislative candidates and those running for constitutional offices may receive and spend money from the state’s check-off program. \$2.4 million was handed out in December 1998 for the most recent election cycle.

“We’ve made it very user-friendly and, frankly, added some disincentives not to sign

the public subsidy agreement,” Olson said.

The Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board itself consists of six members who meet monthly. They serve at the pleasure of the governor.

The board’s charge goes far beyond tracking lobbying activities. Officially, its mission is “to promote public confidence in state government decision-making through the development and administration of disclosure, public financing, and enforcement programs that will ensure public access to information filed by the board.”

Besides tracking lobbyists and handing out public subsidy money to candidates, the board administers campaign finance disclosure policies, conflict of interest disclosure statutes, and a variety of related programs.

A large function of the office is clarifying the Ethics in Government Act and providing advisory opinions to those who ask.

One recent query was whether a lobbyist could allow a state official to use his firm’s licensed box seating at an athletic event if the official pays for the ticket.

The answer: No.

The board’s attorneys ruled that the box seat would be considered a gift “unless the equivalent right is

Crowding the Capitol
Lobbying in Minnesota 1975 to 1997

Year	No. of registered lobbyists	No. of registered lobbying associations	Money spent on lobbying
1975	750	300	\$285,575
1980	689	700	\$512,343
1985	1,074	868	\$2,500,134
1990	1,237	1,102	\$2,149,877
1995	1,324	1,262	\$5,475,787
1997	1,380	1,361	\$6,342,426

Source: Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Note: Prior to 1987, data presented by calendar year. Figures from later years presented by fiscal year.

Board continued on page 16

Abrams, Boudreau ready to stand in for the speaker

By Jon Fure

Maintaining order during House sessions is the job of House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) and — when he needs to be absent from the chamber — two speakers *pro tempore*.

And while they may make the job look easy, following and applying the detailed ins and outs of parliamentary procedure ensure that there's rarely a dull moment for the person behind the speaker's desk.

Debate on the House floor can sometimes look like chaos, so the gavel-holder needs to make sure the rules of procedure are followed.

The basic principle of debate on the House floor is that the majority rules, and the minority gets a fair opportunity to express their views, said Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka). He and Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) are the two speakers pro tem for the 1999 session.

The two have somewhat different backgrounds. Abrams is an attorney and is in his sixth term, and Boudreau is a public health aide in her third term. But they both agree that they hope their colleagues on both sides of the aisle will feel they are treated fairly during House floor debates.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) describes Abrams, who chairs the House Taxes Committee, as one of the most experienced and brightest members of the Republican caucus and a "true parliamentarian."

Boudreau is vice chair of the House Health & Human Services Policy Committee, and



Reps. Lynda Boudreau and Ron Abrams, who will serve as speakers pro tem this session, must be ready to take the gavel when the speaker needs a break.

parliamentary procedures that many describe as a cure for insomnia. She said she was "very honored and a little surprised" when Sviggum chose her as one of the speakers pro tem.

"Our leadership is very good at encouraging people to expand their skills and try new things," she said. "You learn something new every year and every day. There's so much to learn it's amazing."

Abrams said part of learning the intricacies of parliamentary procedure comes from experience — hearing the procedures and arguments repeated year after year.

"Sometimes we can get bogged down with parliamentary minutia, rather than the public policy that is being discussed. One of the strengths I will bring is to cut through some of those maneuvers and get back to the policy issue."

Abrams said Boudreau has had fewer years of experience than most speakers pro tem in recent years but that she has already demonstrated her ability to resolve procedural questions during House floor debates.

Even at this early point in the session, Boudreau has found herself in the middle of a couple sticky parliamentary issues on the House floor.

"I think she handled those situations with intelligence and grace," Abrams said.

What Boudreau did, and what Abrams said both speakers pro tem will need to do consistently, is to consider the advice of Chief Clerk Ed Burdick, the House's longtime source of nonpartisan information on procedural matters.

"Ed is an absolute rock who gives advice that you ignore at your own peril," Abrams said. "He always says you ought to slow down, and that way you have fewer errors."

"Our leadership is very good at encouraging people to expand their skills and try new things. You learn something new every year and every day. There's so much to learn it's amazing."

—Rep. Linda Boudreau

Pawlenty said she is a "rising star in the caucus who has demonstrated a great grasp of parliamentary procedures."

Studying the rules of procedure has been a new challenge, said Boudreau. She has spent many hours preparing for her role as speaker pro tem by studying the Minnesota Constitution and Mason's Manual, an exhaustive list of

"The rules of the House take precedence over Mason's Manual, so you're plowing over well-plowed fields," he said. "You know the arguments you're going to make, and you know the arguments the other side is going to make. The question is how do you apply those arguments to a given situation, and that's the art of being a presiding officer."



Hackbarth returns to familiar environment, issues

By Sarah Hallonquist

Before running for office a fourth time, Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) made a few deals with his wife, Mary.



Rep. Tom Hackbarth

"My wife and I had some real heart-to-heart discussions," he said.

Worried that campaigning would take time away from his family (as it had in the past), Hackbarth dedicated certain days of the week for his family of five to spend together. In between door-knocking during the day and selling auto parts four nights a week, Hackbarth was able to squeeze in some hours of normalcy with his wife and children.

"Campaigning is the hardest part of being an elected official," he said.

But it seems to have paid off for Hackbarth, who won back the District 50A seat he had lost in 1996 to DFLer Kathleen Sekhon. It was the third switch for the two legislators — Sekhon held the seat in 1993-94 before Hackbarth won his first term in 1994, only to relinquish the post to Sekhon in a tight 1996 election.

"My district is becoming more and more conservative all the time," Hackbarth said, pointing out that young families with children are rapidly moving into the area. And he maintains that his attention to outdoors issues hits home with his constituents.

During his previous term, Hackbarth's most notable legislation was the "turkey stamp"

law. Prompted by calls from concerned hunters who saw the state's turkey population declining, the law set up a tax on turkey hunting licenses. Hunters now pay an extra \$5 for hunting wild turkeys. Ninety percent of that revenue goes to researching and preserving the habitat of wild turkeys.

Because he is also a hunter, Hackbarth said he was hesitant at first to tack on an additional fee for the turkey stamp. But other hunters' support for the plan reassured him it was the right thing to do.

He also sponsored legislation that secured prizes for fishing contest winners. The 1995 law requires contest promoters to prove they can provide the financial prize packages they promise.

This session, Hackbarth plans to focus again on outdoor sports issues. The ban on snowmobile studs passed in 1998, upset a lot of voters in his district, he said. So he introduced a bill (**HF6**) that calls for a repeal of some of those restrictions. That bill passed on the House floor Jan. 21.

He said he also strongly favors abolishing automobile emissions test requirements this session. The issue has come up in past sessions, including Hackbarth's first term, and he supported repealing the requirements then, too.

"We just don't have this problem like we did before," he said. "It's an unnecessary regulation that we don't need."

His other goals this session include staying in touch with his constituents. He plans to hold a series of town meetings in his district

called "Eggs and Issues." During his last term, he hosted the meetings, which took place at a local restaurant in the morning.

"Oh, we packed the place," he said. "They loved it."

Hackbarth was born in Minneapolis and grew up in Brooklyn Park. He graduated from Anoka High School and attended North Hennepin Community College while working in the auto parts business. He originally intended to be a teacher, but then took some business classes as his interests changed.

After three years of school, Hackbarth went to work full time in the auto parts business. Since 1972, he has been selling auto parts at Brookdale Ford in Brooklyn Center. He has also owned and operated a grain salvage company and Modular Homes Midwest, a manufactured-home business.

He now lives in Cedar, which is north of Anoka, on property that was once part of his grandfather's farm. In between work, law-making, hunting, and fishing, Hackbarth still has enough time to be a volunteer firefighter, a pursuit that brings a smile to his face at its mention.

District 50A

1995 population: 37,063

Largest City: Ham Lake

County: Anoka

Location: northern metro

Top concern: "I think (emissions testing) is the big issue, and I think everyone in my district is behind eliminating that program."

— Rep. Tom Hackbarth

Bed rails continued from page 4

Minnesota could lose about \$2.5 million in federal funding through Medicare and Medicaid payments, but he said that is "highly unlikely."

And some lawmakers said they'd prefer to see the bill address bed rails specifically, instead of restraints in general.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) said he would ask the committee to amend the bill to address bed rails only, noting that they were the focus of the protest from those who testified in committee.

Bradley said he used the broader language because of the ambiguity surrounding the definition of bed rails.

The committee has taken no action yet on Bradley's bill. 🐼

It's a Fact continued from page 4

About 200 pieces sit in storage because they have been rendered unusable. Repair and reupholstering would be necessary in order for those pieces to be returned to use in the Capitol.

On Jan. 26, students in a woodworking class at Dakota County Technical College began refurbishing some of the benches around the Capitol and furniture in the Supreme Court chamber. As part of the Minnesota Historical Society's effort to conserve the state's historical sites, about 12 students buffed and polished out scratches on the well-worn pieces.

And employees of the Capitol Historic Site still keep tabs on the furniture already in use.

"We continue to work with the people who use the furniture," Kompelien said. "It does need maintenance; it's really a special collection." 🐼

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

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

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

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

One-time staffer returns to Capitol in new role

By Paul Wahl

For Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington), the first few days of the legislative session brought back a flood of memories. Earlier in his career, he spent four years as a legislative assistant to former state Sen. Phil Riveness.



Rep. Dan Larson

Larson knew the lay of the land, but one important piece of the terrain had changed. During his tenure with Riveness, both the House and Senate were under DFL control. This session, Larson will be part of a DFL minority in the House.

"The approach is different," said the former Richfield High School star football player and life-long political activist. "The other party sets the agenda, and you have a different role — more of a reactive role."

Larson said the challenge for him and other DFLers is to present their own agenda and have as much impact as possible on the major issues before the House.

Larson, 33, is quickly adjusting to the difference between being a staff member and being an elected official.

"It's a huge responsibility making decisions for such a large number of people rather than just observing the process," he said. "Now there comes a time to make decisions."

Larson sees some advantages to having experience at the Capitol prior to serving in office.

"If you're involved in community, you're prepared on many of the issues," he said.

Larson's first political involvement came as a high school student, and he continued to be active as a student both at Normandale Community College and at the University of Minnesota, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history.

He has spent the past four years working in government affairs with a Minneapolis law firm.

He also sat on the Bloomington Traffic and Transportation Advisory Committee, an experience that will serve him well as a member of the House Transportation Finance and House Transportation Policy committees. This session he'll also serve on the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Much of Larson's district is within earshot of Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and he said he'll be working to assure the state is involved in mitigating the cost of redevelopment in areas impacted by airport expansion.

He's also concerned about noise at the facility, although he acknowledges that since flight paths are determined by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Legislature has limited authority in noise control.

He said a long-term solution to the issues surrounding the airport might require a regional approach — expanding airports in St. Cloud and Rochester, for instance — to help lessen the load of daily commercial flights into the Twin Cities.

Larson also said he plans to work for a fair tax reduction.

"We also need to reform the property tax system but we need to do it in a way that people feel we're really creating reform,"

Larson said. "Unfortunately, in the past either they haven't seen it or it doesn't realize long-term reform."

He supports Gov. Jesse Ventura's rebate proposal based on sales tax.

Larson chose to run when former Rep. Mark Mahon decided not to seek a fourth term in the House. Larson defeated his Republican challenger by 357 votes.

Helping guide his campaign as co-chair was Richfield resident Margaret Severe, who was Larson's third-grade teacher and lives five blocks from where he grew up. Larson said having your third-grade teacher running your campaign helps "keep your feet on the ground."

Larson's parents also live in the district he now represents. His father was elected commissioner of Minnesota Babe Ruth Baseball shortly after Larson was elected to the House in November 1998.

Larson and his wife, Sheila, have two children, 4-year-old Joe and 2-year-old Jennifer.

The family enjoys golf and bowling. Larson's parents have owned a bowling alley in Richfield for many years. This winter, Larson and his wife have been teaching their children how to ice skate.

District 40A

1995 Population: 32,303

Largest city: Bloomington

County: Hennepin

Location: southern metro suburbs

Top concern: "Providing maximum educational opportunities for our youth must be our highest priority, and that will also help define our economy in the 21st century."

— Rep. Dan Larson

Message from the House: No senators allowed

As long as the Senate doesn't invite House members into its retiring room, the House won't be asking the Senate over anytime soon.

When the House adopted its permanent rules for the session Jan. 11, it changed a long-standing tradition. In the past, senators were allowed in the House retiring room — the room behind the chamber — to visit with representatives during floor sessions.

The retiring room is used by House

members as a meeting room or place to rest during floor sessions. Because food is not allowed on the House floor, members often take food and drink breaks in the retiring room.

However, House members have historically not been allowed in the Senate's retiring room, according to the Senate rules.

During the debate on House rules, Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) offered an

amendment to bar senators from the House retiring room. Trimble said he sponsored the amendment because of fairness.

"I think it is stupid of (the Senate) to have the rule," Trimble said. "We've asked them to change it before, and they haven't. Maybe this will bring about some change."

The amendment was adopted on a 95-37 vote.

Class sizes, school funding key for Woodbury lawmaker

By Grant Martin

In one of the closest races last year, new Rep. Jim Seifert (R-Woodbury) campaigned right up through election day.



Rep. Jim Seifert

"I door-knocked almost every day — from the middle of May until 4 o'clock on November 3," he said.

Seifert, who won by only 296 votes out of almost 19,000 total, said that while he enjoyed discussing issues with the people in his district, the campaign was grueling.

"It was an awful lot of hard work," he said. "It was easily one of the hardest things I've ever done."

When asked why he put himself through the election, Seifert said he was motivated mainly by the issue of education.

"I saw my own children sitting in crowded classrooms," he said. "I saw my children's teachers at Bailey Elementary in Woodbury overworked and inaccessible at times to children due to the many burdens in dealing with oversized classrooms. And yet, the representative from our district at that time was taking credit for lowering class sizes."

Seifert said that his frustration forced him to take action.

"I was so tired of the disconnect between the truth of what was going on on a day-to-day level in people's lives and the words that were spoken at the Capitol," he said. "So I decided I was going to do something about it."

Seifert made a speech at his local Republican caucus stating his intentions. After five ballots at the district caucus, he was nominated to run against incumbent Rep. Nora Slawik in a district that has traditionally been held by the DFL.

Seifert said that his parents are his model for public service. His father was mayor of New Ulm, Minn., while running a busy dental practice. His mother has also been active with volunteer causes in the area.

"My mom and dad are real contributors to the quality of life in New Ulm and the surrounding area with no expectation of being repaid," said Seifert. "I thought it was a great attribute they modeled. By their example, they communicated how important it is to do public service. That was a huge motivating factor."

Seifert lives in Woodbury with his wife and two children. He currently works as an attorney for the Toro Company.

As he said during his campaign, Seifert is here to focus on education and taxes.

"One of the mistakes that legislators make is that they try to do too much," he said. "They've got all these problems in front of them and they try to work on every one, which means they work on none of them. I'm going to have a very focused agenda. I'm going to work on education and tax issues."

Emphasizing the overcrowding issue in his district, Seifert said that during the campaign he was approached by a high school chemistry teacher with 38 students and only 26 lab spots.

"We've got to have a desk and a lab spot for each student," Seifert said. "We have to have a clean and intact textbook for each student. We have to have an environment where teachers don't feel threatened by any sort of violence from the students. And it has to be an education that prepares kids to compete globally."

The overcrowding issue must come first, he said.

"The first step is to lower the class sizes," said Seifert. "And then we can do these other things."

Seifert said that the tax issue also ties into education. He favors adjusting both the income and property tax rates.

"The public schools need more space and lower class sizes, and that means that there will be several operating and bonding referendums that will have to be passed to keep pace with the needs of the public schools," he said. "This will add another burden on the taxpayer."

Seifert has written and lectured on alternative dispute resolution, a method of solving legal disputes without dragging them through civil litigation. He feels that his expertise will help him in the Legislature.

"Alternative dispute resolution is a method for resolving a very broad spectrum of disputes," said Seifert. "The essence of it is fact-based negotiations, and I think the guts of the legislative process is a negotiation process. I think the more it's weighted toward fact-based — as opposed to ideology-based — the more it works for the citizens of the state."

Seifert said that the message from the election last year is that partisan bickering will not be tolerated.

"Partisanship is okay when it's fact-based," he said. "When it's purely ideology-based and you have the two parties hollering at each other, it's a cancer on the electoral process. It dramatically affects the ability of state government to do the right thing."

District 57A

1995 population: 43,221 (District increased by 10,782 since 1990, largest increase in one district.)

Largest city: Woodbury

Counties: Ramsey, Washington

Location: eastern metro suburbs

Top Concern: "Public education in Minnesota will continue to be something that has to be adjusted from year to year, in terms of emphasis and in terms of funding. But, clearly, it's the highest priority for the voters in my district, and it will be my highest priority."

— Rep. Jim Seifert

Board continued from page 12

available for purchase by members of the public on the same terms."

The board also provided a ruling for the Ventura campaign regarding whether a purchaser of the Ventura action figure or other officially licensed products would actually constitute a political donation.

The answer: Yes, if the amount of value is over \$20.

Olson said that in its earlier years, the board was more reactive than it is today.

"The Legislature has given us more staff and money, which enables us to be more proactive," Olson said. "We do more teaching and training. We've developed software to help people meet the requirements of the law."

Olson said it's much more enjoyable if everyone does the right thing than if you have to "go out there and try to get them out of a problem," although she admitted the board does both.

In 1997, the Ethical Practices Board was renamed to reflect more closely the actual work performed.

"We never really dealt with anybody's ethics," Olson explained. "We got all sorts of calls about doctors' ethics and lawyers' ethics. The name now is more descriptive. It's not as sexy, I suppose, but it clears up some confusion."

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (651) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

Bill Introductions

HF245-HF385

Monday, Jan. 25

HF245—Murphy (DFL) Crime Prevention

Furnishing alcohol to a person under age 21 provided increased penalties if, as a result of intoxication, the person causes or suffers death or great bodily harm.

HF246—Kahn (DFL) Crime Prevention

Criminal sexual conduct involving consenting adults repealed.

HF247—Entenza (DFL) K-12 Education Finance

Collaborative urban educator program grants provided and money appropriated.

HF248—Hasskamp (DFL) Commerce

Crooked Lake detached banking facility authorized.

**HF249—Sviggum (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board member appointment provisions modified.

**HF250—Abrams (R)
Taxes**
MinnesotaCare provider tax repealed.

**HF251—Rifenberg (R)
Taxes**
Agricultural loan mortgage registry tax exemption provided.

**HF252—Westfall (R)
Taxes**
Sales, use, and motor vehicle sales tax rates reduced for one year.

**HF253—Westfall (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**
Natural resources board created, and powers and duties transferred.

**HF254—Hasskamp (DFL)
Taxes**
Sales, use, motor vehicle sales, and income tax rates reduced; and political subdivision sales tax exemption provided.

**HF255—Erickson (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**
Fish and dark house removal from ice date modified.

**HF256—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**
Minneapolis firefighters relief association provisions modified.

**HF257—Howes (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance**
Mississippi Headwaters Board grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF258—Munger (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District board member compensation modified.

**HF259—Munger (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance**
Duluth; environmental assessment study of the former USX cement plant site provided and money appropriated.

**HF260—Kielkucki (R)
K-12 Education Finance**
Independent School District No. 2687, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, reorganization operating debt levy calculation date clarified.

**HF261—Entenza (DFL)
Crime Prevention**
Furnishing alcohol to person under age 21 provided increased penalties if, as a result of intoxication, the person causes or suffers death or great bodily harm.

**HF262—Entenza (DFL)
Crime Prevention**
DWI; vehicle forfeiture proceedings held at the same time as implied consent hearings requirement eliminated.

**HF263—Gerlach (R)
Crime Prevention**
Counterfeited intellectual property manufacturing, distribution, selling, or possession criminal penalties imposed; and forfeiture provided.

**HF264—Stanek (R)
Transportation Policy**
I-94 expanded between Hemlock Lane in Maple Grove and Highway No. 81 in Brooklyn Park.

**HF265—Daggett (R)
Taxes**
Wagering loss deduction allowed for the purpose of computing alternative minimum taxable income.

**HF266—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce**
Liquor on-sale and off-sale hours regulated.

**HF267—Westerberg (R)
Taxes**
Income tax brackets and alternative minimum tax exemption amount modified to reduce marriage penalties.

**HF268—Ness (R)
K-12 Education Finance**
Summer school funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF269—Ness (R)
K-12 Education Finance**
General education revenue equity aid created and money appropriated.

**HF270—Osskopp (R)
Commerce**
Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance policies providing number one or two plan benefits prohibited from imposing a maximum lifetime benefit limit.

**HF271—Abrams (R)
Taxes**
1999 income tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

**HF272—Abrams (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**
State partisan primary name changed to state party nominating election; date changed; party support of candidate required prior to ballot listing; and procedures, deadlines, and terms modified.

**HF273—Munger (DFL)
Taxes**
Biosolids processing equipment sales and use tax exemption clarified.

**HF274—Hasskamp (DFL)
Education Policy**
Education grant program applicants authorized to appeal commissioner of Children, Families and Learning's findings.

**HF275—Stang (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**
Stearns County tax-forfeited land bordering public water sale authorized.

**HF276—Leighton (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**
Mower County tax-forfeited land bordering public water sale authorized.

**HF277—Jaros (DFL)
Taxes**
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF278—Entenza (DFL)
Crime Prevention**
DWI; repeat DWI offenders provided felony penalties, incarceration in local correctional facilities required, minimum mandatory penalties provided, and enhanced gross misdemeanor references repealed.

**HF279—Westfall (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**
Veterans preference act modified.

**HF280—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy**
Sherburne County tax-forfeited land bordering public water conveyance authorized.

**HF281—Leppik (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**
Bicameral administrative rule review group appointed by the legislative coordinating commission and duties specified.

**HF282—Greiling (DFL)
Education Policy**
Gifted and talented education grants authorized and money appropriated.

**HF283—Anderson, B. (R)
K-12 Education Finance**
Independent School District No. 728, Elk River, debt service levy rate provided.

**HF284—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture Policy**
Farm and small business loan guarantee program created and money appropriated.

HF285—Haake (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Ramsey County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

HF286—Cassell (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Douglas County tax-forfeited land bordering public water sale authorized.

HF287—Sviggum (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Unicameral legislature provided with 99 members, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF288—Rostberg (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Pollution Control Agency Mississippi River emergency spill response equipment and training provided, and money appropriated.

HF289—Rest (DFL)
Taxes
Sales tax rebate provided, automatic rebate process established, tobacco settlement proceeds deposited, capital project financing converted to general obligation bonding, capital improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF290—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Education Policy
Elementary and secondary school district operating funds provided through state aids.

HF291—Folliard (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Independent School District No. 276, Minnetonka, teachers retirement association prior service credit purchase authorized.

HF292—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
Vacant platted property assessment provided.

HF293—Daggett (R)
Civil Law
Notary commission recording fees reduced.

HF294—Broecker (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Extraordinary local disaster expense aid provided and money appropriated.

HF295—Winter (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Firefighter training and education board created, training reimbursement program established, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, Jan. 27

HF296—Opatz (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Disability parking privilege expanded to include certain pregnant women.

HF297—Carlson (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Expired U.S. passport allowed as secondary identification for driver's license, permit, or identification card applicants.

HF298—Seifert, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
New disposal capacity for mixed municipal solid waste outside the metropolitan area certificate of need requirement repealed.

HF299—Knoblach (R)
K-12 Education Finance
School district referendum equalization levy replaced by state aid after the first year of referendum approval.

HF300—Knoblach (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Partial-birth abortions prohibited and criminal penalties provided.

HF301—Knoblach (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislature size fixed after the 2000 census.

HF302—Davids (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Ambulance services authorized to participate in shared service purchasing under the uniform municipal contracting law.

HF303—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Local government unit levy limits extended through taxes payable in 2001.

HF304—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Shipment and possession of wild animals taken on the Red Lake Indian Reservation north of the 49th parallel authorized, and no state license required.

HF305—Tunheim (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Mar-Kit Landfill Joint Powers Board grant provided for waste management and recycling, and money appropriated.

HF306—Workman (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Hennepin County tax-forfeited land bordering public water or wetlands conveyance authorized.

HF307—Solberg (DFL)
Education Policy
High school league administrative regions authorized to contract with private auditors.

HF308—Seifert, M. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Candidates accepting public campaign subsidies prohibited from accepting contributions from lobbyists, political funds, or political committees other than party units.

HF309—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Proposed health insurance coverage mandates assessed by the health technology advisory committee.

HF310—Knoblach (R)
Civil Law
Job reference information disclosure protection provided.

HF311—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Health Care Access Fund abolished, health maintenance organizations and nonprofit health service plan corporations insurance premiums tax repealed, and health care taxes phased out.

HF312—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Constitutional standard established relating to abortion and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF313—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Nonvoting members allowed to serve on the Metropolitan Council, Transportation Advisory Committee membership expanded, metropolitan agencies and council merger studied, local government grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF314—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce
St. Paul authorized to issue temporary liquor licenses to Macalester College.

HF315—Tomassoni (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
School district declining pupil unit aid created, definition modified, and money appropriated.

HF316—Rostberg (R)
Transportation Finance
National Weather Service transmitter purchases funded and money appropriated.

HF317—Osskopp (R)
Education Policy
Profile of Learning abolished.

HF318—Peterson (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Taking of wild animals with a firearm within 500 feet of an occupied building on public land without permission prohibited.

HF319—Wagenius (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Integrated criminal justice information system task force established in Hennepin County and statewide, aid awarded by the Supreme Court, and money appropriated.

HF320—Opatz (DFL)
Education Policy
State expectations for schools defined related to student achievement.

HF321—Lindner (R)
Education Policy
All school-age children authorized to participate in resident school district sponsored extracurricular activities.

HF322—Mulder (R)
Commerce
Wind energy conversion system generated electric energy installed capacity requirement clarified.

HF323—McElroy (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Senate and House of Representatives size provided.

HF324—Jennings (DFL)
Taxes
Ski area machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF325—Paulsen (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Candidates prohibited from accepting political fund contributions.

HF326—Winter (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 330, Heron Lake-Okabena, Southwest Star concept school grant clarified, and money appropriated.

HF327—Winter (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 330, Heron Lake-Okabena, grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF328—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Trunk highway contract documents required to express measurements in the English system only.

HF329—Folliard (DFL)
Commerce
Misleading business name or telephone number advertisement prohibited.

HF330—Dempsey (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Mississippi River Parkway Commission funding provided and money appropriated.

HF331—Greiling (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Employee leave extended for birth or adoption and school-related activities.

HF332—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Rural health clinics and federally qualified health center services cost-based reimbursement continued.

HF333—Buesgens (R)
Education Policy
Board of educational administration established and money appropriated.

HF334—Winter (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Tracy sewer separation project grant and loan provided, and money appropriated.

HF335—Dempsey (R)
Crime Prevention
DWI; repeat offender felony penalties imposed and one criminal history point required.

HF336—Leppik (R)
Education Policy
State high school league and governing board provisions modified.

HF337—Kahn (DFL)
Rules & Legislative Administration
Impeachment; United States Senate memorialized to take prompt action in the impeachment case of President Clinton.

HF338—Larsen, P. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Emergency management grant program created and rulemaking authorized.

HF339—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Partial-birth abortions prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties provided.

HF340—Dempsey (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 200, Hastings, year-round school/extended week or day grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF341—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Abortion informed consent required and civil cause of action provided.

HF342—Rostberg (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Board of licensed professional mental health counseling established, counselor licensing required, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF343—Hilty (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Department of Trade and Economic Development technology corridor planning and feasibility review required, and Pine technical college technology center federal funding accepted.

HF344—Rhodes (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
St. Louis Park Meadowbrook collaborative housing project youth outreach services funded and money appropriated.

Thursday, Jan. 28

HF345—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Home and community-based waived services for persons with mental retardation waiting list eliminated, unspent resources reallocated, county partnerships required, reserve account authorized, and money appropriated.

HF346—Smith (R)
Civil Law
Freelance court reporter contract arrangements and practices limited, and services regulated.

HF347—Sviggum (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2125, Triton, health and safety revenue authorized.

HF348—Mullery (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Cases involving felony-level charges required to be assigned in each judicial district within three days of defendant's initial court appearance.

HF349—Pelowski (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 861, Winona, Jefferson elementary school full-day kindergarten program grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF350—Tuma (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Cannon River valley watershed district protection provided, trail and joint powers planning funded, and money appropriated.

HF351—Bishop (R)
Civil Law
Court taxation of parties in a civil action for juror hardship expenses authorized.

HF352—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Family or group family day care wading pools exempt from public health requirements.

HF353—Mulder (R)
Taxes
Military pension subtraction from individual income taxes created.

HF354—Solberg (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Itasca County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public waters.

HF355—Cassell (R)
Taxes
June accelerated sales, liquor, cigarette, and tobacco tax payments abolished.

HF356—Dempsey (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Human services consumer support program financial eligibility criteria modified and maximum federal fund usage required.

HF357—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Camp Ripley work program scope expanded to include chemically dependent or convicted domestic abuse offenders.

HF358—Wolf (R)
Commerce
Coin-operated and public pay telephones deregulated, and telecommunications provider anticompetitive activity administrative penalties assessed.

HF359—Wolf (R)
Commerce
Public Utilities Commission subcommittees established and commissioners designated, petitions deemed approved unless set aside for affirmative action, investigation and contingency revolving fund created, and money appropriated.

HF360—Skoe (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Teachers retirement association annuity suspension, membership resumption, and recomputed benefits authorized.

HF361—Molnau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Carver County nursing home reimbursement operating per diem limit exemption provided.

HF362—Davids (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Department of Children, Families and Learning provided an alternative facilities design grant, and money appropriated.

HF363—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation Finance
State Patrol vehicle video camera installation, maintenance, and operation provided; and money appropriated.

HF364—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Health plan enrollee out-of-network provider services choice required and reimbursement provided.

HF365—Kelliher (DFL)
Taxes
Books and over-the-counter magazine sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF366—Kelliher (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Teachers retirement association interest charge repayment required on certain member contribution shortage payments.

HF367—Reuter (R)
Transportation Policy
I-35W and I-394 lane restrictions modified.

HF368—Reuter (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Steele County land conveyances authorized in connection with a state land transfer.

HF369—Pelowski (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Minnesota land records study provided and money appropriated.

HF370—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
Nonregistered pesticide distribution permitted for certain uses outside the state.

HF371—Stang (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local government historical work contribution limit removed; and public or private, nonprofit senior citizen center contributions authorized.

HF372—Bakk (DFL)
Education Policy
Driver education classroom component home-school instruction authorized.

HF373—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Goodhue County private sales of county land authorized.

HF374—Larsen, P. (R)
Transportation Policy
Motor vehicle emissions inspection program repealed.

HF375—Wenzel (DFL)
Taxes
National guard and active duty military pay subtraction from individual income taxes provided.

HF376—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical practice act; administration and prescription of anesthetics specified as the practice of medicine, and restriction exemptions defined.

HF377—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Abortion notification data reporting required and civil penalties imposed.

HF378—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Individual income tax long-term care insurance credit increased.

HF379—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Mortgage registry and deed taxes technical corrections provided.

HF380—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Tax provisions technical corrections bill.

HF381—Stanek (R)
Crime Prevention
New police pursuits model policy adopted by the POST board, municipal and state law enforcement compliance and officer training required, tire deflator and driving simulator distribution programs provided, and money appropriated.

HF382—Seifert, J. (R)
Civil Law
Common interest ownership act, certificates of title, and real property provisions modified.

HF383—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Nursing home employee compensation enhancement provided and money appropriated.

HF384—Anderson, B. (R)
Agriculture Policy
State and county fair food handler license provisions modified.

HF385—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

At the door . . .

Haukoos returns to House with new responsibilities

Many returning House members welcomed back an old friend at the start of the 1999 session. Former Rep. Bob Haukoos of Albert Lea is working at the Capitol as the official doorman for the House chamber.

Haukoos served in the House from 1979 to 1994, and he said he just couldn't stay away. And although his title is House doorman, many people also consider him the official greeter.

"The first day was like a receiving line," he said. "I was shaking hands with everyone who went in. I've seen so many old friends, wonderful people on both sides of the aisle."

Part of his job is answering visitors' questions, and he said his 16 years as a lawmaker taught him all he needs to know about how the legislative process works. He said things haven't changed much since he left office, which made the job interview pretty easy.

"When I heard Charlie [Ward] wasn't going to come back, I applied, and they



Former Rep. Bob Haukoos has come back to the Capitol to serve as doorman for the House.

called and said I have the job," he recalled. "I still don't know how much it pays. I didn't do it for the pay anyway."

Ward retired last year after 15 years with the House and 11 years as the doorman.

Haukoos said he has met quite a few out-of-town visitors who are sightseeing at the Capitol. Those conversations often give him a chance to brag about his workplace.

"They're always amazed at how beautiful the building is, and I have to agree. I've

been to a lot of other state capitols, and I think this is the best one. I even think it shines compared to the one in Washington, D.C.," he said.

As a lawmaker, Haukoos was known for being responsive to his constituents and refusing to accept campaign contributions from special interest groups. He routinely won landslide victories before he decided not to seek re-election at the age of 62 in 1994. He chaired the appropriations committee that funded higher education during the two years his party was

in the majority during the 1980s. He is a current VFW member and a retired U.S. Navy man and firefighter.

Even though Haukoos gained a lot of knowledge during his years as a representative, he said he doesn't give advice now that he's back at the Capitol.

"I enjoy listening to the debates without having to push any buttons," he said.

Committee Schedule

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call
House Calls at (651) 296-9283.
All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services:
(651) 224-6548 v/tty
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MONDAY, Feb. 1

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: rulemaking overview, Dave Orren, Department of Health; Jocelyn Olson, attorney general's office; and Norma Coleman, Pollution Control Agency; Minnesota Racing Commission overview, Dick Krueger, executive director.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: programs for the elderly presentation, Department of Human Services.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: Council of Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, Council on Black Minnesotans, Indian Affairs Council and Chicano-Latino Affairs Council overviews.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: committee procedures; Minnesota Safety Council presentation, Carol Bufton, council president; HF189 (Dempsey) Port development assistance program funded and money appropriated. Testimony by Dick Lambert, director, Ports and Waterways, Department of Transportation; Kevin Walli, Ports Association; Myron White, Port of Red Wing; Laurie Lauder, St. Paul Port Authority.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: HF56 (Van Dellen) Health care provider civil action limitation provisions modified.

HF42 (Folliard) Medical malpractice action statute of limitations modified.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: to be announced.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: overview by Mayo Medical School.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: examination of school finance in Minnesota, John Augenblick and John Myers; financial condition of school districts, Gary Farland, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

TAXES

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

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: one time funding initiatives, Beth Achter, Early Childhood Family Education and learning readiness coordinator; adolescent parenting; food and housing assistance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen
Agenda: presentation by Minnesota League of Cities.
HF73 (Hilty) Year 2000; local government units mutual aid authority clarified, health department required to collect and disseminate information regarding possible problems and solutions, immunity provided, and money appropriated.

Outdoor Recreation Task Force

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Agenda: compromise bill on use of snowmobile studs.

Subcommittee on Regulated Industries/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf
Agenda: presentations by Residential Utilities Division of the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Public Service concerning telecommunications, energy, public utilities, and deregulation issues.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty
Agenda: HF151 (Harder) Farm crisis; President and Congress memorialized to form a federal effort to alleviate the farm crisis.
HF105 (Tunheim) Farm relief; Congress memorialized to designate and implement financial relief for livestock and grain farmers.

TUESDAY, Feb. 2

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: 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. HF217 (Rhodes) Chana Malka Oppen provision for least invasive procedure; mandated autopsy religious exemption created. HF214 (Goodno) Volunteer ambulance attendant definition provided, and reimbursement provisions modified.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: Department of Trade and Economic Development and Department of Commerce overviews (issues include unclaimed property and the Petro Fund).

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker
Agenda: Crime Victims Service Center overview and review of annual report; Information Technology Division, State Court Administration overview and review of annual report.

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

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: budget presentation, Department of Employee Relations.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF228 (Bishop) Sex offender registration and community notification laws expanded to include certain persons committed as mentally ill and dangerous.
HF216 (Stanek) Pretrial status prisoner transfers between jail and workhouse authorization clarified.
HF240 (Smith) DWI; sheriffs authorized contingent fund expenditures for DWI-related violation investigations.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF14 (Fuller) Persons convicted of criminal sexual conduct considered ineligible to be a licensed teacher.
HF58 (Erickson) Independent School District No. 912, Milaca, retroactively authorized to begin its school year prior to Labor Day.
HF213 (Greiling) Oral deaf education teachers exempted from American Sign Language licensure requirements.

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: Department of Revenue bills.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: testimony on a bill regarding vaccination funding; presentations on state ethanol plants.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: Department of Finance cancellation report presentation, Peter Sausen.

COMMERCE

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

Agenda: HF248 (Hasskamp) Permitting location of a branch bank in the town of Crooked Lake under certain conditions.
HF180 (Wolf) Safety regulated for persons on amusement rides.

1:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

3 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation Task Force

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Hackbarth

Agenda: compromise bill on use of snowmobile studs.

WAYS & MEANS

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dave Bishop

Agenda: bills referred from the House Taxes committee.

4 p.m.

Anoka County Legislative Delegation

500N State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tingelstad,
Rep. Satveer Chaudhary

Agenda: to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 3

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

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

Agenda: to be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: programs for the disabled presentation, Department of Human Services.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Dislocated Workers Program overview.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: State Patrol budget presentation, Col. Anne Beers.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

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

Agenda: HF160 (Bishop) Public service corporations private property easements definite and specific descriptions provided, and requirement retroactively applied.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Minnesota Forest Resources Council; Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: Minnesota Community Faculty Association overview, Larry Obeson; Inter-Faculty Organization overview, David Able.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: teacher salary settlements, Rep. Ken Wolf; Wisconsin's qualified economic offer,

Nancy Donovan, Wisconsin school board member.

Property Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: to be announced.

12 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

AGRICULTURE POLICY

Department of Agriculture
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: tour 90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: community action programs; Minnesota Economic Opportunity grants; energy and weatherization.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: Association of Minnesota Counties overview;
HF45 (Folliard) City councils authorized to establish procedures for imposing ordinance violation civil penalties.

2 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Deanna Wiener

Agenda: release and discuss program evaluation report on occupational licensing.

3 p.m.

Outdoor Recreation Task Force

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Hackbarth

Agenda: compromise bill on use of snowmobile studs.

4 p.m.

Hennepin County Delegation

118 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams,
Rep. Linda Wejcman,
Sen. Linda Higgins,
Sen. Martha Robertson

Agenda: to be announced.

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THURSDAY, Feb. 4

8 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: discussion of Minnesota Family Investment Program-Statewide work programs.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: affordable housing issues.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Department of Finance budget briefing.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman,

Agenda: continuation of Feb. 2 agenda (if necessary).

HF157 (Kuisle) Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Highway route modified.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Office of Strategic & Long Range Planning budget presentation.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF135 (Bishop) Repeat assault offenders with prior delinquency adjudications provided enhanced penalties.

HF263 (Gerlach) Imposing criminal penalties for manufacturing, distributing, selling, or possessing counterfeited intellectual property.

HF295 (Winter) Establishing the board of firefighter training and education; establishing a firefighter training reimbursement program and money appropriated.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: overview of proposed teacher licensing rule and relation to graduation rule, Minnesota Board of Teaching; implementation of graduation rule, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

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: Department of Revenue bills.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: presentations by representatives of wild rice producers and farm organizations.

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: HF208 (Haas) Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association funding continued, certain insurance-related assessment reductions allowed, Medical Assistance and MCHA relationship specifications sunset repealed, and money appropriated.

2:30 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, Feb. 5

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: to be announced.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: overview of affordable housing and homeless prevention programs.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: to be announced.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: a primer in special education, Tim Strom, House Research; cross-subsidization of special education costs, Tom Melcher, Bob Fischer, and Mike Landers, Department of Children, Families and Learning.

Where to find information

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

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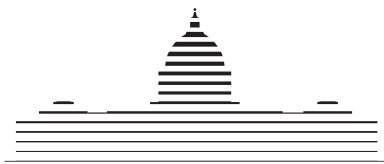
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Majority Leader: Tim Pawlenty
Minority Leader: Thomas W. Pugh

MINNESOTA INDEX

Higher education in Minnesota

Percent of Minnesotans age 25 and up with a bachelor's degree or higher, 1997	28.3
Percent of all Americans	23.9
Percent of 1996 Minnesota high school graduates that immediately enrolled in higher education	55.1
Percent that enrolled in in-state schools	40.4
Percent in out-of-state schools	14.7
Minnesota's rank in nation that year	21
Percent of 1988 Minnesota high school graduates that immediately enrolled in higher education	60
Percent that enrolled in in-state schools	48.4
Percent in out-of-state schools	11.6
Minnesota's rank in nation that year	9
Percent of African-American Minnesota high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	21.8
in 1987	23.7
Percent of Asian-American Minnesota high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	35.6
in 1987	44.4
Percent of white Minnesota high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	33.7
in 1987	42.9
Percent of rural female high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	34.6
in 1987	52.5
Percent of rural male high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	33.5
in 1987	43.6
Percent of Minneapolis/St. Paul female high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	27.9
in 1987	31.2
Percent of Minneapolis/St. Paul male high school graduates that enrolled in higher education, 1996	26.7
in 1987	29.8
Percent of entering freshman at Minnesota state universities in 1996 with high school grade point average below 3.0	32
in 1989	49

Sources: *Balancing the Books: Affording College in Minnesota*, 1998, Minnesota Planning; *Higher Education Enrollments: Current Conditions and Recent Trends*, 1998, House Research Department; *Participation of New High School Graduates in Higher Education*, 1998, House Research Department.

For more information



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