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**In this issue:**

**MAJOR BILLS PASSED**

**MARATHON SESSION AS END NEARS**

HF4175-HF4177

# Session Weekly

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

**Director**  
LeClair G. Lambert

**Editor/Assistant Director**  
Nick Healy

**Assistant Editor**  
Michelle Kibiger

**Art & Production Coordinator**  
Paul Battaglia

**Writers**  
Mike DeLarco, Jon Fure,  
David Maeda, Chris Vetter

**Chief Photographer**  
Tom Olmscheid

**Photographers**  
Laura Phillips, Andrew Von Bank

**Office Manager**  
Nicole Wood

**Staff Assistants**  
Christy Novak, Laurel Waldoch

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## CONTENTS

### HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5  
Business • 5  
Crime • 6

Education • 7  
Elections • 8  
Game & Fish • 8

Government • 9  
Higher Education • 11  
Human Services • 11

### FEATURES

**At Issue:** Education — An omnibus bill provides \$184 million of new education funding and seeks to keep Internet porn out of the classroom. • 12

**At Issue:** Government — Human services items dominate state government appropriations bill, though environmental, judicial, and economic development programs are in the mix. • 13

**At Issue:** Taxes — House passes tax bill including \$142 million in income tax cuts and license tab fee reductions and a \$685 million sales tax rebate. • 16

**At Issue:** Transportation — A \$600 million package saves light rail and returns emphasis to neglected infrastructure. • 17

### DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's a Fact: Anna Ramsey • 4  
Governor's Desk (CH251-CH457) • 18  
Resources: House Members • 25  
Bill Introductions (HF4175-HF4177) • 26

Committee Schedule (May 15-19) • 26  
Reflections: Compromise • 26  
Readership Survey • 27  
Minnesota Index: Major Spending Bills • 28

**On the cover:** Rep. Barb Sykora rests her head in her hands while listening to weary legislators continue to debate as the sun rises early May 10, as seen through a window on the east side of the House chamber.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

# Ready to break ground

House and Senate members settle on bonding priorities to split the difference between original proposals emerging from the bodies

By JON FURE

**T**he House and Senate agreed to a bonding bill May 9 that would spend \$640.3 million for repairs to state facilities and new construction projects. The two bodies reached a compromise late in the game after their original proposals of \$532 million from the House and \$762 million from the Senate.

That final amount includes \$470.9 million in general obligation bonding, and \$98 million in direct spending from the state's general fund. Nearly \$30 million would be saved by canceling funds for capital projects approved in previous years.

The bill would spend about \$100 million more than earlier proposals by the House and the governor. Part of the increase is attributable to Gov. Jesse Ventura's requirement that \$44 million be spent from the general fund to pay for transit in the metropolitan area — a proposal that had not been in his capital budget plan or in the House or Senate versions of the bonding bill.

That provision was part of an end-of-session agreement that would allow the governor, House, and Senate to each decide how to spend a portion of the projected ongoing budget surplus. Ventura's portion includes reductions in license tab fees for motor vehicles and the transit spending. Ventura has repeatedly said that the Legislature should focus on bonding this year, and that he opposes any supplemental spending.

Of that \$44 million, \$25 million would be spent in fiscal year 2001 and \$19 million would be spent in fiscal year 2002. That money would mainly pay for designing and building an exclusive bus transitway, including the costs of acquiring land and right-of-way. The bill does not stipulate where such a transitway would be built, but the speculation is that it would run between downtown St. Paul and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

The bill would prohibit that money from being spent on light-rail transit or commuter rail.

In addition, the bill includes one of

Ventura's top priorities, bond funds for a \$58 million Bureau of Criminal Apprehension building.

A policy change related to the sale of bonds also is included in the bill. Current law that gives the governor leeway in issuing bonds would be repealed. That law allows a governor to refuse to sell bonds, thereby causing a project to languish.

The bill would give that authority instead to the commissioner of the state Department of Finance. The commissioner would be required to sell bonds based on funding needs of capital projects.

The decision on when to sell the bonds only could be based on specific factors: taking advantage of favorable interest rates, managing cash flow requirements for making debt payments, and other financial or legal factors.

Here are some other highlights of the bill (HF4078), sponsored by Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls).

## U of M facilities

Overall spending for higher education would be \$231 million, \$176.3 million of which would come from general obligation bonding. For most projects, the college or university pays one-third of the payments on the debt, or they are partially funded through matching non-state funds.

Total bonding for the University of Minnesota would be about \$100.2 million.

The largest expense would be \$35 million for a Molecular Cellular Biology building.

A proposed new Art Building would receive \$18.5 million, which would be spent if the university raises \$23 million in non-state matching funds.

A \$10 million Microbial and Plant Genomics building at the U of M campus in St. Paul also would be funded, which would require \$10 million in non-state matching funds.

The Duluth campus would receive \$6.1 million for a music performance center, but it would not receive funding for a proposed sports center.

Other U of M projects that would receive funding include \$8 million for a science and math building in Morris, \$6.5 million for a



Rep. Jim Knoblach, right, and Sen. Linda Berglin take a closer look at a provision of the bonding bill during a May 8 meeting.

building renovation and addition in Crookston, and \$6 million for greenhouses in St. Paul.

The bill would provide \$9 million for maintenance and repair projects on all U of M campuses.



## MnSCU construction

Projects in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system would receive \$131 million, \$96.8 million of which would be in general obligation bonding.

Anoka-Hennepin Technical College would receive \$12.5 million under the House bill for roof repairs; improvements to the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system; and other necessary repairs. The MnSCU Board of Trustees had voted to close the school, but the bonding bill would make the repairs necessary to keep it open.

An \$11.7 million information technology center at Minneapolis Community and Technical College would be funded.

The bill would provide \$6.9 million for construction of athletic and academic facilities at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The money would be part of the Taylor Center project, which benefited from a \$9.2 million donation from Minnesota Timberwolves owner and Mankato businessman Glen Taylor.

Maintenance and repair projects throughout the MnSCU system would receive \$30 million. MnSCU requested \$100 million for maintenance and repair, and officials said at least \$56 million would be needed to prevent the system's \$500 million maintenance backlog from growing even larger.

The bill specifies that the maintenance and repair money would pay for several projects that were line-item vetoed by Ventura last year, including a new boiler system for Winona State University and the completion of a heating and air conditioning project at the Hutchinson campus of Ridgewater College.

A project that would demolish old homes on property owned by Moorhead State University and expand parking would receive \$3.6 million in direct spending from the state's general fund.

Other MnSCU projects slated for funding under the bill include \$11.4 million for a science building at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, \$11 million for general renovation at North Hennepin Community College in Brooklyn Park, and \$8 million for a remodeling project at St. Cloud Technical College.

Several other MnSCU campuses would receive funding under the House bill, including Northwest Technical College in Bemidji, St. Cloud State University, Northland Community Technical College in Thief River Falls, Winona State University, Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, and Rochester Community and Technical College.

Continued on page 23



## First winter for first lady

**Anna Ramsey found frontier life less than pleasant during her early days in Minnesota**

The first woman to be Minnesota's first lady wasn't always enamored with her adopted home, and she let her husband know about it.

Anna Ramsey, wife of the first governor of the Minnesota Territory, found things difficult during her first Christmas season in the frontier town of St. Paul.

Her husband, Alexander Ramsey, had left Anna, who was busy with one child and another on the way, in St. Paul while he was away on travels that kept him from home for the holidays.

In a letter written on Christmas day of 1849, Anna showed little cheer.

"Oh, Alex, could [you] be here and know how we suffer with cold, [you] would never want to winter again in St. Paul," Anna wrote. "I know I will not. I nearly froze to death in bed as well as out."

Anna was 19 when she married Alexander in 1845. He was 30 and already building a political career as a congressman from Pennsylvania.

Alexander became a dominant figure in early Minnesota history. He was appointed governor of the new Minnesota Territory in 1849, and he later served as the state's second governor, mayor of St. Paul, U.S. senator, and U.S. secretary of war.

Anna's life was dominated by the arc of her husband's political career. She followed him to St. Paul, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere.

And she lived within the confines of her era — when women in her position were expected to be subservient to their husbands, to handle domestic concerns, and to function as the head of the family's presence in religious and social circles.

She kept up a proper public face and

filled her role well, but Anna lived a sometimes stifling existence that limited public expressions of her personal opinions.

Things were different in private. Letters exchanged between Anna and Alexander show that the pair communicated openly and frankly, for better or worse.

The letter written on that cold Christmas Day was among the unhappiest of those that survive the family's papers held by the Minnesota Historical Society, according to a 1977 article in Minnesota History magazine.

"My health is not very good. I suffer so much with headaches," Anna continued in that 1849 correspondence. "I do hope [you] will hasten. It is such forlorn living alone in a horrid place such as this. I think it intolerable."

She closed her letter by telling her husband that he "shall never leave me again so long. I will not stay."

Of course, she did stay. And if Anna's first months in Minnesota were unhappy and difficult, her outlook improved with time. She made her home in St. Paul until her death in 1884, although she spent long stretches away from the city over the years.

Even in unhappy times, Anna maintained a sense of humor.

Her 1849 letter included a description of her attempts to enjoy the outdoors during a northern winter. Anna said she found a sleigh ride along the river to be "splendid," as did her toddler son, Alexander Jr.

"Sonny enjoys it amazingly if mama will hold him and not let him get cold. Unfortunately, mama is losing her lap," the pregnant 23-year-old wrote.

(N. HEALY)



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Omnibus policy bill passes

The House passed an omnibus agriculture policy bill May 9 that would bring uniformity to the state's meat inspection program and update state references to federal food law regulations. The vote was 115-16.

The bill (HF3312), sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), would bring poultry up to par with other meats and meat products for purposes of inspection. Inspections of poultry, however, would not be required during the slaughter of one's own animals or at a custom processing plant, under the bill.

Poultry products would also be allowed to carry the "Minnesota Approved" label.

The omnibus policy bill also would add several new activities to those that would qualify for a Department of Agriculture grant of up to \$50,000 for the development of new farm products, as well as business and marketing plans for the products.

Corporate farm law changes included in the bill would allow nonprofit groups such as scout troops, churches, and sports clubs to retain ownership of agricultural land rented to a neighboring farmer. Limited liability companies would be able to own farmland and engage in farming, as well.

Certain corporations would be permitted to own up to 40 acres of farmland so long as they earn no more than \$150 per acre per year from the land.

In addition, a non-qualifying entity could apply for a "commissioner's exemption" (renewable annually) for permission to retain title to farmland.

Under the bill, the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture would be required to team with the University of Minnesota, the Department of Trade and Economic Development, and the Board of Animal Health to develop a pilot program for verifying claims made by agricultural producers and businesses.

Finally, the bill would make relatively minor changes to fertilizer and grain warehouse provisions in current law.

The bill now heads to the governor.

### Clarifying agriculture contracts

The House gave final passage to a bill May 9 that would establish minimum standards of both readability and content for

## FILL 'ER UP



Pages Betty Byrne, left, Art Jones, center, and Diane Ranallo begin to dump overflowing wastebaskets of paper in a recycling bin after the House recessed in the early morning hours May 10.

contracts between agricultural producers and contractors. The vote was 130-0.

Under the bill, any potential agricultural contract would be required to contain a clear statement of the risks the producer faces by entering into the contract, and producers would be allowed to review the contract for up to three days before signing it.

Sponsored by Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the measure (HF3534) would also require that the contract be legible, clearly laid out, and contain a cover sheet with an index to the contents of the contract and a warning to producers to "read your contract carefully."

Under the bill, a producer would be allowed to ask the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture to review a contract and certify that language in the proposed contract complies with requirements contained in the measure.

The bill would allow a court to change the terms of a contract if it found a lack of clarity or readability had confused the producer and resulted in financial harm.

Finally, the bill would specify certain kinds of agricultural contracts that would not be subject to minimum standards, and would establish limits on the extent to which producers and contractors could use the format of a contract to claim damages against one another.

The bill now goes to the governor.

## ★ BUSINESS

### Gas station franchises

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 5 that regulates franchise agreements between gas stations and fuel providers.

Fuel providers generally enter into a franchise agreement with stations operated by individuals but owned by the gas company.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), House sponsor of the measure, said it clarifies what can be written in marketing agreements. The law protects small businesses, Haas said.

The key aspect of the law allows the gas station management the right to purchase the station before the gas provider decides to sell the store to another gas provider.

For example, if a company were going to sell a Texaco station to a provider for Amoco, Texaco would have to offer the station to the local management first.

That section expires in one year. Officials say the repealer is intended to allow both parties to find a better working arrangement and continue negotiations if initial offers are unacceptable.

Haas said the first right of refusal is necessary because fuel providers can sell the station to another fuel provider. The new owner may attempt to close service centers to open convenience stations.

Without the first right of refusal, a

neighborhood mechanic could suddenly lose his or her job when the station's ownership changes hands, Haas said.

Other states, such as California, have enacted similar legislation to protect franchisees, Haas said.

When a gas supplier enters into a marketing agreement with a person to operate a station, the supplier is required to submit a history of how much fuel was sold, any possible adjustments to property or surrounding infrastructure, and the names of the people who operated the station for the past three years, under the law.

For example, if the city where the station is located plans to close down streets surrounding the station, thereby affecting business and profit, the gas company is obligated to inform the station management of those situations.

A variety of items can be included in franchise agreements. Gas suppliers can require stations to be open a certain number of hours a day. A fuel supplier is not prohibited from remodeling or altering a full-service station.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the Senate version. The law is effective May 6, 2000.

HF1748/SF1870\*/CH456

## ★ CRIME

### Study on felony DWI

Legislators have agreed to study possible felony penalties for repeat drunken driving offenders, but no felony penalties would be implemented this session, under a bill the House passed May 10. The vote was 125-6.

Previously, legislators had sought to make it a felony for a person to accumulate four DWI convictions in a 10-year span. Under an earlier proposal, violators could have served seven years in prison, with a minimum of a 180 days stayed sentence in jail. The maximum fine would have been \$14,000.

In the bill's current form, a working group would be created. The group would include legislators from both houses, the commissioners of corrections, public safety, and finance, county attorneys, and public defenders.

The working group would study and recommend how to implement felony penalties. It would determine the most cost-effective manner, the number of offenses needed to reach a felony-level, the length of incarceration, and whether a penalty should have mandatory prison time.

"It assumes there will be a felony DWI, and this is how to best implement it," said Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), who served on the conference committee.

It is still unclear what the total cost would



Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver, right, talks with Rep. Doug Fuller as they wait for Senate members to arrive for a May 5 conference committee hearing on a DWI bill.

be to incarcerate repeat drunken driving offenders, although one report estimated it would add 1,100 people to the corrections system.

"The governor said he would veto the bill if there were unfunded local costs, and state costs were unfunded," Carruthers said. "The issue of costs has to be handled, and next year in a budget year would be the time to do it."

Because of the cost issue, the original House bill had offered to delay implementation until 2001 to give legislators time to find a funding source. The original Senate bill would have created felony drunken driving offenses this year, but eliminated the offense in 2001 if no funds were available for additional corrections costs.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) and Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington) are chief sponsors of the legislation.

The bill (HF2995/SF2677\*) now heads to the governor's desk.

### Statute of limitations extended

Domestic abuse victims would have more time to consider filing civil charges against the perpetrator, under a bill the House passed May 9. The vote was 130-0.

The bill (HF47/SF11\*) would extend the statute of limitations in domestic abuse cases from two years to six years. A victim could sue another person for assault, battery, false imprisonment, or personal injury, as defined by the statutes on domestic abuse.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), who sponsored the legislation, said the statute of limitations would begin at the point of the last incident.

"So many times, these domestic abuse wrongs are covered up or delayed," Bishop

said. "It doesn't surface for a long time."

The bill also would allow Ramsey County to establish a pilot project domestic abuse unit.

The unit would aim to prosecute cases, recognize interests of children in abuse cases, and reduce the exposure of domestic abuse for victims.

If Ramsey County chooses to create the program, the county would be required to report its results to the Legislature next year.

The bill now heads to the governor's desk.

### Hearing harassment complaints

Judges would have more discretion in hearing harassment cases, under a bill the House passed May 9. The vote was 129-0.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), the bill (HF2516\*/SF3580) would redefine harassment to include a single incident that has a "substantial adverse effect." Current law requires repeated incidents for an act to be considered harassment.

Smith said the key provision of the bill is that it does not require judges to hear every harassment complaint.

"It gives the court the flexibility they wanted after 10 years of looking at this statute," Smith said.

A judge could throw out frivolous harassment complaints, such as name-calling, Smith said. The judges would then have more time to hear serious harassment matters, he added.

The state began tracking restraining order filings in 1992, when 4,800 were filed. Last year, 8,800 restraining orders were filed.

A victim must allege a clear and present danger of harassment before the court may issue a temporary restraining order, according to the bill.

However, the bill does not eliminate a fee waiver on restraining orders. In certain

circumstances of financial hardship, men and women who file for restraining orders can still attempt to have all costs and fees for filing the order waived.

The bill now heads to the governor's desk.

### Sharing juvenile information

School officials will be required to share information about delinquent juveniles with the juvenile justice system, under a law signed May 5 by Gov. Jesse Ventura. The law also allows information about delinquent juveniles to be shared within the school, as deemed necessary.

If school officials catch a student who is on probation using alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances, or being threatening or bringing a weapon onto the school grounds, the officials must notify the juvenile justice system that the student has failed probation, the law states.

Schools also must notify juvenile justice officials if the student engages in theft or vandalism.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights), who sponsored the measure in the House, said it seeks to balance the rights of student's privacy and protecting the public.

"It's a start toward the responsible sharing of information between the juvenile justice system and the schools," McGuire said. "The goal is really to help the student. All the people involved with the student would have the history."

A school official must notify the student's parents or guardian that the juvenile justice system has been notified, the law states.

Currently, the juvenile justice system gives schools a disposition order that states a child has been delinquent and is on probation.

The new law requires the disposition order to be placed in the student's permanent record. Disposition orders follow a student if he or she transfers schools.

A school counselor also must be notified of the disposition order.

The law further clarifies which school officials would know that a student is on probation. The principal may notify district officials from employees to substitutes or volunteers who are "in direct contact with the student" that he or she is on probation.

Disposition orders are considered private information. Teachers, counselors, or staff members may not disseminate the information to school personnel who are not in contact with the student.

The school must destroy disposition orders once the student graduates or when that person reaches age 23.

Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) also carried the legislation in the Senate. The new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF2833\*/SF2891/CH451

### False ID measure passes

The House passed a false identification confiscation bill May 9 that strengthens penalties for people under age 21 who attempt to purchase alcohol by using a fake ID. The vote was 84-43.

It took a third try for the House to finally pass the plan, after sending it back to conference committee two previous times.

The bill would allow alcohol providers — from liquor store clerks to bartenders — to confiscate what they believe to be false identification cards. The person confiscating the identification would be required to turn it over to the police within 24 hours.

The bill also would make it a gross misdemeanor on a second offense for a person under age 21 to attempt to buy alcohol.

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

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Brainerd) spoke in favor of the bill, saying there has to be consequences for using false identification.

"If we don't pass this, we will be sending a message to our kids that it is ok to have fake IDs to purchase alcohol and tobacco," Hasskamp said.

The House rejected the bill and sent it back to conference committee last month, saying there were too many concerns about personal safety. Many of those legislators voiced their opposition again when the bill returned to the floor again with few alterations.

"It gives bouncers authority that virtually no one else in the state has," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) noted that the penalty would be lower if underage people stole alcohol instead of purchasing it illegally, under the bill.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said she fears for the safety of women who might be bullied by a bouncer.

One change made in conference committee would lessen the penalty for clerks who mistakenly sell tobacco to minors. The penalty would be reduced from a gross misdemeanor to a misdemeanor for the first offense, under the bill.

The clerk could be charged with a gross misdemeanor on a second conviction within five years of selling tobacco to minors, under the bill. The five-year provision was added

during the recent conference committee, decreasing the possible charges against clerks.

"It makes it better for the real victims, the store clerks," said Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont.)

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 a false identification.

The bill goes to the governor.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Agreement on Profile

Legislators were able to tentatively agree May 9 on modifications to the Profile of Learning and to allow districts to choose between continuing its use or implementing the prescribed alternative called the North Star Standard.

Last minute talks about fine-tuning the often-criticized Profile delayed House votes on four important spending bills. In a night of talks between the House and Senate, major spending bills were put on hold until legislators could agree on changes to the Profile.

However, neither the House nor the Senate has officially passed the compromise bill yet.

The Profile of Learning is a companion to the state's other graduation requirement — the basic skills tests.

A year ago, legislators failed to reach an agreement on how to improve the initiative, and for a while, it looked as if both houses would adjourn again this year without a solution.

The Profile has been criticized by teachers and school districts for excessive paperwork and problems with implementation.

It was created to shift learning away from textbooks and lectures and move it in the direction of experiments, teamwork, research, and independent projects.

Under the Profile, students are required to perform various tasks in core learning areas that have practical applications for life beyond the classroom.

The agreement would allow school boards to vote to choose whether to use the Profile, a revised version of the Profile, or the new North Star Standard. Teachers would serve advisory roles in the decision-making process.

"Teachers won. They're now going to have some say in what's going on in the classroom," said Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls).

Representatives of Education Minnesota (the teachers union) and others also expressed pleasure that the Legislature was able to finally take action to change the Profile, and for the flexibility that the agreement allows districts.



Part of that flexibility would be the ability to abandon the Profile altogether in favor of the North Star Standard.

The North Star Standard was designed as a knowledge-based alternative to the Profile. It would ease the Profile's practical skills orientation. It would also spell out rewritten standards in such basics as science, math, English, and history.

Under the North Star Standard, students would have to complete credits in up to 10 learning areas. Teachers would still be able to assign projects designed to test a student's ability to understand and apply subject matter, but such hands-on demonstrations would no longer be a standard requirement.

Districts that would choose to stay with the Profile would vote on a school-by-school basis on the number of Profile tasks required for high school graduation.

This year's ninth- and tenth-graders would be excused from Profile requirements. Educators have said this session they were worried that some students would be denied diplomas because implementation problems put completion of the Profile's 24 content standards out of reach for some. The class of 2002 would be the first to be held to the Profile of Learning or North Star Standard as a measure for graduation.

A vote on the Profile of Learning agreement is expected during House and Senate floor sessions May 17.

## ★ ELECTIONS

### Elections bill advances

The House gave final passage to a bill May 9 that would make minor changes in state election laws. The vote was 132-0.

The bill (HF2826), sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would modify the beginning dates of terms of offices, among other minor changes.

Names of candidates could be printed on both sides of a primary ballot, which Seifert said would allow counties to save money in printing costs. He estimated that Hennepin County, for example, would save \$145,000 per election.

Terms of office for soil and water conservation district supervisors, school board members, town officers, and hospital district officers would begin the first Monday in January, instead of Jan. 1, following an election.

Also, current law allows county, state, and federal candidates to file for office if they are away from the state during the filing period, and the bill would extend that to apply to candidates for municipal offices.

The bill also would extend the time period for a candidate to withdraw his or her name from the ballot.

The secretary of state would be required to notify each minor political party by the first Monday in January of each odd-numbered year of the conditions necessary for the party to participate in programs involving campaign money from income tax and property tax forms.

The bill now goes to the governor.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### Major changes in store

A bill that would increase fees for hunting and fishing licenses, establish a state plan for managing the wolf population, and allocate a portion of revenue from lottery ticket sales to pay for natural resources projects was passed May 9 by the House. The vote was 87-44.

The bill (HF3046), sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), had once contained only the license fee increases. But as action for the session wound down, three other prominent natural resource issues were included in the measure.

License fee increases first passed the House April 13, and the Senate added the provisions related to the wolf management plan and lottery ticket revenue. The bill also includes a minor change in a law that was signed April 3 allowing lighted fishing lures to be used in the state.

The fee increases would send more money to the game and fish fund, which pays for projects that improve water quality, stock fish and enhance aquatic vegetation, increase public water access, and other such projects.

Money from the license fee increases would be matched with revenue from the state's general fund.

Under the bill, \$2 of revenue from the fee increase would be matched by \$1 from the general fund. The fee increases are projected to raise about \$3.1 million in revenue for the 2002-03 biennium, and the general fund match would be slightly more than \$1.5 million.

The bill also would include a \$500,000 general fund appropriation to pay for walleye stocking.

The lottery ticket revenue provision that was added to the bill would further increase funding for game and fish projects, as well as projects for state parks, recreational trails, and zoos.

Those projects would receive 97 percent of the money that the state collects as a payment in lieu of sales tax on lottery tickets. Of the proceeds from lottery tickets, 16 cents per dollar goes to the state's general fund, which includes 6.5 cents per dollar that is considered a payment in lieu of sales tax.

The wolf management plan under the bill is nearly identical to a plan that was approved April 11 by the House (in the form of a separate bill, HF1415).

The Senate had clarified part of the bill that

## STATEHOOD WEEK



As part of Minnesota Statehood Week, historic interpreter David Geister dressed in 1850s period costume to play Lewis McKune, a farmer from Waseca and delegate to the Minnesota Constitutional Convention in 1857. He displays a map of the territory to sixth-graders from Onamia Elementary School, who traveled to the Capitol May 10.



would allow a person to shoot a wolf that is attacking livestock or domestic animals. The bill would specify that the person could shoot the wolf only on the person's property.

A certified predator controller could be hired to trap wolves in an area where a wolf has destroyed livestock or domestic animals. The trapping could be done on the farmer's property and in a one-mile radius of the site of the attack for 60 days.

A person could shoot a wolf in defense of a human life, and guard animals could be used to repel or destroy wolves.

People could "harass" a wolf that they actually see within 500 yards of people, buildings, livestock, or domestic animals to discourage wolves from getting too close to homes or farms.

Any incident where a wolf is killed would have to be reported within 48 hours to the Department of Natural Resources or a University of Minnesota extension agent.

Compensation for a livestock owner who has an animal that is killed by a wolf would be based on fair market value instead of the current maximum of \$750 per animal.

No hunting season for wolves would be allowed for five years after the wolf is removed from the federal list of endangered species. But the bill would allow the commissioner of the DNR to prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking wolves after the five years and after receiving comments from the public.

Violating the laws related to killing wolves would be a gross misdemeanor, under the bill.

The bill now goes to the governor.

### **Fishing contests, hunting laws**

A bill that would limit the number of fishing contests in the state and make other changes to hunting and fishing laws was passed by the House May 9. The vote was 131-0.

People who want to have fishing contests would need a permit unless several criteria are met: the number of participants would be fewer than 30 for open water and fewer than 150 for ice fishing; the entry fee is \$25 per person or less; the total prize value is \$25,000 or less; the contest is not limited to trout species only; the contest is not limited to specifically named waters; and all the contest participants are age 18 years or under.

If those criteria are not met, the person could apply for a permit from the Department of Natural Resources.

The bill (HF866/SF1288\*) would limit the number of permits that could be issued during the fishing season. And on all waters 55,000 acres or less, the DNR commissioner could set aside at least two weekends per month with no permitted fishing contests.

A contest for a species on its opening day would not be allowed.

The commissioner would be allowed to specify restrictions as part of the permit to prevent undue loss of fish or to accommodate other concerns regarding large fishing contests.

Another provision in the bill would improve some people's chances of getting a license to hunt moose. Minnesotans who have applied for and failed to get a license at least 10 times would be able to apply in a separate selection process.

The separate process would make 20 percent of all moose-hunting licenses available to those applicants who have repeatedly failed to win a license.

The state issues a limited number of such licenses every other year, through a lottery system that includes all applicants in one pool. In 1999, 189 licenses were issued to hunt in northeastern Minnesota. There will not be a moose hunt in 2000.

A new deer license would be established under the bill, which would allow the holder to take one antlered buck throughout the state, rather than from a particular area. The license would cost \$66. Deer licenses currently cost \$22, and a separate bill would increase that to \$25.

Another provision would allow a person with mental retardation or a related condition to receive a provisional firearms safety certificate and hunting license.

The bill would require the person to complete the classroom portion of the firearms safety course.

The person would be able to hunt only while accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult who possesses a firearms safety certificate. The bill would not apply if the person were otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law.

The bill also would attempt to resolve questions about state lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

The state owns about 100,000 acres of land, known as school trust land, in that area. Most of the land was donated from the federal government when Minnesota became a state.

The state-owned land is located on various parcels and is surrounded by federal land. Revenue from the land, through leases and the sale of logging rights, goes to the state's permanent school fund.

The University of Minnesota, Duluth would conduct an inventory and appraisal of the state lands.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said the inventory would determine exactly how many acres of land belong to the state and provide other detailed information about the land.

Rukavina said that information would allow the state to negotiate a land exchange with the federal government, so that the state-owned parcels would be separate from the federal land.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), now goes to the governor.

### **DNR enforcement bill**

The House passed a bill May 9 that would modify some of the procedures used by the state Department of Natural Resources regarding DWIs, forfeited vehicles, or property.

The bill (HF2962/SF3036\*), sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), was altered by a House-Senate conference committee after the House had objected to provisions in an earlier version of the bill.

One would have expanded the authority of DNR conservation officers to give blood-alcohol tests under the state's implied consent laws, and the other would have allowed the DNR to keep proceeds from the sale of a forfeited vehicle. Both provisions were removed by the conference committee.

The bill would allow the DNR to administer forfeiture procedures in some situations that currently are done by the county sheriff's office.

Under current law, conservation officers can seize firearms from hunters who are violating certain laws, such as those prohibiting 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 follow forfeiture procedures without involving the sheriff's office.

Also, the commissioner of natural resources would be required to develop plans for dealing with gross violations of game and fish laws. A report for defining and determining penalties for gross violations must be completed by the department and delivered to the House and Senate committees on natural resources policy and finance by Feb. 1, 2001.

The bill now goes to the governor.

## **★ GOVERNMENT**

### **Dead, alive, and dead again**

A proposal to switch to a one-chamber, unicameral, legislature was approved May 8 by the House Rules Committee, but even the bill's sponsor says it is unlikely to advance to



**Former Gov. Al Quie testifies in favor of a unicameral form of state government during a May 8 hearing of the House Rules Committee.**

a vote on the House floor before the session adjourns.

The bill (HF4147) was sent to the House floor, but members then voted to send the bill to the House Ways and Means Committee May 9. The vote was 76-54.

The bill would allow voters to decide if the Minnesota Constitution should be amended to replace the state House of Representatives and Senate with a single legislative body called the Legislature, beginning in 2003.

The Rules Committee voted against an amendment that would require 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.

"This issue will bring a lot of people out to vote, and they will be informed," said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), sponsor of the bill, at the Rules Committee hearing.

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), a co-sponsor of the proposal, said that most other proposed constitutional amendments have not had voters guides.

"I don't know if we need the government to lay out the pros and cons on this issue," he said.

Sviggum, who has supported the unicameral concept for several years, said it would enable citizens to understand the lawmaking process better and it would make lawmakers more accountable for their votes.

Some committee members criticized the proposal's lack of details. If the voters were to approve the constitutional amendment, the people who take office in 2001 would have the task of re-drawing district boundaries and establishing specific rules for those who would

later be elected to the unicameral legislature in 2003.

But Carruthers said lawmakers could make the decisions about the specific committee process and other details if the voters approve the overall concept.

"The big issue clearly would be before the people — should we switch to a unicameral system or should we stick with bicameral?" Carruthers said.

If that question makes it onto the 2000 election 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 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. The entire Legislature would be up for election the year after districts are redrawn, which is done every 10 years, following a census, to accommodate shifts in population.

To achieve the staggered terms, half of the legislators would serve an initial term of two years. The other half would serve a two-year term at the beginning of a decade, just before the redistricting takes place.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said he does not oppose Sviggum's bill, but that two-year terms would be a better idea. The longer terms make it easier to avoid "change-of-mood years," he said. The state Senate, for example, has not been up for election in some recent years where major political tides have changed, he said.

Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) said that lawmakers benefit from running for office every two years by participating in

various community events and knocking on doors before the election.

"It keeps you more in tune with the people in your district," she said.

Sviggum countered by saying that the unicameral system would make it easier for citizens to follow pending legislation, so that people would likely participate more during the lawmaking process instead of waiting for the election season.

With only two official days left for the Legislature to conduct business, the bill only could become law if it is approved by the Ways and Means Committee, then gets a majority of votes before the entire House and Senate, and is signed by the governor.

### **Data practices revisions**

The House passed a bill May 9 that would clarify the state's laws regarding government data practices. The vote was 129-0.

The bill (HF3501), sponsored by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), would clean up laws relating to how government agencies collect and disseminate information, as well as public access to that data.

Holberg said the bill would allow the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Revenue to exchange information relating to employees for tax administration purposes.

The bill also would establish an administrative process for people who believe that a government agency is not complying with laws governing public access to data. Such a complaint would be filed with the commissioner of the state Department of Administration, who would then be required to conduct an investigation to determine whether the complaint is valid.

The bill also would require every government entity to appoint or designate a person as its data practices compliance official. That official would be the one who will answer questions and concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data.

Government agencies would also be required to make public data stored on computers available in an electronic format if the government entity can reasonably make the copy or have a copy made. The government entity may require the requesting person to pay for the cost of the copy.

The bill also allows counties to approve a system in which a notice is included on property tax statements notifying taxpayers that their name and other information may be disclosed for non-government purposes including surveys, marketing, and solicitation.

The county would be required to allow

citizens to request that their name be excluded from lists generated by the county and disclosed to non-government entities.

The bill also would limit tort liability against municipalities in claims based on alleged or actual inaccuracies in geographic information systems data arising from the public's use of that data. Such data is used by municipalities for mapping, districting, and zoning purposes.

The bill calls for the municipality to provide a disclaimer of the accuracy of the information. The bill aims to clarify that geographic information systems data is accurate for its intended use by a municipality and may be inaccurate for other uses.

The bill now goes to the governor.

## ★ HIGHER EDUCATION

### Setting pay for MnSCU officials

A new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 5 will change the way the salary is determined for the chancellor of the state's largest higher education organization.

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

Under the new law, the Board of Trustees of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) will be allowed to establish a salary range for the chancellor position. The board will then submit the proposed salary range to the Legislature for approval.

The new law also will allow the board more flexibility in the contracts they offer to presidents and other non-classified positions within the MnSCU system.

Under current law, the board is allowed to propose a salary range for its presidents, which the Legislature approves. The new law will allow the board to submit to the Legislature proposed contracts with other incentives to attract candidates.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), the House sponsor of the measure, said that increasing competition from other states has made retaining and recruiting quality people in the positions more difficult. He said he aims to give MnSCU more options to attract qualified candidates.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls) was the Senate sponsor. The new law is effective August 1, 2000.

HF3726/SF3386\*/CH453

## ★ HUMAN SERVICES

### Protecting vulnerable adults

The House passed a bill May 9 that would create a panel to review decisions made by lead agencies regarding cases of potential maltreatment of vulnerable adults.

The vote was 129-0.

Sponsored by Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), the bill (HF3250/SF3028\*) would provide a vulnerable adult or individual acting on behalf of such a person the opportunity to challenge an agency's decision before an impartial body.

Currently, Greenfield said, a vulnerable adult or person acting on his or her behalf has no other place to appeal but to the agency that produced the decision.

The board created by the bill would consist of representatives from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health, the ombudsman for older Minnesotans, and the ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation.

A request for a review, the bill states, would be taken up at the panel's next quarterly meeting.

Greenfield referred to the measure as a "quality assurance approach" to reviewing decisions in cases of potential maltreatment when the bill was first considered by the House in April.

The bill would require that within 30 days of the panel's review, it must notify the lead agency and the person who requested the review of its decision. The panel may decide whether it agrees with the agency's decision or require the agency to reconsider its ruling.

If the panel were to decide that the agency must reconsider its disposition, the bill would require the agency reconsider and report back to the panel with its determination within 30 days.

Furthermore, the panel would be required to report to the Legislature each January the number of requests for review it received, the number of cases where the panel required the lead agency to reconsider its decision, the number of times when the final disposition was changed, and any recommendations to improve the review or investigative process.

A provision in the bill adopted by a House-Senate conference committee would require that the commissioner of the Department of Human Services offer medically necessary psychiatric and dental services to developmentally disabled clients in the Faribault service area, which would extend 100 miles around the city.

The bill now heads to the governor's desk.

## Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration .....	296-6013
Agriculture .....	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning .....	582-8200
Commerce .....	296-4026
Corrections .....	642-0200
Economic Security .....	296-3644
Employee Relations .....	297-1184
Job Information .....	296-2616
Finance .....	296-5900
Health .....	215-5800
Human Rights .....	296-5663
Toll Free .....	1-800-657-3704
Human Services .....	296-6117
Labor and Industry .....	296-6107
Military Affairs .....	282-4662
Natural Resources .....	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency .....	296-6300
Public Safety .....	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services ..	296-6911
Fire Marshal .....	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division .....	296-6159
State Patrol .....	297-3935
Public Service .....	296-5120
Revenue Taxpayer Assistance .....	296-3781
Toll Free .....	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development .....	297-1291
Office of Tourism .....	296-5029
Transportation .....	296-3000
Veterans Affairs .....	296-2562
State Information .....	296-6013

## Where to find information

### House Public Information Office

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

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

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

### Clarification

A story in the April 21 issue of *Session Weekly* discussed a new law that regulates phone use by inmates in jails and prisons. The law deals primarily with conversations involving inmates and their attorneys, rather than person-to-person calls. It will ensure that inmates have the ability to call their attorneys as often as necessary without the inmate or the attorney being billed for such calls.

# School spending

Omnibus bill provides \$184 million of new education funding and seeks to keep Internet porn out of the classroom

By **MIKE DE LARCO**

**T**he House gave final approval to a \$184 million education spending package May 9 that includes one-time spending and permanent funding for several K-12 efforts including special education, teacher training, and high-speed Internet access.

The bill also would provide money to school districts for vocational education and building improvements, and fix a funding problem for charter schools that would allow them to lease buildings more easily.

The measure is larger than the two previous non-budget year funding measures. However, both the law in 1998, spending \$124 million, and the measure from 1996, allocating \$31.7 million, dealt only with K-12 education. This year's bill also includes higher education and early childhood and family education items.

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), sponsor of the spending measure (HF3800), said the special education money districts would receive under the bill and the training and experience money would especially help districts that are facing budget cuts.

Under the bill, the state's special education funding cap would be increased by \$83 million, she said. A boost in cross-subsidy special education aid would allow districts to free up money to spend elsewhere, perhaps restoring some cuts made in past years.

Some of those cuts came in the form of teacher layoffs.

The growing problem of teacher shortages and the decline — especially in rural areas — of experienced instructors in Minnesota classrooms is addressed in the bill by a provision that makes it easier for districts to bring in

teachers from other states.

Minnesota's Board of Teaching would be required under the bill to issue a temporary teaching license to a person holding both a bachelor's degree and an out-of-state teaching license requiring such a person to have completed a teacher preparation program, which included field-specific teaching methods and student teaching.

The bill also would provide \$30.8 million to districts for teacher training, and experience replacement. The provision is designed to fill the vacancies left by a great number of teacher retirements and other factors with high quality classroom leaders.

In addition, the bill proposes \$31 million to soften the phase-out of a program that gave money to districts having large numbers of teachers with extensive experience or advanced degrees.



**Cynthia Coronado Templin, House fiscal analyst, Rep. Alice Seagren, chair of the education conference committee and Greg Crowe, House fiscal analyst, left to right background, work out compromises with Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller, right foreground, during a recent meeting of the group.**

"I'm proud to vote in support of this bill because we, as a body, are finally making the necessary commitment to education," said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul). "We're showing that education is our top priority."

The bill would provide about \$11.6 million to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system to address unexpected

increases in enrollment.

The money — \$5.8 million in the current fiscal year and \$5.8 million in fiscal year 2001 — would come from the state's general fund.

The bill also would spend \$9.8 million in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds in 2001, with future TANF spending of \$23.7 million in 2002-03, for programs such as male responsibility and fatherhood grants, child care services, transitional housing and citizenship grants.

Approximately \$12 million dollars for secondary vocational aid is part of the proposal. The additional aid for high school programs would be spread out over a two-year period.

The omnibus education spending bill also makes an attempt to protect students from Internet material considered obscene or harmful to minors.

All public school and public library computers with access to the Internet available for use by children under the age of 17 would need to be equipped with up-to-date software filtering technology or other methods to restrict student viewing of inappropriate material.

A public library would not be required to purchase filtering technology if the library would incur more than incidental expense in making the purchase, however.

If behavioral problems arise in a classroom, the bill would allow teachers and certain other school employees to use "reasonable" force to discipline a student. The provision would include language pertaining to the legal defenses teachers and district agents have against prosecution for using force to discipline students.

The bill would permit reasonable force to correct or restrain a student or to

prevent bodily harm to another.

Furthermore, districts would be required to indicate in school discipline policy the circumstances under which teachers, school employees and school bus drivers may use force to discipline students.

One-time deferred maintenance aid — to

**Continued on page 24**



# The big bill

Human services items dominate state government appropriations bill, though environmental, judicial, and economic development programs are in the mix

By CHRIS VETTER

**T**he \$185 million state government appropriations bill, which contains new funding for courts, natural resources, and jobs and housing programs across the state, passed the House on May 9. The vote was 110-21.

The version of the bill originally passed in the House called for a cost savings to the general fund of about \$42 million. After a conference committee compromise, the final version of the plan actually allocates \$79.9 million in new general fund spending, primarily to health and human services programs.

Nearly every major area of state government spending jumped in the final product passed by both the House and Senate.

Several noteworthy policy provisions once included in the House bill (HF2699) were taken out during the previous weeks and acted on individually after concerns were raised that the omnibus bill might violate the Minnesota

fice for alternative health care providers.

The omnibus bill would spend \$79.9 million from the general fund and another \$105 million from other accounts, including \$100 million in federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) sponsored the bill, which now goes to the governor.

## Health and human services

The largest portion of the bill deals with health and human services programs, where it would spend a total of \$138 million — \$26 million from the general fund, \$12 million in forecast changes, and \$100 million in TANF dollars.

Proposals to increase sanctions for people who fail to meet work requirements of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) were dropped in conference committee. Previously, the House sought tougher sanctions — a stoppage in benefits — for recipients who were out of compliance a sixth time.

The bill would pump \$26 million into improving salaries for certain health care providers, creating a 3 percent cost-of-living increase. There also was a cost-of-living increase last year.

This provision applies to staff in nursing homes and group homes, and for care providers who serve people with disabilities.

Eligibility for the state's senior citizen drug program would be expanded, under the measure.

Beginning later this year, the income limits for seniors would be increased to allow more people to receive aid under the program. In 2002, the program would be expanded further to include people with permanent disabilities who meet the same income limits.

MFIP programs would receive \$20 million in TANF money for county-level intervention to provide family employment grants. Money would be used to help hard-to-employ individuals, who face barriers such as transportation problems, chemical dependency, lack of education, or the inability to speak English.

## Jobs, development, and housing

The bill would provide \$6.6 million toward economic development programs.

Among the highlights are \$1 million in grants that would be used to expand Internet services in rural towns. Another provision would provide \$1 million to boost tourism in northern Minnesota.

The Job Skills Partnership Board could offer grants for distance-work projects, under the bill. Grants could be used to train rural workers in new technology or purchase equipment such as telecommunications infrastructure, computer upgrades, or software.

Among the policy measures, the Department of Economic Security would be required to develop a 10-year plan for locating workforce centers near campuses in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

The bill also would increase penalties for businesses that violate child labor laws. Many of the fines have not been updated in several years.

And the bill would appropriate \$50 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Approximately \$30 million would go toward building and financing affordable housing units. It is estimated that 1,163 units will likely be developed and maintained by this money. The remaining \$20 million is an interest-free loan to Habitat for Humanity.

Continued on page 23



Jim Chase, left, Deb Wegne, and Kathie Henry, right, all of the Department of Human Services, huddle over portions of the state appropriations bill as they wait for the conference committee to resume its May 8 meeting.

Constitution's requirement that laws be limited to a single subject.

Those items included proposals related to felony drunken driving charges, a waiting period for abortion, and establishing an of-

# All-nighter

## Legislators meet for 20-hour marathon session

Members of the House and Senate met in their respective chambers for about 20 hours beginning at 11 a.m. May 9 and going all the way up to the official end of the legislative day at 7 a.m. May 10 to wrap up all the major spending bills for the session.

Legislators set the self-imposed deadline to leave enough time to attempt to override any vetoes of the major spending provisions.

Late in the game, House leaders upheld votes on the education bill, the bonding bill, and the state government appropriations until an agreement was reached on modifications to the Profile of Learning.

Ultimately, both bodies passed all the major bills by 7 a.m.



House Speaker Steve Sviggum gives 4-year-old Megan Danaher Wright a chance to pound the gavel during the early hours of the long session May 9. Megan is the daughter of Jeanne Danaher, executive director of the House Republican Caucus.



Nearing the end of a 20-hour work day May 10, pages, left to right, Andrea Crawford, Matt Haggerty, Suzan Koroglu, Kelly Jo Tungland, and Scott Gregory, wait patiently for the 7 a.m. deadline for adjournment.



Alone in the House chamber in the early morning hours of May 10, after many hours of debate, Rep. Ted Winter, one of the last to exit the House chamber, removes some needed items from his desk.



Rep. John Dorn, left, noon May 9 as the H



and Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba talk in the retiring room late in the after-  
house debates a major conference committee report.



Rep. Alice Seagren, center, carries a blanket, several bills, and a bouquet of flowers  
as she makes her way out of the House chamber early in the morning May 10, after  
members spent about 20 hours debating and voting on major bills.



Legislators trudge down the Capitol steps after 7 a.m.  
May 10.



# A fat load of tax cuts

House passes tax bill including \$142 million in income tax cuts and license tab fee reductions and a \$685 million sales tax rebate



House Tax Conference Committee chair, Rep. Ron Abrams, *right*, smiles at his Senate counterpart, Sen. Doug Johnson, as they discuss who will most benefit from a tax rebate during a recent hearing.

By DAVID MAEDA

The omnibus tax bill that nearly killed the session won final passage in the House May 9 on a 124-6 vote.

The House and Senate had been deadlocked for weeks over the amount available for tax cuts.

"The process we got here is not one that covers any of us with a great deal of glory," said Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the bill's sponsor and chair of the House Taxes Committee. "The bill that is before us probably does not satisfy the Republicans. It probably does not satisfy the DFL members. The only one who may be totally happy here is Gov. Ventura."

Abrams words were a reflection on the agreement designating a third of the \$525 million available for permanent tax cuts and spending measures to the House, Senate, and the governor for each to decide how to use.

The original House omnibus tax bill would have provided income tax cuts of about \$501 million for 2000. The final version of the bill calls for income tax cuts of about \$142 million for that period.

The bill (HF4127) incorporates the governor's proposal to reduce license tab fees in the state. Under the measure, the maximum

tab fee would be set at \$189 in the second year of a car's life and \$99 in the third through tenth years. The fee in the first year would remain unchanged, as would the minimum \$35 tax that applies to all cars older than 10 years.

For the second year in a row, income tax rates in all three brackets would be provided. Here's how the proposed cuts break down.

- In the lowest bracket (paid on income up to \$25,680 for married couples and up to \$17,570 for individuals), the rate would be reduced from 5.5 percent to 5.35 percent.

- In the middle bracket (paid on income up between \$25,680 and \$102,030 for married couples and between \$17,570 and \$57,710 for individuals), the rate would be reduced from 7.25 percent to 7.05 percent.

- The upper bracket rate would be reduced from 8 percent to 7.85 percent for income over \$102,030 for couples and over \$57,710 for individuals.

For an unmarried head of household, the lower bracket rate of 5.35 percent would be applied to income up to \$21,630, the middle rate of 7.05 percent would be applied to income up to \$86,910, and the upper rate of 7.85 percent would be for any income over \$86,910.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) criticized the rate reduction for the upper bracket, saying that the state's wealthy stand to benefit from the cuts in all three brackets. He said the state's lower wage earners pay the highest percentage of their income in taxes.

But House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) said that those who pay the most taxes should get the most relief.

"Fairness is based on getting back what you pay in," Pawlenty said. "This (bill) is a modest step in the right direction. It is fair, proportional, and weighted toward the middle class."

The bill also would provide a one-time \$635 million sales tax rebate, based on 1998 receipts. Abrams said the rebate is similar to last year's, though it is smaller.

Rebates for married couples and heads of households would be at least \$168 and could go as high as \$2,400. For other filers, the minimum would be \$95 and the maximum would be \$1,200.


Taxpayers could expect a check of about 40 percent to 45 percent of what they received last year and the rebate checks would be mailed out in August, he said.

People eligible for the automatic rebate would be those who had income tax liability in 1998, those who filed a claim for the 1998 property tax rebate, and those who had social security income in 1998. Unlike last year's rebate, dependents would be eligible for a rebate equal to 35 percent of the amount a non-dependent would receive.

Abrams said that the bill would provide agricultural assistance for farms located in 31 counties that were declared disaster counties in 1999 by President Clinton or were contiguous to a disaster county. Farmers in those counties would receive a payment equal to \$4 for each acre covered under crop insurance in 2000.

The bill also would increase the percentage of earnings used in calculating the state's working family credit. That credit is similar to the federal earned income credit that provides a wage supplement equal to a percentage of the earnings of low-income individuals.

The bill would increase the percentage of earnings used in calculating the working family credit so that for all claimants, the credit equals at least 25 percent of the federal earned income tax credit.

The bill now goes to the governor. 



# Funding bill on track

House passes \$600 million package that saves light rail and returns emphasis to neglected infrastructure, backers say

By CHRIS VETTER

A \$600 million transportation funding package passed by the House May 9 reflects a number of changes from the original version passed last month.

The original House bill would have cancelled remaining funding for the Hiawatha light-rail transit project and would have bonded for bridge and building improvements.

The new bill preserves light-rail funding and appropriates cash for nearly all transportation items.

"This is a well-balanced bill," said Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), sponsor of the House bill. "It finally puts an emphasis on transportation. It's one of the best opportunities we've had in transportation in a long time."

The bill (HF2891) won final passage on a 96-35 vote.

The bill features \$405 million in cash spend-

neys on Twin Cities highways and another \$177 million on rural interregional corridors, which are major roadways that connect urban and rural areas.

Another \$100 million for transportation will come from trunk highway bonds.

The bill does not include any new funding for Capitol Security or increases in the number of troopers assigned to the governor's security team. The Senate had sought \$232,000 for more troopers at the Capitol.

## Transit debate

During negotiations over the weekend of May 6 and 7, House members on the bill's conference committee agreed to drop their stance of repealing \$92 million in bonds for light-rail transit.

"Without the support of the Senate and governor, we really didn't have a choice," Molnau

said. "You have to know where reality is."

Provisions in two other bills that might have halted light rail have also been removed because of a veto threat.

It is unclear if the transportation bill has the support of Gov. Jesse Ventura, who sought about \$60 million for public transit.

Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar) suggested the governor use a portion of the \$175 million he could allocate for permanent spending toward transit needs.

The governor, House, and Senate leaders agreed last week to split available money three ways — giving the House, Senate and

governor each \$175 million to spend however they wanted.

"If there is more money for transit, it must come from other sources," Johnson said during conference committee negotiations.

The transportation finance bill faced opposition from some metro legislators, who also said it would not adequately fund transit programs. Rep. Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park) noted that only \$20 million of the funds would go toward transit.

"The emphasis on transit is missing," Johnson said. "It's a very shortsighted manner in dealing with transportation."

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) agreed that the bill is far from balanced.

"It is an absolutely perfect bill, for the 1950s," Wagenius said. "It's not perfect for now or the future."

The governor succeeded in getting some of his desired transit funding elsewhere. He pushed to get \$44 million to pay for transit in the metropolitan area included in this year's capital projects bill (HF4078). That's short of his original request, and it left him with less money to devote to cutting fees for license plate tabs.

While the bill would not strip funding for light rail, a provision remains that would not allow the Department of Transportation to seek federal funds for the Hiawatha line unless the money is available to the state only because of light rail. In other words, if the money could be used for roads or bridges in Minnesota, the department could not seek the money for light rail.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) spoke against this provision, saying the language would limit money coming into the state from Washington, D.C., and the money will be re-directed to other states considering rail projects.

The bill also would allow the Metropolitan Council to sell or lease naming rights to the 14 transit stations that are planned along the 11-mile Hiawatha line.

## Department spending

The omnibus transportation bill calls for \$39 million in cash for bridge improvements or replacements. The House had sought \$44 million in bonds. However, the House accepted the Senate position to pay for the upgrades with cash.

Continued on page 24



Reps. Steve Wenzel, Bernie Leider, Michelle Rifenberg, and Tom Workman pour over each section of the omnibus transportation bill during a long day in conference committee May 8.

ing for road improvements. House leaders have said it's important to take advantage of the \$1.8 billion projected surplus for the biennium and fund areas that have been underfunded in recent history.

The Department of Transportation would spend \$177 million for eliminating bottle-

## 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](http://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 ward		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	

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	
451	2833*	2891	Specified student behavioral data disclosed to the juvenile justice system.	5/5/00	
452	3997	3300*	Second judicial district streamlined dissolution procedure pilot project extended.	5/5/00	
453	3726	3386*	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities chancellor separate salary subdivision created.	5/5/00	
454	3378	2570*	St. Louis County unclassified service position authorized number increased.	5/5/00	
455	2673	2521*	Political subdivision corporation creation standards established.	5/5/00	
456	1748	1870*	Motor vehicle fuel franchises and marketing agreements regulated.	5/5/00	
457	3445	3257*	Legislative employment provisions modified.	5/5/00	

## Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

### Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0271  
Voice mail/order bills ..... 296-2343

### Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol ..... 296-2314

### Index, Senate

110 Capitol ..... 296-2887

### Index, House

211 Capitol ..... 296-6646

### Information, Senate

231 Capitol ..... 296-0504

### Information, House

175 State Office Building ..... 296-2146

TTY, Senate ..... 296-0250

Toll free ..... 1-888-234-1112

TTY, House ..... 296-9896

Toll free ..... 1-800-657-3550

Continued from page 4

## K-12 education

The Department of Children, Families and Learning would receive \$80.7 million for improvement projects in schools.

The East Metro Magnet School would receive \$16 million for a new middle school building.

School districts that would receive funding through the state's Maximum Effort Loan Program include Caledonia, Laporte, Red Lake, Cass Lake, and Ulen-Hitterdahl. The program is designed to help school districts in areas where declining enrollment, economic changes, or other conditions have made it difficult for the local taxpayers to support the school district's needs.

The department also would receive \$5 million from the state's general fund to pay for youth enrichment grants. Local governments apply for those grants to build or improve parks and recreation facilities near schools, or to pay for arts and cultural activities, clubs, athletic programs, or other recreational or academic enrichment programs for children.

## Environment and natural resources

The Department of Natural Resources would receive \$73.2 million for improvements to parks, recreational trails, conservation easements, and other projects.

Como Park would receive \$16 million for a new educational resource center, which would include a visitors' reception area and meeting rooms.

And \$14 million would be available for flood hazard mitigation grants in the Red River Valley area.

A proposal to build a new DNR office building in Fergus Falls would receive \$3.3 million.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program would receive \$20 million. The program establishes easements along the Minnesota River to prevent soil and chemicals from eroding into the river. The program is matched by federal funds, which are available through September 2002.

Programs to reduce water pollution and improve wastewater systems would receive \$33.2 million.

The Department of Agriculture would receive \$20 million for Rural Finance Authority Loans, and \$1.7 million for other loan programs.


## Other funding projects

Several other projects across the state receive funding through the bill.

Two key projects originally received no support in the House bill, but the most recent version includes some funding. The new Guthrie Theater project in Minneapolis would receive

\$3 million under the measure, and the bill includes \$3 million for public safety training facilities statewide.

In addition, the Heritage Center at St. Anthony Falls would receive \$3 million. It originally was allocated \$1 million in bonds by both the House and the Senate.

Other projects include \$8.8 million for a Minneapolis Great Lakes Center, \$7.5 million for sewer repairs at the state prison in Faribault, \$7 million for the Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul, and \$7 million for a Veterans' Home in Hastings. 

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Continued from page 13

## Criminal justice

Fines for petty misdemeanors and misdemeanors would climb, under the bill. The maximum penalty for a petty misdemeanor would increase from \$200 to \$300, while the maximum fine for a misdemeanor would move from \$700 to \$1,000.

The bill features \$6.5 million in new spending for the Department of Public Safety, \$3 million for courts, and \$1.2 million for the Center for Crime Victims Services.

District courts would receive \$2.7 million to reduce judge vacancies across the state. Some salaries for judges could be paid through this appropriation.

While the bill provides no funding for Capitol Security, it would establish a committee to recommend plans for improving security at the Capitol.

Funding for the Automobile Theft Prevention Board would be cut by \$1.89 million. The funding cut includes money for a computer-controlled driving simulator.

## Corrections

One of the larger changes in the bill would require the state to pay 35 percent of per diem costs for juveniles housed at the Red Wing Juvenile Correctional Facility, while counties would pay the other 65 percent. Currently, counties pay 100 percent of the costs. Costs to the Department of Corrections would be repealed on June 30, 2001.

The bill aims to increase the population at the Red Wing center. It would prohibit delinquent juveniles from being placed in out-of-state facilities unless it is for the safety of the child or if another center is closer to the child's home.

Juveniles could be placed in private juvenile detention centers or non-state facilities if they are located in Minnesota, the bill states.

The Department of Corrections would receive \$2.25 million in the bill, which includes \$500,000 for designing a joint headquarters

for the departments of Corrections and Public Safety.

## Environment and Agriculture

The Department of Natural Resources would obtain \$5.4 million, under the bill. Approximately \$4 million would go toward settling legal costs incurred from litigation involving several Indian tribes.

The other \$1.4 million would be used as grants for northern counties that have wildfire concerns this year. Grants could be used to purchase emergency communications and response equipment or used for training to prepare for wildfires.

About \$1.73 million would be allocated to the Department of Agriculture under the bill. The state meat inspection program would receive \$500,000 to expand its program.

Another \$200,000 in grants would be available for farmers interested in growing short-rotation woody crops. These plants, which are grown for their fiber, would be harvested within 15 years of being planted. The bill outlines the agroforestry program and states how loans can be offered to farmers who convert agriculture land for agroforestry purposes.

The Pollution Control Agency would receive \$307,000 to administer its wastewater infrastructure fund. Agency officials could also issue citations to persons who fail to report any discharges. The current law says agency officials can only issue citations if the discharge is oil or hazardous substances.


New state recreation areas also would be created through the bill. The Big Bog recreational area would be established in Beltrami County, while the Red River recreational area would be established in Polk County.

## Immigration measures

The bill would provide \$150,000 to the Department of Economic Security for alien labor certification. The bill states that the department should have a goal of certifying permanent alien laborers within 60 days of receiving an application.

The Department of Human Services would be required to use the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) program to conduct immigration verifications.

SAVE would be used when an immigrant applies for food assistance programs, including both state and federal programs, and when an immigrant applies for general assistance, such as Minnesota supplemental aid or group residential housing.

The human services commissioner would be required to report to the Immigration and Naturalization Service all undocumented persons identified by the use of SAVE. 

Continued from page 17

Four of the state's large highway department facilities would be upgraded or replaced at a cost of \$25.7 million, under the bill. Renovations at the Transportation Department headquarters in St. Cloud would run \$10.3 million and upgrades to the Detroit Lakes Headquarters would cost \$8.7 million. Like the bridge funding, the buildings would be funded through cash rather than with bonds.

The bill also calls for a new Regional Transportation Management Center in Roseville. The House did not support funding for the center. The bill would require the department to sell the current center within three years of completion of the new center.

The bill also includes \$15 million for a revolving loan fund, which can be used for state highway projects. The governor vetoed \$10 million for the fund last year.

### Ramp meter study

A study of the ramp meter system in the Twin Cities highlights the non-funding portions of the bill. The Transportation Department would perform the study at no cost to the state.

Meters would be turned off for a period of time determined by the department to evaluate the effectiveness of the ramps. Department officials could not further specify when the

study would be done and how many days the lights would be inactive.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) wanted an independent contractor to perform the study, but Molnau said that plan was found to be infeasible.

### New road commission

The bill would also establish a commission dealing with major transportation projects. The commission would hear project proposals that exceed \$5 million and have a significant role in the overall transportation system. The commission would also require environmental impact surveys to help evaluate the project.

The commission would only review and comment on projects — it would not be given final approval authority.


The commission would include seven state senators, seven members of the House, the governor or his or her appointee, and four citizens appointed by the governor.

### Proper use of funds

The state attorney general and Department of Finance would be asked to examine the constitutionality of using trunk highway fund money for non-highway projects, under the bill. Molnau said money used for Office of Tourism kiosks and tort claims has been improperly spent

from the trunk highway fund, when it should have come from the general fund.

Molnau said using those funds inappropriately has cut the money available for transportation projects.


The bill would move funding for kiosks, tort claims, and other non-highway related projects from the trunk highway fund to the general fund. 

Continued from page 12

the tune of \$23 million dollars — would be available to school districts under the bill. This aid must be applied toward making accessibility improvements, or to make fire, safety, or health repairs, according to the bill.

Approximately \$16 million would be available to districts under the bill for reimbursement of certain telecommunications costs. School districts would need to submit ongoing or recurring telecommunications costs — subject to examination by officials from the Department of Children, Families and Learning — before schools could be reimbursed for the costs.

Furthermore, school districts also would be required to inform parents and staff about any use of pesticides.

The bill now heads to the governor. 

## Minnesota Senate 2000 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
	Room*				Room*		
66	Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	5537	8	Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293
41	Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	54	Marty, John (DFL)	326 Cap.	5645
13	Berg, Charles A. (IND)	G-51 SOB	5094	39	Metzen, James P. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4370
61	Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	2	Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
48	Betzold, Don (DFL)	306 Cap.	2556	29	Murphy, Steve (DFL)	301 Cap.	4264
64	Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	25	Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
28	Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	52	Novak, Steven G. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4334
20	Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	43	Oliver, Edward C. (R)	121 SOB	4837
14	Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	15 SOB	2084	34	Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
62	Flynn, Carol (DFL)	120 Cap.	4274	19	Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
49	Foley, Leo (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4154	65	Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
23	Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	37	Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
50	Hanson, Paula E. (DFL)	328 Cap.	3219	27	Piper, Pat (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	9248
58	Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	227 Cap.	9246	59	Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
24	Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	120 Cap.	6153	57	Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	297-8060
5	Janezich, Jerry R. (DFL)	328 Cap.	8017	63	Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	306 Cap.	297-8061
40	Johnson, Dave (DFL)	111 Cap.	9261	18	Ring, Twyla (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5419
15	Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124 Cap.	3826	45	Robertson, Martha R. (R)	125 SOB	4314
6	Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	35	Robling, Claire A. (R)	151 SOB	4123
46	Junge, Ember R. (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889	53	Runbeck, Linda (R)	107 SOB	1253
44	Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	297-8065	11	Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	297-8063
67	Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285	12	Samuelson, Don (DFL)	124 Cap.	4875
32	Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649	31	Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
4	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4913	47	Scheid, Linda (DFL)	317 Cap.	8869
30	Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	7	Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
16	Kleis, Dave (R)	143 SOB	6455	60	Spear, Allan H. (DFL)	120 Cap.	4191
36	Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	17	Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
51	Krentz, Jane (DFL)	235 Cap.	7061	1	Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
56	Laidig, Gary W. (R)	141 SOB	4351	42	Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
9	Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	22	Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
10	Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	38	Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	297-8073
21	Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	55	Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	325 Cap.	6820
3	Lessard, Bob (DFL)	111 Cap.	4136	26	Ziegler, Don (R)	149 SOB	5713
33	Limmer, Warren (R)	25 SOB	2159				



# Minnesota House of Representatives 2000 Members

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

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

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

## Tuesday, May 9

### HF4175—Buesgens (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Regular legislative sessions confined to odd-numbered years.

### HF4176—Broecker (R) Health & Human Services Policy

MSAs; Congress memorialized to remove medical savings account restrictions.

### HF4177—Paulsen (R) Taxes

Sales tax deduction provided to retailers for collections cost compensation.

# COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MAY 15 - 19, 2000

## MONDAY, May 15

No meetings have been announced.

## TUESDAY, May 16

No meetings have been announced.

## WEDNESDAY, May 17

10:45 a.m.

### RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

123 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

Agenda: Calendar for the Day for May 17.

11 a.m.

The House meets in session.

## THURSDAY, May 18

No meetings have been announced.

## FRIDAY, May 19

No meetings have been announced.

Anne Wilson Schaefer, in her book, *Women's Reality*, stated that for ages, people have spent a lot of time and energy speculating on the existence of a dualistic world of good and evil, right and left, up and down, black and white. She called it an "Either-Or Syndrome."

Schaefer noted that the "Either-Or" concept becomes more efficient when an alternative is introduced, and more effectual if the concept is "Either and Or."

For the Queen of Hearts, in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*, rarely was there an "either-or" situation. The Queen's decision for her subjects' actions was limited — whether it was during a game of croquet, or because roses in the garden were painted red. Invariably, her verdict was, "Off with his head" for anyone whose actions she disliked.

While the King of Hearts quietly deferred to the Queen's demands, which clearly lacked any thought of compromise, unknown to her, he would pardon many of the potential victims.

But Alice was bold and outspoken. She offered ideas and alternatives to the Mad Hatter, the Gryphon, the White Rabbit, and even to the Queen. Conversely, the Queen's arbitrary decision was final, or so she thought.

# Reflections

Minnesota's legislative process is directly the opposite. Based on diverse reasoning and compromise, the process is a coming together of ideas that get debated and are usually improved by amendments for positive results. When this happens, changes may be added or deleted for striking some kind of balance among lawmakers.

The Legislature is comprised of two major parties in a two-body system. In recent history, it has been in the forefront of other states for introducing new ideas. Thus, laws in the state are implemented by unique, innovative, and ingenious methods through change and exchange of ideas, though not always amicably.

Now there is an augmentation to that process of compromise — the addition of another set of ideas through a third party in the executive branch. Its introduction provides different ingredients to add to the final mix of legislative decisions that will effect the lives of citizens in the state.

For those unfamiliar with proceedings "on the hill" in St. Paul, some of the information they encounter may resemble the confusing poem, "Jabberwocky" from Carroll's *Alice's Adventures*.

The first two lines, "Twas brillig and the slithy tove, did gyre and gimble in the wabe..." are small examples of what appear to be paragraphs full of nonsense and devoid of meaning. Activity at the Capitol is much less confusing and easier to understand — more than a newcomer to the legislative process might realize.

In some ways, it's like Alice's conversation with the Cheshire Cat on seeking information about her travel destination. "That depends on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "So long as I get somewhere," said Alice. "Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if only you walk long enough."

Lawmakers do not and cannot go as far in making final decisions as did the Queen of Hearts. Yet, for some onlookers this year, their willingness to even compromise seemed impossible. But as expected, the 2000 Legislature and the executive branch now have pooled their ideas and struck a balance to bring the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session to its conclusion.

In the words of Benjamin Franklin, one of the nation's founding fathers, "No democratic government can last long without conciliation and compromise."

—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

Please place this form (with the mailing label on the back) in an envelope.

Mail it by May 15, 2000, to:

New Laws 2000, House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave.,  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

## Readership Survey: 2000 *Session Weekly*



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

1. How often do you read *Session Weekly*? (Check one.)

\_\_\_\_ Once a month \_\_\_\_ Twice a month \_\_\_\_ Three times a month \_\_\_\_ Every week

2. Where do you receive *Session Weekly*?

\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_ Other

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? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1298

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM  
MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### Major 2000 spending bills

Total new spending in 2000 capital investment (or bonding) bill, in millions ...	\$640.3
Amount funded through general obligation bonds, in millions .....	\$470.9
Amount funded through general fund cash, in millions .....	\$98
User-financed bonds, in millions .....	\$71.3
Total bonds allocated to the University of Minnesota, in millions .....	\$100.2
Funding for the Art Building on the Twin Cities campus, in millions .....	\$18.5
Total bonds allocated for the MnSCU system, in millions .....	\$131
Funding for Anoka-Hennepin Technical College improvements, in millions ....	\$12.5
Funding for the athletic facility at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in millions .....	\$6.9
Funding for a library at Metro State University .....	\$0
Amount of funds allocated in capital investment bill for metropolitan bus-only transitways, fiscal years 2001-02, in millions .....	\$44
Bond funds for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension lab, in millions .....	\$58
Total transportation spending in omnibus bill, in millions .....	\$600
Amount for road improvements, in millions .....	\$405
Amount for bridge improvements, in millions .....	\$39
Income tax cuts for 2000 provided in the omnibus tax bill, in millions .....	\$142
Percent decrease for the lower and upper brackets .....	0.15
Percent decrease for the middle bracket .....	0.2
Maximum license tab fees for a car in its second year, under the omnibus tax plan .....	\$189
Maximum tab fees for a car in years three to 10 .....	\$99
For cars more than 10 years old .....	\$35
Total sales tax rebate package, based on 1998 receipts, in omnibus tax plan, in millions .....	\$635
Minimum rebate for married couples and heads of households .....	\$68
Maximum rebate for married couples .....	\$2,400
Minimum rebate for all other filers .....	\$95
Maximum rebate for all other filers .....	\$1,200
New spending in any measure for Capitol police and security .....	\$0
Health and human services funding in state government appropriations bill, in millions .....	\$97.3
Allocations from Health Care Access Fund, in millions .....	\$4.66

Sources: HF2699 (omnibus state government finance), HF3800 (omnibus education), HF4078 (capital investment), HF4127 (omnibus taxes), HF2891 (omnibus transportation), House Fiscal Analysis Department.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information, call:  
**House Information Office**  
(651) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:  
**Chief Clerk's Office**  
(651) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or  
the status of a specific bill, call:  
**House Index Office**  
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The House of Representatives can be  
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