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In this issue:

SEEKING A BUDGET DEAL

HISTORY OF VETO OVERRIDES

HF4162-HF4166

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On the cover: Carved eagles perched on the Capitol dome forever watch over the Capitol grounds, joined momentarily by their free-flying cousins.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Deadline crunch

House leaders accept Finance Department numbers, but there is still disagreement about major tax cut and spending initiatives as constitutional deadlines approach

By DAVID MAEDA

After being unable to conclude business by the Passover and Easter holiday weekend as they had hoped, lawmakers took a five-day break for the holidays.

Upon their return to the Capitol, things remained at a relative standstill as the House and Senate continued to disagree over spending and tax cut priorities.

Though they seem to be coming closer, they still haven't reached an agreement.

On April 26, the House leadership made what Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said was its sixth offer to the Senate leadership fi-

17 consecutive budget forecasts that have underestimated the amount of the state's revenue. In agreeing to accept the \$549 million figure, Sviggum said that the House would require that most of the money be used for permanent tax cuts.

The session, having now completed its 13th week, can end no later than May 22, if the Legislature doesn't run out of legislative days before then. It could be the first time in recent years that the Legislature has used the entire 120 legislative days it is allowed under the Minnesota Constitution. Legislative days are those on which either the House or Senate meets in full session.

As of April 27, the Legislature had used 113 legislative days.

Though it seems like the 2000 session is dragging on longer than most as the House and Senate leaders inch toward an agreement, statistics show other two-year sessions have gone nearly this long before.

In recent biennia, for example, the Legislature used 109 legislative days in 1997-1998, 113 days in 1995-1996, 106 days in

1993-1994, and 100 days in 1991-1992.

The even-year session has started and ended at various times over the past decade. Leadership of the House and Senate determine the schedule that will be used in the second year of the biennium. In 1998, for example, the session opened Jan. 20 and adjourned April 9, which was 13 weeks. This year, the session did not start until Feb. 1, 2000.

The Legislature met only every other year

before a 1972 constitutional amendment allowed for the current biennial system.

Traditionally, the first year, or odd-numbered year, of the session has been devoted to setting budgets for state agencies, constitutional offices, the Legislature, and the judicial branch of state government. The second year has been devoted to establishing a list of construction and repair projects to be paid for by selling bonds. The second year of the session also has usually included supplemental spending for costs that were unforeseen in the previous budget year.

Bonding and spending bills are now being held up until leaders reach an agreement. But their discussions have been primarily tangled in disagreements over permanent tax cuts.

The House's latest proposal would still reduce income tax rates in all three brackets. The upper and lower brackets would be reduced by 0.3 percent while the middle bracket would receive a 0.55 percent reduction. An additional one-eighth percent reduction in each bracket would occur contingent on a positive November forecast, Sviggum said.

In its original tax plan the House proposed reducing the rates in the upper and lower brackets by 0.5 percent and in the middle bracket by 0.75 percent.

As a condition to the House's acceptance of the \$549 million figure, Sviggum said that the House would also require that the state use \$340 million of the tobacco settlement revenue for a three-year "holiday" from the health care provider tax.

The provider tax is used to fund MinnesotaCare, the state-paid health insurance program for low-income families. The rate of the tax on health care providers is scheduled to increase from 1.5 percent to 2 percent next year.

Sviggum said that because the tax is ultimately imposed on those in need of health care, it is one of the state's worst taxes.

The House proposal also includes \$40 million in spending for the already passed crime bill and for debt service, leaving an additional \$45 million for other ongoing spending measures.

Also, the House is proposing to provide one-time funding of \$350 million for transportation projects, \$141 million for K-12 education, and \$11.6 million for higher education initiatives. The House's proposal also includes \$500 million for bonding and cash capital projects.



In an effort to move the budget negotiations closer to resolution, House Speaker Steve Sviggum, joined by other House Republican leaders, announces April 26 they will agree with Senate leaders and Gov. Jesse Ventura and accept the Department of Finance numbers regarding money available for tax cuts and spending. Sviggum said House leadership still advocates using most of the money available for permanent tax cuts.

nally agreeing to the overall budget number of \$549 million. That is the figure the state Department of Finance has said is the number available per year for spending and tax cuts that will keep the budget in structural balance.

"We have removed the last roadblock to permanent tax cuts for the taxpayers of Minnesota," he said.

House leadership has maintained that the \$549 million amount is too small, pointing to



Prohibition politics

Ties to illegal liquor sales almost cost a veteran legislator his job

While Sviggum said the agreement to use the \$549 million figure was "significant," the House and Senate remain in disagreement over how that money should be used.

Of the \$549 million, the Senate is proposing to spend around \$229 million primarily for education and health care.

The Senate tax cut proposal would reduce the rate in the lowest bracket by 0.1 percent and the middle bracket by 0.25 percent. The Senate also now has agreed with the House not to reduce the state's vehicle license tab fees, which Gov. Jesse Ventura strongly favors.

Two of Ventura's other key initiatives also received some attention. On April 26, Republican House members had breakfast at the governor's residence to discuss the possibility of reviving his unicameral proposal.

Such a bill would place a constitutional amendment on the November general election ballot so voters could decide whether the state should adopt a unicameral, or one-house, legislature.


Also, Ventura announced this week that the state has received federal approval to begin final design on the proposed light-rail project along the Hiawatha corridor in Minneapolis.

Sviggum said he and other House members remain unconvinced about the cost-effectiveness of light rail and that obtaining the latest approval was not significant.

"I don't think it was much of a hurdle that was passed," he said.

House proposals currently in conference committee would repeal the unspent funds previously allocated by the state for the light-rail transit project. Officials estimate about \$92 million remains of the total \$100 million in funds.

The governor has said he will veto any bill that would repeal the light-rail project.

With little time remaining to complete work, the Legislature is working to find an acceptable middle ground. The House and Senate can only hold floor sessions for a combined seven more legislative days, as of April 27. 

Writer Jon Fure contributed to this report.

Correction

A story in the April 21 edition of *Session Weekly* incorrectly identified the House sponsor of a new law designed to protect unwanted newborns.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) sponsored the legislation, which will allow a mother (or a person of her consent) to leave an unharmed baby at a hospital emergency room up to 72 hours following the child's birth without fear of prosecution for child abandonment. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the measure (HF2945/SF2615*/CH421) on April 18.

We regret the error.

The politics of Prohibition marred the career of Ambrose Lennon, a Minneapolis man who spent a total of 16 years in the Legislature.

Lennon became the center of a months-long melodrama that was caused by his standing in a seemingly innocuous fraternal organization. A longtime member of his community's Eagles lodge, the legislator was, in his own words, "pressed into the position of trustee when I personally would have avoided it."

His wish to have avoided becoming a trustee could only have grown after the lodge was raided and several employees and officials were arrested for illegal liquor sales.

Undercover agents had applied to become members of the lodge and were accepted into the group quickly and whole-heartedly. With the trust of their "brothers," the agents then watched the widespread sale of bootleg booze. They claimed to have been witness to more than 3,000 sales of alcoholic beverages.

When the law eventually swooped in, nine bartenders were arrested, along with all officers and trustees of the lodge. Lennon was not present when the raid took place, but he was among those later arrested and charged.

All were convicted. The bartenders each got eight months in jail, and the lodge officials also went to jail. Lennon, who appealed his conviction, was the lone exception.

With his case on appeal, Lennon continued his work in the Minnesota Senate, much to the chagrin of some of his colleagues. Led by Sen. Victor Lawson, an effort began to oust Lennon or to shame him into resigning.

"I have nothing personally against [Lennon], but I do want to state that his continued presence here has been a disgrace to this Senate and you know it," Lawson said. "... It surely can be of little satisfaction personally for him to be here with this cloud hanging over him."

In January 1927, Lawson introduced a resolution asking Lennon to resign from office. The Senate Elections Committee delayed action on the matter for weeks be-

fore finally voting that it should be deferred until the court ruled on Lennon's appeal.

"I give notice that if he comes back next session, whether he goes to jail or not in the meantime, and attempts to sit as a member of this Senate, the proceedings to oust him will be renewed," Lawson said.

And Lawson would get that chance.

In the 1928 election, with his case still tied up in the courts, Lennon won re-election to the Senate, garnering the largest majority he had ever enjoyed in any of his six legislative campaigns. (He had served eight years in the House before moving to the Senate in 1924.)

The 1929 session put Lawson back on the attack, but he wasn't going to be satisfied with an unenforceable resolution suggesting Lennon resign. Lawson and his allies mounted an effort to have Lennon expelled from the body.

On the first day of the session, the Senate took up the matter, and Lennon gave a long and eloquent defense of himself.

He pointed out that he had never been accused of selling liquor, drinking liquor, or profiting from liquor sales. He explained that his accusers had claimed only that he knew or should have known about the illegal activities at the lodge.

"I wonder how well they will have served their own consciences if they succeed in wrecking my life, branding me with dishonor, heaping me with reproach as I near the end of a life that has been clean even if it has not been great," Lennon said. "... My appeal is to men who can be calm and fair and merciful, not to men who regard themselves as divinely appointed censors of humanity."

Lennon survived the ordeal, with 25 senators voting to throw him out and 38 in favor of allowing him to stay on the job, though it would be his last term in the Legislature.

And the 55-year-old knew that his career would be scarred by the event.

"It touches my wife and children," he said. "It touches my lifetime of effort as a human being, and it effects the heritage I shall leave behind me when I am gone from this world."

(N. HEALY)

★ AGRICULTURE

Feedlot rules relaxed

New feedlot rules proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will be relaxed, under a law signed April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The new law takes into account public testimony opposing new rules for permitting animal feedlots. Effective April 25, 2000, the law gives specific instruction to the agency on how the rules should be amended before their final adoption.

The law also prohibits the agency from imposing additional conditions as part of a feedlot permit after the proposed rules are finally adopted.

Under the law, state livestock operations will be allowed to grow, and regulation by the agency will be restricted.

Agency officials want farmers to prevent the flow of animal waste from lots into rivers, streams, and ground water. The agency is also concerned about air pollution caused by feedlots.

The MPCA's new plan would put limits on hydrogen sulfide gas found in manure and require that manure spills on roads be treated as serious problems. Sloppy handling of manure could result in fines if the revised agency rules were to go into effect.

The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture will be required by the law to work with the University of Minnesota to develop educational and training programs addressing manure applicator concerns, including water quality protection and the development of manure management plans.

If violations are found, the law will require that they be remedied in a timely manner.

A feedlot operator with less than 300 animal units, however, could not be required to spend more than \$3,000 to upgrade a lot unless assistance totaling at least 75 percent of the cost is available, under the law.

Livestock production facilities will be exempt by the law from state standards governing air quality in the area surrounding feedlots while manure is being removed from the site and up to seven days following the transfer.

The measure also will require the MPCA to remove several provisions from its proposed rules and allow the agency to submit a report to the commissioner of the Department of Finance if it is unable to accomplish timely response to feedlot permit applications.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation.

HF3692*/SF3443/CH435

★ BUSINESS

Sales of funeral goods

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 24 that will regulate solicitation and sale of funeral goods and services. It will prohibit solicitation at a hospital, gravesite, nursing home, or wake, without a specific request from the family of the deceased to do so.

The new law also will prohibit an individual from offering goods and services to a person whose death is impending, or to an individual responsible for funeral arrangements of a deceased person within 10 days of that individual's death. Such acts, however, will be allowed if the deceased or a relative had made arrangements to discuss plans for the funeral or burial before death occurred.

The measure will not apply to communication between an individual and a funeral provider related by blood, adoption, or marriage.

In cases when the deceased handled his or her own arrangements in advance, the law will require that the funeral provider produce a copy of the agreement and give the copy to the person controlling the disposition of the remains. A copy of the arrangements will be required to change hands no later than 24 hours after first contact between the provider and the individual in charge of the remains.

The law also contains new requirements for pre-death arrangements and a provision allowing a person who makes an advance burial arrangement to cancel plans.

Furthermore, the law will require that all funeral establishments and providers clearly state who owns the establishment in all business literature, contracts, and correspondence.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) and Sen. Claire A. Robling (R-Prior Lake) sponsored the legislation.

Language pertaining to a potential financial impact of the measure was incorporated into the omnibus state government spending bill (HF2699) last month. The provision would appropriate \$90,000 in fiscal year 2001 for the purpose of responding to public complaints about funeral goods and services solicitation.

That bill remains in a House-Senate conference committee.

Most portions of the new law take effect Aug. 1, 2000. Provisions governing disclosure of ownership take effect Jan. 1, 2001.

SF2686*/HF2713/CH438

Liquor license law

Fraternal and charitable clubs will only need 30 members to obtain liquor licenses, under a law signed April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The omnibus liquor law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), also will allow specific liquor contracts for special events in several towns, including Anoka, Duluth, Eveleth, and Springfield.

The law reduces the number of club members needed to obtain a liquor license from 50 to 30. The provision addresses the dropping population in some rural areas, Paulsen said.

However, a provision that would have given cities more control over issuing liquor licenses to local theatres fell in conference committee. That provision was the focus of the original House floor debate about the legislation.

The law also will allow a commercial establishment to make wine on the premises for personal or family use only. Individuals under age 21 will be forbidden from helping make wine.

Liquor stores will be able to offer wine-tasting events on their premises, under the law. A wine-tasting event will be defined as an activity that does not last beyond four hours, at which patrons do not pay for each individual glass of wine.

The state agriculture society also will be allowed to sell alcohol at state fairgrounds events that are not held during the normal 12-day run of the fair.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), who chairs the House Commerce Committee, said the bill addresses primarily local issues.

"We tried to keep it very focused," Davids said.

Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the Senate version.

Statewide provisions of the law take effect Aug. 1, 2000. The items affecting specific cities take effect upon local action.

HF3974/SF3581*/CH440

★ CONSUMERS

Penalties for unscrupulous contractors

Contractors who fail to complete work on house projects will be subject to new criminal and civil penalties, under a law signed April 20 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

A tornado that hit St. Peter in spring 1998 devastated much of that area. Even more devastating was the work of an unscrupulous contractor who was hired to fix damaged homes, said Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter), who sponsored the legislation in the House.

The contractor collected money from homeowners, then did not pay subcontractors. The subcontractors then placed liens on the homes, whose owners thought they had finished paying for the repairs. The contractor eventually went bankrupt, but the liens were already placed on the homes.

"They had a very frustrating time trying to deal with him," Storm said. "They were in limbo."

That contractor was later ordered to serve two months in jail and repay the homeowners.

A builder, material supplier, or subcontractor can place a lien on a property if they are not paid for work done on the property. Contractors should receive a lien-waiver from a subcontractor once that subcontractor has been paid, she said.

A felony penalty for theft is also established under the law. The maximum penalty for theft in state statute is 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

Under the previous law, the maximum theft charge under the mechanics lien statute was a gross misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

The law also will allow homeowners to seek civil penalties against contractors, which were not previously available.

Shareholders, officers, and directors of the contracting company who are aware of the theft could also face criminal and civil penalties, under the law.

The law will require that money for a construction project be kept in a trust fund. Proceeds can be kept separate within the trust. Contractors would then pay subcontractors from the trust.

Storm noted that several banks and contractors were involved in the drafting process and approved the wording of the law.

While the law stems from the St. Peter incident, Storm said the law could have a dramatic positive effect on homeowners and contractors across the state.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF2563*/SF2381/CH430

★ CRIME

Cracking down on pimps

People who lure teens into prostitution will face expanded penalties, under a law signed April 20 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), the law aims to curb solicitors, or pimps, from pushing young children, both boys and girls, into prostitution.

The law will make it a felony for a person to solicit a juvenile under age 18 into prostitution. The maximum penalty is 20 years in prison and a \$40,000 fine.

Under previous law, a juvenile had to be under age 16 for a felony charge.

"It didn't make sense to have pimps have more severe sentences for soliciting teens under age 15 than when they are under age 18," Clark said.

The hike in age from 16 to 18 means more pimps will go to prison, Clark said. Under the existing law, a pimp who solicits a 16- or 17-year old person into prostitution would get only probation, she said.

A task force report submitted to the House Crime Prevention Committee earlier this session estimated that 1,000 Minnesota teens are currently involved in prostitution.

The law also requires the commissioner of public safety to study and make recommendations on training officers to combat prostitution. The study would include information on ways to increase penalties and prosecution of solicitors.

State law already says that luring adults into prostitution is a gross misdemeanor.

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

The increased penalties take effect Aug. 1, 2000, while the study provision takes effect July 1, 2000.

HF2830*/SF2771/CH431

Penalties for assaulting officers

A person who physically assaults an officer during an arrest but does not cause any "demonstrable bodily harm" still could be charged with a gross misdemeanor, under a law signed April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) was the House sponsor of the legislation, which also provides for a felony charge if someone escapes from police custody for a felony-related action, even if that person has not yet been charged or convicted of a crime. The violator could face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Previous law allowed for a felony only if the person fled after being charged or convicted of a felony.

Physically assaulting an officer during an arrest could more often lead to a gross misdemeanor charge, under the new law. The law previously required "demonstrable bodily harm" sustained by the officer, but there were no additional penalties for harm that was not visible or "demonstrable."

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said the provision stems from a case in which an officer was struck in the groin by someone who was resisting arrest. The action did not result in demonstrable bodily harm, so no additional penalties could be brought against the assailant.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the Senate version of the legislation. The law is effective April 25, 2000.

HF2958/SF2830*/CH441

Serving court orders

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 24 that will strengthen domestic and child abuse laws. It also will allow officers to serve any court orders.

The law creates a shortened notification process that officers can use to serve court documents to people at any time.

The idea behind the law is that many defendants and parties to a court case are hard to find, and this measure will allow them to be formally served if an officer encounters them in a routine traffic stop or other police action.

For instance, if an officer pulls over a car for speeding, and the officer learns that a court is trying to contact that person to serve court orders, such as a subpoena or protection order, the officer will be able give a notification form to that person, under the law.

An officer could serve paperwork at any time, including Sundays or legal holidays, the law states.

The notification form would include the names of the parties involved, the county that served the order, the name of the judge, and the date of a hearing.

The short order form would direct the recipient to report to the sheriff's office or courthouse where the proceeding is set to take place to pick up the full copy of service.

The officer could detain the person as long as necessary in order to fill out and serve the person with the short form, under the law.

According to the law, a scheduled hearing can take place if the papers were served at least 12 hours before the hearing, and the person receiving the papers must appear. However, the person who received the papers may request a continuance of up to five days.

Previously, the hearing could not begin until five days had passed after the court papers

were served. The new provision is effective April 25, 2000.

The law also will allow an officer to arrest a person who violates a pretrial no-contact order, even if the officer wasn't present at the time of the violation. The orders, often issued in domestic abuse cases, require that the defendant have no contact with whoever is named in the order, typically the victim and their family.

Law enforcement already has the ability to arrest someone without a warrant in domestic abuse cases. The new law will extend that arrest ability to persons violating the domestic abuse no-contact order.

The law also will create a felony for a person who caused malicious punishment of a child. The law says the violator may be charged with a felony if the child is under age 4 and has sustained bodily harm to the head, eyes, or neck, or has suffered multiple bruises. The maximum penalty for the felony would be five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) and Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the legislation. Most of the new law's provisions take effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF1067/SF551*/CH437

★ EMPLOYMENT

Workers' compensation law

Workers' compensation rates will be reduced while injured workers' benefits will be increased, under a new law signed April 27 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law represents recommendations from the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. The council is composed of representatives from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the state's AFL-CIO, and the Legislature.

The law provides an increase in the maximum weekly compensation an injured worker can receive for wage loss benefits. Currently that amount is capped at \$615 per week, but the new law will increase that benefit to \$750. The minimum amount per week will go from \$104 to \$130.

In the case of a worker who is killed in a work-related accident, the minimum amount of compensation for the dependents will be \$60,000.

Under the law, there will be a transfer of \$325 million in surplus fund's from the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Assigned Risk Plan to the compensation fund's second injury and supplemental benefits program.

The assigned risk plan aids in the operation of the workers' compensation system by providing a source of insurance for employers

unable to obtain such coverage from the private insurance market.

In a message accompanying his signing of the bill, Ventura said that the transfer of funds would likely reduce the workers' compensation fund assessment rate from 30 percent to 20 percent.

Ventura also said that he expects the Legislature to pass a separate bill transferring \$95

Hotdish haven

Legislators celebrate new law by indulging in long-standing Minnesota dining tradition

With plate in hand and a sea of delectable hotdishes before them, dozens of legislators and staff commemorated the signing of a law that will loosen restrictions on such potlucks.

They gathered April 25 in the Capitol's Great Hall to sample tasty items such as baked beans, tuna casserole, potato and taco salads, and an array of chocolate and sugar-coated goodies.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) and Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar), sponsors of the legislation, dined with those who attended the noontime meal.

Juhnke said the idea to draft the "hotdish bill" surfaced after he had attended a DFL bean feed at the American Legion Hall in his hometown and was told that health regulations prevented outsiders from bringing prepared food into community potlucks.

Aggie Leitheiser, assistant commissioner of the state's Health Protection Bureau, said such restrictions have existed to prevent outbreaks of food-borne disease. Over the past four years, Leitheiser said, 16 percent of the confirmed food-borne disease outbreaks in the state were traced to privately prepared food.

So, following regulations to the letter, organizers of the event in Willmar politely told Juhnke he could stay but he had to take his beans back to the car.

After the experience, Juhnke said he felt all people should be allowed to attend community potlucks and share their food without being subject to health inspection. Gov. Jesse Ventura agreed. He signed the bill into law April 13.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the law will allow any person attending a potluck event — not

just members of the organization sponsoring the event — to bring individually prepared food for consumption. It also allows an organization sponsoring potluck events to advertise the events and permit people who are not members of the organization to

attend the event and eat the food.

The bill had once contained language that would have required signs at a potluck event stating that the food was not prepared in a licensed kitchen and is not subject to Health Department regulation. But the provision was dropped before the bill won final passage.

Organizers of the Capitol potluck thought it would be humorous to post signs, anyway. Tucked away in a corner by the plates and napkins stood the tongue-in-cheek disclaimer. It read, "Welcome to the Great Minnesota Potluck. Warning: This food was not prepared in a commercial facility. Eat at your own risk."

SF3348*/HF2707/CH378

(M. DE LARCO)



Rep. Al Juhnke makes his way down a long table of hotdishes, salads, breads, and desserts as an honored guest at the Senate-sponsored "Great Minnesota Potluck" held April 25 in the Great Hall of the Capitol.

million from the Assigned Risk Plan to reduce the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association assessment for employers in the state.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the measure. Most of the law's provisions are effective Aug. 1, 2000.

HF3960/SF3644*/CH447

★ ENERGY

Powered by poultry litter

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law April 24 that could lead the way to the construction of an electricity generating facility that uses turkey litter as fuel.

Effective April 25, 2000, the law changes the definition of biomass energy to include poultry litter and plants that are grown specifically for fuel. Legislation in 1994 relating to the Prairie Island nuclear power facility required public utilities that operate nuclear power plants in the state to develop 125 megawatts of electric energy generated by biomass.

The law allows 50 of the 125 megawatts to be provided by a facility that uses poultry litter as its primary fuel source.

Fiberwatt, a company based in Great Britain, is proposing to build the poultry litter plant in Minnesota. The company owns and operates three similar power plants in Great Britain.

Those facilities produce energy by burning the litter at 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit, producing steam that drives a turbine. Officials from the company testified that they are interested in building the plant in Minnesota because the state is the second largest turkey producing state in the nation.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) were the sponsors.

HF2757*/SF2614/CH443

★ ENVIRONMENT

Gasoline additives banned

Gasoline additives that have caused severe water pollution in some states will be banned in Minnesota, under a new law signed April 24 by the governor.

Effective July 1, 2000, gasoline in the state can contain only trace amounts of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE). Both compounds are alternative fuel additives to ethanol.

Currently, those additives are not used in Minnesota's gasoline supply. But Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), sponsor of the measure, said that as other states ban the chemicals, gasoline with those additives could be sent to Minnesota unless it is banned here.

After July 1, 2000, gasoline cannot contain more than one-third of 1 percent of the chemicals. Gasoline is moved through common pipelines throughout the country, so traces of those chemicals can be found in almost all gasoline.

But after July 1, 2005, no traces of the chemicals will be allowed in gasoline, under the new law.

Research shows the additive is responsible for several incidents of soil and water contamination, including municipal wells as nearby as Alford and Ida Grove, Iowa.

Minnesota's legislators are not alone in their concern over the effects of MTBE usage in gasoline. Recent developments in other states are driving a national reconsideration of using MTBE as an oxygenate in fuel.

California Gov. Gray Davis issued an executive order in March 1999 to phase out MTBE from the California gasoline supply by December 31, 2002. His decision was supported by a state-funded research project by the University of California that indicated that the air pollution benefits of using the additive could be obtained in other ways.

Twenty-three states have established regulatory guidelines or standards for MTBE contamination in groundwater or drinking water.

Experts say eight ounces of the additive can contaminate five million gallons of drinking water. Spillage from a car accident could threaten an entire aquifer.

Water contaminated by MTBE has a bitter taste and detectable odor. Research has shown it causes tumors in rats.

Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) was the Senate sponsor of the measure.

HF3292/SF2946*/CH434

★ FAMILY

Parenting plans become law

Parents who are getting a divorce will be allowed to create a parenting plan agreement, under a law signed April 27 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law allows divorced couples to make agreements on splitting parenting time. Plans could specify anything from where a child lives during the day to which parent can teach religious philosophy. Child support issues are not included in the law.

If both parents agree to a parenting plan, the court must accede unless the court determines the plan is not in the best interest of the child.

If neither parent agrees to a parenting plan, the court may create one on its own, under the law.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), the law is similar to a proposal that came from a task force that studied the issue during the interim.

An earlier version of the measure would have allowed the judge to order that parents enter into negotiations even if one parent did not want a parenting plan. However, the final legislation allows a plan if both parents agreed to enter into it.

The court cannot require a parenting plan if one adult has been accused of domestic assault or sexual abuse, under the law. In addition, judges must ask individuals if they agreed to the parenting plan voluntarily.

The law also replaces the word "visitation" in statute with the phrase "parenting time." Dawkins said non-custodial parents find the word "visitation" to be offensive.

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect retroactively to Sept. 1, 1999.

HF3311/SF3169*/CH444

Extending judicial pilot project

A Ramsey County pilot program that allows one judge to hear all cases involving a single family would be extended another two years, under a bill the House passed April 26. The vote was 121-8.

Sponsored by Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), the bill would extend the Combined Court Jurisdiction pilot program to 2002. The program is currently set to expire June 30 of this year.

The program allows one judge to hear issues that would go before family, probate, or juvenile court, McGuire explained.

"Rather than dealing with three different judges and three different court dates, let's combine it and put it before one judge," McGuire said, in explaining the rationale for the initiative.

The program is referred to as "one court, one judge," she said. Delinquency matters are not included in the program.

The Legislature initially approved the two-year pilot program in 1996. Former Rep. Howard Orenstein (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the original measure.

The pilot program was extended through 2000 by the 1998 Legislature. McGuire said she hopes the Legislature will make the program permanent within the next two years.

"Some of the implementation issues caused some concerns, and they want to iron out those issues," she said.

The bill (HF3997/SF3300*) now heads to the governor.

★ GOVERNMENT

Plan to move Agriculture Dept.

A bill that would call for a plan to relocate the state Department of Agriculture to rural Minnesota was passed by the House April 26. The vote was 75-56.

The relocation proposal was added to a bill (HF3852) that would require state agencies to encourage state employees to work from home by telecommuting.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Westfall (R-Rothsay), each state agency would submit an annual report to the Legislature that would explain its progress in achieving goals related to telecommuting.

The report would include descriptions of positions that are suitable for telecommuting and how they would be adjusted, incentives for employees to telecommute, and goals for achieving a minimum percentage of positions that can be filled fully or partially by employees who telecommute.

Westfall said the goal of the bill is to take a step toward decentralizing government.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) proposed the plan to take a bigger step toward that goal by planning to relocate the Agriculture Department, and the House voted 75-56 to accept his amendment.

"This is a good opportunity to share some equity with rural Minnesota and share some jobs with rural Minnesota," Westrom said.

The same provision had been proposed by Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) and added to the omnibus state government spending bill (HF2699), which is currently in a House-Senate conference committee.

Juhnke also spoke in favor of the Westrom proposal, saying that it would save money because office space is less expensive to build or lease outside the metro area. And, he said, it would move that department closer to the areas it serves.

The plan would be designed by the state Department of Administration, in consultation with the commissioner of agriculture, by June 30, 2003, when the department's current lease expires at its St. Paul office.

Several lawmakers spoke against the proposal, saying the state would incur costs of relocating people and families. Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) said it would hurt families that have to move their children to a different school and employees' spouses who would need to find jobs wherever the department is moved.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) proposed adding a similar plan to relocate the Department of Natural Resources outside the metro area, but that proposal failed on a 68-62 vote.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Paying costs of lawsuits

State agencies that instigate unsuccessful lawsuits could have to pay higher costs to defendants, under a new law signed April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Currently, agencies are required to pay the attorneys' fees and other expenses of a defendant when the agency brings a civil action and

loses, under certain conditions. Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the new law will expand the types of expenses that can be recovered by the prevailing party, and it clarifies the procedure for receiving those awards from a court or administrative law judge.

The new law will allow the prevailing party to recover reasonable costs of any study, analysis, engineering report, test, or project that the party has done in response to the state's action. Those costs are added to those that already can be recovered under current law, including various court fees, mileage, postage, and delivery costs.

Also, current law limits the amount of attorney fees that can be recovered to \$100 per hour. The new law will raise that limit to \$125 per hour.

The new law also modifies the definition of who is eligible for recovering those types of expenses. Groups that are eligible under current law include organizations with up to 50 employees and annual revenues that do not exceed \$4 million. The new law will expand the eligibility by increasing the number of employees to 500 and the annual revenues to \$7 million.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), sponsor of the measure, said the current law is used very rarely, and it ideally would not be used at all.

"If the state bases its actions on facts and acts in good faith, there's nothing to worry about," Tuma said when the bill was debated on the House floor.

The law applies only if the state agency fails to justify its position when it instigates a civil suit or contested case other than a tort action.

Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge (DFL-New Hope) carried the Senate version of the bill. HF3497*/SF3539/CH439

HIGHER EDUCATION

Setting salary for officials

A change would be made in the way the salary is determined for chancellor of the state's largest higher education system, under a bill the House passed April 25. The vote was 95-34.

The bill (HF3726/SF3386*), sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), would allow the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) to establish a salary range for the chancellor position. The board would then submit the proposed salary range to the Legislature for approval.

Currently, the board sets a specific salary amount that is then approved by the Legislature. The current salary for the chancellor is \$185,000.

The bill also would allow the board more

flexibility in the contracts they offer to presidents and other non-classified positions within the MnSCU system. Under current law, the board is allowed to propose a salary range for its presidents, which the Legislature approves. But the bill would allow the board to submit to the Legislature proposed contracts with other incentives to attract candidates.

Bishop said that increasing competition from other states has made retaining and recruiting quality people in the positions more difficult. He said he aims to give MnSCU more options to attract qualified candidates.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) offered a successful amendment deleting a section of the bill that would have required MnSCU to conduct a study on the use of non-profit educational foundations to provide additional compensation and benefits for the chancellor and president positions.

McCollum said she opposed using foundation money to pay officials at public institutions because of the inequities in pay that would likely be created under such a system.

The bill now goes to the governor.

HUMAN SERVICES

Responsibility for care

The commissioner of the Department of Human Services is now required to consult with stakeholders and develop recommendations for transferring guardianship responsibilities for adults with mental retardation from the department to another entity, under a law signed April 20 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Under the law, stakeholders include family members, advocacy organizations, counties, service providers, and the office of the ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation.

The law requires those taking over guardianship responsibilities to be either a multi-purpose agency providing a broad range of social services or a new or existing office within state government that does not currently have duties related to mentally retarded people.

The law also states that an entity must provide assurance that it will act in the best interests of each person left in its care.

Officials must provide recommendations for transferring guardianship responsibilities, including cost estimates, to the chair of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and the chair of the Senate Health and Family Security Committee by December 15, 2000, under the law.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. John C. Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the legislation. The law is effective April 21, 2000.

HF2671*/SF2567/CH429

★ **LAW**

Access to sex offender records

Lawyers would have more access to court and health records of sex offenders who could possibly be elevated to the level of predatory offender, under a bill the House passed April 26. The vote was 130-0.

Sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), the bill would make alterations to the Sexually Dangerous Persons Act, which allows the state to civilly commit repeated predatory offenders to treatment.

The bill would allow county attorneys or the state attorney general access to health and court records before a petition to deem someone a predatory offender and have that person committed is filed in court. Currently, attorneys usually obtain those records after a petition is filed.

"What they want to do is look at the health records," Skoglund explained.

There are about 160 predatory offenders in state hospitals. The offenders have completed their prison sentences and have been sent to the state hospital for treatment rather than being released.

While a predatory offender could complete treatment and be released from a state hospital, that has yet to happen in the six-year history of the civil commitment law.

The attorney general or county attorneys are responsible for seeking petitions to commit offenders. The attorney general usually handles commitment cases for less-populated counties.

If the attorneys had access to records before a petition is filed, they might determine that civil commitment is not necessary and not pursue a petition, Skoglund said.

The bill (HF2880/SF2854*) would require the individual be notified that attorneys are seeking his or her records. However, that notice could be waived if it would result in harm or harassment of potential witnesses.

The health and court records would not be considered public information.

The Legislature approved the Sexually Dangerous Persons Act during a special session in 1994. The law stemmed from a case involving Dennis Linehan, who had a history of raping teen-agers in the 1960s and murdered one person. Linehan was set to be freed after a court struck down his commitment. The 1994 law allowed the state to keep Linehan committed.

The bill now returns to the Senate.

★ **METRO AFFAIRS**

Defining minor-use airports

The House passed a bill April 26 that would shore up law that prevents expenditures to expand or upgrade minor-use airports to intermediate-use airports without approval from the Legislature. The vote was 78-53.

The bill (HF849), sponsored by Rep. Barb Haake (R-Mounds View), would set into law the definition of a minor use airport as one with a runway or runways no longer than 5,000 feet.

In 1980, the Legislature approved a measure known as the "McCarron Amendment," named after former Rep. Paul McCarron. It prohibited the expansion of minor- and intermediate-use airports in the metropolitan area unless the expansion was approved by the Legislature.

This new bill would not change the McCarron Amendment. It would merely put into law the definition of a minor-use airport, Haake said.

The bill stems from a compromise between the Metropolitan Airports Commission and communities near the Anoka County Airport. The airport has proposed extending its east-west runway, which would allow business jets to use the airport.

In its Metropolitan Development Guide, the Metropolitan Airports Commission defines a minor-use airport as one with a runway of no longer than 5,000 feet, Haake said.

Currently, St. Paul's Downtown Airport is the only intermediate-use airport in the metropolitan area, she said. Minor-use airports include Flying Cloud, Crystal, Anoka County, Blaine, Lake Elmo, and Airlake.

The measure now moves to the Senate.

★ **TRANSPORTATION**

Exceptions to restrictions

Some heavier vehicles such as public utility or recycling trucks are exempt from spring-time road weight restrictions, under a law signed April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law allows a few specified vehicles to travel on roads that usually have weight restrictions for eight weeks in the spring.

"No one is for wrecking roads. I'm certainly not," said Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), House sponsor of the measure.

Public utility vehicles need to be able to travel on side roads when emergencies occur, Workman said.

"For them to come onto your street and restore your power, they are technically breaking the law," Workman said during a House Transportation Policy Committee meeting in February. "That's ridiculous."

Exempted vehicles under this bill must not exceed 20,000 pounds per axle.

The law sunsets in three years, so legislators will have to take further action to continue the law if it works well, Workman said.

The law does not include two House floor amendments, which would have exempted trucks containing raw sewage or milk from the road restrictions.

The eight-week weight restrictions are enforced when the ice thaws and roads become particularly soft. Road restrictions are generally placed on state and county highways or city streets. By starting the weight restrictions on time, the department estimates it saves \$10 million annually in road replacement costs.

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the Senate measure. The law is effective April 25, 2000, and is to be repealed June 1, 2003.

HF3274/SF2785*/CH433

★ **VETERANS**

Exempting rebate income

Sales tax refunds or rebates will not be considered income for residents of veterans' homes, under a new law signed April 24 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), will clarify current law that requires residents of veterans' homes to pay for their care based on their ability to pay.

Cost of care is based on the average costs of operating veterans' homes.

The law relates to any future sales tax refunds and rebates, and to those paid after June 30, 1999. That money will not be considered income for residents of veterans' homes, under the law.

The law also will allow the governing board of the veterans' home in Hastings to use federal grant money to purchase a home to be used as transitional housing for homeless or disabled veterans. That provision of the law takes affect Aug. 1, 2000.

Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2968/SF3139*/CH442

Youth restored

Once-controversial fountain should soon return to its home near the Veterans Service Building after months of repairs

By JON FURE

An artwork that once stirred considerable controversy during its design has been noticeably absent from its perch on the Capitol grounds in recent months.

Known as the “Promise of Youth,” the fountain features a bronze statue of a nude woman sitting in the middle of tulip petals that open and close. People have commonly referred to the statue as “Millie” after the model who posed for the piece.

Now more than 40 years old, the statue has been sent away for repairs that are nearly complete.

The fountain was designed in 1952 by Alonzo Hauser as part of the Veterans Service Building. The building and surrounding monuments serve as a memorial to all members of the armed services.

Hauser had been chosen as the sculptor in 1952 by Brooks Cavin, architect of the veterans building. Hauser was the director of the Art Department at Macalester College until he became a freelance sculptor in 1949. He also has made sculptures for several Twin Cities area churches.

Hauser’s concept for the Promise of Youth was to reflect the larger theme of the importance of peace, with the youthful figure looking up at the Court of Honor, which is a wall of commemorative plaques dedicated to various groups of veterans.

According to a 1957 article in the *Minnesota Daily*, Hauser showed a small model of the Promise of Youth to the 11-member Veterans Service Building Commission in 1952 as part of the overall design for the building. None of the board members objected to the design of the fountain when they approved the building.

But in 1954, the board voted to reject the design due to concerns that the community would consider the nude statue inappropriate.

Then-secretary of the board, William Fallon, explained the board’s position in a *Minneapolis Tribune* article.

“The commission objected, generally speaking, because nudes in public places are often criticized,” Fallon said.

Hauser’s sculpture was nearly complete in June 1953, when he received a visit at his Mendota studio from Maj. Gen. Ellard Walsh of Minneapolis, chairman of the board. Walsh saw the sculpture and

said Minnesotans “would not go for it,” according to the article.

Walsh suggested that the public would find the sculpture more appropriate if instead of the female nude figure it depicted a soldier throwing a grenade.

At a May 1954 board meeting, Cavin spoke in favor of Hauser’s sculpture and pressed the

issue of taking a vote to formally approve or reject the design. Cavin had brought letters of support from W.B. Bryan, director of the Minneapolis School of Art, and Malcolm E. Lein, director of the St. Paul Gallery and School of Art. But the board refused to read the letters and unanimously voted to reject Hauser’s design.

The issue did not receive much more attention until a *Minnesota Daily* article and others appeared in 1957, which led to public support for the Promise of Youth fountain despite the statue’s risque nature. Several letters from readers appeared in local newspapers asking for the board members’ names and qualifications as art critics.

In 1958, the fountain was finally placed in its perch in front of the veterans building, just south of the Capitol. But that wasn’t the end of its struggle.

According to a 1963 *St. Paul Dispatch* story, children in the neighborhood were using the reflecting pool surrounding the fountain as a swimming pool, leaving behind their candy wrappers, pop bottles, banana peels, and other litter.

The article also said “some legislators felt the young lady should have some clothes on even if they got wet,” and that vandals had jammed the mechanism that opened the petals, so that the nude statue was permanently covered by the closed petals.

More recently, leaks in the pool have forced it to be left empty for the past several years, which has made it an occasional destination for local skateboarders.

The current repair project was funded through the 1998 bonding law. The law ordered several repair projects for Capitol monuments.

The work for the Promise of Youth will cost \$262,000, which includes repairs to the reflecting pool and pipes, as well as the repairs to the statue. The fountain’s petals will be fixed in a permanent position, partially open to reveal the statue and high enough to prevent children from climbing on the petals. The fountain’s base will be strengthened to help it withstand wind and elements.

The water level in the pool will be kept at a depth of about six inches.

The work is expected to be complete in June, so it will be on display for the Taste of Minnesota festival held on the Capitol grounds annually in early July. 🐼



This somewhat risque fountain attracted controversy when it was first installed on the Capitol grounds. After years of neglect, it has been temporarily removed for repairs.

Cross checks and balances

The Legislature's veto override power has been used infrequently throughout the history of the state

BY DAVID MAEDA

In the political world of checks and balances, where the three equal branches of government share power and keep each other in line, the veto override is the equivalent of a body check. If it connects, it can really sting.

Just consider the circumstances of former Gov. Harold LeVander, who in the late 1960s used a veto to stop enactment of a state sales tax, only to have a Legislature controlled by his own party override that veto.

LeVander may have seen the override as more of a cross check, to stick with the hockey terminology. To him, it may have seemed a cheap shot meant to cause harm.

The governor's veto power is an obvious, highly visible one of the checks and balances created by this three-branch system of government. A check on that check is the Legislature's ability — with a two-thirds majority vote — to override the governor's veto.

These safeguards are considered important enough that every state in the nation now allows gubernatorial vetoes and legislative veto overrides. In 1996, North Carolina became the last state to give its chief executive veto power.

Considering the number of bills passed into law in Minnesota's history, there haven't been that many vetoes used. In the past 60 years governors have vetoed about 375 bills.

Former Gov. Arne Carlson was far and away the most frequent user of this executive power, vetoing 179 bills in his eight years in office. The next highest amount came from Gov. Al Quie who vetoed 31 bills in four years.

As relatively infrequent as vetoes have been, the Legislature's use of its power to override those vetoes has been even rarer.

The Legislature has overridden vetoes only six times since 1939. Two governors have had two veto overrides. Several governors have had none.

In the current era of tri-partisan government, Gov. Jesse Ventura may be less protected from the veto override because he has no direct party allies in either the House or the Senate. He is the lone member of the Independence Party to hold office in the state.

Last year, the Legislature overrode a veto by

Ventura of a bill that allows court evidence about allegedly defective seat belts in product liability lawsuits. It was the first veto override since 1982. And the 2000 Legislature overrode another Ventura veto of a bill aimed to prevent closure of a state-run nursing facility in Walker.

Also this session, an attempt to override a line-item veto of a measure that would have appropriated \$150,000 for a World War II memorial at the Capitol failed in the House, coming up 11 votes short.

Prior to the overrides of those Ventura vetoes, the last time the Legislature exercised that power was in 1982, when two of Quie's vetoes were overridden. One was to a bill that removed the education commissioner from the State University Board. The other bill allowed the state to pay medical insurance benefits to state employees who took early retirement.

The House also attempted to override a veto on a third, and much more controversial bill, that sought to establish a \$46 million environmental Superfund to clean up 49 hazardous waste dumps. The override vote failed by eight votes.

Perhaps the most contentious veto override came with the establishment of the state's sales tax in 1967. The Legislature, looking for a method to alleviate the state's dependence on property taxes passed a bill establishing the sales tax. LeVander said he would veto any bill that contained a sales tax provision and did not also contain a clause for a referendum on the issue.

But members of LeVander's own Republican Party, which had a majority in both the House and Senate, ignored the governor's warning and passed a measure creating a 3 percent sales tax without a referendum provision.

True to his word, the governor vetoed the bill. The House then voted to override the governor's veto. But the Senate, despite a majority vote, didn't have the necessary two-thirds majority required for a veto override.

LeVander called a special session during which both the House and Senate re-passed the tax bill containing the 3 percent state sales tax. LeVander again vetoed the bill. But this time both the House and Senate voted to override the veto.

It was the first time in state history that a governor's own party voted twice to overturn his veto.

The only other veto override since 1939 occurred when Gov. Luther Youngdahl vetoed a bill that authorized financial assistance to seven counties that the state agreed to pay off outstanding ditch bond indebtedness.

In his veto message, Youngdahl said he was



Until Gov. Jesse Ventura came to the Capitol, former Gov. Al Quie was the only person to twice feel the sting of a veto override. Shown here, Quie signs a veto message in his Capitol office Dec. 21, 1981.

vetoing the bill because it had passed both houses with little or no discussion and he had been informed that it had lacked "full disclosure of the facts involved."

However Youngdahl's argument didn't dissuade legislators against the importance of the bill. An overwhelming majority — 124 in the House and 60 in the Senate — voted for the override. 🐾

Hard time

State's Sentencing Guidelines Commission rates crimes and determines how long felons should stay in prison

By CHRIS VETTER

When the Legislature passes changes to law that strengthen felony-level penalties, the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission must figure out how to make those changes fit into its guidelines.

The 11-person board, which is a policy-making body, has been tweaking the state's sentencing guidelines annually since the concept was approved in 1978.

"They are constantly being changed every year, both by the Legislature and by other changes," says Deb Dailey, executive director of the commission for the past 14 years.

Prior to the inception of the guidelines, there was little consistency in how long a convicted felon was sentenced to prison.

"People were not happy with the indeterminate time people spent in prison," Dailey said. "People felt inmates were getting out of prison too soon."

State Supreme Court Justice Russell A. Anderson, a member of the commission, said the process makes sentencing rules similar across the state.

"Our job is to make sure sentencing is rational and consistent," he said. "Sentencing should be neutral with respect to gender, race, or economic status of the felons."

The Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission was created by the 1978 Legislature and has been making a guideline system based on the average crime ever since.

"The statute maximum is meant to address the most egregious cases," Dailey said. "The guidelines address the typical case."

The guidelines rank offenses on a scale of 1-10, ten being the worst level of offense. Second-degree murder is a level 10 offense; sale of a controlled substance, such as marijuana, is a level one offense.

The level of offense is then cross-referenced with the felon's "criminal history score," which is based on a separate formula of prior criminal offenses. The higher the criminal history score, the longer period of prison sentence for a convicted felon.

The guidelines pertain to felony crimes only, not to gross misdemeanors or lesser offenses.

Along with the guidelines, convicted felons are required to serve at least two-thirds of the full sentence imprisoned, with a maximum of one-third of the sentence on supervised release.

Judges can depart from the guidelines, delivering either a lengthier or shorter sentence than the guidelines suggest, Dailey said.

"It's important that judges have the discretion to depart from the guidelines," she said. "The guidelines cannot address every situation."

"Our job is to make sure sentencing is rational and consistent. Sentencing should be neutral with respect to gender, race, or economic status of the felons."

—State Supreme Court Justice Russell A. Anderson

If the felon is convicted of a crime with a mandatory minimum sentence lengthier than the guidelines suggest, the felon must serve the mandatory minimum.

Scott Swanson, assistant state public defender, was appointed to the commission last year. Swanson likes the system, saying it "treats similarly situated people similarly."

Swanson predicts the commission will be unusually busy altering the guidelines this year because of felony changes in "Katie's Law." The law increases penalties for sex offenders. The law is named for Katie Poirier, who was abducted and allegedly killed by a repeat sex offender.

Swanson said the commission is concerned about the disproportionate number of

minorities in Minnesota prisons — about 37 percent of current inmates are black, according to the Department of Corrections. That percent is far higher than the state's black population.

"It's stunning, when you look at people walking down the street," Swanson said.

Robert Knickerbocker, Anoka County probation officer, also was appointed to the board last year. He said he hears input from probation officers from across the state, asking for technical changes or questioning the weight given to specific provisions.


"I find it very interesting and challenging," Knickerbocker said.

While it meets at least once a month, the board is likely to meet more often in the summer months as it changes the guidelines to match changes passed by the Legislature in the spring. That way, the guideline changes are in place by August 1, when most of the new laws take effect, Dailey said.

The commission board members are appointed to four-year terms that are concurrent with the governor's term. The governor appoints eight members. His appointments

include a county attorney, a law enforcement official, a probation officer, and three citizens. The chief justice of the Supreme Court appoints the other three members.

About 20 states currently have a sentencing guidelines commission, Dailey said. Minnesota's system is similar to versions in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

Changes to law since 1989 have shifted the sentencing guidelines toward lengthier prison terms, Dailey said. She noted that the guidelines for murder increased from 17 years in prison to 30 years. The guidelines for several other crimes have doubled in recent years, she added. 

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Since then, broadcasts have also been made available via satellite statewide. Outstate residents should consult with cable operators for time and channel information, or view a program listing on the House Television Services' Website at **http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hvtv/hvtv.htm**.

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are closed-captioned.

Three committee hearing rooms in the State Office Building are equipped for television broadcast. Two of the rooms have remotely-operated cameras mounted at three different angles.

From these rooms, legislative proceedings

can be broadcast live or recorded for later broadcast with minimal interruption.

The televised committee hearings and floor sessions are carried by about 10 cable companies serving dozens of Minnesota cities from Warroad to Worthington.

There is also an interactive television site in Room 5 of the State Office Building. Connected to more than 80 sites throughout Minnesota, the technology allows members of the public from across the state to testify in legislative hearings without having to travel to St. Paul.

Get on the Web

Perhaps the most comprehensive way to follow activities in the Legislature is through the Internet.

Since 1994, anyone with access to the Internet has had access to legislative information. In January 1996, the Legislature debuted on the World Wide Web, which provides a user-friendly format that anyone, regardless of computer prowess, can navigate.

Begin your quest by directing your Web browser to <http://www.leg.state.mn.us>, the Legislature's Web site.

The site offers access to a variety of pages, including the House, Senate, bill tracking, Minnesota Statutes and Session Laws, Minnesota Rules, schedules and joint legislative departments and commissions.

Both the House and Senate pages provide access to bill tracking functions, and you can find easy-to-understand bill summaries on the Web. You may search for a bill by number or by using keywords likely to be found in the bill's title. You can also search by chief author, other authors, statutory citation, or revisor's number.

Bills from previous sessions are also available for search.

If you are interested in a current list of bills



A committee hearing room in the State Office Building features interactive television technology through which lawmakers can communicate with people at more than 80 sites around Minnesota.

being heard by a particular committee, select the committees link and click on the committee of your choice and then choose the "legislation" option.

You can also find schedules of bills to be heard on the floor, committee schedules, television schedules, house journals, and a staff directory of the House and Senate.

If you're not sure where to find information on the Legislature's Web site, take advantage of a new searching capability added this year.

Direct your browser to <http://search.state.mn.us/leg/> and enter your topic. A high-powered search engine will bring up links to relevant information.

All of the information on the site can be read, sent to a printer, or saved as files on your computer for future reference. The site is also compatible with browsers used by the visually impaired.

You can also view *Session Weekly* on the Internet, with all graphics and photos intact,

at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swkly.ssi>. *Senate Briefly* can be accessed from the Senate Web page.

Questions or comments regarding the House Web site may be sent via e-mail to the webmaster at: webmaster@house.leg.state.mn.us.

Frequently used Web links

Legislature's main page:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Session Weekly on the Web:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/swkly.ssi>.

To search the Legislative Web site:
<http://search.state.mn.us/leg/>

North Star government information:
<http://www.state.mn.us/mainmenu.html>

Governor's office:
<http://www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/>

Legislative Reference Library:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.htm>

Revisor's Office:
<http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/revisor.html>

Legislative Links to the World:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/links/links.htm>

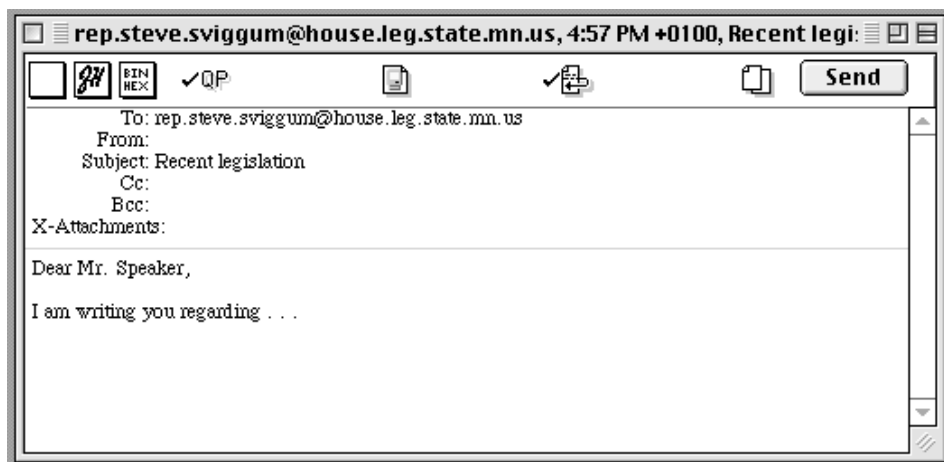
Frequently called numbers

House Information:
651-296-2146
1-800-687-3550

Senate Information:
651-296-0504
1-888-234-1112

Chief Clerk's Office:
651-296-2314

Office of Secretary of the Senate:
651-296-2344



E-mail is an increasingly common and efficient way for constituents to contact their legislators. Lawmakers regularly respond to signed messages, and they prefer that correspondents include their full names and addresses.

Minnesota House of Representatives 2000 Members

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

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of March 2, 2000

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

Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either 14 days after adjournment for bills

passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history—at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

This information is also available on the governor's Web site (www.governor.state.mn.us). Select the "Legislative Initiatives" link, then click on "Legislative Log 2000."

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res. 4	4060	2348*	Resolution for release of Americans held in North Korea, China, Russia and Vietnam.	4/3/00	
251	2980	2763*	Fishing season modified.	2/16/00	
252	2634	2411*	Northern Itasca hospital board membership requirements modified.	3/1/00	
253	2521	2320*	Lake Edwards township name change.	3/1/00	
254	76	86*	K-12 education technical changes provided.	3/7/00	
255	2067*	2071	Juvenile offenders modifications.	3/7/00	
256	2722*	2502	Kittson County town dissolution authority.	3/7/00	
257	2535*	2291	Shorewood authorized to elect city council members by wards.	3/13/00	
258	3039	2554*	Wadena County truth in taxation process advertisement requirement penalty exemption.	3/13/00	
259	3338*	2907	Scott County officials duties reorganized.	3/14/00	
260	2749*	2464	Revisor's bill.	3/14/00	
261	2642*	2552	Search firms surety bonding requirements modified.	3/14/00	
262	2774	2485*	Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled substance listing effective date delayed.	3/20/00	
263	2680	2465*	Political party treasurers authorized to sign political contribution refund receipt forms.	3/20/00	
264	3232	2692*	Business corporations and limited liability companies shareholder rights modified.	3/20/00	
265	2603	2346*	Permanently disabled hunters permit privileges modified.	3/20/00	
266	2723*	2528	McLeod County office authority extended.	3/23/00	
267	3236*	3236	Vital record certified copy issuance provisions modified.	3/23/00	
268	979*	2059	Landlords authorized to apportion utility payments among units.	3/23/00	
269	1865*	2094	Nursing mothers needs study by the Supreme Court Jury Reform Task Force required.	3/23/00	
270	2815*	2386	Hennepin County District Court fine proceeds distribution modified.	3/23/00	
271	3064	2776*	St. Louis County nursing home renovation approval deadline extended.	3/23/00	
272	3762	3355*	Port authority electronic funds disbursement authorized.	3/23/00	
273	2927*	2685	Metropolitan Inter-County Association group insurance protection authorized.	3/23/00	

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
274	3766*	3676	Pawnbrokers computerized records transmission format specified.	3/23/00	
275	2873*	2516	Anoka County department head time requirements clarified.	3/23/00	
276	3113*	3089	Pharmacies permitted an additional certified technician.	3/24/00	
277	118*	160	State agency commissioners acting service time limited.		3/24/00
278	2505*	2289	Annual state park permits effective for a 12-month period.	3/24/00	
279	2502*	3207	C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway designated.	3/24/00	
280	2824*	2578	Collector motor vehicles license plate option.	3/24/00	
281	3156*	2709	I-35 designation as 34th Infantry (Red Bull) Division Highway.	3/24/00	
282	3132*	2890	Security deposit interest rates provided.	3/24/00	
283	2836*	2982	National Guard and organized militia membership eligibility clarified.	3/27/00	
284	3222*	3117	Health-related licensing boards reporting requirements modified.	3/27/00	
285	3332*	3120	Dairy research and promotion council alternative term expiration dates authorized.	3/27/00	
286	3433*	3292	St. Paul Port Authority recreational facilities and purposes authority modified.	3/27/00	
287	3475	2813*	State vehicle identification requirements modified.	3/27/00	
288	3142*	2844	Trunk Highway No. 4 designated as Richard J. Mathiowetz Memorial Highway.	3/28/00	
289	2687	2652*	Electric power generating plant siting act exemptions expanded.	3/28/00	
290	3016	2756*	Hospital districts annexation authority expanded.	3/28/00	
291	3003	3097*	Department of Corrections fugitive apprehension unit created.	3/28/00	
292	3421*	2779	Electric cooperatives' election to be regulated petition and balloting provisions modified.	3/28/00	
293	3053*	2508	Collector vehicles authorized to display a blue light as part of rear brakes.	3/28/00	
294	3196*	2978	Nursing facility employee pension benefit costs treated as PERA contributions.	3/28/00	
295	3375	3161*	Health care purchasing alliances modified.	3/28/00	
296	3188	3253*	Special transportation services medical assistance reimbursement study required.	3/28/00	
297	3281	2691*	State building energy code authority transferred to commissioner of administration.	3/28/00	
298	2909	2365*	Physician assistant supervisory requirement modified.	3/28/00	
299	3370	3330*	Department of Corrections housekeeping bill.	3/28/00	
300	3219	2903*	Omnibus gambling bill.	3/31/00	
301	1333	2193*	Wood sales contracts regulated.	3/31/00	
302	2785	2821*	Charitable organization annual report filing requirements modified.	3/31/00	
303	2883	2579*	Prescription drug discounts regulated.	3/31/00	
304	2675	2569*	Vicarious liability insurance coverage for punitive and exemplary damages authorized.	3/31/00	
305	3399	3145*	Minnetonka qualified newspaper designation priority variance.	3/31/00	
306	2588	2326*	Monarch designated as the state butterfly.	3/31/00	
307	3209*	2699	Health care cost containment major commitment expenditure report requirements modified.	4/3/00	
308	3352	3586*	Lighted fishing lures authorized.	4/3/00	
309	2719*	2436	Rental automobile insurance coverage regulated.	4/3/00	
310	2809*	2631	Ah-Gwah-Ching nursing center admissions criteria clarified.		4/3/00♦
311	2688*	2769	Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance bill.	4/3/00	
312	3226	2896*	Nursing home resident assistants authorized and survey process procedure developed.	4/3/00	
313	2994	2748*	Ambulance service and EMT requirements modified.	4/3/00	
314	3212	2734*	Home care and personal care provider transportation expense reimbursement studied.	4/3/00	
315	3048	2868*	New medical assistance case-mix system based on federal minimum data set transition timelines.	4/3/00	
316	3107	2634*	Civil commitment relative notification provided and minor voluntary treatment consent provisions modified.	4/3/00	
317	3306	3549*	Residential hospice program requirements modified.	4/3/00	
318	3023	2701*	Lawful gambling fraud defined and criminal penalties imposed.	4/3/00	
319	3365	2941*	Vulnerable adult neglect and medical error provisions modified.	4/3/00	
320	3220	2510*	Real property recording and redemption and common interest ownership provisions modified.	4/4/00	
321	3596	3369*	Special environmental purpose districts pilot projects.	4/4/00	

♦ veto overridden by Legislature

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
322	3310	3055*	Health plan contract stacking regulated and remedy provided.	4/4/00	
323	3290	2894*	Occupational safety and health discrimination complaint communications classified as privileged.	4/4/00	
324	3555	3283*	Snowmobile metal traction device sticker requirement civil enforcement provided.	4/4/00	
325	1590*	1952	Warrant authority of alcohol and gambling agents clarified.	4/4/00	
326	2819	2444*	Stearns County land conveyance authorized.	4/4/00	
327	3103	3005*	Human services licensing provisions modified.	4/4/00	
328	3152	2905*	Local government units purchase provisions modified.	4/4/00	
329	3169*	3167	Dakota County personnel board of appeals provisions modified.	4/4/00	
330	2670*	2566	Mental retardation community-based waived services modified.	4/4/00	
331	3868	3260*	Aquatic farm licensing requirements modified.	4/4/00	
332	4076	2653*	Internet state agency grant information required and uniform application developed.	4/4/00	
333	2940*	2735	Dry cleaner environmental response and reimbursement law modified.	4/4/00	
334	2936	2511*	Public and private property entry authorized for the purposes of examinations and surveys.	4/4/00	
335	3327	2676*	Local government authorization to petition to amend or repeal rules sunset modified.	4/6/00	
336	3571	2828*	Gambling regulated, specified activities prohibited, and shipment of gambling devices regulated.	4/6/00	
337	2559	2546*	Inland water sunken logs recovery and historical artifacts ownership provided.	4/6/00	
338	3342	3025*	Foster care providers medical equipment operation competency required.	4/6/00	
339	3134*	2857	Metropolitan Mosquito Control Commission authority to enter specified state lands limited.	4/6/00	
340	3122*	2901	Medical Assistance, General Assistance, MinnesotaCare, and health care program provisions modified.	4/6/00	
341	3510*	3378	Taking two deer authorization extended in specified counties.	4/6/00	
342	2656*	3441	Auto glass repair and replacement regulated, and rebates and incentives limited.	4/6/00	
343	3806	3554*	Nonprofit organization re-employment compensation provisions modified.	4/6/00	
344	465	624*	Firefighter training and education board created.	4/6/00	
345	2803*	3119	Court reporters allowed to organize under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.	4/10/00	
346	2969	2803*	Certified public accountant licensing requirements modified.	4/10/00	
347	3477	2499*	Speech language pathology and audiology services medical assistance clarified.	4/10/00	
348	2761	3379*	Omnibus tax-forfeited land bill.	4/10/00	
349	2643	2767*	Health plan companies and third party administrators clean health or home care services claims.	4/10/00	
350	2974	3203*	Insurance uniform accounting principles codification.	4/10/00	
351	2639	2397*	Employees bloodborne pathogens exposure reduction procedures.	4/10/00	
352	3584	3354*	Manufactured homes limited dealer license requirements clarified.	4/10/00	
353	3052	2850*	Itasca County medical assistance prepayment demonstration project participation extended.	4/10/00	
354	2751	3455*	Stolen or fraudulent checks provisions modifications.	4/10/00	
355	3347	2989*	Administrative law and workers' compensation judges conduct regulated.	4/10/00	
356	3795	3478*	Rochester firefighter probationary period rules modified.	4/10/00	
357	3119	2725*	Public defenders and court-appointed counsel minors juvenile court representation restriction.	4/10/00	
358	1267	1126*	Civil actions economic loss doctrine clarification	4/11/00	
359	3457	2858*	Civilly committed sexual psychopaths or sexually dangerous persons transfer procedure.	4/11/00	
360	3202	2789*	Coroner compensation provisions clarified.	4/11/00	
361	947	1038*	Occupational therapist and assistant licensing requirements established.	4/11/00	
362	3208	2723*	Trust and probate provisions modified.	4/11/00	
363	3626	3428*	Psychologist supervisory and disciplinary requirements modified.	4/11/00	
364	3537	3198*	Nursing facilities closure plans and savings reallocation process established.	4/11/00	
365	3952	3533*	Claims against the state payments provided.	4/11/00	
366	3303	3566*	Criminal penalty for failure to remit motor vehicle sales taxes.	4/13/00	
367	3756	3423*	Holocaust victims insurance relief act established.	4/13/00	
368	3331*	2980	Prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault interagency task force created.	4/13/00	
369	1326*	1130	Community social services limited liability provided.	4/13/00	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
370	3576*	3361	Solid waste and wastewater treatment facilities reporting requirements modified.	4/13/00	
371	3109*	3699	Uniform electronic transactions act adopted.	4/13/00	
372	3517	2742*	Expedited child support hearing notice to remove filing period modified.	4/13/00	
373	3613	3307*	Recreational vehicles personal injury claims.	4/13/00	
374	2807	2514*	Yellow perch limit rulemaking authority restricted.	4/13/00	
375	2613	2949*	Big Woods heritage forest established.	4/13/00	
376	3520	3290*	Environmental response and liability agreement grants provided.	4/13/00	
377	3950	3154*	Criminal and juvenile justice database access authorized for criminal defense purposes.	4/13/00	
378	2707	3348*	Organization sponsored potluck event requirements modified.	4/13/00	
379	3903	2987*	Cooperative income financing and distribution provisions modified.	4/13/00	
380	2822	2547*	Capitol area site selected for installation of Minnesota firefighters memorial.	4/13/00	
381	2888*	2573	Canoe and boating route marking authorized on a portion of the Chippewa River.	4/13/00	
382	1493	83*	Wetland regulation simplified and consolidated.	4/13/00	
383	262	76*	DWI motor vehicle forfeiture proceedings requirements modified.		4/13/00
384	3195	3701*	State designer selection board membership modified.	4/13/00	
385	3174	3195*	Dairy product adulteration penalties modified.	4/13/00	
386	3082	3150*	Higher education facilities authority bonding authority increased.	4/13/00	
387	2981	2848*	Public Employment Labor Relations Act supervisory or confidential employees list expanded.	4/13/00	
388	3566	3291*	Towed motor vehicles lien provisions clarified.		4/13/00
389	562	619*	Collection agencies regulated.	4/13/00	
390	3554	3138*	Veterans Affairs commissioner duties technical changes provided.	4/14/00	
391	3424	3346*	Electronic filing of real estate documents task force established.	4/14/00	
392	3597	2795*	State investments modified.	4/14/00	
393	3328	2877*	Iron Range off-highway vehicle recreation area addition in St. Louis County provided.	4/14/00	
394	3075	2655*	Insurance tax laws recodified.	4/14/00	
395	3066	2783*	Secretary of State fees and annual corporate registrations regulated.	4/14/00	
396	3260	2968*	Lake improvement district provisions modified.	4/14/00	
397	2229	884*	Reduced marriage license fee provided for couples who obtain premarital counseling.		4/14/00
398	3964	3626*	Comprehensive Health Association eligibility and coverage modified.	4/14/00	
399	1394	1495*	Uniform Commercial Code secured transactions provisions adopted.	4/14/00	
400	1662	1896*	Medical assistance programs and liens modified.	4/14/00	
401	3176	3410*	Neglect definition modified.	4/14/00	
402	3263	3082*	Duluth Human Rights Commission additional powers authorized.	4/14/00	
403	3519	2794*	Expedited child support process provisions modified.	4/14/00	
404	3318	3018*	Standby and alternate custodians of children designation provided.	4/14/00	
405	3577	3116*	Creditors' garnishments, executions, and levies regulated.	4/14/00	
406	304	173*	Possession of wild animals taken on the Red Lake Indian Reservation authorized.	4/14/00	
407	2570	3259*	Energy code rules to remain in effect for specified residential buildings.	4/13/00	
408	3512	3108*	Local and state correctional facility inmate telephone access regulated.	4/14/00	
409	2731*	2753	Motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and factory branches unfair practices regulated.	4/14/00	
410	2935	2363*	Dental benefit plans regulated.	4/14/00	
411	3825	3338*	Tribal police departments annual insurance cap established.	4/14/00	
412	3652	3387*	Abortion informed consent requirements modified.		4/14/00
413	1383	1231*	Optometrist licensing provisions modified.	4/14/00	
414	3633*	3550	Mighty Eighth Air Force Week designated.	4/14/00	
415	1947	1618*	Brewer and wholesaler judicial remedies modified.	4/17/00	
416	2791	2471*	Hennepin County Human Resources Board and department provisions modified.	4/17/00	
417	2846	3272*	Bleacher safety building code requirements modified.	4/17/00	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
418	3234	3091*	Sales and use tax law recodified.	4/18/00	
419	1834	1699*	Electronic funds transfers and credit card payments to state agencies authorized.	4/18/00	
420	3495	2972*	State purchases open bidding authorized.	4/18/00	
421	2945	2615*	Persons leaving unharmed newborns at hospital emergency rooms not prosecuted.	4/18/00	
422	1631	1202*	Protocol established for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.	4/18/00	
423	2555	1733*	Civil third-party liability imposed for damages caused by intoxicated persons under age 21.	4/18/00	
424	3901*	3769	Housing finance agency community rehabilitation grants and loans authorized.	4/20/00	
425	3091	2484*	Motor vehicles required to be driven in the right-hand lane clarified.		4/20/00
426	2953	3023*	Vehicle registration and titling provisions modified.	4/20/00	
427	2973	2870*	Financial institution loan charges and payments regulated.	4/20/00	
428	2889	2683*	Bowfishing archery bows exempted from casing requirement.	4/20/00	
429	2671*	2567	Temporary census employee income excluded from public assistance eligibility determinations.	4/20/00	
430	2563*	2381	Mechanics' lien civil cause of action created.	4/20/00	
431	2830*	2771	Pimps and patrons of juvenile prostitution provided enhanced criminal penalties.	4/20/00	
432	3786	2456*	Wright County ditch conveyance to St. Michael and Albertville authorized.	4/24/00	
433	3274	2785*	Utility-owned vehicles exempted from specified weight restrictions.	4/24/00	
434	3292	2946*	Gasoline blended with the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether sale prohibited.	4/24/00	
435	3692*	3443	Feedlot permit provisions modified.	4/24/00	
436	2451*	2271	Legislative Electric Energy Task Force expiration date extended.	4/24/00	
437	1067	551*	Domestic abuse crime sentences and provisions modified.	4/24/00	
438	2713	2686*	Funeral acts and services regulated.	4/24/00	
439	3497*	3539	State of Minnesota attorney fees recovery regulated.	4/24/00	
440	3974	3581*	Omnibus liquor bill.	4/24/00	
441	2958	2830*	Crime of escape from custody expanded.	4/24/00	
442	2968	3139*	Veterans homes support test not to include sales tax rebates.	4/24/00	
443	2757*	2614	Biomass power mandate regulated.	4/24/00	
444	3311	3169*	Parenting plans provided, parenting time procedure clarified, and terminology modified.	4/27/00	
445	3550	3178*	Commissioner of public safety rule authority continued.	4/26/00	
446	3586	2951*	Alternative dispute resolution process use clarified.	4/26/00	
447	3960	3644*	Workers' compensation benefits increased.	4/27/00	

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

APRIL 21 - 27, 2000

HOUSE FILES 4162 - 4166

Tuesday, April 25

HF4162—Abeler (R)

Transportation Finance

Northstar commuter rail line appropriated money.

HF4163—Lenczewski (DFL)

Taxes

Individual income, corporate franchise, sales and use, and motor vehicle sales tax collection limited; and rate reduction authority provided.

Wednesday, April 26

HF4164—Seifert, M. (R)

Taxes

Active duty military pay subtraction from individual income taxes provided.

HF4165—Tuma (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local planning assistance encouraged and assisted by the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning.

HF4166—Abeler (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Historic structure preservation grant program created and money appropriated.

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, May 1

No meetings have been announced.

TUESDAY, May 2

8:30 a.m.

Conference Committee

HF3505/SF3092

Commerce Department Enforcement Bill; managing general agents, securities broker-dealers, investment advisors, contractor recovery fund, collection agencies, and notarial act provisions modified.

125 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Greg Davids, Sen. Edward Oliver

1 p.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Release and review of best practices review of preventive maintenance for local government buildings; Selection of new best practices review topic; Review of purpose and use of program evaluation topic roundtables.

WEDNESDAY, May 3

No meetings have been announced.

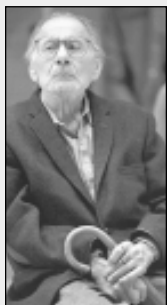
THURSDAY, May 4

No meetings have been announced.

FRIDAY, May 5

No meetings have been announced.

Reflections



George Morrison

The State Capitol building, occupied by the Legislature since 1905, has often been a repository for art by local and national visual artists. The permanent works are diverse. One can find paintings of former governors and Civil War battles, and sculptures of important people who made an impact on the state.

Ceiling designs and allegorical murals are also an integral part of the permanent motif of the edifice. Singularly, the building itself is a major accomplishment and glorification of art and architecture available for all to ponder.

But some of the works of art that grace the Capitol are transitory. These are works that appear temporarily for a day, or for a short exhibition in the North Hall off the Rotunda. Some school art classes have an annual showing of their students' best works, while on occasion, some Minnesota artists' productions appear.

One exhibition of note in 1995 was the newly acquired collection of George Morrison by St. Paul's Minnesota Museum of American Art. Five pieces of his work are

presently on exhibit by the museum at Landmark Center, as a memorial to his April 17 death at the age of 80.

The host group for Morrison's 1995 exhibition opening at the Capitol included two artists, Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison), and Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton). Other hosts were museum board members Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) and Larry Kitto, who has since died.

Early on, Morrison saw himself as an artist who was American Indian, rather than an American Indian artist, but often found himself being mis-defined. In Trimble's opinion, this was "because he did not paint feathers, beads, and leather as some art critics unfairly expected." For those who are intrigued by art, those fascinations are only enhanced by Morrison's outstanding use of imagery that only few artists attain.

Born near Grand Portage in 1919, he began his career early with a scholarship to the Minneapolis School of Art, now the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

After art school, he purchased a one-way ticket to New York City during a new art explosion in America. There, he became friends with Jackson Pollock, Willem De

Kooning, and others, and with them, greatly influenced abstract expressionism.

Morrison briefly lived in Paris and also taught at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design before he returned to teach at the University of Minnesota.

The artist's Ojibway roots drew him back to the shores of Lake Superior where some of his best works were produced. "I guess my religion is nature," he once said. It shows in his unique depictions of the lake, sky and horizon through color, light, and reflections.

"I was always impressed by his imagery," even before I knew him, said Peterson. "He had the unusual ability to take you away from reality in his art of the North Shore, but bring form back to you through his images."

Artist Schumacher, who said she was very honored to meet Morrison and be photographed with him, remarked how impressed she was by his use of color to depict a sense of place.

As his health became worse in later years, Morrison was asked about retirement. He said, "What are you supposed to do if you don't make art?" And he did until he died.

— LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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

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____ Highlights	____ News Features (First Reading, At Issue)	____ Historical Features
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____ Bill Introductions	____ Committee Schedule	____ Minnesota Index
____ Reflections	____ The 50 States	

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Writing	____ Hard to understand	____ Somewhat understandable	____ Easy to understand
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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

MINNESOTA INDEX

Veto overrides

Earliest year for which full records of vetoes are available	1939
Attempts to override a veto since 1939	31
Number that succeeded	6
Number of override attempts that failed or were tabled in the House, since 1939	19
In the Senate	6
Average number of votes by which a veto override failed, in the House	10
Attempts that failed by five or fewer votes	6
Average number of votes by which a veto override failed, in the Senate	3
Number of votes required to override a veto in the House	90
In the Senate	45
Number of governors who have never had a veto overridden, since 1939	9
Total number of governors since 1939	13
Bills vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson	179
Total number of bills vetoed from 1939 to 1990	178
Number of Carlson vetoes overridden	0
Number of bills vetoed (full and line item) by Gov. Jesse Ventura, as of April 27	25
Attempts to override Gov. Jesse Ventura's vetoes	3
Successful overrides	2
Appropriations in those two overridden bills	0
Appropriation for World War II memorial contained in line-item veto that was subject of failed override in the House	\$150,000
Governors who have had more than one veto overridden	2
Vetoes by Gov. Al Quie that were overridden by the Legislature in 1982	2
Number of times Gov. Harold LeVander vetoed the state sales tax in 1967 (in regular session and special session)	2
State sales tax established by law after an override, as percent	3
Number of votes by which the veto override failed in regular session in the Senate	1
Number of legislators voting to override the special session veto in the House	93
In the Senate	47
Payments to counties authorized in 1949 bill vetoed by Gov. Luther Youngdahl and overridden by Legislature	\$785,000
Number of overriding votes cast in the House	124
In the Senate	60

Sources: Legislative Reference Library; *Journal of the House*, 1967,
Minnesota House of Representatives; *Journal of the Senate*, 1949, Minnesota Senate.

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