

A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION ★ ★ ★

SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MAY 5, 2000

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 14

In this issue:

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UNICAMERAL BILL REVIVED

HF4167-HF4174

Session Weekly

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1999-2000 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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Session Weekly (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Session Weekly**, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled,
20% post-consumer content.



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On the cover: Members of Berg's Battery from New Ulm fire an 1856 cannon on the front lawn of the Capitol to celebrate Freedom Day on May 1. The day is meant to celebrate the nation's heritage of liberty. Members of Berg's Battery include Wardell Lueck of New Ulm, left, Bill Rosenwald of Glencoe, center, and John Fritche of New Ulm.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

A three-way split

Budget compromise would give House, Senate, and governor each an equal piece of the pie

By CHRIS VETTER

With the 2000 legislative session coming to a close, leaders finally agreed on a budget package that could lead to income tax cuts, a reduction in license tab fees, and a boost for education funding.

The House, Senate, and Gov. Jesse Ventura will each designate a third of the \$525 million reserved for a combination of permanent tax cuts and new spending, under an agreement announced May 3 by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

"It's a win-win-win package, to varying degrees," Sviggum said.

Each of the three parties will have about \$175 million to work with as they see fit, under the agreement.

There is a total of \$549 million available, be it for permanent tax cuts or other ongoing spending, according to the Finance Department. The Legislature has already agreed to spend \$9.2 million for a criminal records database and could spend as much as \$15 million for debt service on bonds from this year's bonding bill. Subtracting the money already allocated leaves \$525 million to be split three ways.

That money is totally separate from the \$1.8 billion surplus forecast for the 2000-2001 biennium. Any tax rebates would be drawn from that money.

Sviggum said he has a verbal agreement from Ventura that all of his portion of the money will be used to cut license tab fees. Sviggum said he plans to hold Ventura to that promise.

Under the plan, the House would use its third of the pie to reduce taxes. Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said the House's share would likely go toward across-the-board income tax reductions. A decision on how to split the \$175 million through three tax brackets will likely be made quickly, Abrams said.

Permanent K-12 education

funding is expected to comprise \$125 million of the Senate's \$175 million portion. The Senate is also expected to invest \$25 million for human services and another \$25 million in natural resources programs.

Sviggum stressed that the total tax reduction to Minnesotans will be \$350 million under the agreement, even though a cut in tab fees was not a priority in the House.

The House omnibus transportation bill, currently in conference committee, contained no tab fee cuts. The Senate's bill, in its current form, would designate 15 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax — about \$80 million — to reduce tab fees.

Ventura advocates reducing all license tab

fees to a maximum of \$75. That proposal is estimated to cost the state \$274 million. Sviggum said the governor's office still must figure out a tab fee reduction plan that limits the state's costs to \$175 million.

"That may not be the tax cut we would have chosen, but it does reduce the tax burden for Minnesotans," Sviggum said.

Minnesota will lead the nation in tax cuts for the biennium with this package, Sviggum said. The Legislature cut taxes by \$750 million last year.

While Sviggum said he is pleased with the accord, the \$350 million in tax cuts is less than half what House leaders sought prior to the beginning of the session, when they outlined \$850 million in tax cuts. The final agreement is better than nothing at all, he said.

"We can't just take our marbles and go home," Sviggum said.

Even with the agreement on permanent money, there is still much to accomplish before the session ends, said House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan). The question of how much to spend on one-time funding has not been settled.

Pawlenty noted the Senate bills spend \$25 million more for transportation and \$100 million more on bonding projects.

The House's bonding bill is about \$400 million, similar to a proposal by Ventura. The Senate has proposed about \$500 million for bonding.

However, the bonding priorities of the House, Senate, and Ventura vary widely. For example, Ventura has been a strong advocate of bonding funds for a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension laboratory at a cost of \$58 million. The House's bonding bill provides for only about half of that figure.

The House and Senate have agreed on some areas of one-time spending. For instance, state agencies would receive \$10 million in emergency funding requested by the governor and higher education will receive \$11.6 million.

Leaders also agree to spend \$270.5 million in federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) dollars, but

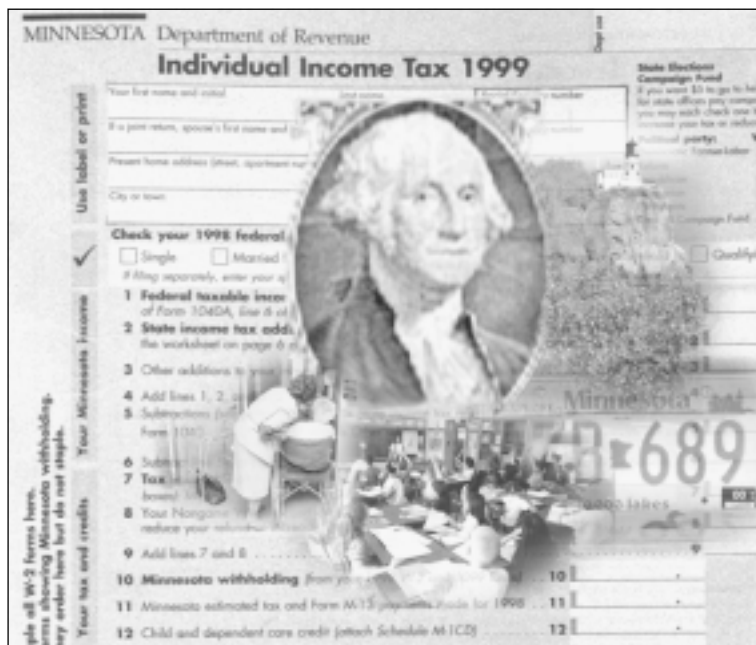


Photo illustration by Tom Olmscheid



At a May 3 press conference, House Speaker Steve Sviggum and others from the House Republican Caucus announce that the House, Senate, and governor arrived at a three-way budget agreement.

they have not settled which programs to send the money to.

Sviggum said he is still optimistic that the Legislature will settle on a one-time tax rebate higher than previously estimated.

"We are going to try and supersize the rebate," Sviggum said. He estimates the rebate will be between \$800 million and \$900 million. The one-time rebate also will contain a portion — less than \$20 million — for farmer relief, he said.

A few weeks ago, the House proposed a \$500 million rebate. Currently, the Senate plan would return \$600 million in a rebate.

Pawlenty said conference committees will meet throughout the weekend in hopes to have the non-funding measures completed while they wait for budget targets.

One of the larger unresolved issues is the Hiawatha corridor light-rail transit project. House Republicans advocate canceling previously allocated funding for the Hiawatha line; the Senate and the governor do not. Ventura has promised to veto any bill that could halt the project.

The Legislature is running out of time to complete its work. After both houses met May 4, only four legislative days remained. Under the state Constitution, no action can take place on the final, or 120th, legislative day.

Legislative leaders can spread those days apart to work on negotiations. However, the session must be completed by May 22.

Ventura has the power to call a special session to wrap up legislation, but he has stated he does not intend to do that.

Sviggum acknowledged that the plan does not have unanimous support from the Republican caucus, but he believes the major spending bills now have enough votes to pass.

The compromise splitting the money three ways evenly was reached after the Senate rejected a plan that would not have given the governor a portion of the allotted money, Sviggum said.

While Sviggum said he is happy with the agreement, he is displeased with the process that led to the compromise.

"It doesn't feel right. That's not the premise of good government," Sviggum said of the deal. "That's not the process we like." 🐼



Taking the plunge

Legislator's attempt to make couples wait for marriage fell short

In his message upon vetoing a bill that would have provided reduced marriage license fees for couples who attended premarital counseling, Gov. Jesse Ventura wrote that he did not believe government should intervene in such personal decisions.

The bill was one of two well-publicized measures considered this year attempting to address Minnesota's increasing divorce rate. The other bill, which stalled in committee, would establish a covenant marriage option in the state, making it more difficult to obtain a divorce for couples who enter such a marriage.

This is certainly not the first time legislators have tried to make young couples think about their decision to marry or prepare for married life.

In 1913, when divorce rates had not even climbed to 1 percent, Rep. Claude Southwick, a Republican from Wells, introduced a bill that would have required people to wait five days after a marriage license was issued before the wedding ceremony could be performed.

Southwick, who was single, was the city attorney of Albert Lea prior to his six-year stint as a member of the House. He had the further distinction of being one of three students who composed the first graduating class of Wells High School in 1890.

The intent behind his bill was to prevent people entering into "hasty" and "ill-considered" marriages.

But not everyone agreed his bill was the solution.

C.J. Buell, who wrote several books chronicling the Minnesota Legislature in the early 1900s, said Southwick's bill was "a very good example of ill-advised attempts to remedy evil."

Buell agreed with Southwick that the legislation would prevent some hasty marriages. But he argued that other ramifications would occur if the bill were to become law.

"It certainly would open the door to any evil-minded man who wanted to take advantage of an ignorant girl," Buell wrote. "To first get a license and persuade the girl that all legal requirements had been met; live with the girl five days, as his wife, and then leave her to the tender mercies of society perhaps with a child to rear, and the scorn of good people to endure."

But even more pervasive, Buell wrote, was the bill's provision proposing to abolish common law marriages in the state.

That type of marriage, which was common in Europe during the Middle Ages, was a marriage undertaken without either a civil or religious ceremony. In a common law marriage, both partners for legal purposes are considered "married" after a period of living together as a couple.

Recognizing common law marriages as legal marriages allowed wives and children to inherit property from the father and husband.

Southwick said that such an arrangement led to situations where "bad women" used a common law marriage to "get part of the property of some old rounder who had died and left more money than character."

But Buell argued for the state to abolish common law marriages would have placed an undue burden on those "honest, faithful, and pure" couples who would then have to go before a minister or magistrate to have their marriage legally recognized.

Buell said Southwick's bill would have denied wives the right to property and left women and children to face their remaining years in poverty and destitution.

Further, he said, that to place more requirements on becoming married would simply mean more people would ignore those requirements.

Southwick's bill failed in the House, but his efforts weren't entirely in vain.

In 1941, the Legislature finally banned common law marriages in the state. That type of marriage is now recognized in only 14 states.

In addition, since 1931 couples have to wait five days after applying for a marriage license before they can pick it up and walk down the aisle.

As lawmakers continue to examine government's role in marriage, perhaps Buell's words provide a common starting point.

"Marriage — the real true love union of a man and a woman — is the purest and most sacred relation in all the world," he wrote. "And what we really need is to be educated to look upon that relation in its true light, as the one most cherished hope and grandest consummation of life."

(D. MAEDA)

★ BUSINESS

Changing business subsidies

The House passed a bill May 1 that would make several changes to a business subsidy law that was enacted last session. The vote was 133-0.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), who is sponsoring the bill (HF3057/SF2893*), said that last year the Legislature passed a law that defined, clarified, and established further criteria for when financial assistance is given from a public entity to a business.

McElroy said the bill would raise the amount of what is defined to be a business subsidy as any financial assistance in excess of \$100,000. Currently the amount is defined amounts of more than \$25,000.

Current law also requires wage and job goals of all subsidies. The bill would allow those job goals to be set at zero, if it is determined that job retention and creation are not purposes of the subsidy. A zero job goal would require a public hearing.

The bill also would allow a recipient of a subsidy to switch locations within five years of receiving the subsidy, which is prohibited under current law. The bill would allow the recipient to move at any time after a public hearing is held.

The bill would make several technical changes. For example, under current law a business subsidy is required to meet a public purpose other than increasing the tax base. The bill would require a subsidy to meet a public purpose, which may include, but may not be limited to increasing the tax base.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

★ CRIME

False ID measure denied

A bill that would increase penalties for using false identification to buy alcohol or tobacco failed in the House April 28, after some members expressed concern over questions about penalties and public safety.

The House returned the bill to conference committee on a 93-33 vote.

The bill would allow alcohol providers — from liquor store clerks to bartenders — to confiscate what they believe to be false identifications. The bill also would increase the penalty to a gross misdemeanor for a second conviction for attempting to purchase

alcohol under age 21.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) is sponsoring the bill (HF2655/SF2845*). She said the measure is necessary to enforce the state's laws on selling alcohol to minors.

"These are people who are knowingly violating the law, and they are doing it over and over again because there are few penalties," Leppik said. "We have a rampant problem in Minnesota with false IDs."

On April 28, the Senate approved the conference committee report 59-0. Leppik said she did not expect difficulty in getting the bill passed through the House.

"I think everyone was caught by surprise," Leppik said. "(Opponents) were able to raise enough doubts in people's minds."

Leppik said she expects the bill will return to the House floor before the session ends. She could not specify what changes she plans to make to the bill in conference committee.

In its current form, the bill would allow the commissioner of public safety to suspend a minor's driver's license for up to 90 days if the minor attempted to purchase alcohol with false identification.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) spoke against that provision, saying juveniles who have their license suspended would have difficulty obtaining insurance once the license is reinstated.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said she dislikes the provision that would allow clerks or bartenders to hold licenses for up to 24 hours before they are turned over to the police.

"It's not a minor inconvenience," Kahn said. "It could be really serious."

The penalty for clerks who mistakenly sell tobacco to minors would be reduced from a gross misdemeanor to a misdemeanor for the first offense, under the bill. Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) presented a similar bill earlier in the session, saying the Legislature was too tough on clerks.

"It's over-punishment for a mistake," Solberg said.

The clerk could still be charged with a gross misdemeanor on a second offense of selling tobacco to minors, under the bill.

The bill now returns to conference committee.

★ GAME & FISH

DNR enforcement bill rejected

The House rejected a proposal to modify the responsibilities of conservation officers in the state Department of Natural Resources April 28. The vote was 102-27 to return the bill (HF2962/SF3036*) to a legislative conference committee.

Hmong VETERANS

Captain Chue Chou Tchang, left, salutes as lawmakers recognize the sacrifice of the Hmong veterans who filled the House gallery during session May 4. Other Hmong officers seated on the House floor were, from left, Captain Neng Mai Xiong, Major Wakai Yang, Lieutenant Cher Pao Pha, and Captain Chong Ge Chang. (See related story, page 9.)

Conservation officers, like police officers, have authority to give blood-alcohol tests under the state's implied consent laws.

But conservation officers can issue those tests only to people who are hunting while intoxicated, or to those who are intoxicated while driving snowmobiles, motorboats, or all-terrain vehicles — not automobiles.

Under the bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), conservation officers' implied consent authority would be extended to include automobile drivers.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) spoke against the bill, saying conservation officers already can pull over a vehicle and contact the State Patrol or other law enforcement officer to handle drunken driving incidents. He said the DNR officers do not need the additional authority.

Haas disagreed with Bishop's objections, saying the increased authority for DNR officers would mainly benefit rural areas.

"(DNR officers) can call for the state patrol or sheriff, but they could be on the other side of the county," he said. "That is a waste of time."

Another provision in the bill would allow the DNR to keep proceeds from the sale of a forfeited vehicle. The bill would require the DNR to use that money for DWI-related enforcement, training, and education.

Bishop said the House wisely removed that provision, or "open appropriation," from the bill, because it would take away the Legislature's oversight of those funds.

Regarding the open appropriation, Haas said it would rarely be used and it only would deal with small amounts of money.

Bishop countered by saying, "If it's not good policy if it's regularly used, it's not good policy if it's rarely used."

Also, the bill would modify some procedures regarding forfeited vehicles or property.

Under current law, conservation officers can seize firearms from hunters who are violating laws, such as shooting at deer from a road or possessing too many game birds. In some instances, the officer later finds out that the person illegally possessed a firearm because of prior criminal convictions or other reasons.

In that kind of situation, current law requires the officer to send the firearm to the county sheriff's office, even though that office was not involved in the original incident.

The bill would allow the DNR to administer the forfeiture instead of sending it to the county.

The bill now goes back to the conference committee.

★ GOVERNMENT

Board members confirmed

The House confirmed two members of the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board on May 4.

Sidney Pauly of Eden Prairie, a former House member and current board chair, and

Douglas Kelley of Bloomington, both Republicans, were appointed by Gov. Jesse Ventura and confirmed by the House.

Pauly served eight years as a member of the Eden Prairie City Council and 12 years in the Minnesota House of Representatives. She has served one term on the board and was re-appointed.

Kelley owns and manages a law firm that concentrates on white-collar crime, provides services in compliance programs, internal investigations, Indian gaming, employment law, and complex civil litigation.

Both terms expire Jan. 5, 2004.

The board's stated mission is "to promote public confidence in state government decision-making through development, administration, and enforcement of disclosure and public financing programs, which will ensure public access to and understanding of information filed with the board."

The board was established in 1974 as part of the Ethics in Government Act. The six-member board administers programs that provide for disclosure of economic interests and of conflicts of interest for certain state and metropolitan officials. The board is also responsible for administration of the state's public subsidy program, which provides public funding for political campaigns.

The board's programs require registration and public disclosure by candidates, political committees and funds, and lobbyists.

In the well

Acoustic conventions used in early days of Legislature came in handy when modern technology failed on the House floor

When the microphone system on the House floor went haywire April 28, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) found a spot where he could be heard loud and clear.

Rukavina left his seat and walked to the "well," just in front of the chief clerk's desk at the front of the House chamber. From that location, his voice could be heard throughout the room.

The House floor, which was designed similar to opera houses, has great acoustics.

"I think it's the first time I've seen it used in my time here," Rukavina said. "I've never seen it used because we had the microphones."

All legislators know where the spot is because they hear their voice echo when they walk across that area, Rukavina said. He said



Rep. Tom Rukavina speaks from the well of the House chamber to be heard as he debated a conference committee report April 28. In years past, before the modern sound system was installed in the chamber, members would go to the well to give speeches.

it was fascinating to hear his voice bounce around the chamber and echo back to him.

"It was fun while it lasted," he said.

Until the late 1930s, when microphones were installed, a legislator would walk to the

well to deliver his speech. A permanent podium stood in the walkway for legislators to place their notes while delivering their speeches. The podium was later removed with the installation of the microphones.

The public announcement microphone system allowed legislators to stay at their desks. Pages would carry handheld microphones to legislators' desks and plug them in. The state had eight to 10 portable microphones.

Now, the microphone system is highly sophisticated. When a legislator picks up the microphone on the desk, it activates itself.

Because legislators use the microphones at their desks, it is truly a rare occasion when one speaks before the House in the well.

(C. VETTER)

Hospital pay bill vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill May 1 that would have exempted certain public hospital employees from state law that sets compensation limits on individuals employed by a city, town, county, or other local government agency.

The law says that a person employed by a political subdivision, excluding a school district, may not exceed 95 percent of the salary of the governor.

The bill would have provided an exemption for public hospital administrators, pharmacists, and psychologists to exclude them from having to comply with limitations on compensation.

In his veto message, Ventura said the exemption is not necessary because there is already an existing process for public employers to request exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

He continued by saying the Department of Employee Relations and the Legislative Coordinating Commission's Subcommittee on Employee Relations have responded positively to exemption requests that demonstrate that an employer is competing in a national or regional market and would have problems attracting or retaining employees if forced to follow statutory salary limits.

"The current exemption process works and should not be circumvented with broad exclusions in statute," Ventura wrote.

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) and Sen. Mark Ourada (R-Buffalo) sponsored the vetoed bill.

Any override of attempt of the veto would have to begin in the Senate. An override requires a two-thirds majority in both houses — 90 votes in the House and 45 votes in the Senate.

The first time through, the House voted 74-52 and the Senate voted 34-27 in support of the measure.

HF3629/SF2385*/CH448

Complementary health care

The House gave final passage to a bill May 1 that would allow the Department of Health to oversee complementary and alternative health care practices and would make policy changes to statutes that govern the department's regulation of other health occupations. The vote was 110-23.

Sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the bill (HF3839*/SF2474) would establish an office, housed at the Department of Health, for unlicensed complementary and alternative health care.

The office would investigate complaints

against alternative health care practitioners and serve as a clearinghouse for information on such practices.

The language in the bill that would enable the department to oversee complementary and alternative health care practices was added to the measure in conference committee.

As a result, the proposal drew some criticism from House members during floor debate of the conference committee report.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a physician, urged members to vote the bill down because of the provisions providing for regulation of complementary and alternative health care.

He said there is some fear in the medical community that patients may opt for one or more unproven alternative treatments instead of conventional medicine for life-threatening illnesses.

"By passing this bill, we're going to recognize all these procedures that have not been based on scientific fact," Mulder warned.

Goodno, however, disagreed.

"The bill provides for consumer protection and does not encourage the use of procedures unproven in the medical community," he said.

Mulder also said many doctors are already using alternative methods to complement traditional medicine.

Less controversial parts of the bill would make changes to the regulation of both speech-language pathologists and audiologists, unlicensed mental health practitioners, and alcohol and drug counselors.

Goodno's bill also would alter the Administrative Simplification Act by requiring uniform procedures, both for offering medical advice and for explaining health care benefits. The act, originally passed in 1994, was intended to reduce certain health care costs through simplifying administrative processes and electronic data exchange.

The bill now heads to the Senate.

Similar language pertaining to complementary health care exists as part of the omnibus state government spending bill (HF2699), currently in conference committee.

Abortion amendment approved

During May 1 debate on a bill related to runaways and homeless youth, the House passed an amendment that would prohibit state funding for organizations that provide abortion information, counseling, or services.

The amendment was attached to a bill that would rearrange existing law related to runaways and homeless youth and put the Department of Human Services in charge of a comprehensive program to aid such youths. The bill passed 92-40.

With the amendment attached, the measure would dictate that "any entity that is an organization or affiliate of an organization which provides abortions, promotes abortions, or directly refers for abortions shall not be eligible to receive state funds under this chapter."

Rep. Kathy Tinglestad (R-Andover) is sponsoring the bill (HF2622/SF2865*). The bill provides clarified definitions and other technical changes, and it does not include any funding measures, Tinglestad said.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) offered the successful amendment that would bar organizations that promote or provide abortions from obtaining state money. The amendment passed 77-55.

Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) spoke against the amendment, saying it would effectively kill the entire bill. Folliard said Gov. Jesse Ventura would likely veto the bill if the funding restriction remains.

Earlier this session, Ventura vetoed a bill, dubbed the "Woman's Right to Know," which called for a 24-hour waiting period for abortions and would have required women be given information about the procedure at least 24 hours before it could be performed.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) spoke against the Wenzel amendment, saying he worried women and children would suffer because other services not related directly to abortion would be inhibited by the amendment. Skoglund agreed with Folliard, saying the governor would likely strike the entire bill down.

However, Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) urged legislators to vote with their convictions rather than weighing whether a measure would be signed.

Tinglestad acknowledged that she did not want the amendment attached to her bill.

The bill is intended to establish a comprehensive program in the Department of Human Services to deal with already homeless youth, youth at-risk of homelessness, and runaways.

★ **LOCAL GOVERNMENT****Resolving boundary adjustments**

A law that would clarify the process for resolving disputes over municipal boundary adjustments was signed April 26 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Those adjustments, such as consolidations or annexations of towns or cities, used to be resolved by the Minnesota Municipal Board.

The board was abolished in 1999. The Legislature had set Dec. 31, 1999, as the date for the board to expire, but all of the board

members resigned by June 1999, which left some of the adjustments unresolved.

At that time, the board's duties were set to be transferred to Minnesota Planning, a state agency that acts as a long-range planning arm of the governor's administration.

The new law, effective April 27, 2000, clarifies the dispute resolution process that may be used, and it authorizes the director of Minnesota Planning to delegate such disputes to the Office of Administrative Hearings. The parties involved in the dispute will share the associated costs of the resolution process.

Some provisions of the new law are retroactive to June 1, 1999, to address the disputes that were unresolved by the municipal board.

The law also requires Minnesota Planning to send a report to the House and Senate committees on local government and metropolitan affairs during the 2001 Legislative Session, regarding the effects of the transfer of duties.

Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors of the measure.

HF3586/SF2951*/CH446

★ TRANSPORTATION

Fight over exam stations

The House rejected a transportation housekeeping bill May 4 because it did not include a provision to keep several small-town driver examination stations open.

The House sent the bill back to conference committee on a 109-23 vote.

Sponsored by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), the bill (HF3319/SF3160*) would make technical changes to a pilot program on ignition devices that automatically refuse to allow drivers to operate vehicles if they are drunk.

An amendment by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) was previously included in the bill with the intent of keeping open 22 rural driver examination stations that were scheduled to close May 1, 2000. The measure would have required the Department of Public Safety to keep the stations open until July 1, 2001.

However, Kubly's amendment was dropped in conference committee, which drew criticism from several rural legislators. Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria) called for the House to send the measure back to conference committee, saying the department should have held

hearings about closing the stations, rather than simply informing towns they would be closed.

"It is appropriate to talk to the people affected," Cassell said.

Other rural legislators agreed the stations should be open beyond their new closing date, slated for Aug. 1, 2000.

"It is very important to keep these driving stations open," said Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe). "If it was a good idea (to close them), they should have brought it to the Legislature."

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) agreed, saying it would hurt small towns across the state.

"It's a fairness issue for rural Minnesota," Juhnke said.

Managing rail project

Under the state's plan for managing the Hiawatha Corridor light-rail transit project, the Metropolitan Council now has primary authority over other state agencies, which some House members say is a violation of state law.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee voted May 1 to request a written opinion on the issue from the state's attorney general.

One million hits

Legislature's Web site reaches milestone by receiving more than 1 million requests for information in one week

Many years ago, information about what was going on at the State Capitol relied heavily on the spoken word. Often constituents found out the news by talking to their neighbors.

Even the way business was conducted by the Legislature was wholly different. Because some legislators were illiterate, the entire text of bills had to be read on the House and Senate floor.

Now, with the click of a mouse button, information appears on a computer screen faster than the revolution of a horse buggy wheel.

In 1993, the Minnesota House of Representatives established its first Internet presence. That year the House developed resources on Gopher, which was a precursor to the World Wide Web allowing users to search for and retrieve materials from other sites. It was the first legislative information to be found on the Internet.

The House made available the text of bills and statutes, and other information about the Legislature. There was an average of 23,946 requests for information or "hits" to

the Gopher server per week. It took about 10 months to reach 1 million hits.

In 1996, the Legislature's World Wide Web site went online. And last year, the site had logged more than 1 million hits during the first four weeks of January.

This year, the House's Web site reached a milestone. For the week of March 26, the House's site received more than 1 million requests for information in a single week — for the first time ever.

There have been more than 46 million total requests for information since the Legislature established its Internet presence. According to the staff of the Legislative Reference Library, an estimated 30 percent to 40 percent of the hits to the Web site come from the outside public. Other major users are legislative staff and staff from state agencies.



The use of information provided via the Internet is expanding rapidly. According to the Computer Industry Almanac, the United States had more than 110 million users by the end of 1999, a 62 percent increase from the previous year.

As the use of the Legislative Web site (www.leg.state.mn.us) increases, so does the effort to provide more and more information. In addition to viewing the text of bills and statutes, users can now find out the authors and status of bills, view committee schedules along with the calendar for the day, and follow floor activity via the official Journal.

Publications, such as *Session Weekly* and its online companion *Session Daily*, are also available online, as well as links to over 2,000 other pertinent Web sites.

Live video of floor sessions was also made available for the first time this year.

An interim committee of legislative staff will examine ways to enhance and revamp the online information to make the Web site even more useful.

(D. MAEDA)

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) proposed the measure, saying state law gives the authority for the management of the Hiawatha project to the Department of Transportation — not the Met Council. The Federal Transit Authority recently approved the state's management structure, which was necessary to allow the federal government to provide funds for the project.

Several committee members objected to Krinkie's proposal to formally ask for the attorney general's opinion.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the committee should not act on the issue because it had not been publicized on the meeting agenda. And Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) said Attorney General Mike Hatch had not been notified and was not at the meeting to give his input on the issue.

An attempt to adjourn the meeting before the committee could vote on the matter failed.

Krinkie said the request is appropriate because the governmental operations committee has jurisdiction over the power and structure of state government. Also, state law allows any committee in either the House or Senate, or a Legislative commission, to make such a request for the attorney general's opinion.

Krinkie said he had already asked Hatch about the issue in an April 13 letter. In that letter, Krinkie asked Hatch to investigate possible violations of state law related to the state's management plan.

Also, Krinkie wrote that the Met Council has not completely responded to requests for information under the state's data practices laws. Krinkie wrote that withholding information in that situation could be considered an attempt to influence the vote of a legislator by concealing facts, which is punishable by a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Hatch responded in an April 14 letter that his office does not have jurisdiction over those questions and that he forwarded copies of Krinkie's letter to the Ramsey County attorney, the state auditor, and to the legislative auditor.

The committee's May 1 vote specifically requests that the attorney general issue a formal opinion about whether the Hiawatha management plan conforms with state law and legislative intent for the design and construction of the project.

Passenger rail compact passes

The House passed a bill May 4 that would allow the state to join a compact of Midwestern states intended to improve passenger rail lines. The vote was 128-2.

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail

DAY OF PRAYER



Several participants in the May 4 National Day of Prayer gather in front of the Capitol to celebrate the 50th annual event. The rally included music and speakers representing many denominations.

Compact commission will take effect when it is signed into law by any three states in the Midwest. Currently, only Indiana has signed the compact.

More than three states can be involved in the compact, however.

The compact is designed to promote, coordinate and support regional improvements to passenger rail lines, said Laura Kliever, senior policy analyst for the Council of State Governments, located in Chicago.

"It's an effort among Midwest states to bring improved passenger rail to the Midwest," she explained. "They would have the authority to say, 'It is important to all Midwestern states.'"

States in the commission could lobby on the federal, state, and local level for support on projects.

The Midwest, as defined by the Council of State Governments, stretches as far east as Ohio, south to Missouri, and as far west as Nebraska and South Dakota.

Because the bill calls for a compact, each state must pass an identical version, Kliever said.

The commission would include one legislator from each body (or two total from a unicameral state) and two appointments of each governor, for a total of four members per state. The commission could meet in person or conduct business through conference calls, Kliever said.

Legislatures in Missouri, Ohio, and Michigan are still working on the compact this year, Kliever said.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) is sponsoring the bill (HF3688/SF2956*). Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) is the Senate sponsor.

The bill now goes to the governor.

★ VETERANS

Helping Hmong veterans

The House indicated support for a federal bill pending in the U.S. Senate that would make it easier for Hmong people who fought for the United States in the Vietnam War to become U.S. citizens.

The resolution (HF2216), sponsored by Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), urges Congress to pass and the President to sign the bill, known as the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1999. Trimble's measure passed in the House May 4. The vote was 129-0. It now goes to the Senate.

Trimble said the resolution would honor the 25,000 Hmong veterans and their widows who live in Minnesota.

The federal bill would allow the veterans to take the naturalization tests in their native language. It says that many of them did not have the opportunity for education in their homelands, as well.

According to the House resolution, Hmong and Lao guerilla units fought along with U.S. clandestine and armed forces during the war, and more than 35,000 soldiers were killed.

During the war, the White House National Security Council, in joint cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency, relied upon Hmong and Lao units and air units in Laos for ultra-sensitive intelligence gathering programs. They fought in the U.S. Secret Army with Air America.

At the time, government officials promised they would not be abandoned if they helped in the fight. Many of the soldiers and their families faced retaliation for being involved in the covert operations, according to the resolution.

Off the mat

Once down for the count, a unicameral proposal staggers to its feet, thanks to a House committee

By JON FURE

A proposal to switch to a one-chamber, or unicameral, legislature has been revived, and it is one step closer to receiving a vote on the House floor.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee voted May 1 to send the bill (HF4147), sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), to the House Rules Committee. The vote was 13-10.

Whether the bill will move ahead and come up for a vote on the House floor remained uncertain.

Under the bill, a question would be placed on the 2000 general election ballot asking voters, "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate be replaced by

Senate districts, each of which is divided to make 134 House districts.

The proposed terms would be four years, and they would be staggered — half of the members' terms would expire every two years.

If the voters were to approve the constitutional amendment, the people who take office in 2001 would have the task of re-

vote. Before that, the proposal had received many hearings during the interim throughout the state, as well as several committee meetings during the session.

Some committee members denounced the unusual amount of attention that the committee has given the proposal, which is a top priority for Gov. Jesse Ventura and is strongly supported by the speaker.

"I think this is an abuse of power," said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal).

Normally, a bill that has failed in a committee would not be heard again until the next Legislative session, he added.

Others objected to the fact that the Legislature is still in session, considering that House leadership had set a goal to adjourn by Easter.

Sviggum responded by saying, "I will take part of the blame for you being here on May 1. We're arguing for tax cuts for moms and dads."

He also explained that he wanted to revive the bill as a courtesy to the governor.

Two weeks ago, Sviggum had said the unicameral proposal was dead. But Ventura recently re-emphasized his desire to put the question before voters.

"I think it's appropriate to give Gov. Ventura — and this is his marquee issue — one more chance," Sviggum said.

This move comes after Ventura invited House Republican members to the governor's residence for breakfast April 25 so he could pitch his unicameral proposal one last time.

Sviggum cited a recent poll where 82 percent of Minnesotans said they would like to vote on the issue.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said that conclusion is not surprising.

"That question is posed in a way that everyone answers 'yes,'" she said. She added that people would also like to vote on cuts or increases in taxes, funding for stadiums or theaters, or any sort of spending items.

But Sviggum said the inherent self-interest of the legislators on the unicameral issue does not carry over to those other issues.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), chair of the committee, said he also supports putting the question on the ballot.

"We take a lot of votes that affect the people of the state, and this would be a chance for them to take a vote that affects us," he said.



Members of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a unicameral proposal sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum on May 1.

a single legislative body called the Legislature, beginning in 2003?"

If that question makes it onto the ballot, and if a majority of voters were to support the measure, the one-house legislature would consist of 135 districts. Currently there are 67

drawing district boundaries and establishing specific rules for those who would later be elected to the unicameral legislature in 2003.

Earlier in the session, a similar bill (HF159) had been sent to the House State Government Finance Committee, where it failed on a 5-5

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Laws on lobbying

Concerns about public perceptions prompted first efforts to register and monitor lobbyists

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Lobbyists have promoted issues and viewpoints in the halls of the Capitol both formally and informally for as long as can be remembered, but it's only in recent history that the Legislature has regulated their activity.

Laws governing registration and disclosure of lobbying activities were passed during the 1974 legislative session — nearly 20 years after initial recommendations for such laws.

Many of those initial provisions are still in effect, while new ones have been added over the years. Still, perceptions about back-room deals and wining and dining of legislators still color public opinion.

Back in the late 1950s, when lobbyists were routinely wining and dining legislators, there was no clear trail to the interests lobbyists were representing, and the public had no way to

address those concerns without creating a cumbersome bureaucracy for lobbyists. But some lawmakers felt strongly that lobbyists were expressing important views and that right should not be inhibited in any way.

Gov. Orville Freeman decided an impartial group should evaluate the situation and determine whether a formal state law governing lobbyists was necessary. In 1958, Freeman appointed a 12-member commission that studied the issue for 18 months, without pay.

In his speech when he appointed the Committee on Ethics in Government, Freeman said that lobbying is an important function, providing important points of view. He challenged the panel to determine whether federal laws regulating lobbyists and such measures enacted in other states were effective and should be implemented in Minnesota.



About 1,300 lobbyists are registered in the state of Minnesota. They are a permanent fixture outside the House chamber during each session.

determine just how much money lobbyists were spending to perform their duties.

At the time, the citizens were expressing a growing level of distrust for the lawmaking processes.

Early on, the Legislature attempted to

Freeman was concerned that lobbyists were using persuasive methods, rather than merely presenting their points of view. Furthermore, he questioned the lengths to which lobbying groups would go to make sure legislation turned out in their favor.

“Governmental processes today involve weighing the arguments on one side in balance with the arguments on the other, and lobbies fill a useful and necessary function in presenting such arguments,” Freeman said. “But there exist serious problems relating to lobbying. . . . And it may even conceal its existence by failing to openly state what and whom it represents.”

The committee, led by Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut of St. Paul, determined that lobbyists should register and should be required to report who they represent and how much money they spend — both during the session and during campaigns.

Specifically, the committee found it was perfectly acceptable for legislators to support a party platform or otherwise work to promote the interests of schools, taxpayers, business, or other legitimate groups. However, perceived behind-the-scenes decision-making that was pervasive at the time was not acceptable.

“It is one thing to pledge publicly to support an already formulated and published platform of a group, and quite another to barter away secretly in advance his independence of decision on public issues that may come before him for action,” the committee wrote in its report.

“The question is not whether in fact a legislator or public official . . . has actually voted or acted differently from what he would have done without having so compromised himself. The real question is whether he has not put himself in a position where public doubts may arise as to his loyalty to the public service and even as to his integrity and the integrity of others in the public service.”

In 1959, the Senate passed a rule that required lobbyists to register with the secretary of the Senate. An early tally of registered “lobbyists” was 31, including one House member and 12 staff members at the University of Minnesota.

Several attempts to require a similar process — where lobbyists would register with the chief clerk in the House — failed.

In fact, from 1957 to 1971, the years preceding the enactment of legislation to regulate lobbyists, more than 20 bills were introduced in the House alone to require registration and disclosure of expenditures.

Four times the House passed such a bill, but the Senate did not take up the matter.

Continued on page 16.

Remembering Vietnam

Twenty-five years after fall of Saigon, Legislators reflect on their experiences during the Vietnam War and its impact on their lives



A visitor discovers the name of a loved one at the Vietnam memorial on the grounds of the Minnesota Capitol.

By MIKE DE LARCO

The 25th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War marked a time for Minnesota legislators with close ties to the fighting to reflect on the war and the ramifications.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) was a school teacher when he was drafted by the U.S. Army in 1969. While Biernat did not see action overseas, he worked with personnel who fought while he was stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia, and experienced the bitter reaction that many Vietnam veterans received after the war was over.

"It was quite hurtful to see how poorly many who had served their country in the war were treated upon their return home," Biernat said.

As the history books say, the goal of U.S. involvement in Vietnam was containing the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. The U.S. government attempted to accomplish this task by supporting the anti-communist regime known as the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) in its battle against a communist take-over.

But the United States' involvement in the war continues to be a hotly debated topic.

Some question whether the problems in Southeast Asia were military in nature, or if our country's involvement had more to do with political and economic gain.

Biernat recalls watching the vicious fighting on television at night, he said. During the war, South Vietnam not only had to contend with the military power of its communist neighbor, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), but also faced a communist-led revolutionary movement within its own borders.

On April 29, 1975, the city of Saigon fell to the communists, essentially marking the end of the conflict. North Vietnamese military units were successful in bringing the fighting to a close, but insurgency among the people of South Vietnam is said to have allowed that outcome to occur.

Troop support at home during the war was low. Biernat said he hopes that in the future, the United States has strong support for a cause before the government commits troops to engage in combat.

Rep. Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul) agreed with Biernat. Her husband, Doug, served at a radio communications post for the Marines in the village of Dien Ban for several years, beginning in the late 1960s.

"I've always viewed war veterans as people who take their patriotism very seriously," McCollum said. "It's a shame the servicemen in the Vietnam War didn't receive the support they rightly deserved."

McCollum said she and her husband met shortly after his return from the war. She remembers some people expressing disapproval over the fact she was dating a Vietnam veteran early in their courtship.

Twenty-five years after their marriage, McCollum and husband Doug are discussing a trip to Vietnam.

"Doug would like to go back, and I'm interested in joining him," she said.

As the anniversary of the war's end came and passed, thoughts centered on soldiers who have yet to be accounted for.

Officials estimate 2,000 U.S. servicemen remain unaccounted for in Indochina, including 1,500 in Vietnam. The process of locating the servicemen or finding out what happened to them has been slow and often frustrating for families and officials in the United States.

McCollum has worn a Vietnam POW/MIA bracelet around her wrist since 1969.

Earlier this month, Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a resolution calling for the president and Congress to take whatever action is necessary to obtain the release of Americans who may be still being held against their will in North Korea, China, Russia, and Vietnam. The resolution was sponsored by McCollum and Sen. Charles W. Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul).



Jailhouse confessions

Former legislator and sheriff tells tales of his life as a rural law enforcement officer and jailer in a new book

By JON FURE



Neil and Helen Haugerud

When Neil Haugerud became the sheriff of Fillmore County in 1958, he and his family moved into a two-story brick building that included jail space both upstairs and down, along with office space, a kitchen, and living areas.

Unlike modern county facilities, where jailers sometimes sit behind bulletproof glass and have doors with electronic locks and other high-tech features, Haugerud and his “guests” at the jail got to be pretty close.

In a recently published book, Haugerud, who served in the House from 1968 to 1977, describes some of his adventures as a sheriff in rural Minnesota in the 1950s and 1960s.

Haugerud said he has told many of the stories in conversations with friends, and he began taking writing classes in 1994. He received a lot of positive feedback from his classmates, and he wrote a column in the *Fillmore County Journal*, a local weekly newspaper, called *Jailhouse Stories*.

The book carries the same title, and it features short stories about the people he met while working as the main law enforcement officer in the county, which is in southeastern Minnesota.

He served the same district currently represented by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston).

The building that the Haugeruds called home contained jail space on both levels. Both featured heavy steel bars with four separate cells, each with two bunks — a total 16 beds in eight cells.

“We were one of the last sheriff families that served in an era when the family residence, the sheriff’s office, and the jail were all in one building,” he writes. “In many ways we became a family. It is out of respect for these characters that I write.”

His wife, Helen, cooked meals for the inmates, responded to calls on the two-way radio, and

helped out with other office duties. Many of the stories reveal how the prisoners of the jail benefited from that family-like atmosphere.

In one of the stories, Haugerud writes about a recent conversation with a man who had spent time in his jail and later the state prison at Stillwater. Haugerud had called the man, and found that he had stayed out of trouble after serving his time. He wrote a letter for the book, which reads in part:

“I later realized the importance of where it starts. The way you are treated in jail before you are sentenced. I thank you and your deputies for the way you treated me. Also your wife for all the good food, especially on Thanksgiving and Christmas.”

Other stories reflect Haugerud’s tendency to defuse, rather than escalate, conflicts.

In one situation, Haugerud had been criticized for not putting in jail two participants in a bar fight. But his response was, “I told them a sheriff’s job wasn’t to punish, but to keep the peace. I said it was a lot easier to stop fights if you had a reputation for being considerate.”

In another, about 400 members of the National Farm Organization planned to stop a weekly auction to protest low commodity prices, and threats of violence had been rumored. Haugerud went to the event armed not with a gun, but with a friend who had an 8 mm camera. The sale took place without any major incidents.

He later learned that a similar protest occurred in Wisconsin, where two of the organization’s members were run over by a truck and killed.

Many of the people who spent time in the Fillmore County Jail had been taken in for public intoxication, while others had committed more serious crimes, such as burglaries, thefts, or domestic abuse. Haugerud describes the various people he met and the things he learned about dealing with people in those situations.

“When you can personalize it and bring the characters out, that’s what makes it interesting,” he said.

In the book’s final chapter, Haugerud writes about his own recent brush with law enforcement officers. He was arrested in Iowa by some over-zealous officers in 1996. He had been walking home after attending an evening class, and he had stopped for dinner at a local sports bar. He saw two officers harassing another man, and when one officer told Haugerud to get moving, he replied “I think I’ll just watch.”

He was arrested for public intoxication, and he spent the night in jail. He describes the many differences in how he was treated compared to how he had treated the people he had taken into custody. The next day, he appeared



The Fillmore County Jail, which has now been converted to a bed and breakfast, used to serve as the office and home for the county sheriff. Photo courtesy of Neil Haugerud.

in court and was found not to have violated the law in any way.

Haugerud’s experiences as a sheriff had influenced him to run for the House. Among his main goals were probate reform and other reforms of the judicial system.

In those days, anyone who received an

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Minnesota State Government

State Departments*

Administration

200 Administration Building
 50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul 55155 296-6013
David Fisher - Commissioner 296-1424

Agriculture

Agriculture Building
 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul 55107 297-2200
Gene Hugoson - Commissioner 297-3219

Children, Families & Learning

1500 Highway 36 W., Roseville 55113 582-8200
Christine Jax - Commissioner 582-8204

Commerce

133 E. Seventh St., St. Paul 55101 296-4026
Jim Bernstein - Commissioner 296-6694

Corrections

Suite 200
 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul 55108 642-0200
Sheryl Ramstad Hvass - Commissioner 642-0282

Economic Security

390 N. Robert St., St. Paul 55101 296-3644
Earl Wilson - Commissioner 296-3711

Employee Relations

Second Floor, Centennial Office Building
 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 297-1184
Julien C. Carter - Commissioner 296-3095

Finance

400 Centennial Office Building
 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 296-5900
Pam Wheelock - Commissioner 297-7881

Health

The Golden Rule Building, Suite 400
 85 Seventh Place E., St. Paul 55101 215-5800
Jan Malcolm - Commissioner 296-8401

Housing Finance Agency

400 Sibley, Suite 300, St. Paul 55101 296-7608
Katherine G. Hadley - Commissioner 296-5738

Human Rights

Suite 700
 Army Corps of Engineers Center
 190 E. Fifth St., St. Paul 55101 296-5663
Janeen Rosas - Commissioner 296-5665

Human Services

Human Services Building
 444 Lafayette Road, St. Paul 55155-3815 296-6117
Michael O'Keefe - Commissioner 296-2701

Labor & Industry

443 Lafayette Road, St. Paul 55155 296-6107
Gretchen Maglich - Commissioner 296-2342

Military Affairs

Fourth Floor, Veterans Service Building
 20 W. 12th St., St. Paul 55155-2098 282-4662
Maj. Gen. Eugene R. Andreotti - Adjutant General 282-4666

Minnesota Planning

Third Floor, Centennial Office Building
 658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 296-3985
Dean Barkley - Director 297-2325

Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul 55155-4001 296-6157
Allen Garber - Commissioner 296-2549

Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul 55155 296-6300
Karen Studders - Commissioner, Board Chair 296-7301

Public Safety

North Central Life Tower
 445 Minnesota St., Suite 1000, St. Paul 55101 296-6642
Charlie Weaver - Commissioner 296-6642

Revenue

600 N. Robert St., St. Paul 55146 296-3781
Matt Smith - Commissioner 296-3403

Trade & Economic Development

500 Metro Square
 121 Seventh Place E., St. Paul 55101-2146 297-1291
Gerald Carlson - Commissioner 296-6424
 1-800-657-3858

Transportation

395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul 55155 296-3000
Elwyn Tinklenberg - Commissioner 296-3000

Veterans Affairs

Second Floor, Veterans Service Building
 20 W. 12th St., St. Paul 55155 296-2562
Bernie Melter - Commissioner 296-2783

* and other major agencies
 Area code 651 except where otherwise noted.

Boards & Agencies

Board of Pardons

Suite 200
1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul 55108-5219 642-0284
Jean Whitney - Secretary 642-0284

Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board

First Floor, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar St., St. Paul 55155 296-5148
Jeanne Olson - Executive Director 296-1721

Capitol Area Architectural & Planning Board

204 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave., St. Paul 55155 296-7138
Nancy Stark - Executive Secretary 296-1162

Higher Education Services Office (HESO)

Suite 350
1450 Energy Park Drive
St. Paul 55108-5227 642-0533/1-800-657-3866
Robert Poch - Director 642-0502

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board

P.O. Box 441, Eveleth 55734 (218) 744-7400
1-800-765-5043
John Swift - Commissioner

Law Library

Ground Floor Judicial Center
25 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 296-2775
Marvin Roger Anderson - State Law Librarian 297-2084

Metropolitan Council

Mears Park Center
230 E. Fifth St., St. Paul 55101 602-1000
Ted Mondale - Chair 602-1554

Minnesota Historical Society

Minnesota History Center
345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul 55102-1906 296-6126
Nina M. Archabal - Director 296-2747

Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (MnSCU)

500 World Trade Center
30 E. Seventh St., St. Paul 55101 296-8012
Morrie Anderson - Chancellor 296-8012
Michael Vekich, St. Louis Park - Board Chair

Minnesota Tax Court

Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 296-2806
Diane Kroupa - Chief Judge

Minnesota Veterans Homes Board

122 Veterans Service Building
20 W. 12th St., St. Paul 55155 296-2073
Stephen O'Connor - Chair

Office of Environmental Assistance

520 Lafayette Road, Second Floor, St. Paul 55155 296-3417
Sherry Enzler - Director 215-0283

Public Utilities Commission

Metro Square Building, Suite 350
121 Seventh Place E., St. Paul 55101 296-7124
Burl Haar - Executive Secretary 296-7526
Gregory Scott - Chair

University of Minnesota

100 Church St. S.E.
202 Morrill Hall, Minneapolis 55455 (612) 625-5000
Mark Yudof - President (612) 626-1616
Patricia Spence, Rice - Board of Regents Chair

Workers' Compensation

Court of Appeals

Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite 405
25 Constitution Ave., St. Paul 55155 296-6526
Steven D. Wheeler - Chief Judge 297-1594

Area code 651 except where otherwise noted.

Constitutional Officers

Governor

Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Lieutenant Governor

Mae Schunk
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Attorney General

Mike Hatch
102 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-6196

Secretary of State

Mary Kiffmeyer
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-2803

State Auditor

Judith H. Dutcher
Suite 400
525 Park St.
St. Paul 55103 (651) 296-2551

State Treasurer

Carol Johnson
303 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-7091

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Informing the public about the issue was also a concern of some committee members.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said the same poll that Sviggum referred to found that only 24 percent of the people felt that they had enough information to make an informed decision on the issue.

But the committee voted against an amendment that would have required the Office of the Secretary of State, along with the Office of the Attorney General, to prepare a voters guide that would explain the common arguments for and against the proposal.

That amendment had been added to the bill that had failed to advance out of the State Government Finance Committee.

"It is critical that if we put this on the ballot that voters be informed," said Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Mpls).

Kahn also stressed the importance of an impartial voters guide, especially due to a pamphlet that has been distributed by the governor's office and Minnesota Planning. According to the agency's Web site, its mission is to "provide policy-makers and the public with accurate information and analysis about emerging and critical issues, influence policy decisions for a better future through long-range planning and keep Minnesotans focused on the future."

Critics point out the pamphlet does not contain any of the arguments against a unicameral legislature.

The bill now heads to the House Rules Committee. When a bill is introduced and considered this late in the legislative session, the Rules Committee must determine whether it can bypass the normal committee process and deadlines and go straight to the floor for a vote. 🐼

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inheritance had to get an attorney and go through the probate process, he said. The attorney could immediately collect a percentage of the estate, while the heirs had to wait indefinitely for their share of the estate. Meanwhile, the money would sit in an account without drawing interest.

Haugerud talked to a judge about such an incident, and the judge said there was nothing he could do about it.

So when Haugerud began his career in the Legislature, he introduced several bills that sought to change state law related to estates and other judicial issues.

But he said his bills did not receive hear-

ings in the Judiciary Committee, a committee that entirely consisted of attorneys back then.

So Haugerud spoke to then-Speaker Martin Sabo, a DFLer from Minneapolis, and the two were instrumental in adding a new House rule regarding committee membership. That rule states that "a committee of the House must not have exclusive membership from one profession, occupation, or vocation."

He also accomplished some of his goals by attaching an amendment to a related bill. His amendment was to eliminate the attorneys' ability to collect their fee before resolving an estate.

He later served as chairman of the State Appropriations Committee, which at that time set the budgets for 41 state agencies. The committees were organized differently back then, so the departments under that committee's purview included the Highway Department, the State Supreme Court, and other agencies that are now under separate committees.

Haugerud also was instrumental in converting abandoned railroad tracks into recreational trails, which he said was controversial at the time. Farmers had wanted to buy that land, and Haugerud said he nearly lost an election due to the unpopularity of converting it to trails.

But now recreational trails such as those in the Fillmore County area, also known as bluff country, are becoming increasingly popular.

Haugerud said he plans to write another book in the same vein about the characters he met while working in the Legislature.

Jailhouse Stories was published by the Uni-

versity of Minnesota Press and is available in bookstores, or on the Internet (www.jailhousestories.com). 🐼

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In Freeman's third inaugural address in 1959, he implored legislators to heed the words of the committee and pass some legislation to heal some of the rifts in the public trust.

"As elected representatives of a free people, we assume the responsibility of expressing, in our attitudes and our actions, the highest ethical aspirations of the people of our state," Freeman said. "The search for personal advantage or private gain has no place in our public service."

In 1971, a special committee on ethics to the House of Representatives noted in its report that there were no laws governing ethics. The committee noted that there should be such laws accompanied by a unit of state government to keep track of the information and field complaints of any kind.

That plan came to fruition in 1974 when the Legislature adopted the Ethics in Government Act. The act established the Ethical Practices Board, now the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, to govern lobbying and campaigning.

In addition, the act established reporting and registration requirements for lobbyists, as well as campaign staff.

The board estimates there are currently 1,300 registered lobbyists in the state. 🐼

UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE . . .



House employees Dick Newcomb, right, and Laurel Waldoch spend their lunch break flying a Gomberg Classic bi-plane stunt kite on the Capitol lawn April 28.

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	
448	3629	2385*	Public hospital employees compensation limit exemption provided.		5/1/00
449	3020*	3199	Long-term care provisions modified.	5/1/00	
450	3047*	2944	Title insurance mortgage release certificate language modified.	5/1/00	

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-0271
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Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-2887

Index, House

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175 State Office Building 296-2146

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Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

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Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119

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645 State Office Building 296-3398

Revisor of Statutes

700 State Office Building 296-2868

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

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B-4 Capitol 296-6741

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TTY, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Friday, April 28

HF4167—Lenczewski (DFL)

Taxes

State tax rate increases approval by voters through reverse referendum authorized, rescinded revenue increases refunded, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF4168—Lenczewski (DFL)

Taxes

Individual income tax limited.

HF4169—Tuma (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Advising for abortions based on specified characteristics prohibited and criminal penalties imposed.

HF4170—Smith (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Constitutional standard established relating to abortion and constitutional amendment proposed.

Monday, May 1

HF4171—Lenczewski (DFL)

Ways & Means

Public participation in the state budget process increased and public notification required.

Thursday, May 4

HF4172—Greiling (DFL)

Transportation Finance

Commuter rail line between Forest Lake and St. Paul constructed, and money appropriated.

HF4173—Dawkins (DFL)

Commerce

Computers under warranty repair, refund, or replacement by manufacturer required; and civil remedies provided.

HF4174—Orfield (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Unsterilized ballast water discharge prohibited and permit required.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MAY 8 - 12, 2000

MONDAY, May 8

No meetings have been announced.

TUESDAY, May 9

11 a.m.

The House meets in session.

WEDNESDAY, May 10

No meetings have been announced.

THURSDAY, May 11

No meetings have been announced.

FRIDAY, May 12

No meetings have been announced.

Reflections

If it were not for some well-known dignitaries' decisions during the early years of the nation's history and in the history of Minnesota's past, the state today would be a very different locale, guided by some unknown public policies.

Imagine! If Benjamin Franklin had not persisted in adopting the international border between Minnesota and Canada, most of the state, northern Wisconsin, and all of Lake Superior would have been lost to Great Britain.

Imagine that the nation's third president, Thomas Jefferson, was not a dreamer who followed his vision by defying critics of his Louisiana Purchase for future expansion of the country.

What if he had not sent the Lewis and Clark expedition into French territory, or approved a trek by Zebulon Pike to explore and set up a government fort at the conjunction of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers?

It is highly likely that Minnesota would not be the state it is today. It could have become a part of Missouri, based on a very exclusive wording to its original constitution.

Just imagine if Jefferson did not add to the Declaration of Independence, "that all men are created equal," and have the rights to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Would members of the Minnesota constitutional convention have written Article I, Sec. 2, that states "No member of this state shall be disenfranchised or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to any citizen thereof"?

What if the state's lawmakers in 1895 did not extend parameters for legislative policy by heeding the words of Gov. Cushman Davis that "The best constitution . . . is that one which, while it secures the essential and primary rights of the people [but] leaves

the greatest possible power to legislative action"?

And what if the 1899 Legislature ignored Gov. John Lind's unparalleled speech to lawmakers when he called for taxation reform, support for education, and his acknowledgment of society's acceptance of individuals suffering from social ills beyond their control?

Minnesota and its government are a direct outgrowth of national and regional visionaries. As the 81st Legislative Session comes to a close, Minnesota's 201 lawmakers have made some difficult decisions for the state's system of government by which to function. Likely, the compromises and conclusions they make are the correct ones for Minnesotans.

Imagine [that] all the people [are truly] living for today.

-LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

Order a free copy of *New Laws 2000*

Complete this form to receive your copy of *New Laws 2000*, a publication describing the new laws passed this year. The publication will provide brief, easy-to-read summaries of the bills that were passed by both the House and Senate and signed or vetoed by the governor. *New Laws 2000* will be available a few months after the session ends. Copies will be mailed without charge to those who order them.



Do you want to receive a copy of *New Laws 2000*? ____ Yes ____ No

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Mail it by May 15, 2000, to:

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2. Where do you receive *Session Weekly*?

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3. How many people read the copy sent to this address? ____

4. Which sections do you most often read? (Check all that apply.)

____ Highlights

____ News Features (First Reading, At Issue)

____ Historical Features

____ Member Profiles

____ Resources (i.e., lists)

____ Governor's Desk

____ Bill Introductions

____ Committee Schedule

____ Minnesota Index

____ Reflections

____ The 50 States

5. Please rate the following aspects of the *Session Weekly* by checking one answer in each set.

Writing ____ Hard to understand ____ Somewhat understandable ____ Easy to understand

Story Length ____ Too short ____ Too long ____ Just right

Layout ____ Poor ____ Average ____ Excellent

Photographs ____ Poor ____ Average ____ Excellent

6. Do you have any suggestions for improving the magazine? _____

7. Do you have Internet access? ____ Yes ____ No

8. Have you ever located *Session Weekly* on the Internet or used its online companion, *Session Daily*? ____ Yes ____ No

9. What kind of Internet service could *Session Weekly* offer that would be of use to you? _____

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota colleges and universities

Schools in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system	36
Campuses operated by those institutions	53
Campuses in the University of Minnesota system	4
Total students now attending MnSCU campuses, estimated	140,000
Percentage of students at the undergraduate level	96
Number of degrees granted yearly	30,000
Students attending University of Minnesota campuses, Fall 1999	58,196
Percentage of students at undergraduate level, systemwide	61
Degree and certificate programs offered at MnSCU schools	3,650
Number of graduate degrees offered	171
Degree programs offered through the University of Minnesota	649
Graduate degrees, Twin Cities campus	332
Average costs excluding room and board at MnSCU two-year colleges,	
1999-2000	\$2,315
Costs including room and board at MnSCU's four-year universities	\$6,523
Average undergraduate costs including room and board,	
University of Minnesota, 1999-2000	\$9,319
Reciprocity rates for MnSCU students from surrounding states, as	
percent of resident tuition rates	150
Number of states that have reciprocity with MnSCU schools	4
Number of full-time students enrolled at Normandale Community	
College (largest MnSCU two-year college), 1999	4,174
At Pine Technical College (smallest two-year college), 1999	367
Number of full-time students enrolled at St. Cloud State University	
(largest MnSCU four-year university), 1999	11,962
At Southwest State University (smallest MnSCU four-year university),	
1999	2,669
Average age of students on MnSCU campuses	28
Median age for metropolitan-area campuses	25
Percentage of students that are age 30 or older	35

Sources: *Crosstown Connections: Academic Plan for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area*, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, November 1999; Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Update, MnSCU, April 2000; MnSCU Web site (www.mnscu.edu); University of Minnesota Web site (www.umn.edu).

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