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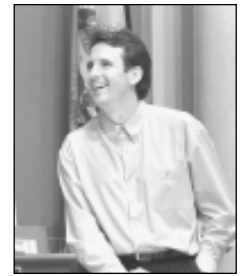
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CONTENTS

NEW LAWS

Agriculture • 5
Bonding • 6
Business • 6
Consumers • 7
Crime • 8
Education • 11
Employment • 12
Energy • 12
Environment • 13

Family • 14
Gambling • 15
Game & Fish • 15
Government • 17
Health • 19
Higher Education • 20
Housing • 20
Human Services • 21

Insurance • 22
Law • 22
Local Government • 24
Recreation • 24
Safety • 25
Taxes • 25
Transportation • 26
Veterans • 28

VETOES

Bonding • 29
Business • 29
Crime • 30

Family • 30
Government • 30
Health • 31

Human Services • 31
Transportation • 31

FEATURES

Late Action — At long last, lawmakers pass a bill to address concerns about the state's Profile of Learning. The relatively modest bill will give schools more power to choose how to implement the initiative. • 32

People — Local government issues and family call Rep. Peg Larsen back home after three terms in the House. • 33

People — A leader on crime and public safety, Rep. Sherry Broecker is leaving the House after three terms to return to her interest in local issues. • 34

DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

Reflections: Mixed Emotions • 32
Governor's Desk (CH251-CH500) • 35
Bill Introductions (HF4178-HF4181) • 41

The 50 States: Marriage Counseling • 41
Resources: How a Bill Becomes a Law • 42
Minnesota Index: 2000 Legislative Session • 44

On the cover: Illuminated only once a year, the great chandelier above the rotunda can be seen shining through the windows of the Capitol dome May 11, Minnesota statehood day.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank



Down to the wire

Legislators end grueling session with long nights, veto overrides, and heartfelt goodbyes to departing colleagues

By DAVID MAEDA

It took 118 out of the 120 legislative days allowed, but the 2000 Legislature has finally completed its work.

Officially the longest session since the Legislature began meeting annually in the early 1970s, many of this year's major bills were passed during a marathon 20-hour session that began 11 a.m. May 9 and ended at 7 a.m. May 10.

Among the measures passed during the marathon session were bills providing tax cuts and rebates, further transportation and education spending, and a bonding bill that spends \$639.5 million for repairs to state facilities and new construction projects.

For a time, it appeared that the 2000 session would be known only as the year the state's butterfly was officially designated in law (the monarch butterfly) and also the year a law was passed loosening the state's regulations on community potluck dinners.

In addition, the 2000 Legislature:

- Approved a measure allowing desperate mothers to drop off unwanted newborn babies at any hospital in the state;
- Provided higher compensation to injured workers while reducing premiums to employers;
- Approved a study to look at the establishment of a felony DWI penalty in the state;
- Toughened penalties for minors caught using false identification to purchase alcohol and tobacco;
- Provided approximately \$50 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for building and financing affordable housing units;
- Approved an increase in game and fish licenses to help bolster natural resources; and
- Passed a wolf management plan for the state.

The roadblock to the major spending and tax cut legislation was a disagreement between the House and Senate over the amount of money available that would be sustainable in the future. The impasse was finally broken with a unique arrangement allowing each legislative body and the governor to decide how to use a third of the \$525 million surplus.

The House used most of its third to provide permanent income tax cuts. Along with rate reductions in all three income tax brackets and a reduction in vehicle registration fees, there will be a \$635 million rebate to taxpayers. The Department of Revenue has indicated those checks, which will average \$377 for married couples and \$187 for single filers, will be mailed out in August.

Major capital improvement projects include \$58 million for a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension building, \$44 million for transit in the metropolitan area, \$35 million for a Molecular Cellular Biology building at the University of Minnesota, \$33.2 million for programs to reduce water pollution and improve wastewater systems, \$20 million for conservation easements along the Minnesota River, \$20 million for Rural Finance Authority Loans, and \$18.5 million for a new Art Building at the U of M.

The \$600 million transportation bill spends \$405 million in cash for road improvements, with \$177 million used to eliminate bottlenecks in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Another \$39 million will be spent on roads and bridges throughout the state.

The \$184 million education bill increases

spending for high-speed Internet access for schools and teacher training.

With most of its major work out of the way, the Legislature sent 32 bills to Governor Jesse Ventura on May 11. Apprehensive over a repeat of last year, when the governor caught members by surprise with a number of vetoes after they had adjourned, time was left to act upon any vetoes this session.

The governor ended up line-item vetoing only a handful of appropriations. And on Wednesday, May 17, both the House and Senate once again held all-night marathon floor sessions to consider veto overrides and debate the Profile of Learning bill.

Four of the governor's vetoes were overridden. They were \$1 million for a Lanesboro arts center, \$3 million for a new Guthrie Theater, \$135,000 for an organ donor mobile unit, and \$1.5 million for multicultural library grants in St. James and Pelican Rapids.

The House voted on 10 other attempted overrides, but those measures fell short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

The four veto overrides were historic — never before has a governor had so many of his vetoes overridden.

Last year, the Legislature overrode Ventura's veto of a bill allowing court evidence about allegedly defective seat belts in product liability lawsuits. Earlier this session the Legislature overrode another Ventura veto, of a bill aimed to prevent closure of a state-run nursing facility in Walker.

Prior to the Ventura administration there had only been a combined total of four veto overrides since 1939.

Having completed the overrides, the Legislature turned its attention to one final piece of work. In the waning hours of the session, the House and Senate struggled to find a compromise on the Profile of Learning bill.

Following weeks of talks between House and Senate leadership over what to do about the Profile, the Legislature passed a measure that would allow schools to ease requirements under the show-what-you-know initiative.



House Speaker Steve Sviggum and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty share a light moment as the House worked into the night May 17.

Legislators also agreed to discard a second proposal that would have allowed school boards the choice between the Profile and a back-to-basics alternative proposed earlier in the session called the North Star Standard.

Thus came a unique end to a long and at times difficult session. With much focus throughout the session devoted to the unicameral debate, rarely has there been as much attention on the lawmaking process itself.

(Bills calling for a constitutional amendment allowing voters to decide on whether or not the state should adopt a one-house legislature stalled in committee in both the House and Senate.)

Twelve members of the House took their last votes early May 18. Some of them are leaving to pursue higher office, while others are returning to a more private life.

The departing members are Reps. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada), Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center), Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), Alice Johnson (DFL-Spring Lake Park), Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland), Betty McCollum (DFL-North St. Paul), Myron Orfield (DFL-Mpls), Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope), Doug Reuter (Ind.-Owatonna), Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti), Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul), and Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls).

Now as the new laws take effect, more and more attention may be directed toward their long-term effects and impact on everyday life across the state.

Therefore, it seems appropriate that when House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) moved that the House adjourn its 81st session "sine die," many Minnesotans were just beginning to wake up for another workday. 🐼

(Writer Jon Fure contributed to this report.)

Editor's note: This section includes summaries of many key laws passed during the 2000 Legislative Session. For a full listing of all bills passed this year, see the Governor's Desk section, beginning on page 35.

★ AGRICULTURE

Feedlot rules relaxed

A new law will relax new feedlot rules proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

Effective April 25, 2000, the law gives specific instructions to the agency on how the rules should be amended before their final adoption.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The law exempts livestock production facilities from state standards governing air quality in the area surrounding feedlots while manure is being removed from the site and up to seven days following the transfer.

The measure also requires the MPCA to remove several provisions from its proposed



A new law eases rules proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on animal feedlots. The rules will govern manure storage pools, like the one pictured here, and the air pollution often associated with them.

rules and allow the agency to submit a report to the commissioner of the Department of Finance if it is unable to accomplish timely response to feedlot permit applications.

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

HF3692*/SF3443/CH435

Requirements for contracts

A law that will establish minimum standards of both readability and content for contracts between agricultural producers and contractors was signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

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

The measure will 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."

A producer will be allowed under the law 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 law also will 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 law specifies certain kinds of agricultural contracts that will not be subject to minimum standards, and establishes limits on the extent to which producers and contractors can use the format of a contract to claim damages against one another.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the legislation. The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2001.

HF3534*/SF3070/CH470

Ag policy changes

A new law that will bring uniformity to the state's meat inspection program and update state references to federal food law regulations was signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law will bring poultry up to par with other meats and meat products for purposes of inspection. Inspections of poultry, however, will not be required during the slaughter of one's own animals or at a custom processing plant.

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

The measure will 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 as part of the new law will 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 will be able to own farmland and engage in farming, as well.

Certain corporations will 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, an entity that previously did not qualify could now apply for a "commissioner's exemption" (renewable annually) for permission to retain title to farmland, under the new law.

Furthermore, the commissioner of the Department of Agriculture will 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 law will make relatively minor changes to fertilizer and grain warehouse provisions in existing law.

Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation. The law is effective Aug. 1, 2000.

HF3312*/SF3223/CH477

★ BONDING

Capital projects bill signed

A \$639.5 million capital projects law will fund repairs to state facilities and new construction projects. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the measure May 15.

The House and Senate had reached a compromise after original proposals of \$532 million from the House and \$762 million from the Senate.

Ventura had line-item vetoed eight projects from the bill, but the Legislature successfully overrode four of those vetoes May 17. The vetoes that were not overridden amount to a reduction of \$750,000.

That final amount includes \$470.2 million in general obligation bonding, and \$98 million in direct spending from the state's general fund. Nearly \$30 million will be saved by canceling funds for capital projects approved in previous years.

Major funding areas include \$131 million for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, \$100.2 million for the University of Minnesota, \$80.7 million for

K-12 schools, \$73.2 million for improvements to parks and other environmental projects, \$58 million for a new Bureau of Criminal Apprehension building, and \$44 million for transit in the metropolitan area.

The \$44 million for transit was backed by Ventura as 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.

The transit money will mainly pay for designing and building an exclusive bus transitway, including the costs of acquiring land and right-of-way. The law 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 law prohibits that money from being spent on light-rail transit or commuter rail.

A previous law that gives the governor leeway in issuing bonds was repealed. That law allowed a governor to refuse to sell bonds, thereby causing a project to languish.

The new law gives that authority instead to the commissioner of the state Department of Finance. The commissioner is required to sell bonds based on funding needs of capital projects.

The decision on when to sell the bonds only can 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.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the capital projects legislation.

HF4078*/SF3811/CH492

★ BUSINESS

Sales of funeral goods

A new law will regulate the solicitation and sale of funeral goods and services.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2000, will prohibit solicitation at a hospital, gravesite, nursing home, or wake, without a specific request from the family of the deceased to do so.

The new law also will prohibit an individual



The new bonding law includes Gov. Jesse Ventura's \$58 million request for a new St. Paul facility for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Original plans in the House would not have provided full funding for the project.

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

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

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

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

Furthermore, the law will require that all funeral establishments and providers clearly state who owns the establishment in all business literature, contracts, and correspondence. That provision takes effect Jan. 1, 2001.

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

SF2686*/HF2713/CH438

Electronic pawn records

A law effective March 24, 2000, requires pawnbrokers who use computerized tracking of items to use a uniform electronic format.

Several Minnesota communities already track items by computer. The law ensures all pawnbrokers use the same computerized system. It also enables police to access the uniform system to check on possible stolen goods.

Most pawnshops keep track of records with

paper receipts, though more and more of them are moving to electronic tracking systems. The law will not require the shops to use electronic tracking, but it does require that all the systems in use be compatible.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the measure in the House, said with thousands of transactions each year, law enforcement is not able to track all of them. A uniform system for those shops that are computerized would help if law enforcement had access to those records, he said.

While only a handful of cities require computerized tracking of pawn items now, Skoglund said he thinks more cities will follow, as they realize it is a better way to catch thieves and return stolen property to rightful owners.

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the law in the Senate.

HF3766*/SF3673/CH274

Liquor license law

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2000, will change the requirements for fraternal and charitable clubs attempting to obtain liquor licenses.

The omnibus liquor law will only require clubs to have 30 members to obtain a license. In addition, the law will allow specific liquor contracts for special events in several towns, including Anoka, Duluth, Eveleth, and Springfield.

Those items in reference to special events take effect upon action by local communities.

The law reduces the number of club members needed to obtain a liquor license from 50 to 30. The provision addresses the dropping population in some rural areas, said Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), House sponsor.

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

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

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

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

HF3974/SF3581*/CH440

LONGTIME LEADER



Former House Speaker Phil Carruthers has accepted a position with the Ramsey County Attorney's Office. He is leaving after 14 years in the House.

Economic loss doctrine replaced

A new law will repeal the state's existing economic loss doctrine and replace it with a new provision.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the law will confine commercial legal disputes to those prescribed by the Uniform Commercial Code. The code provides a shorter statute of limitations.

House sponsor, Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), said the law will clarify who can sue and when they can sue regarding commercial transactions.

The law will apply to claims where a buyer is dissatisfied with a seller's product, usually when the product is damaged, but no injuries have occurred, Pawlenty said. If an injury occurred, a person could sue under tort laws, Pawlenty said.

The law is the result of an agreement between several interest groups that met during the past year to hammer out the compromise. The provision is seen as an improvement to the previous law, which passed during a special session in 1998. That legislation was prompted by concerns over a case involving Marvin Windows, a Warroad-based company.

The bill is not retroactive, and would have no effect on pending litigation.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1267/SF1126*/CH358

Limits on dealership owners

A new law bars auto manufacturers from buying car dealerships in Minnesota.

The law, effective April 15, 2000, forbids manufacturers from buying a dealership and competing with other dealerships in the area.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), who sponsored the law in the House, said his primary concern is that without this law, manufacturers could own dealerships and would have unfair advantage in competition within the local market.

The law was introduced after General Motors announced last fall it planned to purchase several car dealerships across the United States, Davids said.

Eleven states already have laws barring manufacturers from owning local dealerships, and more states pursued the issue this year, he added.

The law also specifically lists certain unfair market practices that are prohibited, such as refusing to offer all models manufactured in a line to a franchised dealership.

The law does grandfather in one Rochester Saturn dealership, which is already owned by the manufacturer.

Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF2731*/SF2753/CH409

★ CONSUMERS

Auto glass rebate limit

A new law effective April 7, 2000, limits rebates from auto glass companies to \$35. It also establishes a new standard for determining reasonable costs for glass replacement.

The law will require insurance companies to pay an average cost for windshield replacement based on a study of auto glass replacement costs from regions around the state. (That study provision takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.)

The study will be funded voluntarily through insurance and glass companies. If the companies don't voluntarily contribute, they will have violated the law and the Legislature will revisit the issue next year.

The Department of Commerce will coordinate the study. Cost of the study is estimated at \$35,000 a year. There is expected to be no cost to the state.

According to an insurance company study last year, Minnesota's auto glass replacement costs are 69 percent higher than the national average and are the highest in the nation. Many Minnesota auto glass dealers previously offered boxes of steaks, rebates of \$200 to customers, or other costly incentives to lure customers.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the law. HF2656*/SF3441/CH342

Penalties for unscrupulous contractors

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2000, will subject contractors, who fail to complete work on house projects, to new criminal and civil penalties.

A tornado that hit St. Peter in spring 1998 devastated much of that area. Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter) sponsored the legislation after the disaster because of evidence that an unscrupulous contractor hired to fix damaged homes did not follow through on commitments.

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

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

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

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

Under the previous law, the maximum theft charge available for such situations was a gross misdemeanor, with a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

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

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

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

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the Senate version.

HF2563*/SF2381/CH430

★ CRIME

Katie's Law on books

A new law, most of which is effective Aug. 1, 2000, will stiffen laws regulating sex offenders and will provide start-up money for new criminal justice information systems.

The law will provide \$12 million to implement a statewide criminal justice information system, which officials estimate could cost as much as \$100 million before completion.

One goal of the information system is better tracking of registered sex offenders in the state. It also would integrate probation and arrest information from local law enforcement agencies, so law enforcement officers around the state have access to the most up-to-date information about offenders.

The law will also spend \$5 million to increase the number of probation officers handling sex offender cases. The intent is to reduce the number of cases each officer must handle so they can keep better track of their sex offenders. Appropriations in the bill take effect July 1, 2000.

Further provisions change who is required to register, adding certain penalties to that list. In addition, it extends the period of registration for many offenses, including a requirement that some offenders register for life.

The law will also authorize the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to establish a Web site where it will post all the names of level 3 registered sex offenders in the state.



A new law that increases restrictions and registration requirements for sex offenders was passed this session. The law was due in part to the lobbying efforts of Pam and Steve Poirier, pictured above, whose daughter Katie was kidnapped and presumed murdered last year. A six-time convicted sex offender is charged with the crime.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada) and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation. Many of its provisions were included as a result of the lobbying efforts of Pam Poirier.

Poirier's 19-year-old daughter Katie was abducted from a Moose Lake convenience store last May and was apparently murdered.

Donald Blom, a six-time convicted sex offender, is charged with the crime.

In his statement upon signing the law, Ventura said the measure takes a step to improve public safety in Minnesota.

HF2688*/SF2769/CH311

Domestic violence prevention

A new law will establish a new state office to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault.

Effective July 1, 2000, the law will create the office of domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, establish a director position, and establish an interagency task force on domestic abuse and sexual assault prevention.

The office will be placed within the Department of Public Safety.

The law will create guidelines for putting together the task force, including representatives from the departments of Corrections, Health, Human Services, Economic Security, and Children, Families and Learning. The task force also must have a county attorney, city attorney, and a judge.

The director of the new domestic violence office would serve as chair of the task force.

The law outlines the director's duties, which include advocating victims' rights, increasing education and awareness, supporting litigation, initiating policy changes, and building partnerships with law enforcement and the courts.

The task force will evaluate the progress of the director and the office. In addition, the task force will establish a strategic plan for the director.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack) and Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the measure. HF3331*/SF2980/CH368

Penalties for assaulting officers

A person who physically assaults an officer during an arrest will be subject to gross misdemeanor charges even if the attack does not cause any "demonstrable bodily harm," under a law effective April 25, 2000.

The law also provides for a felony charge if someone escapes from police custody for a felony-related action, even if that person has not yet been charged or convicted of a crime. The violator could face a maximum penalty

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's Web page at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

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

The new law will establish that officials no longer have to prove demonstrable harm in a situation involving an assault against an officer. They merely need to prove that an assault took place.

Previously, there was no additional penalty if an assault did not result in visible harm.

That provision stems from a case in which an officer was struck in the groin by someone who was resisting arrest. The action did not result in demonstrable bodily harm, so no additional penalties could be brought against the assailant.

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF2958/SF2830*/CH441

Statute of limitations extended

Domestic abuse victims will have more time to consider filing civil charges against the perpetrator, under a law signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The bill will 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 governing domestic abuse.

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

The law also will allow Ramsey County to establish a pilot project domestic abuse unit. Once created, the unit will 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 will be required to report its results to the Legislature next year.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF47/SF11*/CH471

Felony DWI study

Legislators have agreed to study possible felony penalties for repeat drunken driving offenders, but no felony penalties will be implemented this session.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 15 that creates a "driving while impaired working group." The working group becomes effective May 16.

TAX POLICY EXPERT



Rep. Ann H. Rest says goodbye to her friends in the House on May 17. Rest, a former chair of the House Taxes Committee, decided to leave the House to make a run for the state Senate. She is seeking the seat currently held by Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge, who will not seek re-election.

Previously, legislators had sought to make it a felony for a person to accumulate four drunken driving convictions in a 10-year span. Currently, 35 other states have some form of felony DWI laws.

However, legislators eventually agreed to examine the issue further this year. Many legislators were concerned about the corrections costs that would be created down the line.

The working group will include legislators from both houses, the commissioners of corrections, public safety, and finance, county attorneys, and public defenders.

The law will require the working group to study and recommend by Dec. 1, 2000, how to implement felony penalties. The group will 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 be to incarcerate repeat drinking and driving offenders, although one report estimated it would add 1,100 people to the corrections system.

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

HF2995/SF2677*/CH478

Fake ID measure signed

Penalties will increase for people under age 21 who attempt to purchase alcohol, under a law signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law also will allow alcohol providers — from liquor store clerks to licensed retailers — to confiscate what they believe to be false identifications.

The law will make it a gross misdemeanor on a second offense for a person under age 21 to attempt to buy alcohol. Minors who attempt to purchase tobacco with false identification also could have their driver's license suspended, under the law.

The person confiscating the identification would be required to turn it over to the police within 24 hours.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the measure is necessary to enforce state laws on selling alcohol to minors.

"The intent is to create a meaningful deterrent to using false IDs," Leppik said. "To many people, it is worth the risk because the consequences are few."

The House rejected the measure last month, sending the bill back to conference committee, although it had passed the Senate without a dissenting vote. The legislation returned from conference committee took further steps to de-criminalize clerks who mistakenly sell tobacco to minors.

Previously, state law called for a gross misdemeanor charge against a clerk who sells

tobacco to minors for a first offense. The new law provides for a gross misdemeanor only if the clerk is caught selling tobacco to minors twice in a five-year period.

The new law will allow the commissioner of public safety to suspend a minor's driver's license for up to 90 days if the minor attempted to purchase alcohol with false identification.

Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF2655/SF2845*/CH472

Cracking down on pimps

A new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2000, will expand penalties for people who lure teens into prostitution.

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

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

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

The hike in age from 16 to 18 means more pimps will go to prison, rather than facing jail time or probation, Clark said.

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

The law also will require the commissioner of public safety to study and make recommendations on training officers to combat prostitution. The study will include information on ways to increase penalties and prosecution of solicitors. The study provision takes effect July 1, 2000.

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

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

HF2830*/SF2771/CH431

Falsely reporting stolen checks

Falsely claiming that blank checks or debit cards have been stolen will bring misdemeanor charges, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The law will make it a misdemeanor crime for someone to falsely tell his or her financial institution the items are missing or stolen.

The law would cover scenarios where individuals write several bad checks and then report to the bank that those checks were stolen.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) and Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington) sponsored the legislation.

HF2751/SF3455*/CH354

Drug change delayed

A new law will delay the classification of the prescription painkiller Carisoprodol as a controlled substance for at least one more year.

The law, effective Aug. 1, 2000, represents the third consecutive year the Legislature has delayed the effective date for classifying the painkiller and muscle relaxant. It was originally set to be scheduled in August 1998.

Under the law, Carisoprodol will become a schedule IV controlled substance on Aug. 1, 2001. The previous law would have made the drug a controlled substance on Aug. 1 of this year.

Officials say they needed to delay the action another year while the U.S. Food and Drug Administration examines the painkiller to determine its effects.

Under Minnesota law, a schedule IV controlled substance is a drug that has a low potential for abuse and it is currently accepted for medical treatment in the United States. However, abuse may lead to physical or psychological dependence.

Doctors can prescribe drugs in schedule II to schedule V, but cannot prescribe drugs in schedule I. Classifying a drug like Carisoprodol as a controlled substance would make it more difficult for doctors to prescribe.

Scheduling is done on the state level, which is usually consistent with federal drug regulations. Carisoprodol is not a controlled substance on the federal level.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF2774/SF2485*/CH262

Fugitive apprehension unit

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 2000, will create a formal fugitive apprehension unit in the Department of Corrections.

The unit will have limited police powers to investigate and arrest Department of Corrections escapees and parole violators.

There is currently an apprehension unit with 13 employees. However, that unit does not have police powers, and the workers cannot carry firearms. Under the law, those employees will be trained by law enforcement to become officers.

House sponsor Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) said there were three things he wanted to accomplish with this law. First, he wanted to give the workers the adequate tools to do their job, which includes the right to carry firearms. The law will also allow the unit to attend deadly force training.

Second, the law establishes the flow of information between corrections officials working inside a prison and police officers working

the street. The information exchange is necessary because some inmates still have ties to illegal gang and drug activity, Stanek said.

Finally, the police powers were limited to hunting the fugitives and parole violators, so the unit could concentrate on its task.

Under the law, the unit will be required to inform a city's police force when they enter a town to conduct surveillance or to make arrests.

The law will also give the fugitive apprehension unit initial processing power of the fugitive — such as taking the person's fingerprints and photos — unless directed differently by the law enforcement agency with primary jurisdiction.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF3003/SF3097*/CH291

Attorney-client phone calls

Officials at state prisons are exempt from civil and criminal penalties for restricting inmate telephone access with attorneys, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

State law allows persons detained by law enforcement the ability to speak with a lawyer free of charge at any reasonable time.

Previously, if corrections personnel at a state prison or local detention facility refused to allow a person telephone access to an attorney, state law provided for fine of \$100 and a misdemeanor charge against the official.

The new measure keeps the civil and criminal penalties in place at local correctional facilities, such as county jails and workhouses, but eliminates the penalties at state prisons.

The law will pertain to all detained people at local facilities, regardless of whether they have been convicted or charged of a crime. The only exceptions where local corrections officials can restrict telephone access without facing criminal or civil penalties is when officials believe the detained person may attempt to escape or cause injury.

Neither the detained person nor the attorney will be responsible for the cost of a phone call, according to the law. A detained person can speak with an attorney or a person he or she "may desire to consult with" about an upcoming proceeding involving pending charges.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) sponsored the law.

HF3512/SF3108*/CH408

Serving court orders

A new law will allow law enforcement officers to serve any court order.

The law, most of which takes effect Aug. 1, 2000, will create a shortened notification process that officers can use to serve court documents to people at any time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Previously, the hearing could not begin until five days had passed after the court papers were served. That new provision is effective April 25, 2000.

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

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

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) and Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the legislation.

HF1067/SF551*/CH437

Treating sex offenders

A new law effective April 12, 2000, will send sex offenders back to prison instead of treatment programs if they refuse to participate in treatment.

The sex offender will also no longer be able to plead his or her case to a special review board, under the law.

The cost of keeping an offender in treatment is three times the cost of correctional facilities, said Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), House sponsor.

She said the law gives offenders incentive to choose treatment given the alternative of prison.

To be a predatory sex offender, someone has committed aggravated and repeated offenses, as well as sex offenses while committing such crimes as murder, manslaughter, or robbery.

About 15 predatory offenders are committed each year in the state, and none have ever been released, Holberg said. The law will require a study examining sex offender policy and management.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the law in the Senate.

HF3457/SF2858*/CH359

★ EDUCATION

Spending bill becomes law

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a \$184 million education spending package May 15 that includes one-time spending and permanent funding for several K-12 efforts including special education, teacher training, and high-speed Internet access.

The new law will provide money to school districts for vocational education and building improvements and will fix a funding

problem for charter schools that will 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 package also includes higher education and early childhood and family education items.

The special education money districts will receive under the law along with money for training and experience, should especially help districts that are facing budget cuts.

Under the law, the state's special education funding cap will be increased by \$83 million. A boost in cross-subsidy special education aid will 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 classrooms is addressed in the measure by a provision that makes it easier for districts to bring in teachers from other states.

Minnesota's Board of Teaching will be required under the law 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 law also will 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.

THE LONE INDEPENDENT



Rep. Doug Reuter says goodbye to House colleagues this week with plans to move to Texas. Reuter was elected to the House in 1996 as a Republican, but declared himself an independent at the close of the 1999 session.

In addition, the spending package will provide \$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.

Approximately \$11.6 million will be available under the law 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 — will come from the state's general fund.

The law also will 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 for secondary vocational aid is part of the measure. The additional aid for high school programs will be spread out over a two-year period.

The new law will also 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 will need to be equipped with up-to-date software filtering technology or other methods to restrict student viewing of inappropriate material.

A public library will 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 measure will allow teachers and certain other school employees to use "reasonable" force to discipline a student. The provision includes language pertaining to the legal defenses teachers and district agents have against prosecution for using force to discipline students.

Reasonable force will be permitted to correct or restrain a student or to prevent bodily harm to another.

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

Approximately \$16 million will be available to districts for reimbursement of certain telecommunications costs. School districts will need to submit ongoing or recurring telecom-



The \$184 million omnibus education bill increases spending for high-speed Internet access for K-12 schools, and provides funds for teacher training.

munications costs — subject to examination by officials from the Department of Children, Families and Learning — before schools can be reimbursed for the costs.

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

Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington) and Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the legislation.

Many sections of the law are effective May 16, 2000. Other portions become effective July 1, 2000, or after the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year.

HF3800*/SF3559/CH489

★ EMPLOYMENT

Workers' compensation law

A new law will reduce workers' compensation rates while increasing benefits for injured workers.

The law, most of which takes effect Aug. 1, 2000, represents recommendations from the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council. The council is composed of representatives from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the state's AFL-CIO, and the Legislature.

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

In the case of a worker who is killed in a work-related accident, the minimum amount

of compensation for the dependents will be \$60,000.

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

The assigned risk plan aids in the operation of the workers' compensation system by providing a source of insurance for employers unable to obtain such coverage from the private insurance market.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) sponsored the measure.

HF3960/SF3644*/CH447

★ ENERGY

Powered by poultry litter

A new law changes the definition of biomass energy to include poultry litter and plants grown specifically for fuel.

The law, effective April 25, 2000, could lead the way to construction of an electricity generating facility that uses turkey litter as fuel.

Legislation in 1994 relating to the Prairie Island nuclear power facility required public utilities that operate nuclear power plants in the state to develop 125 megawatts of electric energy generated by biomass.

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

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

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

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

HF2757*/SF2614/CH443

★ ENVIRONMENT

Gasoline additives banned

A new law limits and ultimately bans gasoline additives that have caused severe water pollution in some states.

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

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

After July 1, 2000, gasoline cannot contain more than one-third of 1 percent of the chemicals. But after July 1, 2005, no traces of the chemicals will be allowed in gasoline, under the new law.

Gasoline is moved through common pipelines throughout the country, so traces of those chemicals can be found in almost all gasoline.

Research shows the additive is responsible

for several incidents of soil and water contamination, including municipal wells as nearby as Alford and Ida Grove, Iowa.

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

California Gov. Gray Davis issued an executive order — supported by a University of California study — in March 1999 to phase out MTBE from the California gasoline supply by December 31, 2002.

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

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

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

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

HF3292/SF2946*/CH434

Underwater lumber recovery

A new law will allow a person or company to salvage logs that have been submerged on lake and river bottoms.

Effective June 1, 2000, the new law will allow a person or company to apply for a lease through the state Department of Natural Resources to salvage the logs. Applications for leases will be published in the State Register, and the DNR will approve or deny the application within 60 days, after allowing 30 days for public comments.

The fee for a lease will be \$500 for Minnesota residents and \$2,500 for those who live outside the state. Terms of a lease are negotiable.

Logs can be salvaged only if they are submerged at depths of 20 feet or more. A lease will require that precautions be taken to avoid disturbing the bottom of the lake or river, protect public rights in boating or recreation areas, and comply with federal laws.

The person or company with a lease will have to notify the Minnesota Historical Society if they find a historical artifact, such as a sled that was used to carry logs across a frozen lake. Also, if a log is found that contains an American Indian brand or marking, the nearest tribal government must be notified.

The state will receive 25 percent of the money from the sale of the logs, based on the weighted average selling price.

The application fees from the leases will go to the state's general fund. Money from the sale of lumber that is recovered will go to the game and fish fund, except that if the lake or river is on school trust fund lands, the money will go into the permanent school fund.

A person or business cannot hold more than three leases at a time.

Permission for mosquito spraying

The Metropolitan Mosquito Control District will need the approval of the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources before spraying state lands, under a law effective April 7, 2000.

Previously, state law allowed a landowner to refuse to allow Mosquito Control to spray his or her land with insecticides. The new law gives the DNR that same right with regard to state parks, wildlife management areas, or other publicly owned lands.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) sponsored the measure because Mosquito Control sprayed chemicals at Fort Snelling State Park in July 1999 despite objections from the department.

Ozment said the DNR should have jurisdiction over the decision to spray chemicals in wildlife management areas because the department has the expertise in the chemicals' effects on vegetation, water quality, wildlife habitat, and related issues.

He also said that current law gives the Department of Health authority over the DNR or landowners to authorize spraying for mosquitoes that are known to carry diseases.

The Senate sponsor of the measure was Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

HF3134*/SF2857/CH339



A new law will restrict the use of the gasoline additive methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in Minnesota and eventually ban it. The additive has contaminated groundwater in states such as Iowa and California.

Parenting plans become law

A new law will allow parents who are getting a divorce to create a parenting plan agreement.

The law, most of which is effective Aug. 1, 2000, will allow divorced couples to make agreements on splitting parenting time. Plans could specify anything from where a child lives during the day to which parent can teach religious philosophy. Child support issues are not included in the law.

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

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

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

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

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

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the Senate version. Nearly all provisions of the new law are effective Jan. 1, 2001.

HF3311/SF3169*/CH444

Involuntary commitment

A new law will give parents more control in admitting mentally ill children to hospitals.

The law, which takes effect Aug. 1, 2000, will add mental illness to previous law governing involuntary admission and treatment. The law currently allows parents to admit a child age 16 or 17 to a hospital only if the child is mentally retarded or chemically dependent.

The previous law allowed parents to admit children to hospitals for a mental illness up to age 16. The law will now extend that provision to age 18. Even if the 16- or 17-year-old child refuses treatment, the parents will be able to admit the child to a hospital.

The law also will require hospital officials to inform the patient that a family member has made an inquiry about the patient's health. The patient would then have to authorize the release of any information.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the legislation.

HF3107/SF2634*/CH316

HEALTH CARE LEADER

Rep. Lee Greenfield has been a House member since 1978 and is stepping down this year. He is known for his work in reforming the state's health care system, most notably the creation of MinnesotaCare, the state's health insurance program for low-income residents.

Investigating child abuse cases

A new law, effective April 15, 2000, will repeal a 1999 domestic abuse law defining neglect and will replace it with language redefining counties' responsibilities in domestic violence cases affecting children.

The law eliminates language that required counties to investigate cases where there is any child abuse, including verbal or other non-physical abuse. The repealed law also required an investigation if a child was within sight or sound of any attempted abuse.

Several groups, representing those advocating for domestic violence victims and county social service administrators, joined together asking legislators to repeal the law because of its costs. County administrators estimated the old law would cost \$30 million statewide if fully implemented.

The \$30 million projection is based on the additional workers needed to investigate all the new mandated cases.

The new language requires county investigation only when the parent "endangers the child's mental or physical health," the parent engages in "repeated domestic assault," or the child "witnessed repeated incidents" of domestic violence. Specific guidelines for investigations do not take effect until July 1, 2001.

The new law also states that the local welfare agency shall consider the safety of the child and the victim when determining action.

Under the repealed law, a victim might have chosen to not report an abusive situation out of fear that he or she would be found in

neglect if that person kept living with or moved back in with the abuser.

The new law also requires homeless shelter employees to attempt to contact the parents of a runaway within 72 hours. The employee must tell the parents or guardian the runaway's location and status, unless there are compelling reasons to withhold that information.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) and Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the law.

HF3176/SF3410*/CH401

Designating custodians for children

A new law effective April 15, 2000, allows parents the authority to designate a temporary custodian for their children.

The law repeals the previous designated caregiver statute and replaces it with the temporary and standby custodian language. The new law makes it clearer what should happen to children in cases where the parent suddenly is not available or is incapable of caring for them, said House sponsor Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

"It gives parents an opportunity to file with the court a guardian of the child if there was a tragic accident or if they are going out of the country for an extended period," Luther said. "It helps families plan ahead and reduce an unnecessary burden on governmental child protection or foster care resources."

The law provides more options than the repealed statute, such as outlining standby,

temporary, and co-custodian guidelines.

Standby custodians would assume permanent custody in the event of a parent's inability to care for the child. A temporary custodian would have the child or children for two years, up from one year in previous law. A co-custodian shares parenting duties with a parent when that parent has extended illnesses.

The new law also gives a non-custodial parent more rights to decide what happens to the child if the custodial parent becomes ill or dies, Luther said. Under the law, the non-custodial parent would automatically gain custody unless that parent lost parental rights.

The law allows both natural parents to be involved in the decision and requires a hearing if the fitness of a non-custodial parent is called into question, Luther said.

The custodial parent can designate a temporary custodian with the consent of the other parent, under the new law.

The repealed designated caregiver statute said the agreement expired four years after it was signed. The new language designates a person as temporary custodian indefinitely.

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the Senate version.

HF3318/SF3018*/CH404

Paying delinquent child support

The Department of Human Services will be able to seize bank accounts of parents who are delinquent in child support payments, under a law signed May 11 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

"It will be a significant new way to reach people we haven't caught before," said Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsored the legislation in the House. "(The state) will have the capacity to take it straight out of their bank account without their permission."

The law will include all financial institutions within the state, from larger banks in the Twin Cities to smaller facilities in rural areas. The law was necessary to comply with federal requirements.

The law also will allow the department to send letters to banks, telling them to freeze the amount of money a delinquent parent owes. The department is then responsible for notifying the parent the money has been seized.

A bank cannot be held liable for damages for seizing funds from accounts, under the law.

An appeals process for the parent to contest the seizure is also outlined in the bill.

Entenza said the state Department of Revenue and federal Internal Revenue Service already could seize money from bank accounts, but this measure extends that ability to the state Department of Human Services.

Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville)

sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF3345/SF3016*/CH458

★ **GAMBLING**

Gambling fraud penalties

Tampering with gambling devices or claiming a gambling prize through fraud or use of counterfeited equipment will now be a felony, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The law will establish felonies if the dollar amount involved in the gambling fraud exceeds \$2,500. The maximum penalty for a felony offense will be three years in prison and a \$6,000 fine.

A person could be charged with a misdemeanor when the dollar amount involved is \$500 or less, or a gross misdemeanor when the value is between \$500 and \$2,500.

The law will make it illegal to knowingly claim a gambling prize using altered or counterfeited equipment. It also will make it illegal to claim a prize through fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

Tampering with gambling equipment in an attempt to influence the outcome of the game also will be illegal, under the law.

Gambling officials say the law is necessary to curb the growth of cheating and fraud.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the measure.

HF3023/SF2701*/CH318

Card counting devices prohibited

Gamblers are prohibited from using devices that can count cards or analyze strategy, under a law effective April 7, 2000. Use of such devices is now considered a felony.

The law establishes several new felonies.

For example, attempting to open or enter a device to remove money, chips, or tokens will now bring a felony charge.

Similarly, anyone who intentionally uses counterfeit chips or tokens also could be charged with a felony, as could an employee of the gambling licensee who cheats.

"There are professional cheats that travel across the state using these devices," said Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), House sponsor of the measure.

The law was needed because a card club opened this spring at Canterbury Park in Shakopee, Osskopp said.

"There is nothing in law to regulate it," he said.

Indian-owned casinos are exempt from this law because the state does not have

jurisdiction to enforce the measure. The law is modeled after gambling laws in Nevada and New Jersey, Osskopp said.

The law also makes it a felony to manufacture, sell, or distribute cards, tokens, or dice used to violate these gambling provisions. Another portion of the law makes it a felony to instruct someone else to violate the law.

The law also expands the list of places where charitable gambling halls can legally make contributions to include community arts organizations. Previously, contributions could be made only to public and private educational institutions, scholarships, churches, natural resources projects.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF3571/SF2828*/CH336

★ **GAME & FISH**

Major changes in store

Hunting and fishing licenses will see across-the-board increases, under a new law signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law also allocates a portion of revenue from lottery ticket sales to pay for natural resources projects and establishes a state plan for managing the wolf population.

The measure had once contained only the license fee increases, but as action for the session wound down, the other natural resource issues were attached.

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.

Effective March 1, 2001, the fee increases will 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 will be matched with revenue from the state's general fund.

Every \$2 of revenue from the fee increase will 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 will be slightly more than \$1.5 million.

The bill also includes a \$500,000 general fund appropriation to pay for walleye stocking in fiscal year 2001.

The lottery ticket revenue provision will further increase funding for game and fish projects, as well as projects for state parks, recreational trails, and zoos.

Those projects will receive 97 percent of the



A new law increases fees across the board for hunting and fishing licenses. Such fees are the primary source of revenue for game and fish funds in the state.

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 that is part of the law is nearly identical to a plan that was approved April 11 by the House (in the form of a separate bill).

The Senate had clarified part of the measure that allows a person to shoot a wolf that is attacking livestock or domestic animals. The new law specifies that the person can shoot a wolf in that situation only on the person's property.

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

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

People will also be allowed to "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 must be reported within 48 hours to the Department of Natural Resources or a University of Minnesota extension agent.

And effective July 1, 2001, compensation for a livestock owner who has an animal that is killed by a wolf will be based on fair market value instead of the current maximum of \$750 per animal.

No hunting season for wolves will be allowed for five years after the wolf is removed from the federal list of endangered species. But the law allows the commissioner of the DNR to prescribe

are effective Aug. 1, 2000.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) sponsored the legislation.

HF3046*/SF2950/CH463

Fishing contests, hunting laws

Limits on the number of fishing contests in the state were established under a new law signed May 15. The law makes several other changes to hunting and fishing laws.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, people who want to have fishing contests will need a permit unless several criteria are met: the number of participants is 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 can apply for a permit from the Department of Natural Resources.

The limits on fishing contests are based on the size of the lake, the number of participants, and the number of days that the contest would take place. And on all bodies of water 55,000 acres or less, the DNR commissioner can set aside at least two weekends per month with no permitted fishing contests.

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

The commissioner can specify other 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 law will 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

open seasons and restrictions for taking wolves after the five years and after receiving comments from the public.

And effective March 1, 2001, violating the laws related to killing wolves is a gross misdemeanor.

Unless otherwise noted, the provisions described above

can apply in a separate selection process.

The separate process will 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 will be established under the bill, which will allow the holder to take one antlered buck throughout the state, rather than from a particular area. The license will cost \$66. Deer licenses currently cost \$22, and a separate law will increase that to \$25 in 2001.

Another provision in the law allows a person with mental retardation or a related condition to receive a provisional firearms safety certificate and hunting license.

The person will need to complete the classroom portion of the firearms safety course, and he or she could then hunt only while accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult who possesses a firearms safety certificate. The law does not apply if the person is otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law.

The law also takes a step toward resolving 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 will conduct an inventory and appraisal of the state lands to determine exactly how many acres of land belong to the state and provide other detailed information about the land.

That information will 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.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls) sponsored the legislation.

The law also includes a minor change in a law that allows lighted fishing lures to be used in the state, which is effective May 16, 2000.

Other provisions of the law are effective Aug. 1, 2000.

HF866/SF1288*/CH473

Lifetime licenses

A new law will make lifetime hunting and fishing licenses available to Minnesotans and residents of other states.

Under the measure, people who want to hunt and fish will have the option to buy either a lifetime license or the traditional annual license.

The licenses are scheduled to be available March 1, 2001, for Minnesota residents and March 1, 2002, for nonresidents.

Fees for lifetime licenses are based on four groups: ages 3 and under, ages 4 to 15, ages 16 to 50, and ages 51 and older.

Lifetime fishing licenses for Minnesota residents in those age groups will cost \$227, \$300, \$383, and \$203 respectively. People who purchase that license will still need to purchase annual stamps if they want to fish for salmon or trout.

Lifetime fishing licenses will also be available for nonresidents at higher prices.

Lifetime small-game hunting licenses for residents will cost \$217, \$290, \$363, and \$213 for the same age groups. Those will also be available to nonresidents at a higher price.

Lifetime deer hunting licenses for residents will cost \$337, \$450, \$573, and \$383 respectively.

The law also will allow lifetime sporting licenses for residents that would cover fishing and small-game hunting. Such licenses will cost \$357, \$480, \$613, and \$413 respectively.

Lifetime deer hunting or sporting licenses will not be available for nonresidents.

Revenue from the licenses will establish a lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund. Money in that fund will be invested by the state Board of Investment, and it will pay for projects that currently are funded by revenue from annual hunting and fishing licenses.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) and Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

HF33510*/SF3378/CH341

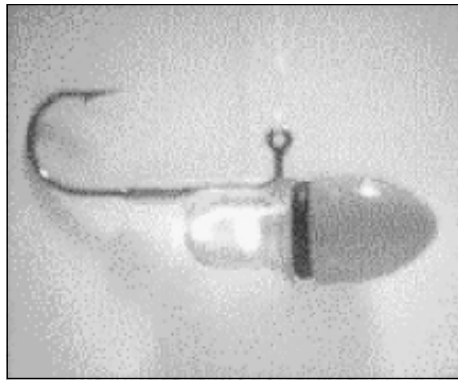
Law allows lighted lures

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 2000, will allow anglers to use lighted fishing lures.

While the lures are used in neighboring states, current state law allows the manufacture and sale of lighted lures but does not allow anglers to use them in Minnesota waters.

Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley) sponsored the measure in the House on behalf of a constituent who manufactures those lures, which contain a small battery.

The new law also contains a provision mandating that batteries used in lighted fishing lures cannot contain mercury. That provision of the law was added due to concerns that the



Anglers in Minnesota will now be able to use lighted fishing lures due to a law passed in the 2000 Legislative Session.

batteries could be swallowed by fish or lost in the water. Mercury pollution has caused the Department of Natural Resources to issue warnings against eating fish in some lakes in the state.

A separate bill was signed into law that further clarified that spotlights or other powerful light sources still are prohibited while fishing.

Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF3352/SF3586*/CH308

Permits for disabled hunters

A special hunting permit will be available to people who have a permanent disability, under a new law effective Jan. 1, 2001.

The permit will allow people with certain medical conditions to use a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle while hunting in the state's wildlife management areas.

The law will allow the commissioner of natural resources to issue such permits to people who cannot step from a vehicle without the aid of a wheelchair, crutches, braces, or other means of support.

Permits will also be available to people who have heart or lung conditions and require breathing assistance.

A person who fraudulently applies for a permit, or a physician or chiropractor who fraudulently certifies that a person is disabled, will be guilty of a misdemeanor, under the law.

Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township) sponsored the legislation.

HF2603/SF2346*/CH265

Longer ice fishing season

The 2000 ice fishing season was extended by nine days, under a law effective Feb. 17, 2000.

The measure was sponsored in the House by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), who said it

would help small businesses and resorts in areas where ice fishing is popular. Those businesses lost potential income due to unusually warm weather in the early winter and a lack of snow.

Under previous state law, the ice fishing season was to last until the third Sunday in February, which this year would have been Feb. 20.

The new law extended the season through Feb. 29. The extension also included the spearfishing season.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington).

HF2980/SF2763*/CH251

★ GOVERNMENT

Wide-ranging state funding law

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a \$185 million state government appropriations measure, which contains new funding for courts, natural resources, and jobs and housing programs. He did line-item veto two minor provisions.

The omnibus law will 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.

Gov. Jesse Ventura line-item vetoed \$1.78 million from the measure. He singled out two provisions — \$1.75 million for construction grants at adult regional jail facilities and \$30,000 for purchasing drug detection dogs.

The largest portion of the spending law deals with health and human services programs, where it will 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.

The law will pump \$26 million into improving salary for health care providers in nursing homes, group homes and those who serve people with disabilities. The law creates a 3 percent cost-of-living increase. There also was a cost-of-living increase last year.

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

MFIP programs will receive \$20 million in TANF money for county-level intervention to



Eligibility for the state's prescription drug discount program will be expanded to include disabled residents under a provision in the omnibus state appropriations law.

provide family employment grants. Money will 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.

The law will provide \$6.6 million toward economic development programs. Among the highlights are \$1 million in grants to expand Internet services in rural towns. Another provision will provide \$1 million to boost tourism in northern Minnesota.

And the law will appropriate \$50 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Approximately \$30 million will go toward building and financing affordable housing units. The remaining \$20 million is an interest-free loan to Habitat for Humanity.

The law 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 will receive \$2.7 million to reduce judge vacancies across the state. Some salaries for judges could be paid through this appropriation.

The Department of Corrections will receive \$2.25 million, which includes \$500,000 for designing a joint headquarters for the departments of Corrections and Public Safety.

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

The other \$1.4 million will be used as grants for northern counties that have wildfire concerns this year. Grants can go toward purchasing emergency communications and response equipment or for training to prepare for wildfires.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the law.

Many of the individual provisions are effective May 16, 2000.

HF2699*/SF3798/CH488

Monarch becomes state butterfly

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 2000, makes the monarch the state butterfly.

It is the 13th state symbol, joining the state flag and state seal, state tree (red or Norway pine), state song ("Hail! Minnesota"), state bird (loon), state fish (walleye), state mushroom (morel), state drink (milk), state grain (wild rice), state muffin (blueberry), state flower (lady slipper), and state gemstone (Lake Superior agate).

The idea for the butterfly law came from a group of fourth-grade students at OH Anderson Elementary School in Mahtomedi. They were studying how a bill becomes a law and a special unit on butterflies. Then the students decided to combine the two and bring the idea to Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), who sponsored the law.

The last state symbol to be established was the blueberry muffin in 1988, which was proposed by third-grade students from Carlton, a small town near Duluth. The students felt that the choice was appropriate because blueberries are plentiful in northern Minnesota, and farmers throughout the state produce other ingredients needed to make the muffins.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2588/SF2326*/CH306

Paying costs of lawsuits

A new law will potentially require state agencies that instigate unsuccessful lawsuits to pay higher costs to defendants.

Currently, agencies are required to pay the attorneys' fees and other expenses of a defendant when the agency brings a civil action and loses, under certain conditions. Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the new law will expand the types of expenses that can be recovered by the prevailing party, and it clarifies the procedure for receiving those awards from a court or administrative law judge.

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

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

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

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

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) and Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the law.

HF3497*/SF3539/CH439

Turning over state property

The state turned over ownership of a former correctional facility to the city of Sauk Centre under a law effective April 5, 2000.

The facility was established in 1911 as a facility for delinquent girls and became coeducational in 1967.

Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), House sponsor of the measure, said the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Sauk Centre was closed in July 1999 and has been vacant since then.

Local officials can now use the property for economic development or for city or county government purposes, which Cassell said will be a vehicle to create jobs. The city must study land-use options to determine the best use of the property and submit a report to the state Department of Administration.

If the state had not turned the land over to

the city, the state Department of Administration estimated that it would have spent \$200,000 per year in minimal maintenance to the vacant facility.

Under state law, when an agency vacates a piece of property, the state Department of Administration offers the property to other state agencies or departments that might want to use the property. But in this case, no other agency expressed interest.

Cassell said that the land originally was purchased by the city and given to the state in the early 1900s to be used as a correctional facility. The city also extended water and sewer lines to the buildings and has continued to maintain that system.

Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls) was the Senate sponsor of the measure.

HF2819/SF2444*/CH326

★ HEALTH

Regulating alternative care

A law that will allow the Department of Health to oversee complementary and alternative health care practices was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law will establish an office, housed at the Department of Health, for unlicensed complementary and alternative health care.

The office will investigate complaints against alternative health care practitioners, will discipline practitioners in some cases, and will serve as a clearinghouse for information on such practices.

Language in the law enabling the department to oversee complementary and alternative health care practices was added to the measure by a conference committee before it was presented to the governor for his signature.

The proposal drew some criticism from House members during debate on the conference committee report earlier this month.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a physician, said some fear exists in the medical community that patients may opt for one or more unproven alternative treatments instead of conventional medicine for life-threatening illnesses.

Mulder said that by approving the measure, legislators were recognizing procedures that have not been based on scientific fact.

But Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), sponsor of the legislation, said the new law will provide for consumer protection and does not encourage the use of procedures unproven in the medical community.

The law also will make changes to the

regulation of both speech-language pathologists and audiologists, unlicensed mental health practitioners, and alcohol and drug counselors.

Furthermore, the law will alter the Administrative Simplification Act by requiring a uniform report for offering medical and benefits advice, as well as a uniform document explaining benefits for patients and providers.

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

Most sections of the new law take effect Aug. 1, 2000. Sections about governing procedures for alternative health care and recommendations for making employee health insurance affordable are effective May 12, 2000.

HF3839*/SF2474/CH460

Training for care providers

Foster and respite care providers will have to meet training standards to care for children dependent on certain medical devices to live, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The law is an attempt to decrease the chance that a child left in the company of a foster care provider could suffer harm due to a provider's inexperience or lack of training with special equipment critical to the life and care of the child.

Care providers will be required to have training or experience with a child's medical equipment before being allowed to care for the child.

Agencies that place children in homes, even if it's only on a temporary basis, will be required to ensure that the care provider has the necessary training before being entrusted with the child's care.

The legislation was brought forward with the help of Sharon Morrissey and husband, Don Baierl, of St. Paul, whose infant daughter died in 1997 because a care provider didn't know precisely how to operate the child's health equipment.

The Department of Human Services will be required to develop the training form. Officials expect little, if any, fiscal impact to the department.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF3342/SF3025*/CH338

Prescription drug cards

People will be prohibited from selling, marketing, promoting, and distributing any card offering discounts for prescription drugs that fails to meet certain requirements, under a law.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the measure will allow an individual or the state attorney

general to sue to stop any such act and obtain damages any deception may have caused.

The measure will protect consumers from promised discounts that are either confusing or not backed by insurance policies.

Discounts that are deceptive or that are not authorized by contract with the pharmacies listed on the card, will be in violation of the new law, and people issuing or distributing the cards will be subject to prosecution.

Also, discount cards will have to prominently state that discounts offered are not being offered through any insurance policy.

The new law will not apply, however, to vision care, glasses, or contact lenses provided by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

Discounts promised under contract with the state of Minnesota, or a consumer discount card issued by a store for use at that particular store will also be allowed.

Furthermore, a card administered by a health insurer, nonprofit health service plan corporation, or health maintenance organization will be exempt from complying with card requirements put forth by the law.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the legislation.

HF2883/SF2579*/CH303

Exposure to bloodborne diseases

A law will establish procedures regarding occupational exposure to bloodborne diseases for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, corrections employees, and secure treatment facility workers.

The law addresses proper procedure for obtaining consent for testing, obtaining and testing blood samples for bloodborne diseases, and for informing individuals of blood test results, in certain situations.

The situations the new law will apply to include cases when people holding these occupations are exposed to a bloodborne disease in the course of carrying out their jobs.

The measure also will expand the state's HIV and Hepatitis B prevention program for health professionals to cover Hepatitis C. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

Also, the law modifies notification requirements that apply when emergency medical personnel are exposed to a person with active tuberculosis.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the legislation. The new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF1631/SF1202*/CH422

Dealing with 'sharps'

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law aimed at reducing occupational exposures to bloodborne diseases through "sharps" injuries.

Effective June 10, 2000, the law will require employers to comply with federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations on bloodborne pathogens.

It also will require that employers review written exposure control plans annually and document in the plan consideration of appropriate engineering controls that are designed to eliminate or minimize exposure.

Sharps are needles and other medical devices used in testing. They are often used to draw blood and therefore carry the most risk for exposure to diseases carried through the blood.

The new law will require that a company establish a safety committee to make recommendations for using the best methods to limit injury. The law also will require that a person representing employees most likely to use or encounter a device creating exposure to bloodborne pathogens will be appointed to the committee.

Finally, the employer will be required to establish internal procedures to document the route of exposure and circumstances under which an exposure incident took place. The law spells out how information must be documented, as well. It should include the procedure being performed when the incident took place and the protective equipment or clothing used at the time of the exposure incident.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the legislation.

HF2639/SF2397*/CH351

Jury duty for nursing mothers

A judicial task force will suggest possible changes to jury rules for nursing mothers, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The Supreme Court Jury Reform Task Force has been instructed to study the issue and suggest recommendations to accommodate the needs of nursing mothers who are selected for jury duty.

During the 2000 session, the House eventually accepted the Senate language calling for a study. However, an earlier version of the House bill would have exempted all nursing mothers from jury duty.

Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF1865*/SF2094/CH269

HIGHER EDUCATION

★

Designing campus buildings

Representatives of colleges, universities, and state agencies will be allowed to vote on the design of state buildings, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

Contracts for designing state buildings are awarded through the state Designer Selection Board.

Under current law, the agency or school that will be using a new building appoints a non-voting member to the board, which consists of five voting members. The board looks at design plans from competing firms and decides which firm will receive the contract.

Under the new law, the board will consist of seven voting members, including one who will represent the school or agency that will be using the proposed building.

Other board members will represent the American Institute of Architects, the Associated General Contractors, the Consulting Engineers Council of Minnesota (with input from other professional engineering societies in the state), the Minnesota State Arts Board, and two citizen members who will be appointed by the state commissioner of the Department of Administration.

If, for example, a building is being designed for the University of Minnesota, the university will have a vote on the final design of the

building.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) sponsored the measure.

HF3195/SF3701*/CH384

HOUSING

★

Interest on security deposits

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2000, will delay a scheduled increase in the interest rate paid by property owners on tenant security deposits.

Current law sets the rate at 3 percent until 2001, and after that time the rate was to be increased to 4 percent. The new law will change the date of the increase to 4 percent from May 1, 2001, to May 1, 2004.

State law related to the interest rate on security deposits has been adjusted several times in recent years. The 1992 Legislature changed the rate from 5.5 percent to 4 percent until May 1, 1997, but the rate was to return to 5.5 percent thereafter. In 1996, the rate was cut to 3 percent until May 1, 1999, with an increase to 4 percent thereafter.

The 1998 Legislature extended the 3 percent rate until 2001, and the new law will give it three more years.

Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter) and Sen.

SEEKING SENATE SEAT



Rep. Myron Orfield bids the House adieu as members pack up and adjourn for the year. Orfield served as a House legislator for five terms, and he is running for a spot in the state Senate.

James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the legislation.

HF3132*/SF2890/CH282

★ HUMAN SERVICES

Newborn drop-off law

A law effective April 19, 2000, allows a mother — or a person of her consent — to leave an unharmed newborn at a hospital emergency room up to 72 hours following the child's birth without fear of prosecution.

A hospital is required to accept the child and to notify a local welfare agency within 24 hours of the departure of the person bringing the baby to the hospital.

Under Minnesota law, a mother who willfully neglects a newborn when she is reasonably able to care for the infant can be charged with a gross misdemeanor. The new law provides a small exception.

This law allows the individual delivering the unwanted newborn to exit the building without providing identification. The hospital is allowed to ask questions about the medical history of the mother or newborn, but the person leaving the baby is not required to provide any information.

A newborn that is left behind will be considered an abandoned child. The baby, according to the new law, must not have any obvious injuries or illness in order for the hospital to accept it.

A hospital or employee of the hospital receiving the child is considered immune from any civil liability that could potentially result, if the act of receiving the newborn is done in good faith.

Furthermore, a social service agency taking custody of the child is not required to later reunite the child with its parents or search for relatives of the child as a placement option.

Officials are uncertain how many babies hospitals could realistically expect to be dropped off as a result of the new law.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior) and Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the legislation.

HF2945/SF2615*/CH421

Nursing center to stay open

The Legislature voted to override Gov. Jesse Ventura's veto of a bill aimed at assuring the continued operation of the Ah-Gwah-Ching center, a nursing facility in Walker.

The Ah-Gwah-Ching center serves residents whose aggressive or difficult to manage behavioral needs cannot be met in their home community.

In his veto message, Ventura said that the bill was "unnecessary" because law currently exists prohibiting the commissioner of the Department of Human Services to close the facility without the Legislature's approval.

Ventura vetoed the bill April 3 and the House voted to override the veto the following day. The Senate override came later in April, and the measure will become law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

In addition to language in the measure calling for the center to remain open, the law will clarify the admissions criteria of the facility and require that the center promote emergency admittance and geriatric rapid assessment stabilization programs.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack) and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the legislation.

HF2809*/SF2631/CH310

Responsibility for care

The commissioner of the Department of Human Services is now required to consult with stakeholders and develop recommendations for transferring guardianship responsibilities for adults with mental retardation from the department to another entity.

Under a new law effective April 21, 2000, stakeholders include family members, advocacy organizations, counties, service providers, and the office of the ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation.

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

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

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

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the legislation.

HF2671*/SF2567/CH429

Paying for audiology services

A law amending state medical assistance reimbursement requirements for audiology and related services was signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the law will require that the state reimburse speech-language pathology and audiology services provided by a person issued a temporary registration at the same rate as services performed by a registered pathologist or audiologist.

To receive the same reimbursement rate, temporarily licensed professionals will have to undergo the appropriate supervision and monitoring requirements provided in existing state law.

A speech-language pathologist is a professional who is licensed by the state, and qualified by training and experience, to diagnose and treat speech and language problems.

Audiologists are trained professionals who specialize in working with individuals with hearing problems. Audiologists identify, treat, and help prevent hearing loss for people of all ages.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation.

HF2477/SF2499*/CH347

Caring for disabled people

A law that makes modifications to Department of Human Services policy regarding continuing care services for people with disabilities was signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The new law will require that people with disabilities be provided with a telephone number to call for the purpose of filing a complaint with the office of the ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation.

The measure also eliminates a previous requirement that stated requests for home care services for persons residing in a foster care setting include the foster care placement agreement and a determination of the level of an enrollee's difficulty of care.

Shared personal care assistant and private duty nursing services will be allowed to take place outside an enrollee's home or foster home when normal life activities take a care recipient outside his or her typical care setting, under the new law.

Several other technical changes to department language regarding care for disabled persons are included as part of the law. A few of those provisions pertain to requirements for rate and pay adjustments for facilities that care for the disabled.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) and Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) sponsored the legislation.

Most provisions included in the new law take effect Aug. 1, 2000. A provision allowing a guardian of an adult who is not the responsible party to obtain a hardship waiver in

order to be reimbursed for providing personal care assistance services took effect May 16, 2000.

HF3409*/SF2841/CH474

Recourse for vulnerable adults

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 15 that will create a panel to review decisions made by lead agencies regarding cases of potential maltreatment of vulnerable adults.

The law will 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.

Under current law, 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 new law will 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 law states, will be taken up at the panel's next quarterly meeting.

Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls), sponsor of the legislation, referred to the measure as a "quality assurance approach" to reviewing decisions in cases of potential maltreatment.

The law will 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 measure will require the agency reconsider and report back to the panel with its determination within 30 days.

Furthermore, the panel will 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.

Finally, the commissioner of the Department of Human Services will be required to offer medically necessary psychiatric and dental services to developmentally disabled clients in the Faribault service area, which would extend 100 miles around the city, under the new law.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF3250/SF3028*/CH465

★ **INSURANCE**

Help for Holocaust survivors

A new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura will assist Holocaust survivors in settling and collecting insurance claims.

Aimed at insurance companies and their affiliates that do business in Minnesota and issued policies in Europe prior to 1946, the law allows the commissioner of the Department of Commerce to provide special assistance to Minnesota residents who have claims to settle.

The law allows the department to establish a registry of records of Holocaust-related insurance policies and claims. The registry will contain information such as a list of policies sold with the names of the insured and their beneficiaries, and whether the proceeds have been paid.

Companies that fail to provide the data to assist victims and their beneficiaries could be fined or have their authority to do business in the state suspended.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), House sponsor of the legislation, said that often life insurance claims require a death certificate, which for a Holocaust victim is not available.

He said there are about 200 Holocaust survivors living in the state.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) was the Senate sponsor. The law is effective April 14, 2000.

HF3756/SF3423*/CH367

Prompt payment of claims

Health insurance companies will be required to promptly pay clean claims by health care providers and facilities, under a law effective Jan. 1, 2001.

Third-party administrators also will be subject to payment requirements, but the new law will not pertain to services provided by pharmacists.

A "clean claim" is defined as a claim that has no defect or impropriety, including any lack of required documentation or any circumstance that prevents timely payment.

Health plan companies and third-party administrators will be required to pay or deny a clean claim within 30 days of receiving the claim. Claims not paid in that time will be subject to an interest payment of 1.5 percent of the claim per month.

The company providing the health plan or the third-party administrator would be responsible for paying the interest — not the insured party.

Late claim payments will not be subject to an interest payment if the payment is delayed so that the company can review potentially fraudulent or abusive billing practices, however.

Furthermore, the commissioner of the Department of Health will be prohibited from assessing a financial administrative penalty against a health plan company that violates the law.

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the legislation.

HF2643/SF2767*/CH349

★ **LAW**

Liability for providing alcohol

A new law will make people who supply alcohol to those under age 21 subject to civil suits.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the law is an attempt to curtail parties where adults serve liquor to juveniles. House sponsor Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said the law will potentially make such adults liable for the actions of a juvenile after he or she leaves the premises.

The law will pertain to people who do not possess liquor licenses, thereby covering events like house parties.

The law will make an adult liable for actions of the minor if the adult supplied alcohol and had control over the premises, was in a reasonable position to stop the juvenile from drinking, or knowingly and recklessly permitted the underage consumption of alcohol.

The intoxicated teen who caused any injury or other harm would not be able to sue the person providing the alcohol.

The law includes a provision that says homeowners cannot purchase liability coverage under their homeowner's insurance to cover liability for an intoxicated juvenile's actions, unless it is specifically stated in the policy that it is meant to cover such situations. However, that provision will expire Dec. 31, 2001.

The law stems from cases such as a 1997 New Year's Eve crash that killed St. Paul teenager Kevin Brockway, who was leaving a party where alcohol was provided by another teen's parent.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the Senate version.

HF2555/SF1733*/CH423

Hearing harassment cases

Judges will have discretionary power in hearing harassment cases, under a law signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura. The law takes effect July 1, 2000.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) was the House sponsor of the measure, which also redefines

harassment to include a "single incident" that has a "substantial adverse effect." Previously, law required there be repeated incidents for an act to be considered harassment.

Smith said a key provision in the law is that it will not require a hearing to take place on every harassment complaint.

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

A judge can throw out frivolous harassment complaints, such as those involving 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 retaining orders were filed.

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

The new law does not eliminate the court's option of waiving a fee for restraining orders in cases of financial hardship.

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

HF2516*/SF3580/CH476

No public defenders for youths

Public defenders will not be appointed to child protection cases if the juvenile is younger than 10, under a new law.

The law will create a uniform statewide system that dictates when a public defender should be brought in to represent a child. A juvenile age 10 or older could obtain a public defender, but a child under age 10 could not.

"Infants don't need separate legal council, and it's a waste of money," said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), who was House sponsor of the measure. "Some attorneys are being hired to represent a 2-year-old. That doesn't need to be done."

The law originates from the state Board of Public Defenders. In a recent letter, State Public Defender John Stuart explained that the law pertains only to child protection or services cases, not to juvenile delinquency cases.

Stuart said some courts never appoint attorneys unless the child is at least 12 years old, while other courts always appoint a lawyer for young children.

"The age of 10 was chosen as the cutoff because children under the age of 10 cannot be charged with juvenile delinquency, but may be dealt with in a children in need of

protection or services proceeding," Stuart wrote.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF3119/SF2725*/CH357

Legal action for beer wholesalers

A new law effective April 18, 2000, clarifies existing laws regarding legal actions between beer brewers and wholesalers.

The law allows wholesalers to sue a brewer in either state or federal court for violations to state laws regarding the Minnesota beer brewers and wholesalers act.

The new law also gives wholesalers the right to a jury trial against brewers, and it provides that the right to bring action may not be waived except at the time the suit is filed.

The state's beer brewers and wholesalers laws include provisions prohibiting brewers from inducing or coercing wholesalers into accepting delivery of any alcoholic beverage or any other commodity which wasn't ordered by the wholesaler.

The laws also establish the right of free association between all brewers and wholesalers. Brewers cannot collaborate to fix or artificially elevate prices.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) and Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) sponsored the measure.

HF1947/SF1618*/CH415

Access to information

Public defenders will be given access to law enforcement databases, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The new law will allow state and district public defenders, along with any attorney who is working for a public defense corporation, limited access to various criminal and juvenile databases.

"The defense felt they should have access to information on the people they are defending," said Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada), House sponsor of the measure. "We felt it was a fairness issue."

Public defenders will be given access to data regarding the attorney's client only and will not be able to examine data on other people. The defender also will not have access to active and ongoing investigative data, under the law.

The proposal came from the State Public Defender's Office, Broecker said.

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the Senate version of the legislation.

HF3950/SF3154*/CH377

FOCUS ON EDUCATION



Rep. Alice Johnson hugs Rep. David Tomassoni during the final day of the session. Johnson, a former chair of the House K-12 Education Finance Division, is stepping down after 14 years in the Legislature.

Information on sexual predators

Attorneys will have more access to court and health records of possible predatory sex offenders, under a law signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law makes alterations to the Sexually Dangerous Persons Act, which allows the state to civilly commit repeated predatory offenders to treatment.

The law allows county attorneys or the attorney general access to health and court records before a petition is filed in court. Prior to this law, attorneys obtained those records after a petition is filed.

"What they want to do is look at the health records," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), House sponsor of the measure.

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

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

Because attorneys will have access to records before a petition is filed, they might determine that civil commitment is not necessary and not pursue a petition, Skoglund said.

The law will require that the individual be notified that attorneys are seeking his or her records. However, that notice can be waived if it could result in harm or harassment of potential witnesses.

The health and court records are not considered public information.

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

Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the Senate version. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2000.

HF2880/SF2854*/CH480

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Township name change

A new state law allows the residents of the township of Lake Edwards in Crow Wing County to drop the "s" from the town's name.

There has been confusion about whether the legal name of the township had the "s" at the end, and the confusion has led to delays when the town has had to file documents with state and federal governments.

Township officials discovered that to legally change the name to the township of Lake Edward would ordinarily require a petition signed by at least 55 percent of the number of residents who voted in the last general election.

For Lake Edwards, a rural township located in the central part of the state with a population of approximately 1,500 people, the costs associated with that process seemed too high.

The new law allows the county board to change the name of the township upon receiving a resolution from the town board requesting the change.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the measure. The law is effective upon local action.

HF2521/SF2320*/CH253

Resolving boundary adjustments

A law will clarify the process for resolving disputes over municipal boundary adjustments.

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

The board was abolished in 1999. The Legislature had set Dec. 31, 1999, as the date for the board to expire, but all of the board members resigned by June 1999, which left some of the adjustments unresolved.

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

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

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

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

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

HF3586/SF2951*/CH446

★ RECREATION

New plan for park permits

Annual permits for state parks will be valid for a full year after the date of purchase, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

Currently, annual park permits are valid only for the calendar year.

Proponents of the new law said it likely will increase the number of annual permits that are sold and encourage more visits to state parks year-round.

Earlier this year, an official from the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources said survey results show the state could sell about 5,000 more permits per year.

The change could make enforcement more difficult than the current system, where an annual permit is distinctive and easy for park employees to see. But the official told lawmakers the change will be manageable because the sticker will be designed to clearly show the month and year it expires.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) and Sen. Martha Robertson (R-Minnetonka) sponsored the legislation.

HF2505*/SF2289/CH278

Law sets fine for studs

The governor signed a measure that adds a civil penalty for using metal traction devices, or studs, on snowmobiles.

The new law was necessary because a civil penalty was inadvertently left out of a 1999 law that requires people to purchase a sticker for their snowmobiles if they intend to use studs.

The 1999 measure contains criminal penalties for people who drive a snowmobile with studs on a paved state trail.

The new law, effective April 5, 2000, establishes civil penalties for people who use snowmobile studs but do not purchase a sticker.

For the first offense, the penalty is capped at \$50. The fine for a second offense is up to \$300, and for third and subsequent offenses the fine is up to \$600.



A new law imposes civil fines and penalties for unauthorized use of snowmobile studs. Criminal penalties were enacted during the 1999 Legislative Session.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine) and Sen. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) sponsored the legislation.

HF3555/SF3283*/CH324

★ SAFETY

Bleacher safety changes

Safety requirements for bleachers, such as those at sports facilities or local parks, will be modified under a new law that takes effect Jan. 1, 2002.

New safety requirements for bleachers were signed into law last year, but Gov. Jesse Ventura line-item vetoed \$100,000 that would have helped communities and school districts pay the costs of complying with the new standards.

The 1999 law required bleachers that are taller than 30 inches to have gaps between seats, floorboards, and guardrails that do not exceed 4 inches. Otherwise, safety nets must be installed under bleachers that have gaps wider than 4 inches. The previous standard for gaps was 9 inches.

The new law will make the 4-inch requirement apply to bleachers that are at least 55 inches (nearly 5 feet) tall.

Retractable bleachers that are in place by Jan. 1, 2001, and that meet the previous 9-inch requirement for gaps, will be exempted from the 4-inch requirement. The responsible school district or organization will have to submit a safety management plan and amortization schedule for complying with the 4-inch standard.

A separate bill (HF4078) extended that exemption to bleachers at public and private

colleges and universities in the state that meet the 9-inch standard.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), House sponsor of the new measure, said it will ease the financial burden for schools, county fairs, and local parks departments without compromising safety standards.

The original legislation was brought forward after 6-year-old Toby Lee of Mound fell through a set of bleachers at a hockey game in Hutchinson and died in January 1999. The boy fell through a 13-inch gap in those bleachers.

The requirements are applicable to all new construction and installation as of Jan. 1, 2001.

Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) was the Senate sponsor of the measure.

HF2846/SF3272*/CH417

★ TAXES

Tax cut and rebate plan signed

State taxpayers will receive more than \$1 billion in tax reductions and rebates, under a new law signed May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Included in the new law is a rate reduction in all three income brackets, a one-time sales tax rebate, a cap on automobile license tab fees, and an agricultural rebate totaling \$18 million.

The new law reduces the income tax rates by 0.15 percent in the upper and lower tax brackets. The middle bracket rate is reduced by 0.20 percent. Taxpayers will receive about a \$142 million income tax cut for tax year 2000. The state will collect around \$317 million less over the next biennium.

The new law also caps license registration

tab fees. The fee is now set at \$189 in the second year of a car's life and \$99 in the third through 10th years. The fee in the first year remains unchanged, as does the minimum \$35 tax that applies to all cars older than 10 years.

Lower income families benefit from an increase in the percentage of earnings used in calculating the state's working family credit. The 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 new law increases 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.

A one-time \$635 million sales tax rebate based on 1998 receipts is provided for in the law.

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

Taxpayers can expect a check of about 40 percent to 45 percent of what they received last year and the rebate checks will be mailed in August.

People eligible for the automatic rebate are 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.

Social Security recipients who were Minnesota residents in 1998 but did not claim a 1998 property tax rebate or have 1998 income tax liability will receive a rebate of \$95.

And unlike last year's rebate, dependents will be eligible for a rebate equal to 35 percent of the amount a nondependent would receive.

The law also provides 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 will receive a payment equal to \$4 for each acre covered under crop insurance in 2000.

Farmers also will benefit from an \$11.5 million increase in the education agricultural credit. The rate of the credit is increased from 54 percent to 70 percent for agriculture homestead land and buildings up to \$600,000 in market value. The rate for nonhomestead agriculture property is increased from 50 percent to 63 percent.

The new law allows employers in the state to receive a transit pass tax credit equal to 30 percent of the cost of transit passes provided to employees.

Also the law provides a \$5 million appropriation to the Department of Trade and Economic Development to make a redevelopment



Legislators made changes to the bleacher safety requirements passed into law during 1999. Height requirements were raised for bleachers required to have gaps no more than four inches and exemptions were expanded. Implementation of the requirements was also delayed.

grant to the city of Richfield. The grant will be used to acquire houses and apartment buildings in a two-block area adjacent to the new north-south runway at the airport.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) and Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Tower) sponsored the legislation. Most of the new law's provisions are effective May 16, 2000.

HF4127*/SF2657/CH490

Evading sales tax payments

People who collect motor vehicle sales tax and then fail to send the tax to the state could be charged with a felony, under a new law effective April 14, 2000.

The law creates a felony for not submitting vehicle sales tax to the state, regardless of how much money is involved, but it states that the person collecting the tax must "willfully" fail to send in the tax.

House sponsor Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the law stems from a February state Supreme Court decision related to a case where a Mankato businessman was convicted of collecting \$12,000 in vehicle sales tax and failing to send the money to the state. As a result of the court ruling, it was no longer a felony to not send in sales tax.

Officials estimate the state will collect about \$526 million in vehicle sales tax in 2001.

Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the Senate version.

HF3303/SF3566*/CH366

Wadena County exemption

A new law will provide a one-time exemption to Wadena County from a truth-in-taxation publishing requirement.

Due to an oversight, the required public notice of the public hearing was not published, House sponsor Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) said during a February hearing on the bill.

She said the county's auditor was new to the position. At the same time as preparing for the truth-in-taxation process, the auditor was also involved in administering a special election.

The county did meet its requirement of mailing notices to all taxpayers.

The state Department of Revenue ruled that the county did not substantially comply with state truth-in-taxation laws because of the failure to advertise the public hearing. The ruling would have required the county to use its previous year's levy.

Under the law, the county will be able to use its payable 2000 levy that was adopted at the public hearing.

During a House Taxes Committee hearing of the bill, department officials expressed con-

cern about setting precedence by exempting the county from meeting its requirements.

Assistant Commissioner Jenny Engh said that the department supplies a checklist that clearly lays out each requirement of the truth-in-taxation process.

Daggett said that the mistake was not deliberate, and since the county had met its other notification requirements, the county's taxpayers were sufficiently made aware of the public hearing.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

The law is effective upon local approval.

SF2554*/HF3039/CH258

★ TRANSPORTATION

Transportation spending law

A \$602 million transportation funding package was signed into law May 15 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

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

Ventura line-item vetoed a \$750,000 appropriation to the Department of Trade and Economic Development, but left the rest of the law intact.

However, the governor said in a letter that accompanied the bill that he is not happy with the bill and he feels legislators have squandered permanent funding in favor of the one-time appropriations.

"At best, this will accelerate a few already-

planned highway projects, and it largely ignores needed new investment in transit," Ventura wrote.

Ventura also objected to a measure in the law that moves nonhighway spending from the trunk highway fund to the general fund. The state attorney general and Department of Finance will examine the constitutionality of using trunk highway fund money for nonhighway projects.

"It is difficult to understand how appropriations made by the Legislature for many biennia could now be considered unconstitutional," Ventura wrote.

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, legislators said.

Ventura also said in his letter that legislators did not look at the long-term impact of shifting these funds to the general fund. He said the Department of Finance's numbers will reflect those costs.

The law features \$405 million in cash spending 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 will spend \$177 million for eliminating bottlenecks 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

SAYING GOODBYE



Rep. Jim Rostberg who served for three terms, is stepping down to start up a family business with his wife.



A new law that includes funding for transportation improvements includes \$177 million to relieve highway bottlenecks in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

will come from trunk highway bonds.

In addition, the final agreement leaves about \$92 million in previously allocated bonds for light-rail transit intact.

While the law does not strip funding for light rail, one provision will 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. That section is effective May 16, 2000.

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

The Transportation Department cannot spend state funds on commuter rail projects unless the money has been specifically appropriated for that purpose, under the law. This provision is effective May 16, 2000.

The law will also call for \$39 million in cash for bridge improvements or replacements.

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

The law also will spend money for a new Regional Transportation Management Center in Roseville. The law will require the department to sell its current center within three

years of completion of the new center.

The law 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.

A study of the ramp meter system in the Twin Cities highlights the policy portions of the law. The Transportation Department will perform the study at no cost to the state.

Meters will 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.

The law establishes a commission dealing with major transportation projects. The commission will hear project proposals that exceed \$5 million and have a significant role in the overall transportation system. The commission also requires environmental impact surveys be completed to help evaluate the project.

The commission will only review and comment on projects — it will not be given final approval authority. This provision takes effect July 1, 2000.

Most spending provisions are effective July 1, 2000.

Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar) sponsored the Senate version.

HF2891*/SF2678/CH479

Right-of-way accident liability

The state will have limited immunity from civil lawsuits involving recreational motor vehicle accidents that occur in a highway right-of-way, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The law will establish the state is not liable when accidents or injuries occur involving snowmobiles or other off-road recreational vehicles.

"There has to be a level of responsibility in the hands of recreational vehicle users," said Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), who sponsored the measure in the House. "Someone who uses a recreational vehicle in a prudent and responsible manner will be fine."

Recreational vehicles are supposed to drive only on the outside, or "backslope" of the ditch, not at the bottom or the side closest to the highway. The law will not affect where motor vehicles can be driven.

Statute already gives the state limited liability for accidents that occur on ice-covered roads or in state parks.

Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF3613/SF3307*/CH373

One plate for collector cars

Cars manufactured prior to 1972 and classic or model cars will only be required to have one license plate, under a law.

Effective Aug. 1, 2000, the measure will allow cars with a pioneer, classic car, collector, or street rod license to only display one plate.

If the car owner chooses to display just one plate, that plate must be located on the rear of the car, the law states.

Previously, the law allowed only certain cars manufactured prior to 1968 to display just one plate.

"This covers muscle cars made in 1971 or 1972," said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said, who sponsored the measure in the House.

The reason for the change came from constituents who believed that two plates on their street rods were not necessary, Haas said.

The new law also states that only one plate is needed for cars built prior to 1972 that are used for general transportation purposes.

"Some people do use them for driving around," Haas said. "You don't see many of these cars in the winter."

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the Senate bill.

HF2824*/SF2578/CH280

Exceptions to weight restrictions

Some heavier vehicles such as public utility or recycling trucks are exempt from spring-time road weight restrictions, under a law effective April 25, 2000.

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

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

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

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

Exempted vehicles under the new law must not exceed 20,000 pounds per axle.

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

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

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF3274/SF2785*/CH433

C. Elmer Anderson highway

A Minnesota road will be named in honor of a former governor, under a new law.

The portion of Highway 371 from Baxter to Barrows in Crow Wing County, which is known as the Brainerd bypass, will be named the C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway.

Anderson, who died in January 1998, served as Minnesota governor from 1951 to 1955. He also served as lieutenant governor for 11 non-consecutive years. When he was first elected lieutenant governor in 1938, Anderson was only 26 years old.

Anderson, a Republican and a native of Brainerd, became governor in 1951 when Gov. Luther Youngdahl resigned to accept an appointment to the federal bench. Anderson defeated Orville Freeman in 1952 but lost to the same man in 1954. (Governors served only two-year terms at the time.)

After leaving the statehouse, Anderson returned to Brainerd, where he was a businessman and, for 10 years, served as the town's mayor.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) was

quoted at Anderson's funeral as saying he was always proud of Brainerd and stayed active in the issues important to the area.

Signs designating the road must be funded from nonpublic money, according to the law, which is effective Aug. 1, 2000.

Rep. Steve Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the measure.

HF2502*/SF3207/CH279

Red Bull highway

A portion of Interstate 35 will be renamed to honor a military unit, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The stretch of freeway will be renamed the 34th Infantry (Red Bull) Division Highway. Private money must be used to purchase and place signs. The designation will extend from the Iowa border to the Twin Cities.

The Red Bull Division, comprised of National Guard members from Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota, was the first division deployed overseas during World War II, according to the Minnesota National Guard. The division was stationed in North Africa and Italy during the war.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure.

HF3156*/SF2709/CH281

Highway named after contractor

A southern Minnesota highway will be named after a noted contractor and transportation advocate, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The stretch of Highway 4 from Sleepy Eye to St. James will be named the Richard J. Mathiowetz Memorial Highway. Mathiowetz, a Sleepy Eye native, was dubbed a "legendary contractor" in the December issue of Construction Bulletin. He died Oct. 31, 1999, at age 64.

Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) sponsored the measure in the House. Swenson said that Mathiowetz regularly traveled to the Capitol seeking funding for roads and highways.

"He had been an energetic advocate for good roads and highways," Swenson said.

Mathiowetz began working at his father's construction company when he turned 18, and he was involved in contracting throughout his life. Swenson said Mathiowetz deserves to have a highway named after him due to his long-standing reputation as a contractor in the area.

Funds for the purchase and placement of signs marking the highway must come through nonpublic sources.

Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) sponsored the legislation in the Senate.

HF3142*/SF2844/CH288

VETERANS

★

Exempting rebate income

Sales tax refunds or rebates will not be considered income for residents of veterans' homes, under a new law.

The new law will clarify current law that requires residents of veterans' homes to pay for their care based on their ability to pay.

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

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

The law also will allow the governing board of the veterans' home in Hastings to use federal grant money to purchase a home to be used as transitional housing for homeless or disabled veterans.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) sponsored the measure.

HF2968/SF3139*/CH442

CONGRESS BOUND?



Rep. Betty McCollum has served four terms in the House and is leaving to pursue a seat in Congress. She won the DFL endorsement for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Bruce Vento.

Editor's note: This section includes summaries of all proposals that were vetoed in full or line-item vetoed this year.

★ **BONDING**

Four bonding vetoes overridden

The House voted to override four line-item vetoes from the \$640.3 million bonding law, which will pay for repairs to state facilities and new construction projects. Four other line-item vetoes were allowed to stand.

The Legislature had passed several major bills May 9 and recessed until the vetoes could be re-considered May 17.

The Senate also voted to override the same provisions, which means they will become law.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has had six full or line-item vetoes overridden in his first two years as governor. That is more than any other governor, according to records that date back only to 1939. An override requires 90 votes in the House and 45 votes in the Senate.

One override was a veto of a \$3 million appropriation from the state's general fund to begin construction on a new Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. The law will allow that \$3 million to be spent only if an equal amount of non-state money is contributed to the project.

In his veto message, Gov. Jesse Ventura wrote, "Projects of this nature should, at minimum, be able to demonstrate significant local and philanthropic financial commitments prior to a request for state funding."

Ventura added that additional policy discussions should take place before the state commits money for capital requests from arts organizations.

One attempt to override the veto failed on an 84-42 vote. It was later reconsidered and was passed on a 92-36 vote.

A similar line-item veto was overridden that will send \$1 million to the city of Lanesboro for a new arts center. Lanesboro is located just north of the Iowa border in southeastern Minnesota.

Another veto override was for \$135,000 to the Department of Health to fund a vehicle to promote organ donation.

"There are a variety of health-related causes that are worthy of public education but it is not the state's role to single out one cause or outreach mechanism," Ventura wrote in his veto message.

But the House voted 112-16 to override the

veto. Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) proposed the override, saying that the \$135,000 will be matched with an equal amount of nonstate money, and it will help address a serious health concern.

A fourth line-item veto that was overridden will spend \$1.5 million to pay for multicultural learning centers in St. James and Pelican Rapids. The vote was 100-26.

Rep. Bob Westfall (R-Rothsay) said the money mainly will pay for English as a second language classes and other services for recent immigrants. The center in Pelican Rapids originally was designed to provide those types of services for about 1,800 people, but the immigrant population has grown to more than 2,600 in that area, he said.

Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) added that the centers help build a sense of community and that the governor was "dead wrong in vetoing both of these provisions."

Line-item vetoes that were not overridden were \$500,000 for a Center for Agricultural Innovation in Olivia, \$100,000 for the Housing and Redevelopment Authority in Landfall to repair retaining walls, and \$150,000 for the St. Croix Valley Heritage Center.

"I believe that local or private funding is the most appropriate financing source for each of these projects," Ventura wrote.

Finally, a line-item veto cancelled \$2.7 million to build a cold weather testing

center in International Falls, which would have tested products to determine how they respond to cold temperatures. That money would have required an equal amount of nonstate matching funds.

An attempt to override the veto failed on a 59-68 vote.

Ventura also wrote that for all the projects that were vetoed, more pressing state needs could have been funded in the bonding bill.

HF4078*/SF3811/CH492

★ **BUSINESS**

Veto kills towing bill

The governor vetoed a bill that would have allowed people to claim any valuables from inside a car that has been towed and impounded.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), who sponsored the bill in the House, was not pleased by the veto.

"The towing truck companies always knew they were stretching the law on keeping personal items," Dawkins said. "I'm surprised they were able to convince the governor their livelihood depended on their need to keep baseball mitts and briefcases."

Gov. Jesse Ventura expressed concern that Dawkins' bill would have hurt the towing



Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed two bills involving towing companies this session — one that would have clarified liens against towed vehicles and another that would have allowed banks to claim money first when a vehicle was sold after it had been towed following a drunken driving arrest.

industry. He said impound lots would have been required to absorb the costs of towing and storing abandoned vehicles.

"Owners of the vehicles would bear no responsibility for the towing, storage, or disposal costs of the vehicle, but would be permitted to obtain their possessions from the vehicle," Ventura wrote in his veto message. "Those possessions may be worth more than the vehicle itself."

State law says the impound lot owners have a lien on a car it has in its possession but says nothing about personal items in the car, Dawkins said. He added that he would like to see a court rule on that statute, because he believes the court would rule against impound lot owners and towing companies.

Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF3566/SF3291*/CH388

★ CRIME

Vehicle forfeiture bill

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill that would have given banks more rights to funds generated from forfeited vehicles.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) was the House sponsor of the bill, which would have allowed banks to acquire forfeited vehicles if there is an outstanding loan or lease on the car.

"Right now, sales are done at impound lots," Entenza explained. "This bill (would have allowed) the banks to remove the vehicle from the impound lot, clean it up, and sell it at a higher value."

Under the bill, banks would have first applied proceeds to the debt they are owed by the vehicle owner. The bank then would have been required to reimburse impound lots for holding the car. Any remaining cash from the sale of forfeited vehicles would have gone into a special fund for law enforcement.

However, Ventura rejected the measure, claiming it had fiscal implications he could not accept.

"This bill does not require a financial institution to reimburse law enforcement agencies for their cost when the sale of the forfeited vehicle does not equal or exceed the loan balance," Ventura wrote in his veto message.

"Current law provides an incentive for the lien holder to get the maximum value for the forfeited vehicle because they must pay the costs incurred by law enforcement before satisfying their lien. This bill eliminates the incentive and would result in increased costs to the taxpayers."

Entenza said he was surprised by the veto.

"It was a disappointment that the Depart-

ment of Public Safety, which watched this bill for two years, waited until after it passed to register their objections," Entenza said.

Under state law, drivers are required to forfeit their vehicle only after a third drunken driving conviction.

Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the Senate version.

HF262/SF76*/CH383

★ FAMILY

No marriage license discount

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill that would have reduced the marriage license fees for couples who received at least 12 hours of premarital education.

And a failed attempt to override the veto kept the bill from becoming law. The Senate voted May 17 to override the veto, but the attempt failed to get a two-thirds majority in the House.

The bill would have raised the cost of a regular marriage license from \$70 to \$75. But for those couples who received premarital education, the marriage license fee would have been only \$25.

The bill specified that the education topics would include teaching about the seriousness of marriage, conflict management skills, and the desirability of obtaining counseling if the marriage falls into difficulty later on.

Couples would have had to obtain education from a clergy member, a person authorized by law to perform marriages, or a marriage and family therapist.

Ventura said he doesn't believe the government should have a role in marriage counseling.

"This bill is overly intrusive and increases costs for those who choose not to receive premarital counseling," Ventura wrote in his veto message. "I understand the authors' intent and share their concerns about our high divorce rate, however, I do not believe that government should intervene in a couple's marital decisions."

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) and Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel) sponsored the legislation.

HF2229/SF884*/CH397

★ GOVERNMENT

No time limit on confirmation

The first bill Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed during the 2000 Legislative Session would have limited the term of an acting or temporary commissioner of a state department.

Under state law, commissioners are

appointed by the governor, subject to the Senate's confirmation of the appointment. The bill would have limited the term of an acting or temporary commissioner to 18 months.

In his veto message, Ventura said the bill would have punished a commissioner for the Senate's failure to "fulfill its obligation to act" within the time limit.

"The confirmation of commissioners is an important role for the Senate," the governor wrote. "It is imperative to maintain a certain level of accountability and a clear expectation for all parties involved."

Ventura, who watched the Senate reject one of his appointees this year, acknowledged that there is a need for change.

"I look forward to working with the Legislature to create a comprehensive piece of legislation that addresses the concerns of both the legislative and executive branches of government on this matter," he wrote.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) and Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora) sponsored the bill.

HF118*/SF160/CH277

Regional jails, drug dogs cut

Gov. Jesse Ventura line-item vetoed \$1.78 million from the omnibus state government appropriations bill, which includes \$185 million in total spending.

Ventura singled out two provisions — \$1.75 million for construction grants at adult regional jail facilities and \$30,000 for purchasing drug detection dogs.

In his veto message, Ventura said both items should come from local funds, not state money.

The Department of Corrections would have been responsible for distributing the grants to counties for regional jails. The money would have comprised up to 30 percent of overall construction costs.

The money for dog purchases would have been distributed through the Department of Public Safety. Agencies would have been allowed to seek funding for only one drug-sniffing dog.

The remainder of the funding bill was left intact.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the omnibus legislation.

HF2699*/SF3798/CH488

★ HEALTH

Waiting period plan scuttled

Wanting to avoid what he called “government intrusion” into an individual’s private life, Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed the contentious “right-to-know” abortion bill.

The bill would have required a woman considering an abortion to wait at least 24 hours before undergoing the procedure. It also would have required that the woman be given information about risks and alternatives at least 24 hours before the procedure is scheduled.

“I have decided that it is wrong for government to assume a role in something that I always believed was between a woman, her family, her doctor and, if she chooses, her clergy,” Ventura said when he announced the veto.

Ventura said that he thought long and hard about the bill, and talked with family, friends, advisors, and the people of Minnesota before coming to his decision.

Had the governor signed the bill, a woman would have been required to receive by mail, phone, Internet, or in person information about prenatal care, child support, adoption, and other material about pregnancy and community support services prior to having an abortion.

The bill would have waived a 24-hour waiting period for cases when a woman’s life or health may be put in danger by delaying the procedure.

The decision by the governor to veto the measure drew criticism from pro-life organizations and House Republican leaders.

In a news release issued after the governor announced his veto, House Speaker Steve Sviggum called Ventura’s decision “very upsetting.”

He noted that Ventura’s staff had appeared to have worked out a compromise with House Republican leadership over the bill, prior to the announcement of the veto.

“Ironically, Gov. Ventura talks about not being your typical politician. This action looks too much like the worst of a politician: Go back on your campaign promises, don’t honor your word through a negotiated agreement, and bend to powerful special interest group pressure,” Sviggum said.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) sponsored the bill.

HF3652/SF3387*/CH412

Salary for hospital officials

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

The law says that a person employed by a political subdivision, excluding a school dis-

trict, may not exceed 95 percent of the salary of the governor.

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

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

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

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

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

HF3629/SF2385*/CH448

★ HUMAN SERVICES

Nursing center veto override

The Legislature has voted to override the veto of a bill aimed at assuring the continued operation of the Ah-Gwah-Ching center, a nursing facility in Walker.

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed the bill in early April, and the House voted to override the veto the following day. The Senate override came later, and now the measure is effective Aug. 1, 2000.

The Ah-Gwah-Ching center serves residents whose aggressive or difficult to manage behavioral needs cannot be met in their home community.

In his veto message, Ventura said that the bill was “unnecessary” because law currently exists prohibiting the commissioner of the Department of Human Services to close the facility without the Legislature’s approval.

In addition to language in the measure calling for the center to remain open, the law will clarify the admissions criteria of the facility and require that the center promote emergency admittance and geriatric rapid assessment stabilization programs.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Hackensack) and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the legislation.

HF2809*/SF2631/CH310

★ TRANSPORTATION

Right lane measure vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill that sought to have the state post signs urging drivers on the freeway to travel in the right lane whenever possible.

But a later agreement with the Department of Transportation satisfied one of the main goals of the bill’s supporters.

The final bill that emerged from conference committee was stripped of language that would have made it a crime not to stay to the right, as had been discussed. And the final bill would not have allowed law enforcement to pull over drivers for failing to follow the provision.

Drivers would have been asked, but not required, to move to the right lane after passing, under the final proposal. And the bill would have required the placement of a sign every 50 miles along freeways reminding drivers to move to the right lane after passing.

“I don’t see any reason why he would veto it,” said Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm), who sponsored the bill in the House. “I thought this would be the type of bill he would sign.”

Tomassoni said throughout the session that his goal was to obtain signs asking people to move out of the left lane, and he was not pushing for language that would have made it a petty misdemeanor to clog the left lane.

Ventura said he vetoed the bill, in part, because of concerns about Twin Cities freeways with left exits and similar problems. Later, the administration agreed to have the Transportation Department post signs asking drivers to stay right on portions of interstate outside the metro area.

Sen. Dick Day (R-Owatonna) sponsored the Senate version of the vetoed bill.

HF3091/SF2484*/CH425

Tourism centers vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura line-item vetoed a \$750,000 appropriation for the Department of Trade and Economic Development within the omnibus transportation finance bill.

The money, a grant to the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission for the Minnesota River Tourism Initiative, would have been used to plan and design travel information centers in west and central Minnesota.

“We do not believe it is cost-effective to place three new travel information centers in such close proximity, and feel that any new tourism-related appropriations would be better spent improving actual tourism destinations like trails or parks,” Ventura wrote in his veto message.

That was the only item vetoed from the \$602 million transportation funding package.

HF2891*/SF2678/CH479

An elusive compromise

A modest Profile of Learning bill finally won passage as the 2000 session came to a close

By MIKE DE LARCO

Following weeks of talks between House and Senate leadership over what to do about the controversial Profile of Learning, the Legislature passed a measure May 17 that would allow local officials to ease requirements under the show-what-you-know initiative.

The House passed the bill on an 82-44 vote. The Senate vote was 46-17.

Legislators also discarded a second proposal that would have allowed school boards the choice between the Profile and a back-to-basics alternative proposed earlier in the session called the North Star Standard.

The move to drop the North Star Standard

as an option for districts was merely the latest twist in the Profile saga this spring. Last week, talks about fine-tuning the Profile delayed House votes on four important spending bills until wee hours of the morning May 10.

A year ago, legislators failed to reach an agreement on how to improve the Profile, a companion to the state's other graduation requirement — the basic skills tests.

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 "fix-it" bill passed by the House would allow teachers and school boards to vote on a site-by-site basis on the number of Profile tasks required for graduation. If a district could not agree on a number, the state's requirement of 24 standards would apply.

This year's ninth- and tenth-graders would be excused from Profile requirements, under the bill. Educators have said this session they were worried that some students would be denied diplomas because implementation problems put completion of the Profile's content standards out of reach for some.

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) and Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) are sponsors of the bill.

The Profile bill (HF3618/SF3286*) now heads to the governor's desk. 

Reflections

The end of a legislative session always gives rise to a wellspring of mixed emotions for members and staff alike. The build up to and the final hours before closing are not unlike a high school or college graduation. Long-time compatriots may never be seen again, even though heartfelt promises are made to the contrary.

When new staff, like pages, arrive at the Capitol, they are nervous, unsuspecting, and don't know anyone. But the commonality of their work and long hours bind them together as good friends and acquaintances that make for great billiards tournaments and Karaoke competitions after work.

New lawmakers begin their service in a freshman class and develop lasting friendships as committee members, by sharing living quarters, and as House chamber seatmates for many terms. The closeness and camaraderie among them or staff members is unparalleled.

Near the end, session becomes a state of mind. It's like being in a hospital waiting room, agonizing and guessing what the outcome will be for a loved one undergoing serious surgery. Legislators may ask themselves, "Is the governor going to veto

my bill?" "Will I have time enough after the last hour of session to get to California for my wedding?" "Am I too burned out to face another election campaign?"

For lawmakers and staff alike, session reminds one of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. It begins very slowly and quietly. In the middle, things build up to a loud crescendo. And at the end, carillon bells ring and cannons roar every few seconds to close out the impressive piece.

What may start out slow and calm, ends with intense 16- to 24-hour workdays for revisors, researchers, or legislative reference librarians who spend a lot of time probing the archives for obscure information requested by writers and fact finders.

As lawmakers make tough decisions, staff members support them with a wide range of tasks. Many duties include financial revisions by fiscal analysts, fielding phone calls from constituents, printing thousands of documents, and minute-to-minute strategizing by caucus staff. All of it is intense — down to the last minute before adjournment.

This 81st Legislative Session adjourned

unlike any other. Even though opposing party leaders in the House and Senate expressed strong emotions early in the chambers, they came to a unique decision of sensitivity, while still holding those strong feelings. Their ultimate goal was to get some crucial laws passed for the well-being of the state. The lawmakers set a plan to move bills across the governor's desk without veto.

Just in case, they also saved themselves three days in the 120-day legislative period to try and override any vetoes.

After the handshakes, hugs, and the "so long for now" and "goodbyes" are said, those who remain may still experience emotional feelings.

For some, they can be as simple as loving the quiet hallways and empty elevators. A few miss noisy meetings, while others feel guilty for working only 40 hours in a week. Many long to be as far away from the capital city as possible — like Abu Dhabi, for example.

Such is the emotional roller coaster ride of being involved in a process that "gets in your blood." Somehow, the agony and exhaustion of it all always leads to a profound respect for the institution.

— LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

The end of the road

Local government issues and family call Rep. Peg Larsen back home after three terms in the House

By CHRIS VETTER

Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) can't believe time has gone by so fast. When she entered public life and ran for a Lakeland City Council seat, her youngest daughter was 2 years old. Now, that daughter, Jenna, is 16.

Larsen has decided to not seek re-election to her House seat, which she has held since 1994, to spend more time with her family. Prior to winning her legislative seat, she served eight years on the city council, including four years as the city's first female mayor.

"I really did some soul-searching," Larsen said. "I think it's time to put some normalcy in my life."

When Larsen announced her decision to leave May 17, many legislators were surprised, even though Larsen has been contemplating the move for more than a year. Larsen noted that her district endorsed her last month.

Larsen and her husband, Thomas, have four children, between the ages of 16 and 23. Two have left home; Larsen hopes to spend more time with the two still living at home.

"Fourteen years — in my mind, that's my own term limit," she said.

But it will not be easy to leave, she said.

"I have loved doing this," Larsen said. "I told my family I would stay as long as this is what I did, and did not become who I am."

Larsen said she never expected to become involved in state politics. Then, in 1994 legislators from her district approached her about running against incumbent DFLer Rep. Pamela Neary.

"I didn't know how anyone knew I was a Republican," Larsen said, noting that her city council is nonpartisan.

After two months of discussing the idea of running, Larsen decided to give it a shot.

"Win or lose, I decided it would be a positive experience," she said.

Among Larsen's top priorities was to scale back the powers of the Metropolitan Council. She sponsored several bills to abolish or rearrange the organization, which she contends has too much power for a nonelected body.

While her bills failed, Larsen argues that she won her case.

"The bill was to point out the Met Council is not accountable," she said. "I worked to make that well-known."

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove), who represents a nearby district, co-sponsored legislation to abolish the Met Council. Marko agrees that the goal of curbing its powers has been successful.

"They should be partners, not facilitators," Marko said.

When Republicans won control of the House in the November 1998 election, Larsen was named the chair of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, which she said was a big honor.

Legislators point to Larsen's efforts for bipartisan support as one of her key attributes.

"She worked very hard to develop friendships on both sides of the aisle," Marko said. "She's a true lady with a heart of gold and she's a hard

worker."

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) worked with Larsen on the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

"She doesn't look at party labels," Jennings said. "She's the kind of legislator you don't want to see go. It's difficult to replace someone of that caliber."

Rep. James Clark (R-Springfield) said Larsen was an outstanding committee chair.

"Her door is always open. She goes out of her way to address the concerns of members of the committee," Clark said.

A significant measure Larsen sponsored was

a ban on amortization passed in 1999. The law prohibits cities and counties from setting a deadline for property owners to cease operations that do not conform to zoning ordinances. The measure included an exception for when municipalities try to close strip clubs or other "adult" businesses.

Larsen and other critics said some local governments were exploiting the amortization process to force out businesses without having to pay fair market value for their land. If the local government set a deadline for a business owner to conform to a new zoning ordinance or move, potential buyers would have no incentive to purchase a property until after the deadline had passed, when the seller would have no negotiating power and the property value would plummet.

Larsen said one of the most exciting moments in her tenure was the first time one of her bills became law.

"When I found out, and I got the letter from the governor, that was exciting," Larsen said.

While Larsen is unsure what her future holds, it likely will involve managing urban growth. She helped found the Middle St. Croix Valley Planning Advisory Board, which discusses the impact growth in one area has on other areas.

Larsen, who earned a sociology degree from the University of Slippery Rock in Pennsylvania, has also worked as a special needs educational assistant.

She said she is happy with her accomplishments as she leaves the Legislature.

"I feel like I want to do something new and exciting," Larsen said. "At this time, I'm not sure what that will be." 🐼



STEPPING DOWN

Rep. Peg Larsen
Republican
District 56B – Lakeland
Terms: 3

Career notes: After getting her start on the Lakeland City Council, Larsen worked heavily on local and regional issues at the Capitol. For the past two years, she has served as chair of the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Self-imposed term limits

A leader on crime and public safety, Rep. Sherry Broecker is leaving the House after three terms to return to her interest in local issues

By CHRIS VETTER

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada) did not plan to get involved with politics, but a horrible accident drew her interest to local issues.

Broecker had witnessed a severe car accident near her former home in Vadnais Heights, where one car broadsided the vehicle in front of her own. Broecker helped remove children from the wrecked car.

That prompted her to think the intersection needed a stoplight.

"I knew I had to be proactive," she said.

She ran for the Vadnais Heights City Council. She won and served eight years beginning in 1986. Signals were soon added at the intersection.

Her work on the council led to a fight for a legislative seat. Broecker ran for the Legislature in 1994, defeating incumbent DFLer Rep. Marc Asch in a close and nasty fight. Legal battles came after the election.

Now, after six years in the Legislature, Broecker, a supporter of term limits who once promised to stay no more than six years in the House, has decided to step aside.

"It's been a huge honor to serve in the House," she said. "I've learned a lot. For my family and I, it's been a long 14 years (including service on the city council) of late-night meetings and rescheduled family events."

Broecker has enjoyed working at the Legislature, but she misses the hands-on experience of city council work.

"Down here, you lose a little bit of that close-connectiveness," she said. "It's a little more broad, and you are dealing with the whole state."

When other legislators talk about Broecker, they mention her friendship and her humor. Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) said Broecker knows how to break up a tense moment with a good joke.

"Always at the right moment, she knows how to make you laugh," Smith said. "I like her. I consider her a friend. She's an excellent chairwoman and a hard worker."

Broecker doesn't mind being thought of as a prankster. She laughs about the practical jokes she and other members have pulled on legislators. She mentioned a time when she purchased a frozen turkey and placed it on a legislator's desk during floor discussion on turkey stamps.

"If you can't have a little fun, there's no sense of being here," Broecker said.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) also has served alongside Broecker on judiciary and crime-related committees.

"She is a very good person to be around," Skoglund said. "She was always inclusive in her decisions."

Early on, Broecker was assigned to the Judiciary Finance Committee — an area that she admits she knew relatively little about in the beginning. She wanted to broaden her areas of focus, and that new focus became crime issues.

When the Republicans won control of the House in the 1998 election, Broecker was awarded the chair of that committee. She said she has tried to

include all members of her committee in the decision-making process.

"You can sell what you are doing better when you have people with you that can help sell the idea," she said.

And she doesn't hesitate when she says her favorite legislation is "Katie's Law," which passed earlier this year. The law toughens penalties for repeat sex offenders and begins funding for a law enforcement information system.

"It was almost like it was back at the local level," Broecker said. "It was a sincere, heartfelt law."



Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), chair of the House Crime Prevention Committee, said he and Broecker have developed a valued friendship while working on crime-related issues.

"She has been dedicated to serving the criminal justice community and puts her heart into helping others," said Stanek. "On behalf of police officers, firefighters, crime victims, and public safety advocates, I thank her."

Broecker sponsored disaster relief for northern suburbs hit by a tornado and a domestic abuse reduction project in Ramsey County during her tenure. She also co-sponsored failed legislation in 1997 that would have allowed tax credits for people who donated to state colleges.

She has also supported permanent tax cuts in the past two years.

After six years in the Legislature, Broecker looks forward to new opportunities.

"I just felt it was time to prioritize my life," she said. "For me, that's my family."

Broecker's mother died a few months ago. She helped care for her mom during her last few years.

In addition to her desire to focus on her family, including three sons age 19 to 25, Broecker is a believer in term limits.

"I said six years ago in my campaign brochures that I would only serve three terms, and I stand by that," she said.

Broecker is not sure what will come next. She said a lobbying position is not high on her list. She looks forward to building a new home on Forest Lake with her husband, Jerry.

"I don't know what's in store," she said. "I'll put it in the good Lord's hands and whatever will be, will be." 🙏

STEPPING DOWN

Rep. Sherry Broecker
Republican
District 53B – Little Canada
Terms: 3

Career notes: Currently the chair of the House Judiciary Finance Committee, Broecker was the sponsor of "Katie's Law," a 2000 measure crafted in the wake of the abduction of Katie Poirier from a Moose Lake convenience store. The law prescribes a variety of changes to protect the public from sex offenders.

Tracking new laws, vetoes

Exactly 3,256 bills were introduced during the 2000 Legislative Session — 1,706 by the House and 1,550 by the Senate. Of those, 250 bills (and one resolution) were passed by both bodies during the session and sent to the governor.

So what happened to the other 3,006 bills? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are dead, gone from the legislative process unless they are reintroduced next year. The biennium has ended, and bills do not carry over from one biennium to the next.

And what happened to the 250 bills that have been sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, some are awaiting the governor's action, and some were vetoed.

Here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the second year of the biennium.

Once a bill has passed both the House and the Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor has several options when considering a bill. The governor 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 at the end of the biennium, results in a pocket veto.

The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

If a bill was passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session, the bill 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.

If a bill is passed during the last three days of the 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 of adjournment or the bill will not become law. Inaction by the governor results in a "pocket veto," and 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 spending items to which he or she objects. As with all 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 — unless it is re-introduced next year.

After each session, a comprehensive summary of all bills that were signed into law or vetoed is published. You can obtain a copy of New Laws 2000 by calling or writing the House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298; (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.

Editor's note: The following chart includes the 250 bills (and one resolution) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action is as yet incomplete on 8 of the bills. The bills are, for the most part, sorted according to the committee of origin.

Here are definitions of some of the terms used in the chart.

Governor's options

- enactment

The date the governor signed the bill into law.

- line-item veto (liv)

The power or action of the governor to reject individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

- Veto

The governor did not approve the bill.

- *An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

Effective dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

- Aug. 1, 2000

Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

- July 1, 2000

An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.

- Day after enactment

The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.

- Upon local approval

A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.

- Various

Different parts of the act have different effective dates.

- with exceptions (we)

Act includes other effective dates.

- with qualifications (wq)

Act adds conditions to the effective date.

- retroactive (retro.)

Act goes into effect as of a specified date in the past.

2000 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 18, 2000)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF—House File			we—with exceptions						
SF—Senate File			wq—with qualifications						
R—Resolution			*—bill the governor signed or vetoed						
CH—Chapter			†—approved without governor's signature						
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
				Agriculture Policy					
3332*	Swenson	3120	Hanson	Dairy research and promotion council alternative term expiration dates authorized.	285	3/27			8/1
3868	Daggett	3260*	Stevens	Aquatic farm licensing requirements modified.	331	4/4			8/1
3174	Swenson	3195*	Scheevel	Dairy product adulteration penalties modified.	385	4/13			8/1
3692*	Kuisle	3443	Sams	Feedlot permit provisions modified.	435	4/24			4/25
3534*	Harder	3070	Frederickson	Agricultural contract requirements and enforcement procedures modified.	470	5/15			1/1/01
3312*	Finseth	3223	Sams	Agricultural policy provisions modified.	477	5/15			5/16 (Secs. 22, 67-74); 8/1
2797	Tunheim	2575*	Stumpf	Dislocated worker program eligibility expanded to include specified working farmers.	481	5/15			8/1
				Capital Investment					
4078*	Knoblach	3811	Berglin	Omnibus bonding bill.	492	5/15	liv♦		5/16 (Art. 1); 7/1 (Art. 2)
				Civil Law					
2749*	Holberg	2464	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	260	3/14			various dates
3232	Goodno	2692*	Hottinger	Business corporations and limited liability companies shareholder rights modified.	264	3/20			8/1
1865*	Pawlenty	2094	Anderson	Nursing mothers needs study by the Supreme Court Jury Reform Task Force required.	269	3/23			8/1
3107	Greiling	2634*	Betzold	Civil commitment relative notification provided.	316	4/3			8/1
3220	Smith	2510*	Knutson	Real property recording and common interest ownership provisions modified.	320	4/4			various dates
2803*	Smith	3119	Cohen	Court reporters allowed to organize under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.	345	4/10			8/1
3347	Gleason	2989*	Runbeck	Administrative law and workers' compensation judges conduct regulated.	355	4/10			12/31
3119	Bishop	2725*	Spear	Public defenders minors juvenile court representation restricted.	357	4/10			8/1
1267	Pawlenty	1126*	Betzold	Civil actions economic loss doctrine clarification.	358	4/11			8/1
3208	Dawkins	2723*	Betzold	Trust and probate provisions modified.	362	4/11			8/1
3517	Biernat	2742*	Foley	Expedited child support hearing notice to remove filing period modified.	372	4/13			8/1
3566	Dawkins	3291*	Pappas	Towed motor vehicles lien provisions clarified.	388		4/13		
3424	Pawlenty	3346*	Kelley, S.P.	Electronic filing of real estate documents task force established.	391	4/14			8/1
2229	Harder	884*	Dille	Reduced marriage license fee provided for couples who obtain premarital counseling.	397		4/14		
3519	Biernat	2794*	Foley	Expedited child support process provisions modified.	403	4/14			8/1
3318	Luther	3018*	Ranum	Standby and alternate custodians of children designation provided.	404	4/14			4/15
3577	Holberg	3116*	Knutson	Creditors' garnishments, executions, and levies regulated.	405	4/14			8/1
2555	Caruthers	1733*	Betzold	Civil third-party liability imposed for damages caused by intoxicated persons under age 21.	423	4/18			8/1
2563*	Storm	2381	Hottinger	Mechanics' lien civil cause of action created.	430	4/20			8/1
3311	Dawkins	3169*	Kiscaden	Parenting plans provided, parenting time procedure clarified, and terminology modified.	444	4/27			various dates
3047*	Kuisle	2944	Scheid	Title insurance mortgage release certificate language modified.	450	5/1			8/1
3997	McGuire	3300*	Cohen	Second judicial district streamlined dissolution procedure pilot project extended.	452	5/5			5/6
3345	Entenza	3016*	Knutson	Child support enforcement provisions modified.	458	5/11			8/1
47	Bishop	11*	Betzold	Domestic abuse victim civil cause of action provided.	471	5/15			8/1
2880	Skoglund	2854*	Kelly, R.C.	County attorney access to private data authorized for commitment proceeding determinations.	480	5/15			8/1
				Commerce					
2687	Wolf	2652*	Novak	Electric power generating plant siting act exemptions expanded.	289	3/28			3/29
3421*	Bakk	2779	Johnson, D.J.	Electric cooperatives' election to be regulated petition and balloting provisions modified.	292	3/28			3/29
1333	Daggett	2193*	Sams	Wood sales contracts regulated.	301	3/31			8/1
2675	Haas	2569*	Scheid	Vicarious liability insurance coverage for punitive and exemplary damages authorized.	304	3/31			4/1
2719*	Lieder	2436	Scheid	Rental automobile insurance coverage regulated.	309	4/3			8/1
2656*	Wolf	3441	Sams	Auto glass repair and replacement regulated, and rebates and incentives limited.	342	4/6			4/7 (Secs. 2, 3); 8/1 (Sec. 1)
2974	Dauids	3203*	Oliver	Insurance uniform accounting principles codification.	350	4/10			various dates
3756	Abrams	3423*	Spear	Holocaust victims insurance relief act established.	367	4/13			4/14
3109*	Entenza	3699	Wiener	Uniform electronic transactions act adopted.	371	4/13			8/1
3903	Westrom	2987*	Vickerman	Cooperative income financing and distribution provisions modified.	379	4/13			7/1/99 retro. (Sec. 1); 8/1 (Secs. 2, 3)
562	Paulsen	619*	Kleis	Collection agencies regulated.	389	4/13			8/1
3066	Seifert, J.	2783*	Knutson	Secretary of State fees and annual corporate registrations regulated.	395	4/14			various dates
3964	Wilkin	3626*	Wiener	Comprehensive Health Association eligibility and coverage modified.	398	4/14			4/15
1394	Pawlenty	1495*	Hottinger	Uniform Commercial Code secured transactions provisions adopted.	399	4/14			8/1
2731*	Dauids	2753	Novak	Motor vehicle manufacturers and distributors unfair practices regulated.	409	4/14			4/15
1947	Jennings	1618*	Solon	Brewer and wholesaler judicial remedies modified.	415	4/17			4/18
2846	Bradley	3272*	Wiener	Bleacher safety building code requirements modified.	417	4/17			8/1
2973	Dauids	2870*	Metzen	Financial institution loan charges and payments regulated.	427	4/20			various dates
2451*	Dauids	2271	Novak	Legislative Electric Energy Task Force expiration date extended.	436	4/24			4/25
3974	Paulsen	3581*	Solon	Omnibus liquor bill.	440	4/24			upon local approval

**2000 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
FINAL ACTION (as of May 18, 2000)**

HF—House File we—with exceptions liv—line item veto
SF—Senate File wq—with qualifications ♦—veto overridden by Legislature
R—Resolution *—bill the governor signed or vetoed
CH—Chapter †—approved without governor's signature

HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
2757*	Jennings	2614	Novak	Biomass power mandate regulated.	443	4/24			4/25
1748	Haas	1870*	Hottinger	Motor vehicle fuel franchises and marketing agreements regulated.	456	5/5			5/6 wq
3505*	Dauids	3092	Oliver	Commerce Department regulations provided.	483	5/15			various dates
988	Jennings	1048*	Johnson, D.H.	Public utility commissioners ex parte communication regulated.	487	5/15			8/1
				Crime Prevention					
2067*	Westerberg	2071	Ranum	Juvenile offenders modifications.	255	3/7			8/1
2774	Broecker	2485*	Wiger	Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled substance listing effective date delayed.	262	3/20			8/1
2815*	Carruthers	2386	Johnson, D.H.	Hennepin County District Court fine proceeds distribution modified.	270	3/23			7/1
3766*	Skoglund	3676	Ranum	Pawnbrokers computerized records transmission format specified.	274	3/23			3/24
3003	Stanek	3097*	Spear	Department of Corrections fugitive apprehension unit created.	291	3/28			8/1
3370	Westerberg	3330*	Neuville	Department of Corrections housekeeping bill.	299	3/28			7/1
3023	Broecker	2701*	Wiener	Lawful gambling fraud defined and criminal penalties imposed.	318	4/3			8/1
1590*	Mahoney	1952	Berg	Warrant authority of alcohol and gambling agents clarified.	325	4/4			8/1
3571	Oskopp	2828*	Wiger	Gambling regulated, specified activities prohibited, and shipment of devices regulated.	336	4/6			4/7
465	Ozment	624*	Murphy	Firefighter training and education board created.	344	4/6			8/1
2751	Stanek	3455*	Johnson, D.H.	Stolen or fraudulent checks provisions modifications.	354	4/10			8/1
3457	Holberg	2858*	Spear	Civilly committed sexual psychopaths or sexually dangerous persons transfer procedure.	359	4/11			4/12
3303	Entenza	3566*	Foley	Criminal penalty for failure to remit motor vehicle sales taxes.	366	4/13			4/14
3331*	Howes	2980	Junge	Prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault interagency task force created.	368	4/13			7/1
3950	Broecker	3154*	Ranum	Criminal and juvenile justice database access authorized for criminal defense purposes.	377	4/13			8/1
262	Entenza	76*	Foley	DWI motor vehicle forfeiture proceedings requirements modified.	383		4/13		
3075	Paulsen	2655*	Scheid	Insurance tax laws recodified.	394	4/14			various dates
3512	Anderson, B.	3108*	Lesewski	Local and state correctional facility inmate telephone access regulated.	408	4/14			8/1
3825	Smith	3338*	Johnson, D.H.	Tribal police departments annual insurance cap established.	411	4/14			4/15 (Secs. 3-7); 8/1 (Secs. 1,2)
2830*	Clark, K.	2771	Kelly, R.C.	Pimps and patrons of juvenile prostitution provided enhanced criminal penalties.	431	4/20			7/1 (Sec. 1); 8/1 (Sec. 2)
1067	Fuller	551*	Junge	Domestic abuse crime sentences and provisions modified.	437	4/24			4/25 (Sec. 1); 8/1 (Secs. 2-19)
2958	Mahoney	2830*	Wiger	Crime of escape from custody expanded.	441	4/24			7/1 (Sec. 1); 8/1 (Sec. 2)
3550	Hilty	3178*	Metzen	Commissioner of public safety rule authority continued.	445	4/26			7/1 (Sec. 2); 8/1 (Secs. 1, 3-29)
2833*	McGuire	2891	Kelly, R.C.	Specified student behavioral data disclosed to the juvenile justice system.	451	5/5			8/1
2655	Leppik	2845*	Knutson	Underage persons alcohol or tobacco purchase with false I.D. provided increased penalties.	472	5/15			8/1
2516*	Smith	3580	Kelly, R.C.	Harassment definition and provisions modified relating to restraining orders.	476	5/15			7/1
2995	Fuller	2677*	Johnson, D.H.	Driving while impaired crimes and provisions recodified and simplified.	478	5/15			various dates
				Education Policy					
76	Seagren	86*	Pogemiller	K-12 education technical changes provided.	254	3/7			various dates
3618	Ness	3286*	Pogemiller	Profile of Learning modified.	500			x	
				Environment & Natural Resources Finance					
3046*	Holsten	2950	Krentz	Wolf management provided and hunting and fishing fees modified.	463	5/15			various dates
				Environment & Natural Resources Policy					
4178	Bakk	3835*	Johnson, D.J.	Resolution to expedite the BWCAW U.S. Forest Service EIS.	Res. 5			x	
2980	Haas	2763*	Pariseau	Fishing season modified.	251	2/16			2/17
2603	Hackbarth	2346*	Krentz	Permanently disabled hunters permit privileges modified.	265	3/20			1/1/01
2505*	Leppik	2289	Robertson	Annual state park permits effective for a 12-month period.	278	3/24			8/1
3352	Gerlach	3586*	Pariseau	Lighted fishing lures authorized.	308	4/3			8/1
3596	Ozment	3369*	Ring	Special environmental purpose districts pilot projects.	321	4/4			4/5
3555	Westerberg	3283*	Runbeck	Snowmobile metal traction device sticker requirement civil enforcement provided.	324	4/4			4/5
2819	Cassell	2444*	Larson	Stearns County land conveyance authorized.	326	4/4			4/5
2940*	Workman	2735	Price	Dry cleaner environmental response and reimbursement law modified.	333	4/4			4/5
2559	Howes	2546*	Stevens	Inland water sunken logs recovery and historical artifacts ownership provided.	337	4/6			4/7
3134*	Ozment	2857	Lessard	Metro Mosquito Control Commission authority to enter specified state lands limited.	339	4/6			4/7
3510*	Holsten	3378	Lessard	Lifetime resident angling, small game hunting, firearms deer, and sporting licenses issued.	341	4/6			4/7
2761	Rostberg	3379*	Ring	Omnibus tax-forfeited land bill.	348	4/10			4/11 (Sec. 1-15, 17); 8/1 (Sec. 16)
3576*	Oskopp	3361	Higgins	Solid waste and wastewater treatment facilities reporting requirements modified.	370	4/13			4/14 (Sec. 2); 8/1 (Secs. 1, 3-5)
2807	Howes	2514*	Stevens	Yellow perch limit rulemaking authority restricted.	374	4/13			12/1 (for one year)
2613	Boudreau	2949*	Hottinger	Big Woods heritage forest established.	375	4/13			8/1
3520	Osthoff	3290*	Kelly, R.C.	Environmental response and liability agreement grants provided.	376	4/13			4/14
2888*	Peterson	2573	Berg	Canoe and boating route marking authorized on a portion of the Chippewa River.	381	4/13			8/1
1493	Ozment	83*	Stevens	Wetland regulation simplified and consolidated.	382	4/13			various dates

**2000 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
FINAL ACTION (as of May 18, 2000)**

HF—House File we—with exceptions liv—line item veto
SF—Senate File wq—with qualifications ♦—veto overridden by Legislature
R—Resolution *—bill the governor signed or vetoed
CH—Chapter †—approved without governor's signature

HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
3328	Hackbarth	2877*	Janezich	Iron Range off-highway vehicle recreation area addition in St. Louis County provided.	393	4/14			8/1
304	Tunheim	173*	Moe	Possession of wild animals taken on the Red Lake Indian Reservation authorized.	406	4/14			8/1
2889	Hackbarth	2683*	Samuelson	Bowfishing archery bows exempted from casing requirement.	428	4/20			4/21
3292	Dorman	2946*	Vickerman	Gasoline blended with the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether sale prohibited.	434	4/24			8/1
2962	Haas	3036*	Johnson, D.H.	Seizure and administrative forfeiture of firearms and abandoned property provided.	466	5/15			5/16
866	Holsten	1288*	Lessard	Game and fish provisions modified.	473	5/15			various dates
3213*	Ozment	3878	Lessard	Department of Natural Resources forestry bill.	485	5/15			various dates
2991	Swenson	3002*	Frederickson	State park additions and deletions provided.	486	5/15			8/1
3516*	McCollum	3071	Ring	Natural resources provisions modified.	495			x	
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy									
4060	McCollum	2348*	Wiger	Resolution for release of Americans held in North Korea, China, Russia and Vietnam.	Res. 4	4/3			n/a
2680	Jaros	2465*	Solon	Political party treasurers authorized to sign political contribution refund receipt forms.	263	3/20			8/1
3762	Jaros	3355*	Solon	Port authority electronic funds disbursement authorized.	272	3/23			3/24
118*	Erickson	160	Stevens	State agency commissioners acting service time limited.	277		3/24		
2836*	Rostberg	2982	Johnson, D.E.	National Guard and organized militia membership eligibility clarified.	283	3/27			8/1
3281	Boudreau	2691*	Wiener	State building energy code authority transferred to commissioner of administration.	297	3/28			7/1
3219	Oskopp	2903*	Vickerman	Omnibus gambling bill.	300	3/31			4/1
2785	Rest	2821*	Hottinger	Charitable organization annual report filing requirements modified.	302	3/31			4/1
2588	Mares	2326*	Wiger	Monarch designated as the state butterfly.	306	3/31			8/1
4076	Haake	2653*	Novak	Internet state agency grant information required and uniform application developed.	332	4/4			8/1
2822	Rhodes	2547*	Metzen	Capitol area site selected for installation of Minnesota firefighters memorial.	380	4/13			8/1
3195	Leppik	3701*	Wiener	State designer selection board membership modified.	384	4/13			8/1
2981	Bradberg	2848*	Kelley, S.P.	PELRA supervisory or confidential employees list expanded.	387	4/13			8/1
3554	Anderson, B.	3138*	Wiger	Veterans Affairs commissioner duties technical changes provided.	390	4/14			4/15 (Sec. 15); 8/1 (Secs. 1-14, 16)
3597	Mares	2795*	Metzen	State investments modified.	392	4/14			4/15
2570	Bradley	3259*	Limmer	Energy code rules to remain in effect for specified residential buildings.	407	4/13			4/14
3633*	Rhodes	3550	Terwilliger	Mighty Eighth Air Force Week designated.	414	4/14			8/1
1834	Oskopp	1699*	Price	Electronic funds transfers and credit card payments to state agencies authorized.	419	4/18			8/1
3495	Anderson, B.	2972*	Knutson	State purchases open bidding authorized.	420	4/18			8/1
3497*	Tuma	3539	Junge	State of Minnesota attorney fees recovery regulated.	439	4/24			8/1
2968	Mullery	3139*	Metzen	Veterans homes support test not to include sales tax rebates.	442	4/24			8/1
3445	Stang	3257*	Hottinger	Legislative employment provisions modified.	457	5/5			8/1
2999	Mares	2796*	Pogemiller	Public pension plan provisions modified.	461	5/15			various dates
3557*	Krinkie	2836	Price	State govt., human services, and pre-K-12 education code provisions corrected.	464	5/15			various dates
2826*	Seifert, M.	2673	Larson	Minnesota election law procedures clarified.	467	5/15			8/1
3000	Seifert, M.	3234*	Hottinger	Legislative committees authorized to formally object to rules.	469	5/15			various dates
3110*	Mares	2679	Krentz	Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission exhibition participation provision repealed.	498			x	
Health & Human Services Finance									
3064	Jaros	2776*	Solon	St. Louis County nursing home renovation approval deadline extended.	271	3/23			8/1
3652	Goodno	3387*	Samuelson	Abortion informed consent requirements modified.	412		4/14		
2699*	Goodno	3798	Samuelson	Omnibus state departments supplemental appropriations bill.	488	5/15	liv		various dates
Health & Human Services Policy									
3236*	Mulder	3236	Kiscaden	Vital record certified copy issuance provisions modified.	267	3/23			8/1
3113*	Goodno	3089	Sams	Pharmacies permitted an additional certified technician.	276	3/24			8/1
3222*	Rhodes	3117	Hottinger	Health-related licensing boards reporting requirements modified.	284	3/27			various dates
3196*	Oskopp	2978	Murphy	Nursing facility employee pension benefit costs treated as PERA contributions.	294	3/28			7/1 wq
3375	Mulder	3161*	Kiscaden	Health care purchasing alliances modified.	295	3/28			8/1
3188	Tingelstad	3253*	Sams	Special transportation services medical assistance reimbursement study required.	296	3/28			8/1
2909	Abeler	2365*	Sams	Physician assistant supervisory requirement modified.	298	3/28			8/1
2883	Howes	2579*	Hottinger	Prescription drug discounts regulated.	303	3/31			8/1
3209*	Seifert, J.	2699	Samuelson	Health care cost containment major commitment expenditure report requirements modified.	307	4/3			8/1
2809*	Howes	2631	Kinkel	Ah-Gwah-Ching nursing center admissions criteria clarified.	310		4/3 ♦		8/1
3226	Nornes	2896*	Stevens	Nursing home resident assistants authorized and survey process procedure developed.	312	4/3			4/4 (Secs. 1,2); 8/1
2994	Fuller	2748*	Lourey	Ambulance service and EMT requirements modified.	313	4/3			4/4
3212	Tingelstad	2734*	Berglin	Home care and personal care provider transportation expense reimbursement studied.	314	4/3			8/1
3048	Nornes	2868*	Stevens	New medical assistance case-mix system timelines implemented.	315	4/3			8/1
3306	Wilkin	3549*	Terwilliger	Residential hospice program requirements modified.	317	4/3			8/1 (Sec. 1)

**2000 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE
FINAL ACTION (as of May 18, 2000)**

HF—House File we—with exceptions liv—line item veto
SF—Senate File wq—with qualifications ♦—veto overridden by Legislature
R—Resolution *—bill the governor signed or vetoed
CH—Chapter †—approved without governor's signature

HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
3365	Abeler	2941*	Kiscaden	Vulnerable adult neglect and medical error provisions modified.	319	4/3			8/1
3310	Abeler	3055*	Kiscaden	Health plan contract stacking regulated and remedy provided.	322	4/4			8/2
3103	Sykora	3005*	Ranum	Human services licensing provisions modified.	327	4/4			4/5
2670*	Bradley	2566	Hottinger	Mental retardation community-based waived services modified.	330	4/4			4/5
3342	Mariani	3025*	Pappas	Foster care providers medical equipment operation competency required.	338	4/6			8/1
3122*	Abeler	2901	Berglin	MA, GA, MinnesotaCare, and health care program provisions modified.	340	4/6			various dates
3477	Mulder	2499*	Sams	Speech language pathology and audiology services medical assistance clarified.	347	4/10			8/1
2643	Luther	2767*	Samuelson	Health plan companies and third party administrators clean health or home care services claims.	349	4/10			1/1/01
2639	Ozment	2397*	Higgins	Employees bloodborne pathogens exposure reduction procedures.	351	4/10			6/10
3052	Solberg	2850*	Lessard	Itasca County medical assistance prepayment demonstration project extended.	353	4/10			8/1
947	Howes	1038*	Solon	Occupational therapist and assistant licensing requirements established.	361	4/11			4/12
3626	Mulder	3428*	Kelley, S.P.	Psychologist supervisory and disciplinary requirements modified.	363	4/11			8/1
3537	Bradley	3198*	Berglin	Nursing facilities closure plans and savings reallocation process established.	364	4/11			4/12 (Sec. 1); 8/1 (Secs. 2-4)
1326*	Abeler	1130	Berglin	Community social services limited liability provided.	369	4/13			8/1
2707	Juhnke	3348*	Johnson, D.E.	Organization sponsored potluck event requirements modified.	378	4/13			8/1
1662	Boudreau	1896*	Kiscaden	Medical assistance programs and liens modified.	400	4/14			8/1
3176	Boudreau	3410*	Berglin	Neglect definition modified.	401	4/14			various dates
2935	Larsen, P.	2363*	Sams	Dental benefit plans regulated.	410	4/14			8/1; 8/1/01 (Sec. 3, subd. 2)
1383	Wilkin	1231*	Hottinger	Optometrist licensing provisions modified.	413	4/14			8/1
2945	Sykora	2615*	Foley	Persons leaving unharmed newborns at hospital emergency rooms not prosecuted.	421	4/18			4/19
1631	Goodno	1202*	Spear	Protocol established for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.	422	4/18			8/1
2671*	Bradley	2567	Hottinger	Temp. census employee income excluded from public assistance eligibility determinations.	429	4/20			4/21
2713	Rest	2686*	Robling	Funeral acts and services regulated.	438	4/24			8/1
3629	Olson	2385*	Ourada	Public hospital employees compensation limit exemption provided.	448		5/1		
3020*	Bradley	3199	Fischbach	Long-term care provisions modified.	449	5/1			7/1 (most sections)
3839*	Goodno	2474	Kiscaden	Unlicensed complementary and alternative health care practitioners regulated.	460	5/11			various dates
3250	Greenfield	3028*	Spear	Vulnerable adult maltreatment review panel established.	465	5/15			8/1
3409*	Bradley	2841	Kiscaden	Persons with disabilities continuing care services provisions modified.	474	5/15			5/16 (Sec. 6); 8/1
3642*	Huntley	2847	Kiscaden	Medical education program funds application and distribution provisions modified.	494			x	
Higher Education Finance									
2969	Tuma	2803*	Hottinger	Certified public accountant licensing requirements modified.	346	4/10			8/1
3082	Tuma	3150*	Larson	Higher education facilities authority bonding authority increased.	386	4/13			8/1
3726	Bishop	3386*	Stumpf	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities chancellor separate salary subdivision created.	453	5/5			8/1
Jobs & Economic Development Policy									
2642*	Rhodes	2552	Kelley, S.P.	Search firms surety bonding requirements modified.	261	3/14			8/1
979*	Lindner	2059	Belanger	Landlords authorized to apportion utility payments among units.	268	3/23			8/1 we
3132*	Storm	2890	Metzen	Security deposit interest rates provided.	282	3/24			8/1
3290	Dorman	2894*	Higgins	Occupational safety and health discrimination complaint communications classified.	323	4/4			8/1
3806	Wolf	3554*	Scheevel	Nonprofit organization re-employment compensation provisions modified.	343	4/6			4/7
3584	Lindner	3354*	Novak	Manufactured homes limited dealer license requirements clarified.	352	4/10			4/11
3901*	Storm	3769	Lesewski	Housing finance agency community rehabilitation grants and loans authorized.	424	4/20			8/1
3960	Nornes	3644*	Novak	Workers' compensation benefits increased.	447	4/27			various dates
3501*	Holberg	2811	Betzold	Omnibus data classification, access, and privacy bill.	468	5/15			various dates
3057	McElroy	2893*	Hottinger	Business subsidy provisions clarified.	482	5/15			various dates
Judiciary Finance									
2688*	Broecker	2769	Ranum	Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary finance bill.	311	4/3			various dates
K-12 Education Finance									
3800*	Seagren	3559	Junge	Omnibus K-12 policy and supplemental appropriations bill.	489	5/15			various dates
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs									
2634	Anderson, I.	2411*	Lessard	Northern Itasca hospital board membership requirements modified.	252	3/1			8/1
2521	Hasskamp	2320*	Samuelson	Lake Edwards township name change.	253	3/1			upon local approval
2722*	Tunheim	2502	Stumpf	Kittson County town dissolution authority.	256	3/7			upon local compliance
2535*	Sykora	2291	Oliver	Shorewood authorized to elect city council members by wards.	257	3/13			upon local compliance
3338*	Holberg	2907	Robling	Scott County officials duties reorganized.	259	3/14			3/15
2723*	Ness	2528	Dille	McLeod County office authority extended.	266	3/23			8/1
2927*	Tuma	2685	Robling	Metropolitan Inter-County Association group insurance protection authorized.	273	3/23			3/24
2873*	Hackbarth	2516	Novak	Anoka County department head time requirements clarified.	275	3/23			upon local compliance

2000 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 18, 2000)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF—House File			we—with exceptions						
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CH—Chapter			†—approved without governor's signature						
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
3433*	Osthoff	3292	Kelly, R.C.	St. Paul Port Authority recreational facilities and purposes authority modified.	286	3/27			upon local compliance
3016	Stang	2756*	Fischbach	Hospital districts annexation authority expanded.	290	3/28			8/1
3399	Sykora	3145*	Oliver	Minnetonka qualified newspaper designation priority variance.	305	3/31			4/1
3152	Kuisle	2905*	Kelley, S.P.	Local government units purchase provisions modified.	328	4/4			8/1
3169*	Gerlach	3167	Pariseau	Dakota County personnel board of appeals provisions modified.	329	4/4			upon local compliance
3327	Broecker	2676*	Wiger	Local government authorization to petition to amend or repeal rules sunset modified.	335	4/6			8/1
3795	Kuisle	3478*	Kiscaden	Rochester firefighter probationary period rules modified.	356	4/10			upon local approval
3202	Wilkin	2789*	Belanger	Coroner compensation provisions clarified.	360	4/11			4/12
3260	Olson	2968*	Ourada	Lake improvement district provisions modified.	396	4/14			various dates
3263	Swapinski	3082*	Solon	Duluth Human Rights Commission additional powers authorized.	402	4/14			upon local approval
2791	Abrams	2471*	Higgins	Hennepin County Human Resources Board and department provisions modified.	416	4/17			8/1
3786	Anderson, B.	2456*	Ourada	Wright County ditch conveyance to St. Michael and Albertville authorized.	432	4/24			upon local approval
3586	Larsen, P.	2951*	Vickerman	Alternative dispute resolution process use clarified.	446	4/26			8/1
3378	Tomassoni	2570*	Janezich	St. Louis County unclassified service position authorized number increased.	454	5/5			8/1
2673	Rest	2521*	Vickerman	Political subdivision corporation creation standards established.	455	5/5			upon local compliance
2489*	Skoglund	3093	Higgins	Political subdivisions authorized to require registration of impounded bicycles upon sale.	462	5/15			8/1
3229*	Abrams	2986	Higgins	Hennepin County obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card provided.	475	5/15			5/16
2591*	Anderson, I.	2415	Lessard	Minnesota-Ontario legislative commission established.	484	5/15			various dates wq
849*	Haake	751	Novak	Minor use metro airports expansion and upgrade authority modified.	491	5/15			8/1
				Rules & Legislative Administration					
4143	Seifert, J.	3819*	Knutson	Revisor's bill.	499			x	
				Taxes					
3039	Daggett	2554*	Sams	Wadena County truth in taxation process advertisement requirement penalty exemption.	258	3/13			upon local approval
3234	Abrams	3091*	Murphy	Sales and use tax law recodified.	418	4/18			various dates
4090	Abrams	3730*	Pogemiller	Public finance provisions modified.	493			x	
3024	Abrams	2693*	Belanger	Tax and revenue recapture provisions corrected.	496			x	
				Transportation Policy					
2502*	Wenzel	3207	Samuelson	C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway designated.	279	3/24			8/1
2824*	Haas	2578	Betzold	Collector motor vehicles license plate option.	280	3/24			8/1
3156*	Workman	2709	Murphy	I-35 designation as 34th Infantry (Red Bull) Division Highway.	281	3/24			8/1
3475	Anderson, B.	2813*	Betzold	State vehicle identification requirements modified.	287	3/27			8/1
3142*	Swenson	2844	Frederickson	Trunk Highway No. 4 designated as Richard J. Mathiowetz Memorial Highway.	288	3/28			8/1
3053*	Workman	2508	Murphy	Collector vehicles authorized to display a blue light as part of rear brakes.	293	3/28			3/29
2936	Workman	2511*	Vickerman	Public and private property entry authorized for examinations and surveys.	334	4/4			8/1
3613	Holberg	3307*	Ranum	Recreational vehicles personal injury claims.	373	4/13			8/1
3091	Tomassoni	2484*	Day	Motor vehicles required to be driven in the right-hand lane clarified.	425		4/20		
2953	Workman	3023*	Kleis	Vehicle registration and titling provisions modified.	426	4/20			various dates
3274	Workman	2785*	Murphy	Utility-owned vehicles exempted from specified weight restrictions.	433	4/24			4/25 (repealed 6/1/03)
3688	Molnau	2956*	Kiscaden	Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact adopted.	459	5/11			8/1
2891*	Molnau	2678	Johnson, D.E.	Omnibus transportation finance bill.	479	5/15	liv		7/1
672	Kuisle	702*	Vickerman	Real property plats county review and approval clarified.	497			x	
				Ways & Means					
3952	Ozment	3533*	Kelly, R.C.	Claims against the state payments provided.	365	4/11			4/12
4127*	Abrams	2657	Johnson, D.J.	Omnibus tax bill.	490	5/15			various dates

Wednesday, May 17

HF4178—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

BWCAW; President and the President's Council on Environmental Quality memorialized to expedite the reduction of fuel loading within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

HF4179—Olson (R)

Education Policy

Local control of public education provided and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF4180—Reuter (Ind.)

Education Policy

State test of the basic requirement for written composition destroyed, student responses exempted from mandatory reporting requirements, and future test prompts limited.

HF4181—Kahn (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Minnesota prescription drug fair pricing act adopted, fair drug pricing board established, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.



State marriage counselor

Wisconsin takes unusual approach to reducing divorce rate

Gov. Jesse Ventura recently vetoed a measure that promised couples a discount on their marriage license for obtaining pre-marital counseling, and a bill creating covenant marriages has stalled in committee.

In general, it's not been easy going for bills that aim to reduce divorces and shore up the institution of marriage.

But our neighbors to the east in Wisconsin now have a state marriage counselor with funds allocated in 1999.

One paragraph in the 750-page budget bill passed by the Wisconsin Legislature authorizes one full-time position as part of the "Community Marriage Policy Project."

The state marriage counselor will coordinate and assist communities in developing standards for marriages solemnized in Wisconsin by members of the clergy. The state official will team with local clergy members to develop those standards.

The state also appropriated \$105,000 for the project through 2001, and \$60,000 per year afterward. It is set to be repealed in October 2003.

The measure, which received the support of a national group called Marriage Savers, was sponsored by Rep. Scott Jensen, speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Marriage Savers advocates that couples receive a certain amount of pre-marital counseling and suggests that couples wait at least four to six months after engagement before being married. The group also suggests that a mentor relationship be established between couples married for many years and those just starting out.

Overall, the group claims that divorce rates continue to climb at alarming rates and says communities need to take an active role in preventing divorce because of the societal and economical costs associated with it.

(Divorce rates in Wisconsin have, in fact, dropped over the past 10 years, according to that state's Department of Health. The divorce rate in 1998 was 3.3 per 1,000 people, compared to 3.5 nationally. It peaked at 3.7 in 1992, the same year the U.S. divorce rate was 4.8.)

Critics of the program say it comes too close to the line separating church and state.

The Marriage Savers Web site says that 119 cities in 37 states and Canada have adopted community marriage policies as of January 2000.

(M.KIBIGER)

How a Bill Becomes

Idea

1 A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

Legal form

2 The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor's office is responsible for assuring that the proposal's form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

Authors

3 Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill's file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to 34 co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

General Register

7 In the House, the General Register serves as a parking lot where bills await action by the full body. Bills chosen to appear on the Calendar for the Day or the Fiscal Calendar are drawn from the General Register.

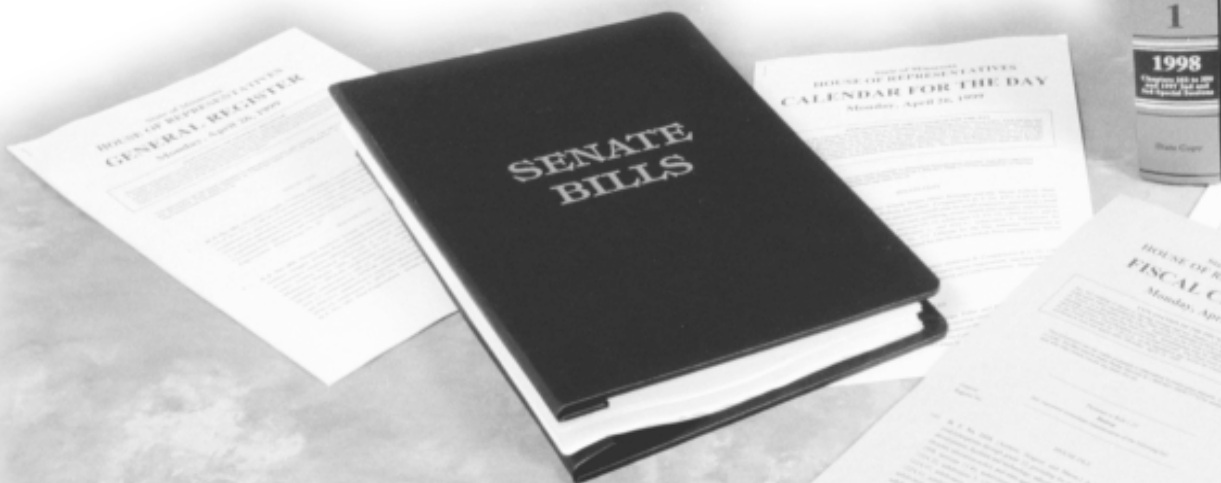
In the Senate, a different procedure is used. Bills are listed on the General Orders agenda. Senate members, acting as the "committee of the whole," have a chance to debate the issue and offer amendments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

Calendar for the Day

8 In the House, the Calendar for the Day is a list of bills the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee has designated for the full House to vote on. Members can vote to amend the bill, and after amendments are dispensed with, the bill is given its *third reading* before the vote of the full body is taken. The House also has a Fiscal Calendar, on which the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee or House Taxes Committee can call up for consideration any tax or finance bill that has had a second reading. The bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

In the Senate, bills approved by the "committee of the whole" are placed on the Calendar. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*, after which time the bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Toward the end of the session, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration designates bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.



a Law in Minnesota

Introduction

4 The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

Conference

9 If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

Committee

5 The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

Floor

10 The conference committee's compromise bill then goes back to the House and the Senate for another vote. If both bodies pass the bill in this form, it is sent to the governor for his or her approval or disapproval. (If one or both bodies reject the report, it goes back to the conference committee for further consideration.)

Floor

6 After the full House or Senate accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading* and is placed on the House agenda called the General Register or the Senate agenda called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that non-controversial bills bypass the General Register or General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar, where bills usually pass without debate.) After this point, House and Senate procedures differ slightly.

Governor

11 Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor's veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may "line-item veto" parts of a money bill, or "pocket veto" a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment.



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

I N D E X

2000 Legislative Session

House files introduced during the 2000 session	1,706
Total for biennium	4,181
Senate files introduced during the 2000 session	1,550
Total for biennium	3,835
Total number of bills introduced, 1999-2000	8,016
In 1997-98	7,309
Two-year sessions in which more bills have been introduced	0
Bills sent to the governor in 2000	250
In 1998	157
Two-year total of bills sent to the governor, 1999-2000	500
In 1997-98	408
Bills that became law, 1999-2000 (as of May 18)	480
Number filed without the governor's signature	4
Number still pending governor's action	8
Bills that became law, 1997-98	439
Resolutions adopted by the 2000 Legislature	2
Number of full vetoes of bills by Gov. Jesse Ventura in 2000 (as of May 18)	8
Total full vetoes for the biennium	14
Number of additional bills with line-item vetoes in 2000 (as of May 18)	3
Total bills with line-item vetoes for the biennium	15
Vetoes — line-item and full — overridden by the Legislature in 2000	5
Number of veto overrides in the biennium	6
Total number of veto overrides, 1939 to 1998	4
Number of pages in the 2000 omnibus tax bill	247
In 1999	435
In 1998	334
Maximum number of legislative days the lawmakers can meet in regular session during a biennium	120
Number used in 1999-2000	118
Number used in 1997-98	109
Number used in 1995-96	113
Legislative days used in 2000	51
In 1999	67
In 1998	46
In 1997	63
Time Legislature will convene Jan. 3, 2001	12 noon

Sources: Chief Clerk's Office; House Public Information Office; Senate Information Office; Legislative Reference Library.

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
(651) 296-6646

For an up-to-date recorded message giving committee meeting times and agendas, call:
Committee Hotline
(651) 296-9283

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<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>

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To ask questions or leave messages, call:
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