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# SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FEBRUARY 11, 2000  
VOLUME 17, NUMBER 2



In this issue:

100 YEARS OF POLITICS

HATE CRIMES, FELONY DWI, AND MORE

HF2742-HF3301

# Session Weekly

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

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

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



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**On the cover:** Gov. Jesse Ventura testifies Feb. 7 in front of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in support of a unicameral legislature.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank



# Doctoring a drug program

A plan advancing at the Capitol would help more people to pay for prescription drugs that they need to survive

By MIKE DELARCO

**M**innetonka resident Joann Grove, diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 20 years ago and unable to work for the past 10 years, simply cannot pay for all nine medications she has been prescribed.

"I have been prescribed Nuerontin, which helps dull some of the sharp pain that I feel in the side of my head because of the MS," she explained in testimony submitted to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee. "I do not take this drug as prescribed because I can't afford the \$37 per month co-pay."

Grove would benefit from a plan to make the state's current senior prescription drug program available to more people, including disabled Minnesotans on Medicare.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), was approved Feb. 8 by the committee.

Abeler's bill would expand eligibility for the senior drug program by removing the age limit for recipients, doubling the limit on financial assets, and increasing the income limit to 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The measure also proposes to change the name of the state's senior drug program to simply the "prescription drug program."

The existing program, which began in January 1999, has seen enrollment far short of projections. A significant portion of the money allocated to the program remains unspent, according to the Department of Human Services. That has opened the door for proposals to expand eligibility.

Abeler said his bill (HF1769) would provide the opportunity to receive aid to many more people in serious need.

Members of the committee heard about how many seniors and people with disabilities who do not currently qualify are being overwhelmed by prescriptions costs.

"We believe there are a lot of seniors, and even non-seniors in a traditional sense, that could be helped by this program, enabling them to per-

haps avoid financial disaster to themselves and the state," said Dean Fenner, chair of the legislative committee for the State Board on Aging.

Medicare, a federal program that provides health coverage for seniors and people with severe disabilities, does not cover prescription drugs. The state program was created to try to fill that void.

Under the terms of Abeler's bill, Medicare enrollees, regardless of age, would be eligible for the state's drug program. That means disabled people on Medicare who are under the age of 65 could take part in the program.

The bill also would double the asset limit allowable for program eligibility to \$8,000 for an individual and \$12,000 for a married couple or family of two. The law allows an individual or family to have a home and one car without it being counted toward the asset limit.

The bill would set a sliding enrollment fee for individuals a certain percentage above the federal poverty level.

Currently, only people whose income is up to 120 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are

eligible. Under the bill, a sliding fee would be assessed for people whose income is between 120 percent and 300 percent of the guidelines. (Poverty guidelines vary based on the size of a household and income levels. The 1999 poverty level for a single person is \$8,240.)

Abeler's bill comes at a time when public outcry over the high prices for senior prescription drugs is significant. In recent months, several local and national media reports have told of seniors traveling to countries such as Canada and Mexico to purchase drugs at a cheaper rate than they would have to pay in the United States.

Abeler said something needs to be done so seniors in Minnesota can afford to pay for prescriptions and still have money left over for living expenses.

Lawmakers in Minnesota are not alone in grappling with concerns about how to help seniors pay for prescription drugs. President Clinton, the U.S. Congress, and most state legislatures are attempting to tackle the problem as well.

Prescription drug plans now place among the top five priorities in more states than ever before, according to analysts with the National Conference of State Legislatures' Health Care



Bebe Rahman, right, of South Metro Human Services in St. Paul, testifies on behalf of Beatrice Anderson, who is mentally disabled, about the difficulty and costs of keeping her client on the medications she needs each day. A bill under consideration this year would include physically and mentally disabled people in a program that helps senior citizens pay for drugs.

Program in Denver.

So far, 29 states have senior pharmaceutical assistance programs on their legislative agendas for 2000, according to the organization's research. Sixteen states currently have



## Just in case

### State prepared response to nuclear attack

programs to assist low-income seniors in paying for prescription drugs. Four of those states — North Carolina, Nevada, Delaware, and Maine — either expanded or adopted their subsidy programs last year.

Drug assistance plans on state legislative agendas this year mostly fall under three categories: bulk-purchasing arrangements, direct price controls, and subsidies.

Two other states join Minnesota in having current plans moving through the Legislature. Last week, the Kentucky House considered a bill to create such a plan. In the Virginia Assembly, Democrats have also proposed subsidizing drugs for the elderly.

Amid the abundance of plans to aid seniors in purchasing prescription drugs remains the question: Are 50 state plans better than one federal solution? According to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), it's not an either-or situation. The organization says both levels of government must work together to ensure adequate coverage for seniors.

Several groups that represent retired people and elderly Americans testified at the Feb. 8 hearing.

"There's the idea that the programs in the states diminish the need for federal Medicare benefits," said Cheryl Matheis, director of state legislation for the AARP. "Programs in the states aren't going to be able to do the kinds of things that Medicare can do."

Jeff Trehwitt, spokesman for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said his trade group would prefer a solution at the national level rather than on a state-by-state basis.


"Doing business is difficult enough. If you've got 50 different laws, you've got a potential nightmare," Trehwitt said.

Many state legislatures disagree, however, and, like Minnesota, are active in creating solutions on their own instead of waiting for Congress to act.

Doug Davis, spokesperson for the Minnesota chapter of AARP, said data collected by the agency shows that three out of five seniors in the state need to buy prescription drugs and that drugs can cost seniors an average of about \$300 a month.

"We strongly support this bill and are very pleased that it proposes to raise the asset limit to allow more seniors to become eligible," Davis said.

Abeler's bill received the approval of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and was referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), chair of the finance panel, said his committee might not be able to support all measures called for in the bill, given the financial constraints placed upon the committee in a non-budget year. 

If the Cold War had erupted into a nuclear battle, Minnesota's governor would not have been at a loss for words. His response had been carefully scripted in advance.

A 1971 report prepared by the Civil Defense Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety included step-by-step instructions for the governor and other top state officials.

Scripts for emergency proclamations by the governor also were drafted and incorporated into the report.

The first such message began, "This is Gov. Wendell Anderson of Minnesota. I have announcements of the utmost gravity. Please listen carefully for the next few minutes. The information you hear may save your life and will help preserve this nation."

Those words were meant to be transmitted on the Emergency Broadcast System if diplomatic efforts had broken down during an escalating international crisis.

The roughly three-minute statement would have concluded with the following directive: "To all citizens, I appeal again. Prepare to take shelter. Listen to your radio. Follow the instructions of your civil defense authorities so you and your neighbors may survive this emergency."

The announcement to be made next, if a nuclear battle was under way, was brief and blunt.

"This is Gov. Wendell Anderson of Minnesota. You have just heard the attack warning signals that you [should] immediately take shelter from the threat of enemy attack," the script began. "Under the Minnesota Constitution and state laws, I now officially declare a state of civil defense emergency in Minnesota."

The scripts were just a part of a 33-page document called the *Governor's Manual for Civil Defense Emergencies*. The plan now reads like a relic from a different time.

The end of the Cold War has helped fears of nuclear war to fade from the forefront of the public's consciousness, but in the early 1970s, the threat of such violence seemed very real and urgent.

The report laid out three "readiness

conditions" — or levels of threat — and prescribed the appropriate responses at each level.

At the final step, when "hostile action" was imminent or already occurring on this continent, things would have gotten very serious in the governor's office.

The first thing the governor was advised to do at such a time was to move to an "Emergency Operating Center," where he could then oversee the state's response to the crisis.

Eight operating centers were listed in the document. The primary one was to be located in the sub-basement of the Capitol, but at the time the report was issued, no such facilities existed in the building. An alternate Capitol complex location — in the Transportation Building — was listed. Other designated centers were scattered around the state, in case the governor was traveling when trouble arose.

Instructions in the report called for the governor to immediately issue notice of a special session of the Legislature, if lawmakers were not in session at the time. The special session would have convened within 30 days, presumably as soon as it was safe and otherwise feasible, according to the document.

The report also included the line of succession to the governor's office. The list was eight people deep — from the lieutenant governor to the president of the Senate and on down — to assure that everyone would know who was next in line.

And the governor's office wasn't the only one to receive such treatment. The report also listed the line of succession for the director of the Civil Defense Division, the chief of the Highway Patrol, and other officials in similarly important positions.

Little attention was paid to the rank-and-file of the governor's staff. Their instructions were short and to the point.

If a crisis developed, they would have been required to secure all documents of "major consequence." Then they would have been told to fend for themselves, according to their "personal or family survival plans."

## ★ AGRICULTURE

**Feedlot fines forgiven**

Feedlot operators issued fines by counties for environmental violations would receive a break if violators use a large portion of the fine to correct the problem, under a bill approved Feb. 9 by the House Agriculture Policy Committee.

The bill (HF2798), sponsored by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), would require that 75 percent of a penalty imposed on a feedlot be forgiven if the operator of the lot puts the money toward work to mitigate the violation or for other environmental improvements.

The bill would especially help operators of small feedlots who happen upon bad luck, Ness explained.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) expressed concern that under the bill repeat offenders would continue receiving breaks as long as they could demonstrate money was being used in some fashion for environmental improvements.

"I worry that we'd be encouraging lot operators to allow violations to occur again and again if they're able to continue to avoid stiff penalties simply by making improvements to the lot," Winter said.

Ness said it would be feasible to amend the bill later to make certain that repeat violators pay the full amount of the penalty.

The bill now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee for review.

**A hold on feedlot rules**

A bill that would temporarily halt the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's proposed changes to the state's animal feedlot rules

received the approval of the House Agriculture Policy Committee on Feb. 9.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Westfall (R-Rothsay), would mandate that the agency's new feedlot rules could not be implemented or enforced before July 1, 2001. Doing so would allow legislators more time to speak with lot operators and address concerns that many farmers in rural Minnesota already have about the proposed changes, Westfall said.

Roger Gilland, a beef producer in southern Minnesota, said he feels it's unfair that feedlots keep getting the blame in cases of water pollution. Often, he said, it's wildlife or outside sources that pollute area rivers and streams.

Gilland proposed eliminating feedlot permit fees for large lots and stated "more rules don't necessarily mean more environmental protection."

Westfall said delaying changes to feedlot rules is necessary.

"I find, and many others find, the proposed rule changes to be controversial, hard to read and difficult to understand," he said.

But Gary Pulford, feedlot manager for the Pollution Control Agency, said a revision of the rules has been a long time coming. Current state rules governing feedlots are 20 years old, he said.

"A lot of work has been done within the agency over the past 10 months to get the rules to the point where they are now," said Pulford.

The bill now moves to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee for consideration.

## ★ CONSUMERS

**Alcohol by air mail**

Whether Minnesotans should be allowed to have alcohol shipped directly to their homes was discussed at a Feb. 8 hearing of the House Commerce Committee's Liquor Subcommittee.

Under current law, it is illegal to have beer and liquor shipped directly to your house.

There is an exemption to the ban, in what's known as the "wine reciprocity law," allowing a person to receive up to two cases of wine from a winery per year. This exemption was put into place to allow people to order wine from wineries that don't sell their products via retail outlets.

The state has a three-tiered system separating manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing of alcoholic beverages that was established after Prohibition. At the time, officials thought that integrating the three tiers would lead to aggressive promotion of alcohol, which in turn would lead to excessive consumption.

Jim Farrell, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association and the Minnesota Wine and Spirits Wholesale Association, said that because alcohol can be a dangerous substance, the state shouldn't change the direct shipments laws making alcohol more available for young people to obtain.

"It's a public safety issue," Farrell said. "Why make it easy to purchase beer and spirits?"

Farrell said that the one-on-one interaction with a clerk while purchasing alcohol is important to keep people under 21 from drinking. He said the state needs to collect more data to stay ahead of the increasing impact the Internet has on our economy.

Russell Turner, a biomedical researcher, said because youth prefer instant gratification, relaxing direct shipment laws is unlikely to have a significant impact on underage drinking in the state.

## ★ CRIME

**Felony penalty for multiple DWI**

Stiffer drunken driving laws could have prevented David Rossini from ultimately killing another person behind the wheel.

"It was not enough for me to lose my license," Rossini of St. Paul told the House Crime Prevention Committee on Feb. 10. "I drove anyway."

Rossini testified in favor of a bill (HF2745) that would make a person's fourth DWI conviction in a 10-year span a felony.

The committee approved the bill. It now goes to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Fines, even jail time, did not stop Rossini from drinking and driving. He said he had his first DWI in 1979, followed by another in 1989. But the third offense landed him in jail. That came in 1993, when he was driving drunk when he killed another person.

"By the time someone has repeat DWIs like I did, it is clear the person has a problem," Rossini said. "I never said, 'Tonight, I'm going to kill someone with my truck.'"

Drunken driving laws are not working, says Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), bill sponsor



**David Rossini, who has been convicted three times of DWI, testifies for a bill that would make a fourth conviction within 10 years a felony. Rossini's last conviction in 1993 came after a crash that resulted in the death of another person. Rossini's testimony came Feb. 10 before the Crime Prevention Committee.**

and committee chair. Repeat offenders continue to amass DWI convictions, but never receive more than a gross misdemeanor conviction.

The bill would provide a mandatory sentence of five to seven years in prison, but a judge could reduce the sentence to six months in jail or in the workhouse, coupled with intensive supervision, including alcohol monitoring. If the offender then violates the provisions of the reduced sentence, he or she would go to prison.

Stanek, a Minneapolis police officer, says Minnesota must join the other 35 states that have felony-level offenses for drunken driving.

Minnesota has "revolving door defendants" who are unaffected by the current consequences of drunken driving, Stanek contends, which is why the stronger penalties are desired.

Another law change would alter the DWI forfeiture provision, allowing officers to seize a vehicle not owned by the violator if the vehicle's owner knew that the person did not have a license.

Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar said there are 102 people in that county with 10 or more drunken driving violations.

"We want them to know, 'Keep this up and you will go to prison.' That message is not out there now," Klobuchar said.

Stanek did not estimate the bill's cost to the

state or counties, who would pay for most of the treatment and probation services.

### **Easing up on clerks**

A proposal to reduce the criminal penalty for selling tobacco to minors approved Feb. 4 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

The bill (HF545), sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would make selling tobacco to minors a misdemeanor rather than a gross misdemeanor.

The maximum penalty for a gross misdemeanor is up to a year imprisonment and \$3,000 fine. The maximum sentence for a misdemeanor is 90 days imprisonment and a \$700 fine.

"It just seems to me that the gross misdemeanor is overstepping the bounds," Solberg said. "It's over-punishment for a mistake."

The bill would do nothing to change the law prohibiting people under 18 from purchasing tobacco and tobacco-related devices, such as pipes or tobacco papers.

The proposal comes from constituents who are worried about the penalty leaving a scar on their record, Solberg said. The bill does not come from the tobacco industry, he added.

Rep. Peg Larsen (R-Lakeland) agreed that the gross misdemeanor penalty, originally passed in 1989, is too harsh.

"We really did overdo this punishment," she said.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) questioned the measure, asking Solberg if reducing the penalty would give teens easier access to tobacco. McGuire suggested the committee adopt an enhanced penalty for repeat offenders, but she did not propose a formal amendment so committee members never voted on her proposal.

Solberg favored the enhanced penalty that McGuire suggested.

"If someone is doing it three or four times, it's probably not inadvertent," he said.

Larsen said stores are doing a better job of watching for minors.

"I don't think (this bill) takes away from the emphasis on retailers or clerks," Larsen said.

McGuire said it was not her intention to stop the bill from moving forward.

"I do know mistakes happen," McGuire said. "We want the penalty to fit the crime."

The bill now moves to the House floor.

### **New penalty for supplying alcohol**

Supplying alcohol to people under age 21 should be allowed to be a cause of civil action as well as criminal penalties, said Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center).

Carruthers is sponsoring a bill (HF2555)

that would give people who were injured in any way by an underage drinker the option to sue the people who supplied the alcohol to that offender.

"There has just been huge problems with parents having parties and serving alcohol to people under 21, then the kids cause serious problems later," Carruthers told the House Civil Law Committee on Feb. 9.

The bill would pertain to people who do not have liquor licenses, so it would cover events like house parties. The bill would require the host to make reasonable inquiries into the age of any guests where alcohol is available.

The legislation would still allow parents to serve their under-age children under 21 alcohol in the confines of their own homes. But if the underage child is allowed to leave the home in an intoxicated state, that could be a cause of legal action.

Carruthers said he does not subscribe to the notion that it is better to have children drink at home rather than out with friends. However, Carruthers said many adults do share alcohol with their children, especially during religious activities.

Several committee members said they liked the bill, but questioned some of its language. For instance, Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) wondered about the phrase "providing alcohol" and wondered if that could be misconstrued as merely having alcohol in the house.

Tom Brockway of St. Paul, whose son was killed in a New Year's Eve car crash in 1997, said the bill is needed. The accident occurred after the boy left a party where alcohol had been furnished by parents.

"A civil liability law . . . is certainly appropriate. It would couple well with the criminal liability," Brockway said. "If there's civil liability, it's not going to make anyone rich, but it will be one more thing to add as a deterrent."

The committee decided to lay the bill over until Feb. 16.

### **Restraining order bill advances**

A bill that would eliminate filing fee waivers for restraining orders and give judges more discretion in which cases they hear narrowly passed the House Crime Prevention Committee on Feb. 8.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) is sponsoring the bill (HF2516), which he said is advocated by many judges in the state.

Currently, low-income people can file a restraining order and have the \$120 fee waived. The bill would do away with such waivers.

The committee approved the bill after denying an amendment that would have retained the fee waiver.

"I'm shocked judges are complaining about workload," said Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) after the amendment failed. "It's like charging a fee for calling 911."

Sue Dosal, state court administrator, said there are too many people abusing the system. The state began tracking restraining order filings in 1992, when 4,800 were filed. The filing fee waiver was created in 1995. Last year, 8,800 retaining orders were filed.

Judge Gregg Johnson, who serves on the district court in Ramsey County, said he does not want to close the door on worthy filings, but he listed some examples of frivolous restraining order cases, such as one that was based on name-calling.

"When I'm spending half a day settling a case like that, it means a more serious case ... can't get on the docket," Johnson said.

The court spends a great deal of money in subpoenas and the time of a judge and staff on these unnecessary filings, he added.

Skoglund and Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) questioned the statements about frivolous cases.

"I don't take these as trivial," Skoglund said. "I don't take these examples as next to nothing."

"I think we're doing victims a disservice," Paymar added.

Paymar argued that proposed language stating judges would not be required to hold a hearing when a matter has no merit would free up judges' time. The fee waiver could remain in the law, he said.

Smith said his bill would affect only cases involving someone being stalked or harassed by a stranger and would not include restraining orders filed in domestic abuse cases.

The bill also would expand the definition of harassment to include a single incident that has a "significant adverse effect" on the victim. The current law requires repeated offenses.

The bill now heads to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

### Police seek training facilities

Several proposals to fund regional training centers for law enforcement and fire personnel were considered Feb. 8 by the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

The committee plans to make recommendations on the proposals and pass them along to the House Capital Investment Committee as part of the judiciary bonding bill.

Bonding requests for four training facilities were submitted, but Gov. Jesse Ventura did not recommend funding for any of them.

A bill (HF2885) sponsored by Rep. Rich

Stanek (R-Maple Grove) would appropriate \$3.22 million for a grant for the training center in Maple Grove and \$3.1 million for a grant to Richfield for the south metro training center.

The Maple Grove center has been in operation for police training since 1993. The money would help fund an expansion of existing facilities to accommodate firefighter training.

Ramsey and Washington counties requested \$5 million for an east metro training center. In addition, about \$20 million was requested for a southeastern Minnesota facility in Rochester.

Several law enforcement and fire personnel from the Rochester area said the project is especially important because individual departments don't have the resources for specialized training.

"We need to beg and borrow certain business buildings to train," said Steve Denny, fire chief in Stewartville.

The Rochester, Maple Grove, and Richfield facilities would all have indoor shooting ranges and computer simulators for both police situations and pursuit training. For firefighters, each facility would have a fire tower for burn training and hazardous materials training.

The Rochester facility would also provide detention training for jail and prison staff.

The Legislature still has to determine what is considered a matching grant under the program. Stanek's bill would require municipalities to match state grants with non-state funds. The Department of Public Safety, which would oversee the grant programs, has said spending on existing facilities does not count toward the matching funds.

Hennepin County Sheriff Patrick McGowan said that if the state does not count the money the county and the city of Maple Grove have already spent, then the county will turn down any state money.

### Jail plan pitched

Several groups proposing regional jail facilities made presentations to the House Judiciary Finance Committee Feb. 10.

The committee plans to discuss all the proposals and make provisions for the ones they choose in one bill (HF2890), sponsored by Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada).

The groups submitting proposals for state bonds primarily represent smaller counties in Greater Minnesota. Gary Waller, former sheriff of St. Louis County who consulted for four of the groups, said it's important for the state to invest in regional jail facilities because state sentencing requirements contribute to the growth in jail populations over the years.

The regional jail concept merely allows for

smaller counties that have small jails or no jail the option to build a regional facility under a joint powers agreement. Officials say the regional jails cut operating and transportation costs. They also say more programs are available for inmates, because it's more cost-effective to provide them.

Scott Arneson, administrator for Aitkin County, said the central Minnesota project, involving six counties currently, would provide chemical dependency treatment, adult basic education, anger management training, sentence-to-serve, work release, and other functions that are simply too expensive on a county-by-county basis.

He also explained that the numbers of inmates the counties need to house in their facilities continue to grow beyond their capacity. And rural areas have a much more limited tax base to help pay for their growing needs.

Several projects have been proposed including cooperative efforts for central Minnesota, southeastern Minnesota, Tri-County jail in northwestern Minnesota, Ramsey County Regional Jail, south central Minnesota, and southwest Minnesota. Several rural counties and the White Earth Indian Reservation are also requesting money.

Many of the projects also include joint law enforcement facilities for county sheriff's departments and the police department for the county seat. They range in price, depending on the magnitude, from \$16 million for the central Minnesota project to \$51 million for Ramsey County.

## ★ DEVELOPMENT

### E-businesses in rural Minn.

Training businesses in Greater Minnesota to use the Internet to be more competitive in the marketplace is the goal of a bill approved Feb. 10 by the House Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee.

The bill (HF2839), sponsored by Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter), would make a one-time appropriation to Minnesota Technology Inc. for the e-Business Institute.

Jacques Koppel, president of Minnesota Technology Inc., said that the institute is a partnership between his organization and the University of Minnesota-Crookston. He said the appropriation request would be somewhere between \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million.

"Seventy-five percent of the companies in Greater Minnesota have under 20 employees," said Koppel, whose publicly funded organization assists companies in applying and developing technology. "Small companies are really at risk unless they maintain a competitive edge."



He said the institute does not provide technical training to small business management, but rather trains them to make management decisions regarding technology and how it can aid their business.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) said that because the institute plans to contract with the University of Minnesota, Crookston, to use faculty and students, the services should be provided for no charge.

"I know the University of Minnesota-Crookston has in its mission community outreach," Trimble said. "It bothers me to toss in dollars where people used to volunteer."

Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) said getting Greater Minnesota connected to and using the Internet will help communities retain their population.

But Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said he doesn't believe the Internet is always the answer.

"No one is going to buy a pipe or a wrench from a store over the Internet," he said. "What we need is people out there working who need a pipe from the hardware store."

The bill now moves to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

### Wiring Main Street businesses

The rapid development of the Internet has prompted a bill to help businesses in rural communities participate in the new economy.

The House Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee approved the bill (HF2820), sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), on Feb. 8. The measure would provide \$1 million to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for grants to promote Internet access in rural Minnesota.

The grants would go directly to communities to develop training programs. McElroy said that eventually private companies would provide the new technology to rural Minnesota but that because of the region's economy it was important to speed things up.

"The purpose of this is to get things happening a little faster than they would happen without government," McElroy said.

The bill does not specify the grants must go for any new technology, and they can be used for established technologies such as fiber optic cable, McElroy said. However, the proposal does recognize an emerging technology, called multi-point microwave distribution.

The bill specifies that the grants could only be used for capital expenditures and not on planning costs. The maximum grant

## ARTS AT THE CAPITOL



The Land of Lakes Choirboys from Elk River entertain legislators and arts advocates in the House chamber Feb. 10. The group is conducted by Francis Stockwell. The concert was part of Arts Advocacy Day activities.

for any single project would be \$250,000 or 25 percent of the eligible project costs, whichever is less. McElroy said this limit would create up to six grants from the appropriation.

He said that although \$250,000 will pay for only a fraction of the costs, the grants are meant to be catalysts, spurring activity that otherwise would not occur. He said because of the state's flat geography, Minnesota is ideal for many of the new wireless technologies and that a single tower could serve a radius of 25 miles and several communities.

The bill now moves to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

### Upgrades at Camp Knutson

The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee considered a bill Feb. 9 that would appropriate \$500,000 for Camp Knutson near Brainerd.

The bill (HF2682), sponsored by Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby), would provide money for new facilities and upgrades on existing facilities at the camp, which offers support and resources for children with disabilities and their families.

Joan Treichel, the parent of a 7-year-old deaf child, said the camp brings families together.

"It's just amazing to see families who come in scared — mostly the dads," she said. "Then they see other dads participating, and they do too."

Treichel said it is also significant for the families to see adult role models.

"Some families have never seen a deaf adult, and they wonder what is my child going to be

like? To be able to see successful deaf adults is an important thing," she said.

Rob Lane, the camp's program director, said the camp is geared towards children with a variety of different disabilities from those infected with HIV or AIDS, to those with Down syndrome, skin diseases, deafness, and autism.

The measure remains alive for possible inclusion in this year's bonding bill.

### Steel mill money considered

A bill sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) would provide \$44 million for road and infrastructure improvements in connection with a proposed steel mill in Itasca County.

The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee discussed the bill (HF2739) on Feb. 9, and it remains alive for possible inclusion in this year's bonding bill.

Solberg said \$1 million was appropriated last session for the pre-design of the proposed steel mill that will be owned and operated by the Minnesota Iron and Steel Company.

Mary Ives, an Itasca County commissioner, said the project would have a significant economic development impact in the region. She said it is estimated there would be between 1,000 and 1,200 construction jobs.

The plant would use the direct reduction process that uses natural gas to reduce the iron ore.

John Lefler, president and CEO of Minnesota Iron and Steel Company, said the mill would generate \$30 million for the state a year and create jobs that would pay about \$25 an hour.



## The nation's ergot capital

A bill sponsored by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) would forever memorialize his hometown as the nation's largest ergot processing center.

Ergot is a toxic fungus found on rye plants. Prior to World War II, the plants hallucinogenic properties were thought only to cause insanity in humans. However, during the war, ergot was used effectively as a blood clotting agent and in treating shell shock, said Dr. Roland Dille, a Dassel resident.

Dille testified Feb. 7 before the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

By 1942, Dassel processed more ergot than anywhere in the United States.

The bill (HF2727) would appropriate \$100,000 for a grant to the city of Dassel to complete the renovation and accessibility improvements for a historical society ergot museum.

The committee took no action on the bill, but will consider it among its other supplementary budget proposals this session.

## ★ EDUCATION

### New plan for writing test

An amendment offered by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) that significantly alters HF2720, a bill related to the statewide 10th grade writing test, received the approval of the House Education Policy Committee on Feb. 10.

The bill was debated on the floor of the House the first day of the legislative session, when sponsor Rep. Doug Reuter (Ind.-



Javen Swanson, a 10th-grader from Pine River-Backus High School, speaks at a meeting of the House Education Policy Committee against a bill that would require the state's written composition test to be destroyed and mandate that students be retested.

Owatonna) tried and failed to get an immediate vote on his proposal.

As introduced, Reuter's bill called for the destruction of the tests, which students took last month, and would have required students to be retested. Critics said the test question, which asked sophomores to write about something they would like to change about themselves, was inappropriate and too personal.

But because the tests have already been sent to be scored, Reuter decided not pursue that plan further.

Kielkucki's amendment calls for the tests to be scored and returned to each student, so the information won't be seen or used by anyone else.

"If we don't do this," Kielkucki responded, "teachers and any other diagnostic person is going to have an opportunity to read them."

That language would apply only to the tests administered this year.

Testifying before the committee earlier in the week, Anoka High School student Nick Peterson said he could see how some students might have been offended by the question, but he didn't want to be retested.

"I don't feel that the nature of the question is relevant to the scoring of a student's writing mechanics, and so I ask that we not be required to take the test again," Peterson said.

Kielkucki's amendment also contains language to prohibit the test question from being used again in the future.

Some members of the committee objected to the bill. Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) called the plan an act of "micro-management" and said she felt it was unnecessary, given the effort on the part of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to address the situation.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

## ★ ELECTIONS

### One teen-ager, one vote

Several high school students testified Feb. 7 before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in favor of lowering the legal voting age to 16.

The committee took no vote on the bill (HF1250), sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), which would place a constitutional amendment before voters in the November election in an effort to reduce the voting age from 18 to 16.

Proponents of the bill say most young people pay sales taxes and those that have part-time jobs pay income taxes, yet they have no representation in government because they cannot vote.



Patrick Henry High School student Vedrana Partalo, 16, left, and Roosevelt High School student Heather Day, 17, testify in front of the House Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 7 in support of a plan to lower the legal voting age to 16.

Kahn has proposed similar measures in the past, and one of the major objections she has heard is that younger people are not mature enough or responsible enough to vote for elected officials.

But Kahn said that 16- to 18-year-olds are just like adult voters of all ages.

"Some are (responsible), and some aren't," she said.

Heather Day, a 17-year-old student at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, said juniors in high school learn about American history and government, which would be the ideal time to allow people to be eligible to vote.

By teaching 16- and 17-year-olds about government at the same time they are eligible to vote, they would likely establish a pattern of voting, which would improve the voting percentage of 18- to 25-year-olds, Day said.

Kahn said another benefit would be the national attention Minnesota would receive by being the only state that allows 16-year-olds to vote for president.

"This state would be the center of discussion for all youth-related issues," she said.

## ★ ENVIRONMENT

### New authority for DNR officers

A bill that would modify the responsibilities of conservation officers in the Department of Natural Resources was approved Feb. 8 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Conservation officers have many of the same responsibilities as police officers. Both, for example, have authority to give blood-alcohol tests under the state's implied consent laws.

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

Under the bill (HF2962), sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), conservation officers' implied consent authority would be extended to include automobile drivers.

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

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

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

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

The bill now moves to the House Crime Prevention Committee.

### Wetlands plan to cut red tape

Defining "wetland" sometimes depends on whom you talk to, and various local, state, and federal agencies often disagree on how to regulate construction projects near those hard-to-define bodies of water and weeds.

A bill to clarify such confusion was approved Feb. 8 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), bill sponsor and chair of the committee, said the proposal would cut bureaucracy that asks landowners to comply with conflicting regulations and would make it clear who's in charge.

The bill is designed to allow agreements between various agencies while maintaining the standards of the state's Wetland Conservation Act and related federal programs.

Under current federal and state laws, if a road project causes a wetland to be filled, for example, a new wetland needs to be established elsewhere. But various laws don't always agree on such questions as how big the original wetland is, how big the new one has to be, and where it can legally be placed.

Those and many other variables can cause nightmares for anyone who needs to get permits from different agencies.

The bill would consolidate the regulatory process. The aim is to provide "one-stop shopping" for citizens with wetlands concerns and to create more consistency among state and federal laws.

The Senate passed the bill during the 1999 session, but many government and environmental groups proposed revisions during the interim. Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora), Senate

## Remembering Rep. Willard Munger

Colleagues honor environmentalist as a man of integrity,  
a voice for the people, and a legislative giant

House members paused Feb. 7 to give tribute to a man who dedicated much of his life to public service, most notably to protect the quality of the state's environment and natural resources, and who will be missed because of his hard work and great wit.

Family members and friends of the late Rep. Willard Munger attended a memorial service in the House chamber. The House passed a resolution commending Munger's 43 years of service and his legacy of sponsoring legislation to protect the environment.

Munger was recalled as "Mr. Environment," and Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) challenged any state to find someone more deserving of that title. Bishop, who has served with Munger in the House since 1982, called Munger a "man of integrity" and said he was "truly a giant for a generation."

Several House members took turns reading a part of the resolution aloud. At age 87, Munger became the oldest legislator in state history, and his 43 years made him the longest-serving member of the House.

Munger "will be remembered for leaving Minnesota better than he found it," according to the resolution. His record includes the state's ban on DDT in 1969, its system of bicycle trails, the cleanup of the St. Louis River, the Wetlands Conservation Act, the Groundwater Protection Act, and the establishment of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Many of Munger's successful environmental laws were new to the nation and have since been copied by other states and by the federal government.

Munger was able to stay young despite his age, said Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), because he kept his old-fashioned ideas while adapting to changes in the world.

Jaros described Munger's work — both in and out of the Legislature — as a definition of "prayer," because anything that someone does right can be considered a prayer.

"Willard Munger's work in the Legislature and in his community has testified to that," he said. "Let's continue his legacy; let's continue his good work."

Bishop pointed to a Latin phrase in the House chamber that translates, "The voice of the people is the voice of God." Bishop urged his colleagues to use that phrase to remember Munger.

"Willard Munger heard the voice of the people, and he shared it with us, and all of Minnesota has benefited," Bishop said. "And we all will benefit for the rest of our lives."

Early in the 1999 session, Munger was diagnosed with liver cancer. He attempted to go attend daily legislative meetings while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

Suffering complications of those treatments, he was admitted to St. Mary's Hospice in Duluth July 8.

He died July 11 at the hospice. He was 88.

Munger is survived by two children, Willard Munger, Jr. of Duluth and Patricia Munger Lehr of Minnetonka, and several grandchildren.



William Bastian of Duluth performs "On Eagles Wings" as part of a tribute to the late Rep. Willard Munger during a recess of the Feb. 7 floor session. Munger died of cancer last July after serving 43 years as a member of the House of Representatives.

sponsor, recommended amending the bill to accommodate those revisions.

The committee accepted Stevens' revisions despite objections from Reps. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook) and Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls). Neither objected to the overall concept of the bill, but both raised questions about the amending process.

The bill (HF1493/SF83\*) now moves to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

### **Bond plan exceeds governor's**

A proposal to spend \$192 million on capital projects related to the environment was considered Feb. 3 by the House Capital Investment Committee.

The money would be spent on several different programs to purchase conservation easements, protect and clean up state lakes and streams, restore trees in state forests, repair buildings and other facilities in state parks, and build or upgrade wastewater systems.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's capital budget plan proposes to spend \$125 million in those areas.

The committee did not vote on the proposal (HF2651), sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), but the various programs could be included in the committee's omnibus bill.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) asked if the money would be spent on areas that would be fenced off for hunting preserves or if it would be for land that is open to the public.

"Will my kids in my district be able to go out and have a picnic on the land that our taxes helped pay for?" Trimble asked.

Ron Harnack, executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, said there have been very few complaints where the state has purchased easements and landowners have restricted access to the property.

Tuma acknowledged that the \$192 million proposal, called "Legacy 2000," is ambitious, especially in light of the governor's recommendation. But it would meet only a fraction of the actual needs in those areas, he said, and Minnesota is known for its hunting, fishing, resorts, and parks.

"The quality of our outdoor recreation areas is one of the critical elements of our economic future," Tuma said.

## **★ GOVERNMENT**

### **Final word from Y2K office**

The soon-to-be defunct Minnesota Year 2000 Project Office gave a final presentation Feb. 8 to the House State Government Finance Committee.

The office collaborated with government

agencies and private sector organizations to avoid the much-publicized danger of computer system crashes as the year changed from 1999 to 2000.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the committee, asked if the state's \$31 million contribution was necessary, or if it was "much ado about nothing."

Bev Schuft, director of the Administration Department's Technology Standards Division, said some services that the state provides probably would have been forced to stop if it hadn't been for the preparation.

Old computer systems were tested before they had a chance to crash, and many were upgraded or replaced. At-risk systems included sewer lift stations, electrical utilities, and many databases and computer networks throughout the state.

"The problems were real; we just didn't see the failures because of all the work that was done," Schuft said.

Also, the project caused each state agency or department to conduct a thorough inventory of its information technology, and it led to back-up plans being created for emergency or disaster recovery services.

The office will close March 16.

## **★ HEALTH**

### **Alternative medicine defended**

Alternative forms of health care, such as herbal medicines, could become more visible in Minnesota if lawmakers pass a bill currently under consideration.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) is sponsoring a bill that would prohibit criminal sanctions against an unlicensed practitioner for practicing medicine without a license.

The House Civil Law Committee held two meetings to listen to testimony about the proposal. The committee has planned to vote on amendments at the Feb. 14 hearing.

Boudreau said the bill (HF537) would not allow alternative health care providers to perform surgery, dispense certain drugs, or do other things reserved exclusively for medical doctors.

"This is not a professional licensing statute," Boudreau said. "They are practicing successfully in the community. So why is it illegal?"

Diane Miller, a lawyer with the Minnesota Natural Health Reform Project, said her group seeks legitimacy but not licensure.

"Practitioners want the right to practice without being thought of as criminals," Miller said.

A dozen people testified in favor of the bill, telling stories of how herbal remedies cured asthma, allergies, and Crohn's disease.

Eric Sommerman, dean of the Northwestern Academy of Homeopathy, said alternative medicines are safe.

"In our practice of over 15 years, we have safely and effectively treated people of all ages and many conditions of health," Sommerman said. "Nationwide, there has not been a single lawsuit against any practitioners for any harm that homeopathy has created."

Bob Meichers of the Minnesota Medical Association said the bill would "allow any person to hold themselves out to the public as an alternative health provider" even if they have no experience.

"This is not an issue of freedom," Meichers said. "This is an issue of protecting the public."

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), a family physician who spoke against the bill, agreed that citizens need more protection.

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) offered several amendments to the bill, including one that would require parents to take their children to see a regular licensed doctor prior to seeking alternative medicine providers. The committee has not acted on any of the amendments.

## **★ HOUSING**

### **Affordable housing needed**

In Minnesota, 5,000 to 7,000 people sleep at homeless shelters every night, but those numbers reflect less than half the total homeless population in the state, said advocate Michael Dahl.

"Each night, we are turning away 700 to 1,000 people at the shelters," Dahl told the House Family & Early Childhood Education Finance Committee on Feb. 9.

Dahl, director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, told legislators that more than half the people at homeless shelters are children, and most homeless people are working. About 16,000 Minnesotans are classified as homeless, he said.

"This points to the main problem. We don't have enough affordable housing," Dahl said.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) is sponsoring a bill (HF2678) that would provide an additional \$5.6 million for transitional housing programs in fiscal year 2001.

"Home ownership is the ultimate goal," Nornes told the committee.

Monica Nilsson of Simpson Housing Service told the committee that her organization provides beds in a basement of a church in Minneapolis. People are asked to contribute 40 percent of their paycheck in exchange for a bed. Nilsson said the church is now filled with people who are homeless but have jobs throughout the Twin Cities.

Homelessness is not just an urban problem, said Robynn Galrapp of West Central Minnesota Community Action. Galrapp said she sees many families that face homelessness in rural Minnesota.

"Permanent affordable housing is what we need," Galrapp said. "Jobs don't always provide us that."

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) objected to the system for counting homeless people. According to Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless statistics, people who do not have a permanent address and are staying with family or friends are counted as homeless. About 8,000 homeless people fall into that category.

Olson suggested the homeless organization should not include those people as homeless.

The bill has been laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bonding bill.

## ★ HUMAN SERVICES

### Program out of budget trouble

The budget deficiencies incurred by the State Services for the Blind will not be repeated, the head of the agency that oversees the program said.

Department of Economic Security Commissioner Earl Wilson told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee Feb. 7 that the program's financial difficulty was a result of several factors.

Wilson's testimony was part of a study attached to emergency funding approved by the Legislature during the 1999 session.

Last session, State Services for the Blind received \$10.9 million in state funds over the biennium, including \$370,000 in funding to cover a shortfall in the agency's budget, with a stipulation requiring the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Finance to determine why the deficiency occurred and what could be done to prevent the problem in the future.

The program provides services to the blind residents of Minnesota including vocational training, job placement assistance, and learning alternative techniques including Braille training.

Wilson said that after a period of significant increases during the 1980s, federal and state funding became essentially flat after 1992. With increasing numbers seeking services, the program failed to prioritize or reduce services offered.

To add to the difficulties, a federal one-time appropriation was added to the program's base budget and not treated as one-time resources. Therefore it looked like the program had more money than it did.

"There was no signs of malfeasance or mismanagement," Wilson said.

However, he said, program staff didn't respond quickly enough once the deficiency became apparent.

"They were living on a champagne diet with a beer budget," he said.

Wilson outlined several steps taken to prevent a future reoccurrence. Among these steps was assigning an assistant commissioner to oversee the program.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) encouraged the department to seek input from staff to correct future problems in the program.

"Every time I talk to the staff they are very reluctant to say anything for fear of retribution," Westrom said.

### Payment system fix proposed

A bill sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) aims to establish a minimum for operating cost reimbursement to address the inequities in cost-based and alternative payment systems for nursing homes.

The bill (HF2699) would create a set of operating cost per diems for the nursing home industry's 11 case-mix categories. It also would lift nursing homes currently operating

at the low end of the reimbursement scale up to the 60th percentile of all facilities in Minnesota being compensated statewide.

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee approved the bill Feb. 8 and referred it to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Increasing the minimum level of reimbursement by raising the bar is expected to help rural nursing facilities compete for patients more evenly with homes located in urban settings, officials said. The bill would allocate \$10 million for the restructuring of operating cost reimbursement levels.

Speaking on behalf of Lutheran Senior Citizens Home in Little Falls, Darrel Schwartz said he appreciated what the bill is attempting to do. Schwartz said he worries, however, that many nursing facilities would not be able to benefit from the changes to cost reimbursement as proposed by the bill.

"My only hope is that we don't get so far behind that we're not able to catch up," he said.

While supporting the bill, Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Rush City) questioned whether \$10 million would be adequate to spend.

"I can assure you that \$10 million will not completely solve the problem," said Goodno. "We will still need to look at other ways to keep nursing homes in other parts of the state competitive. However, the bill is a start to correcting the inequity in the system that's been present for quite some time."

## ★ INSURANCE

### Liability for loaners

The House Commerce Committee approved a bill Feb. 8 that would shift insurance liability costs on vehicles loaned out by repair shops.

Pat Whalen, owner of PJW Automotive in New Brighton, said many repair shops provide loaner vehicles while servicing their customers' cars. But some shops are discontinuing the service because their insurance is responsible for covering the costs if the loaner vehicle is involved in an accident.

The bill (HF2719), sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), would shift the costs of damages to the driver's liability insurance coverage. The repair shop's insurance would only pay the amount in excess of what the driver's insurance covers.

The bill was sent to the House floor.

### PLANS FOR THE NEEDY



Lieutenant Gov. Mae Schunk explains how the Ventura administration plans to use federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds to support after-school programs. Schunk spoke during a Feb. 7 hearing of the House Family & Childhood Education Finance Committee.



## ★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### What's in a name?

When the residents of Lake Edwards Township in Crow Wing County decided to drop the “s” from the town’s name, they didn’t realize it would be so complicated a process.

Rep. Kris Hasskamp (DFL-Crosby) said for years there has been confusion about whether or not the legal name of the township had the “s” at the end. She said the confusion has led to delays when the town has had to file documents with state and federal governments.

Township officials discovered to legally change the name from the Township of Lake Edwards to Township of Lake Edward, would 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 town located in the central part of the state with a population of approximately 1,500 people, the costs of this process seemed too high.

HF2521, sponsored by Hasskamp, would allow the county board to change the name of the township upon receiving a resolution from the town board requesting the change.

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved the bill Feb. 9.

Jim Gelbmann, executive director of the State Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation, said that since the board has no power under current law to authorize the change, legislation is required.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), said that the change may not clarify the issue for the town when it deals with other units of government since each governmental agency’s records may or may not have the “s” at the end of the township name. Changing the name at this point, Tuma said, won’t really clarify those records.

Gelbmann said that documents from the time the town was formed are lost, and thus it is unclear what the legal name is. The bill would establish once and for all what the legal name of the town is.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

### Cities seek more aid

Three cities that are requesting increases in their local government aid from the state presented their cases to the Property Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee on Feb. 9.

The cities, Kelliher, Darwin, and Osseo, are requesting increases in the city aid base and also increases in the maximum amount of total aid.

HF2509, sponsored by Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook), would increase the base aid for

Kelliher by \$32,000. HF2724, sponsored by Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel), would increase Darwin’s aid payment by \$7,200. HF2640, sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), would increase Osseo’s payment by \$300,000.

Gregg Thayer, a former Kelliher council member, said the city receives far less aid than neighboring cities and cities of similar size. As an example, Thayer said the city’s population is around 372 and it will receive less than half of the aid given to the city of Northhome, which has 90 less people.

Ness said the city of Darwin is being penalized for its “frugality.” He said that other small cities with no greater need than Darwin get much more aid because Darwin chose to levy and spend at a much lower rate than the average city.

David Callister, the Osseo city administrator, said that the city is landlocked, limiting any expansion to its tax base. He said that although the median value of homes in the city is among the lowest in Hennepin County, the city’s property tax rates are among the county’s highest.

Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) said she hopes the administration would consider changing the aid formula.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said that he has had discussions with the Department of Revenue indicating that the governor’s reform package that will be presented next year might address the local aid formula.

## ★ RECREATION

### Soccer field funding sought

A program to provide local grants for soccer fields was discussed Feb. 9 by the House Capital Investment Committee.

The bill (HF2733) would provide \$12 million in bond proceeds to provide grants through the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) said soccer is the fastest growing sport in the state, and unlike most other sports, it is equally popular among boys and girls. The grants would be similar to the “Mighty Ducks” grants that were used to help cities throughout the state build ice arenas.

Mares estimated that the money would help pay for about 500 soccer fields, and the money would be distributed equitably among the state’s congressional districts.

Grants would be matched equally with local money on projects that cost less than \$20,000. For projects costing \$20,000 to \$75,000, each \$1 in state grant money would have to be matched with \$2 locally. And



**Parisa Rahimi, who plays soccer in a youth soccer league in Eden Prairie, testifies Feb. 9 in support of a \$12 million bonding proposal to create new soccer fields.**

projects costing more than \$75,000 would require a \$1 state to \$4 local match.

The costs of soccer fields include the purchase of the land, grading and developing the site, fencing, lighting, parking, and restrooms.

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed portions of the omnibus state government finance bill in 1999 that appropriated money to the sports commission for ice arenas and soccer fields.

The committee did not take action on the bill, but it could be included in the omnibus capital investment bill.

## ★ TAXES

### Rebate eligibility could expand

A driving force behind last year’s \$1.3 billion sales-tax based rebate was that it was, for the most part, automatically generated.

Taxpayers were not required to file additional forms because the Department of Revenue had the information needed to determine the rebate amount.

The House Committee on Taxes heard several bills Feb. 4 that would either expand the eligibility requirements allowing people to retroactively apply for a 1999 rebate or extend the application deadline for people who were eligible but did not apply.

Several legislators were concerned that the window for applying last year was too small. The rebate bill was passed May 24, 1999, and the deadline to file was only three weeks later.

HF2542, sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield), would extend the rebate to students claimed as dependents by their parents.

Dave Giese, a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, spoke in support of HF2542, saying many young adults who were in school were penalized as students because their parents claimed them as dependents.

"I was very disappointed to be excluded from the rebate," he said, "I, along with many other students, contributed toward the surplus."

HF2537, also sponsored by Gleason, would include non-taxable social security and disability income in calculating the rebate.

Former Rep. Mark Mahon, representing the American Association of Retired Persons, spoke in favor of HF2537, saying many senior citizens were unaware of the rebate process.

"If this is truly a sales tax rebate, then this group has to be included," Mahon said. "Seniors, probably more than any other group, spent most of their money in Minnesota."

HF2487, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would extend the deadline for those already eligible for the rebate.

HF2526, sponsored by Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), and HF2540, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would both extend the deadline and eligibility for the rebate to dependents and people over 65.

The committee took no action on any of the bills, but Abrams said each would be considered for inclusion in this year's omnibus tax package.

### Governor seeks tax reform

The governor plans to propose a tax reform initiative next session as part of the biennial budget, the head of the Department of Revenue told the Property Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee on Feb. 7.

Commissioner Matt Smith said tax reform is part of the governor's "Big Plan," emphasizing service not systems.

"A tax system should be simple and easy to deal with for taxpayers," Smith said. "It should also be understandable and predictable, so taxpayers know how much they're going to pay."

Smith said a better tax system should also be fair, so taxes are based on taxpayers' ability to pay and the cost of services they use. The system also must be modern, keeping pace with changes in the economy and technology, and be consistent with the overall goals of the state.

Gordon Folkman, a policy analyst for the department, said reforming the state's property tax system requires a better understanding of the entire system.

"Every property tax system has features which make the system complex to administer and difficult for taxpayers to understand," Folkman said.

He said there are many factors that make it difficult for state and local officials to explain

the system in an understandable way for taxpayers. Among these factors are the changing market value on a property or a market value on another property in the same taxing district may change, shifting taxes from one property to another. Changing local levies and referendum approvals of levy increases also contribute to the complexity.

Smith said that one of the strengths of property taxes in general is that taxpayers can hold their local officials accountable for any increases.

But, he said, because the system is difficult to understand much of that accountability is lost.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION

### Rights to railroad land

Grain elevator owners would have the first opportunity to purchase land along rail corridors if the railroad company decides to sell, under a bill advancing in the House.

Bill sponsor Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) brought the bill before the House Transportation Policy Committee on Feb. 8. The committee approved the bill, which now moves on to the House Civil Law Committee. Several elevator owners told the committee they feared that a railroad company could sell such property to another entity, which then could raise lease rates on the land.

"We can't just pick up the elevator and move," said Bob Zelenka, executive director of Minnesota Grain and Feed Association.

"If a third party bought it and jacked up the rate, we would have to pay it," said Curt Pederson of Farmer's Elevator in Bellingham.

Brian Sweeney of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway opposed the measure.

"There's no protection for us in this bill," Sweeney said. "Why would we drive them out of business to make an extra \$5,000?"

The bill (HF919) stems from a Minnesota railroad company's attempt in 1999 to sell the land near the elevators to the elevator owners for ten times the amount of the annual lease. The elevator owners balked at the sale offer, saying the land is not worth that much.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) questioned why elevator owners wouldn't want to purchase the land, noting that lease rates would equal the purchase price in one decade. Zelenka responded that it is difficult to obtain that much money in a short period, and the elevator owners prefer the annual leases.

Sweeney said no railroad companies have raised lease rates or sold the property to a third party due to elevator owners declining the sale offer.

### Correction

A photo caption in the Feb. 4 issue of *Session Weekly* stated that construction of a new Arts Building on the University of Minnesota campus was called for in the governor's 2000 bonding recommendations. The governor did not recommend funding for the project, estimated to cost \$21 million.

## GIFTED STUDENTS



Rheanne Zimmerman, right, a fourth-grade student at Paynesville Elementary School who is also home-schooled part time, testifies before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee in support of a bill that would establish permanent funding for gifted and talented programs. Alisa Eland-Smithburg, left, an eighth-grade student at Chaska Middle School, also testified at the Feb. 7 hearing.

# Crimes of hate

Proposal would increase penalties for crimes motivated by prejudice

By CHRIS VETTER

Henry Oertelt was calm when he explained how German officials had burned numbers in his arm in a Nazi concentration camp.

The Holocaust survivor shared his tale with the House Crime Prevention Committee as if he has told it many times before. But this time he was hoping to sway legislators to support a new bill aimed at hate crimes.

As he testified, the 79-year-old St. Paul man recalled walking down the streets in his native Germany and seeing swastikas, "Death to Jews," and other hateful messages written on buildings and shops.

"All you need is the slippery slope of holes in the law, and it could happen here," Oertelt said.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park) displayed obvious sadness as he sat beside Oertelt. Rhodes, who is Jewish, is sponsoring HF1502, which would enhance penalties for bias-motivated crimes.

The committee approved the bill Feb. 8 and sent it to the House floor.

A bias-motivated crime is defined as an offense when the perpetrator selects the victim based, in part or in whole, on the victim's perceived race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or national origin.

The state already has a bias-motivated crime law in statute, said Margaret Chutich from the Attorney General's Office, which is also supporting the bill. Chutich said the state passed its initial law in 1989, which enhances penalties on three crimes — assault, criminal damage to property, and harassment.

Rhodes' bill would extend bias-motivated penalty provisions to such crimes as interfering with religious observance, third-degree arson, trespassing, public nuisance, and disorderly conduct.

However, the measure would not make certain acts typically considered part of a hate crime illegal.

For example, burning a cross is not illegal. Neither is displaying a swastika. But if you damage someone's property to burn a cross or paint a swastika on a building wall, that is against the law.



**Henny Oertelt of St. Paul, a Holocaust survivor, testifies in favor of a bill that would increase the penalties for hate crimes.**

And under the bill, that property crime would carry an enhanced penalty.

After the hearing, Rhodes' sadness was replaced with a wide smile.

He said his aim is to include all other bias-related offenses that were not included in the original law a decade ago.

Shepard Harris of the Jewish Community Relations Council said the bill does not limit free speech, but rather focuses on the behavior.

"If someone spray paints 'Vikings stink,' that's property damage," Harris said. "But if the person painted a swastika on the wall and knowing that the person inside is Jewish, that leads to the enhanced penalty."

Though no specific incident of hate crime was raised as an impetus for the bill, officials are alarmed at the steady increase of bias-related offenses in Minnesota. Such offenses increased by 10 percent from 1997 to 1998, Chutich said.

Under the bill, an offense punishable as a

misdemeanor would be elevated to a gross misdemeanor, and gross misdemeanor crimes would be elevated to felony-level penalties.

A 1993 U.S. Supreme Court decision, known as *Wisconsin vs. Mitchell*, upheld enhanced penalties for hate crimes, regardless of the race of the perpetrator and the victim.

In the *Mitchell* case, an African-American attacked a white man after seeing a movie about black oppression in the South. The Court upheld the state's law, which increased the penalty because the victim was selected by his skin color.

"It impacts the victim when you know you've been targeted," Chutich said. The Court held the crime was "speech incidental to conduct," she said.

Chutich helped craft the bill's language.

"We were looking for something that made sense in Minnesota," she said.

Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council, spoke against the bill, saying the legislation gives special protection to groups rather than individuals. Prichard contends the bill punishes thought.

"If you are a member of a group, you receive greater protection," Prichard said. "We think that is fundamentally wrong."

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) criticized Prichard, wondering if the Minnesota Family Council opposes the measure because it offers protection to gays and lesbians.

Prichard said he would oppose the bill regardless of the sexual orientation portion.

Rhodes disagreed with Prichard, saying the bill would not divide people into groups.

"This isn't going to fracture society, it is going to enhance society," Rhodes said.

The bill includes an education provision, requiring all juvenile offenders to complete a program where they learn how their acts hurt the victim and society. What the program entails would be up to the individual sentencing judge.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said the increasingly diverse population in Minnesota makes this bill important.

Chutich said it's important to note that the motivation behind a crime is always considered in court. For example, she said, the murder of a child is viewed differently than the murder of an adult.

"We've never had 'a crime-is-a-crime-is-a-

**Continued on page 39**



## Three for one

Ventura, Sviggum, and Spear — three of the most influential people in government — pushed for a unicameral legislature this week

By JON FURE

If Gov. Jesse Ventura gets his way, Minnesota voters will be asked if the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate should be replaced by a single legislative body.

But before that question makes it onto the November election ballot, lawmakers and other interested parties have some questions of their own.

Ventura testified at a joint hearing of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy and Senate Election Laws committees on Feb. 7. He stressed that he wants voters to be able to determine this issue, and asked for support from proponents of the current bicameral system.

"If it really is the best system, why not have the courage to put your system before the voters and let them be the ultimate decision-makers?" he said.

Ventura previously testified about unicameralism at a House committee hearing in Fergus Falls, but the governor did not stay around to answer members' questions. This time, he stayed for the duration of the meeting and debated the merits of his proposal with committee members.

Under Ventura's proposal, which is contained in a bill (HF159) sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), the one-house legislature would be called the "Senate" and would consist of 135 districts. Currently there are 67 Senate districts, each of which is divided to make 134 House districts. The proposed terms would be four years, and they would be staggered — half of the members' terms would expire every two years.

Those changes would take place in 2003, if the voters were to approve the constitutional amendment.

Senate President Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring the companion bill.

Basically, if the ballot question were to pass as it is currently proposed, the people who take office in 2001 would have the task of re-drawing district boundaries and establishing specific rules for those who would later be elected to the unicameral Legislature in 2003.



**Former Secretary of State Joan Growe testifies against a unicameral legislature proposal Feb. 7 before the House Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Committee.**

Proponents of the unicameral plan envision a simpler legislative process that would allow more citizen involvement. A bill would be heard in several committees, and then on the "Senate" floor. Every lawmaker would vote, and if a measure passes, it would go on to the governor to be signed into law or vetoed.

That process would likely be more "streamlined" compared to the current system, proponents say, where different versions of the same bill are sometimes passed in both chambers, and then conference committees are appointed to resolve differences between the two versions.

The conference committee report is sent back to both chambers, and members can vote yes or no, but cannot offer amendments. (Lawmakers can also move to sent a bill back to conference committee for further consideration.)

Spear said the conference committee process is "unreformable."

"The only thing we can do to reform that part of the process is to remove it," he said.

One argument against a more "streamlined" process is that the conference committees slow down the process, which some say is necessary because only the ideas that have broad support prevail in the end. That can help eliminate the influence of special interests.

"My constituents consistently have told me that they do not want making laws to be easier," said Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph).

Many of the evils associated with conference committees are things of the past, said Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), who has served in the House since 1972. House rules require conference committee reports to contain only those provisions that had been approved by at least one chamber, so that new items cannot get tucked in with little or no scrutiny.

Kahn said the only exception to those rules has been when a governor absolutely insists on adding a proposal into the bill.

And Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) pointed out that people can vote against a conference committee report. He described an instance when the Republicans were in the minority, yet he persuaded enough of his colleagues to vote "no" because he objected to certain provisions in a bill. The conference committee resumed meeting, and those objections were resolved, he said.

Proponents of the current system say the hard-fought battles between the House and Senate create checks and balances within the Legislature.

But Sviggum said checks and balances historically have come from the existence of three branches of government — executive, legislative, and judicial. He added that the openness of the unicameral system would enhance the role of citizens.

"If you're comfortable with how you represent your constituents, the more open the better," he said. "An open process that is accountable to citizens is the best check and balance we can have."

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), who said the discussion has been too narrow, has introduced two reform plans that provide alternatives to a unicameral legislature.

McElroy said the unicameral debate is critically important because the impacts of changing the size and structure of the Legislature will be felt for many years.

"Clearly this is a multi-generational decision," he said.

Continued on page 39



## Balancing act

Legislation attempts to protect private property rights versus expanding community development and infrastructure needs

By DAVID MAEDA

**T**he rights of an individual don't always coincide with what may be in the best interest of the greater community. In the area of private property rights, the two can sometimes collide.

That is what legislation proposed by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) is attempting to address. Anderson is sponsoring a bill (HF590) that would establish and enact a "private property protection act" in the state.

Anderson presented his bill Feb. 8 to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee, and the plan prompted much debate. The committee took no action on the proposal.

"The right to private property is the guardian of every other right," Anderson said. "It is a travesty that I have to bring this bill to this committee."

Anderson said loss of property rights ultimately means a loss in freedom.

The bill, which is similar to legislation that has been considered across the country, seeks to protect property owners who have been denied use of their property due to government regulation.

Under the proposed private property protection act, the Legislature would recognize actions taken by the state and local units of government may inordinately burden private property rights without amounting to a taking from the property owner.

George Deschenes, an Elk River resident, testified that he has been hurt by government action. He said the city is forcing him to move his business and is not providing fair compensation to find a new location that is as valuable as the old location.

"They are offering a bear market value, not a fair market value," he said.

The city plans to rezone his industrial property to accommodate a mixed-use residential housing area. In effect, Deschenes's property has been condemned, and he is being forced from the land. However, he feels the compensation rate is too low.

The bill would establish a process for determining relief or compensation for a property owner. A property owner suing under the act would submit a written claim to the local government entity with an appraisal of the value of the property. The government body would then be required to notify owners of property bordering the property and other parties.

The governmental entity also would be required to make a settlement offer during the notice period. If a settlement is not reached, a jury would determine the damages.

Mike Podulke, an Olmsted County commissioner, said the board of directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties has concerns about the bill. Among those concerns is that the compensation provisions address anticipated usage and not actual usage.

He said that in compensating one neighbor

for diminished property value, it could then encourage another neighbor to claim that the value was thus diminished, leading to an endless cycle of claims.

"This bill tries to solve a lot of complex problems with a simple solution," Podulke said.

Remi Stone, from the League of Minnesota Cities, said the measure could lead to a large increase of lawsuits against cities. Stone cited several other concerns including that the bill has no implicit provisions for nuisances, contains no exceptions for transportation issues, and has no language for temporary impacts. And, she said, cities would still be liable even when enacting state and federal programs.

"I am an attorney, and I could retire off this bill just by bringing lawsuits against cities," she said.

Richard Stafford, the chair of the Washington County Board, said that property rights issues are not always cut and dried. He said that in some instances a person moves into an area knowing full well the potential development and infrastructure concerns of the area.

"If you see a railroad track, there's probably going to be a train," Stafford said.

He said that recently his county board heard a case where a gravel company that has been doing business in the county for 40 years applied for a permit to expand its mining on property it already owned. He said a neighbor to the gravel pit came forward protesting the application. The person said he had lived there for six months.

"I asked him, 'Didn't you see the gaping hole in the ground?'" Stafford said.

It was an example, he said, of how provisions of Anderson's bill would still hold the county responsible to compensate neighboring homeowners for the decline in their property values. Stafford said that property rights legislation should include a test to validate any actual loss of value and somehow calculate the percentage of responsibilities between established entities and people who have recently moved to the area.

Larry George, the executive director of Oregonians in Action, a nonprofit organization that advocates property rights issues in that state, supported the bill, arguing that governmental entities should establish good working relationships with affected taxpayers from the start to avoid conflicts.

"The people who cannot fight are lower income people affected most by regulation," he said. 🐼



**Gene Melander becomes emotional as he tells the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee how the government seized his farm over tax issues. Melander had suffered a serious back injury before the trouble started, and he contends the government did not allow adequate opportunity for him to resolve the matter.**

## Bricks and mortarboards

Critics of the governor's bonding plan want more for Minnesota colleges

By NICK HEALY

**A**t first glance, it looks like higher education would get a pretty big piece of the pie under the governor's bonding proposal.

But some critics claim the pie itself is too small and Gov. Jesse Ventura's higher education plans just won't cut it, especially considering the amount usually targeted for building projects at colleges and universities.

"This is a time of plenty, and we should be making a commitment to higher education," said Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) during a Feb. 7 meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

In that meeting, Department of Finance officials were called to explain the process used

of capital spending and Ventura's recommendation is well short of that.

"Twenty-five percent is nowhere near the historical standard," she said.

Higher education projects actually make up slightly less than 25 percent of the governor's bonding proposal this year.

Ventura's plan calls for \$499 million in capital projects. Through cancellations of old projects worth about \$37 million, the total new spending in his capital budget is \$462 million. To get to that figure, the governor would use \$400 million in general obligation bonding, \$1 million directly from the general fund, \$34 million in user-financed bonds, and \$27 million from the trunk highway fund.

Lee Mehrkens, capital budget coordinator

for the Department of Finance, said the governor focused on the merits of each project — without regard to spending categories such as higher education, transportation, or environment — and aimed to keep capital spending to a minimum.

"When the governor sets forth a \$400 million target, it means we're not going to fund all

agency requests," Mehrkens said. "That's just the way it is."

The governor's target of \$400 million in general obligation bonds is based on what the administration claims is the 15-year average for such spending. Ventura also "has a philosophy that we should move the bonding bill back

to a more traditional focus," Mehrkens said.

A total of \$118.3 million would go to higher education projects under Ventura's recommendations. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) institutions would see \$64.3 million in projects, and the University of Minnesota would get \$54 million.

Those numbers come up far short of the \$230 million requested by MnSCU and \$134 million requested by the U of M.

Lawmakers took issue with Ventura's decisions about which projects to fund and raised questions about the criteria he used to make those decisions.

Some committee members questioned why the priorities set by the institutions themselves were not followed.

For example, the U of M submitted a list of its top 10 bonding priorities in order of importance. Ventura recommended funding the first, second, and fourth projects on the list.

Third on the list of the U of M's priorities was a \$21 million plan to replace the Arts Building on the West Bank of the Minneapolis campus.

Leppik said the condition of the existing building is "abysmal," and Folliard wondered why the Microbial and Plant Genomics Building, listed as the university's fourth priority, jumped ahead in line under the governor's plan.

Mehrkens said the governor chose projects that fit the "over-arching themes" of his bonding plan.

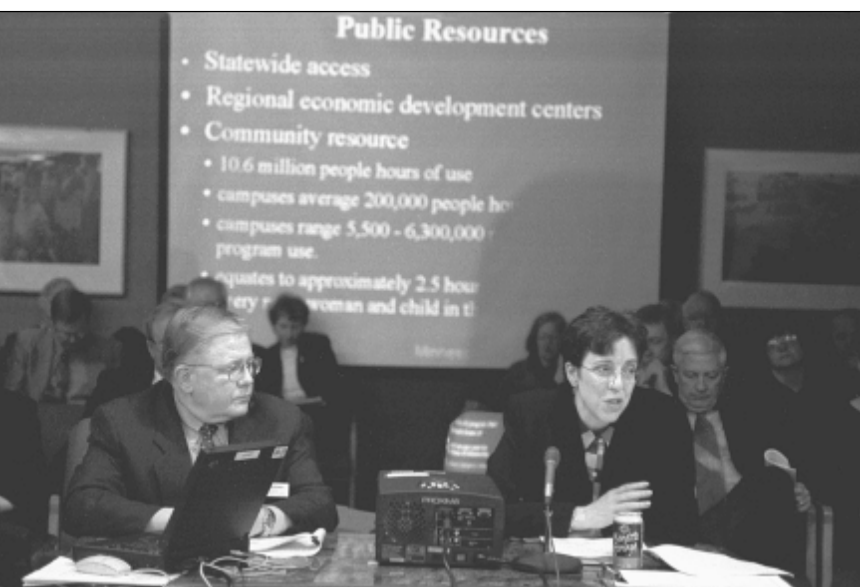
"How the project lined up against his criteria was the primary driver of whether a project would be included," Mehrkens said.

Ventura's bonding plan also drew criticism from some lawmakers who argued there is a lack of balance between projects in the Twin Cities area and those in the rest of the state.

MnSCU submitted a request for bond funds to finance more than 20 priorities around the state. The governor's plan includes only four.

Ventura is proposing \$30 million for maintenance projects — from roof repair to replacement of aging boilers — at MnSCU campuses throughout Minnesota. MnSCU requested \$100 million for such purposes as its top priority.

The other three MnSCU requests supported by the governor are all at metropolitan-area campuses.



Laura King, vice chancellor and chief financial officer for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and Associate Vice Chancellor Allan Johnson present the system's \$230 million bonding request during a Feb. 9 meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

to assemble the administration's bonding package. The officials were met with criticism and tough questions from lawmakers on the panel.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), who chairs the committee, said higher education projects usually account for about 40 percent

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# Panacea or pitfall?

Medical and ethical implications of genetic engineering discussed in Capitol Forum series

By CHRIS VETTER

Advances in biotechnology are like an oncoming train, said Dr. Stephen Joseph. Americans are underestimating the speed of the train, and it cannot be stopped.

"It is an enormously powerful economic engine that is just being born," Joseph told legislators in a Feb. 9 lecture given as part of the Capitol Forum series. "It's going to make an unbelievable impact on the 21st Century."

Joseph, a doctor with the National Center for Genome Resources in New Mexico, discussed the Human Genome Project, through which biologists hope to identify all of the 100,000 genes in human DNA. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health.

"We can understand the genetic sequences that lead to red hair," he said. "But we don't understand how the proteins work."

He added, "It is the Holy Grail for biologists."

Once the genes and sequences are uncovered, doctors will change the way they perform therapy or diagnose sicknesses, Joseph contends.

"It will change every single facet of biomedicine as we know it," he said.

While Joseph spoke with passion about the wide array of possibilities that biomedicine advances could bring, he recognized there are moral and ethical dilemmas with the new technology.

He spoke of limits versus choice and limits versus privacy. What do people think of cloning or creating genetically modified organisms, including people? Compared to the tidal wave ahead, the abortion debate is small, Joseph said.

"It is nothing compared to the ethical and religious aspects of genetically-modified 'us,'" he explained.

This new technology could open the doorway to make a "right weight, right height, or right skin color," Joseph said. He expressed his



Dr. Stephen Joseph of New Mexico discusses the future of biomedicine and genetics at a Capitol Forum series lecture on Feb. 9.

concern over who determines what those "right" things are. Furthermore, he said, many of the questions about morality will likely fall on state legislators.

Another possible impact of genetic engineering is 'behavior modification,' which could include changing a person's attitudes and conduct.

Legislators should revisit the discussion of eugenics from 90 years ago, Joseph said, when there were open discussions of sterilizing the mentally handicapped.

"They will come back in a more subtle, politically correct way," he said.

Genotypes could reveal a future genetic disorder, like Lou Gehrig's disease or Parkinson's Disease. Gene therapy potentially could remove those genetic disorders before they manifest themselves, Joseph said.

Along with the sudden growth in biomedicine, the advancement in computer science cannot be overlooked, Joseph said. Man would not be able to comprehend all the possibilities of genetic deciphering without the aid of today's computers.

"It's too much data, it comes too fast for the human brain," he said.

Now, he said, biomedicine and computer science are intrinsically linked.

However, all these advances in technology will not lower the cost of health care, Joseph argued. While technological advances have led to falling prices, Joseph said those new technologies are sold en masse to the public. However, biomedicine is geared toward a more centralized, more select group of people, thus, causing higher prices.

While some legislators may fear the advances in technology, Joseph said science cannot be stopped.

In his closing remarks, Joseph suggested the Legislature should create a science or technology organization to turn to for answers.

"Think hard about how you are going to get some help," he said.

Several legislators said they learned a great deal during the discussion.


"We needed to hear another three hours," said Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson). "He gave some eye-opening perspectives on where we've been and where we're going in health care."

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), who sits on the House Higher Education Finance Committee, said the discussion showed the importance of having a powerful research engine like the University of Minnesota in the state.

"One of our challenges is to build on that strong research institution," Carlson said.

The amazing technology advances in the past 100 years make it impossible to guess where biomedicine is going to take us, Carlson said.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said legislators must remember that not all answers come from science. He said some answers have to come from the heart.

"If technology grows faster than our ability to love one another, we will blow ourselves up," Dehler said. "We will kill each other." 



# A state of transition

Urban growth, rural concerns dominate 100 years of Minnesota politics

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

In 1900, the people of Minnesota elected Samuel R. VanSant as governor, in a close race that saw VanSant defeat incumbent John Lind by roughly 2,300 votes.

To many observers at the time, the election signaled a turn-around in Minnesota politics and a move away from the populism of the late 1800s. They were wrong.

Though he had only been governor for two years, what Lind borrowed from the Populists and added to his progressive agenda — particularly the notion of putting the “people” before “special interests” — would define political life in Minnesota for the next 100 years.

And as you listen to today’s political debates at the Capitol, you will hear the same themes still resonating with the people.

The late 1800s and early 1900s proved to be a very dynamic time in the political history of the state. Ballots, especially for the major offices, contained numerous candidates representing many different parties.

New parties, such as the Farmer’s Alliance and the People’s Party, also known as the Populists, sprang out of a depressed farming market in the 1890s, in an effort to combat the rise of the urban, industrial centers.

The progressive movement, which rose early in the 20th Century, would be the one to emphasize the virtue of rural, farming communities. It focused on the need to balance growing national interests of business and industry versus the traditional Minnesota values of rural life.

Agriculture was the dominant portion of Minnesota’s economy at the turn of the century. Forty percent of those employed in Minnesota were working in the agriculture industry in 1900. Most of them — nearly 98 percent — were men.

In fact, more Minnesotans lived in rural areas in 1900 than the state’s cities. Seven out of the 10 largest counties in 1900, in terms of population, were outstate counties.

By 1998, only four of the top 10 most-

populated counties were not part of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. And of the four remaining counties, one is just outside the metro area and the others include cities such as Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud.

In addition, the largest cities in the state in 1900, behind Minneapolis and St. Paul, were Duluth, Stillwater, and Mankato — all of which were transportation and commercial hubs for the agriculture market. Cities such as Red Wing, Fergus Falls, Little Falls, Owatonna, and Austin also were ranked high in population.

One hundred years later, only Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud could break through the strong population numbers from metro area cities.

It wouldn’t take long for the employment opportunities in the cities to shift population from the rural to the urban areas. A large influx of immigrants looking for work also contributed to the shift.

By 1900, manufacturing industries in Minnesota were carving out their own niche in the state’s economy. About 15 percent of the men in the job market filled manufacturing jobs. And Minnesota led the nation in flour milling, the state’s top manufacturing industry in 1900.

The prevailing rural dominance in Minnesota was evident in the state’s political decisions at the turn of the century. So was the notion that leaders needed to protect rural interests in light of the growth in Minnesota’s urban centers.

Gov. Knute R. Nelson illustrated this in his inaugural speech in 1893.



Gov. Samuel R. VanSant, a Republican from Winona with a flair for the dramatic, delivered one of his many speeches in 1905. He is pictured here delivering one of his many speeches.

“While Minnesota is rapidly developing her vast mineral resources and is fast becoming a great manufacturing state, it is still in pursuit of agriculture that a large plurality of her people are engaged,” he said.

Mines on the Iron Range and railroads throughout the state were growing. As a result, the Legislature enacted taxes on mining, railroads, and businesses to shift some of the tax burdens off farmers in the early 1900s.

Farmers had begun to join the Populist movement during the late 1800s and truly defined an “us-versus-them” platform. However, what Lind did with his candidacy was include the concerns of small town businesses with the grievances of the agriculture community.

Lind’s new progressive movement bucked the trends of big business and banks that were being established in the eastern cities and were slowly moving west. The movement also carried with it a moral agenda, arguing that personal virtues of honesty, fairness, and responsibility should be reflected in professional and political circles, as well.

For instance, officials were already becoming concerned with perceived improprieties involving lobbyists at the Legislature.

“In several of the states, steps have already been taken to exclude the lobbyist from the



Gov. John Lind





ir for oratory, served as governor of Minnesota from 1901 to es.

halls of legislation and eliminate one of the greatest evils to political economy and political decency,” said Gov. John A. Johnson in his 1907 inaugural speech.

**P**rogressive viewpoints would dominate through the 1920s, especially in women’s suffrage and prohibition movements. Candidates from both parties adopted some of the tenets of progressivism, and the Legislature enacted progressive measures despite opposition.

Ultimately, that opposition and fractionalizing within the progressive movement resulted in its demise. However, the reformist viewpoints in the movement continue today in the proposals to reduce the influence of lobbyists, plans to limit the tax burdens on individuals and small businesses, and bills to modify the structure of government.

Despite the volatile nature of politics at the turn of the century and the years that followed, leaders were very optimistic about Minnesota’s position.

Agricultural pursuits were gaining strength after a brief setback. State finance officials had predicted surpluses in revenue during the latter years of the 1890s. Minnesota’s lumber, milling, and meat-packing industries were among the most productive in the nation.

They were also looking forward to the opening of a new State Capitol, which was already under construction in St. Paul.

Overall, the leaders of the day were optimistic about the state’s future. In fact, times were such that Gov. William R. Merriam in

his final biennial address in 1893, warned the Legislature not to pass too many laws.

“It is one of the prevailing evils, if I may be permitted to say so, of all legislation of the present time that there is too great a tendency to seek remedies for ills that are impossible to

cure through legislative enactment,” Merriam said.

“To provide a panacea for every trouble, whether imaginary or real ... must result in clogging the statute books with legal forms utterly impossible of execution.”

## Old-world flavor

Celebration marks the re-opening of the restored Capitol cafeteria

Lost for decades underneath layers of paint and plaster, the Capitol cafeteria has re-emerged in nearly its original form.

The Minnesota Historical Society devoted an entire week to celebrating its re-opening Feb. 7 to 11.

The week kicked off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday morning with Gov. Jesse Ventura, Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk, and David Fisher, commissioner of administration.

The cafeteria is known as the Rathskeller, which is the German word for “meeting place” Fisher said. The idea behind the original cafeteria was to give the men of the Legislature — since women weren’t even allowed to vote when the capitol opened in 1905 — a place to relax and discuss matters of policy over leisurely meals, and perhaps a glass of beer and a cigar.

The restoration project, which took nearly two years and cost more than \$2 million, recreated most of the 29 German mottoes and 16 design motifs found on the arched ceilings of the room. It took six months alone to uncover the original artwork and draw replicas to match it.

Several renovation projects over the years had covered up the original designs. Fisher said that during the temperance movement in the early 20th Century, officials decided to change some of the mottoes, which encouraged drinking and leisure time, so that they reflected the virtues of temperance, thought to be more prudent at the time.

Anti-German sentiments during World War I led to the mottoes and German symbols being painted over.

The people who worked on the restoration of the cafeteria used photographs and other historical documents to determine what the artwork looked like and to recreate it.

Conservator Dan Tarnoveanu deliberately chose slightly different colors for the replicas, so it would be clear that they are different from the originals.

Throughout the week, the project architect and art conservator delivered speeches about the project. Staff at the historical society also gave presentations on the history

of the cafeteria and the traditional foods served there.

A German band concert wrapped up the week Friday. German dishes were served at the cafeteria as part of the celebration, as well.

“There’s no

other way to gather people together than good food,” said Schunk.

Ventura, in his speech, said he hopes the new cafeteria will foster goodwill among the lawmakers and give them a place to relax in between meetings.

He even joked that the Capitol reporters, with whom he has clashed at times during his term, might benefit from the new design.

“Maybe even the Capitol press corps will be nice to us now that we’ve given them a nice place to go and have lunch,” the governor said.



Gov. Jesse Ventura, right, cuts the ribbon during ceremonies Feb. 7 to open the newly restored Capitol cafeteria. Other officials on hand included, from right, Lt. Gov. Mae Schunk, Nina Archabal, director of the Minnesota Historical Society, Nancy Stark, director of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, and David Fisher, commissioner of Administration.

“There’s no

other way to gather people together than good food,” said Schunk.

Ventura, in his speech, said he hopes the new cafeteria will foster goodwill among the lawmakers and give them a place to relax in between meetings.

He even joked that the Capitol reporters, with whom he has clashed at times during his term, might benefit from the new design.

“Maybe even the Capitol press corps will be nice to us now that we’ve given them a nice place to go and have lunch,” the governor said.

## Thursday, Feb. 3

### HF2742—Dorman (R)

#### Taxes

Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

### HF2743—Finseth (R)

#### Taxes

Farm rebate provided and money appropriated.

### HF2744—Finseth (R)

#### Agriculture Policy

Agricultural assistance provided to at-risk farmers based on agricultural use land acreage and money appropriated.

### HF2745—Stanek (R)

#### Crime Prevention

DWI; repeat DWI offenders provided felony penalties, and incarceration and intensive probation supervision sentencing required.

### HF2746—Haake (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Predatory offender registration law violations provided increased penalties.

### HF2747—Holberg (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Felons required to notify prosecuting authorities of name change requests, challenges authorized, proof of name change law compliance required for marriage licenses, and license issuance and dissolution conditions imposed.

### HF2748—Fuller (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Specified offenders required to register under the predatory offender registration law for life.

### HF2749—Holberg (R)

#### Civil Law

Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references; and making miscellaneous technical corrections.

### HF2750—Rostberg (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Council on Disability sunset extended.

### HF2751—Stanek (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Financial institutions provided limited liability for information furnished for investigative purposes, stolen and counterfeit check reporting or transfer provided criminal penalties, and racketeering expanded.

### HF2752—Mares (R)

#### Education Policy

Department of Children, Families and Learning commissioner's referendum date authority sunset removed.

### HF2753—Skoe (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Three additional days of student instruction mandate funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF2754—Dorn (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Teacher mentorship programs funded through increased general education revenue and money appropriated.

### HF2755—Jennings (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Three additional days of student instruction mandate funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF2756—Kelliher (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Intervention programs funded through additional general education revenue and money appropriated.

### HF2757—Jennings (DFL)

#### Commerce

Biomass power mandate regulated for electric generating facilities using poultry litter as a fuel source.

### HF2758—Swenson (R)

#### Taxes

Family farm corporations and partnerships specified shareholders authorized to reside off the homestead property.

### HF2759—Murphy (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Cloquet Forestry Center sewer and water service upgraded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2760—Abeler (R)

#### Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Adults with disabilities pilot programs reinstated and money appropriated.

### HF2761—Rostberg (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Isanti County authorized to publicly and privately sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

### HF2762—Rostberg (R)

#### Taxes

Sales and use tax rate reduced.

### HF2763—Rostberg (R)

#### Taxes

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

### HF2764—Stang (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Firefighters' Relief Association financial report asset threshold increased.

### HF2765—Cassell (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Pope/Douglas and Dodge and Olmsted counties materials recovery facilities construction provided; and money appropriated.

### HF2766—Cassell (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Secondary vocational education funding reinstated and money appropriated.

### HF2767—Kubly (DFL)

#### Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Fair Ridge Trail in Renville County improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2768—Bishop (R)

#### Taxes

Revenue recapture claims time limit specified for eligible spouses.

### HF2769—Wilkin (R)

#### Taxes

Residential property containing four or more units tax class rates reduced.

### HF2770—Wilkin (R)

#### Taxes

Metropolitan area fiscal disparities program eliminated.

### HF2771—Tomassoni (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Video lottery pilot project authorized and gross receipts allocated to the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the permanent school fund.

### HF2772—Tomassoni (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 2711, Mesabi East, severance levy authorized.

### HF2773—Lieder (DFL)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 2215, Norman County East, fund transfer authorized.

### HF2774—Broecker (R)

#### Crime Prevention

Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled substance listing effective date delayed.

### HF2775—Kielkucki (R)

#### K-12 Education Finance

Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, achievement plus facility construction completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF2776—Johnson (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Spring Lake Park Fire Department member prior service credit purchase in the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) authorized.

### HF2777—Stanek (R)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Annual employer contribution maximum increased for specified retirement plans.

### HF2778—Tomassoni (DFL)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Business assistance provided to those adversely affected by the lack of snowfall and money appropriated.

### HF2779—Mulder (R)

#### Health & Human Services Policy

Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

### HF2780—Howes (R)

#### Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Tourism loan program appropriated money.

### HF2781—Mulder (R)

#### Taxes

Wind energy conversion systems assessment required.

### HF2782—Wenzel (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Legislative session procedures, and legislator qualifications and terms of office modified; and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF2783—Davids (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Highway user tax distribution fund money transferred from the general fund, portion allocated for right-of-way acquisition, local bridges replaced and rehabilitated, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2784—Dorman (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Rural Challenge Grant program loan repayments regulated.

**HF2785—Rest (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Charitable organization annual report filing requirements modified.

**HF2786—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
Additional agricultural assistance provided to at-risk multiple farmers on a single farm operation and money appropriated.

**HF2787—Erickson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Total operating capital revenue use for school media centers authorized.

**HF2788—Mullery (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Juvenile prostitute patrons and pimps enhanced criminal penalties imposed.

**HF2789—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minneapolis police chief's appointing authority increased.

**HF2790—Boudreau (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped addition and improvements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2791—Abrams (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Hennepin County Human Resources Board and department provisions modified.

**HF2792—Hackbarth (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 15, St. Francis, fund transfer authorized.

**HF2793—Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Medical assistance pharmacy dispensing fee increased and demonstration providers required to reimburse pharmacies at or above medical assistance rates.

**HF2794—Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Dental provider medical assistance reimbursement rate increased.

**HF2795—Ness (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Specified county social service costs special levies authorized.

**HF2796—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Farm real estate or operations third-party debtor disclosure required and remedies provided.

**HF2797—Tunheim (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Dislocated worker program eligibility expanded to include specified working farmers, and dislocated farmers and ranchers training grant provided.

**HF2798—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Specified feedlot penalty orders alternative uses authorized.

**HF2799—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Eligible wildlife properties corporate farm law exemption provided.

**HF2800—Westrom (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
University of Minnesota-Morris science building renovation provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2801—Howes (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Civil immunity created for placement of water buoys.

**HF2802—Smith (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) service credit purchase authorized for an eligible employee who has performed service in the U.S. military.

**HF2803—Smith (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Court reporters allowed to organize under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.

**HF2804—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Lake Lillian community center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2805—Mulder (R)**  
**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**  
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) state aid increased and money appropriated.

**HF2806—Howes (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motor vehicle deputy registrar fee increased, and clarifying changes made.

**HF2807—Howes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Perch; daily and in possession bag limits imposed.

**HF2808—Howes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Cass County; Tri-County Leech Lake watershed critical habitat protection provided, bond sale authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF2809—Howes (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Ah-Gwah-Ching nursing center admissions criteria clarified, and center required to provide information on and promote geriatric rapid assessment stabilization program.

**HF2810—Buesgens (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Financial institutions federal data privacy regulation conformity required and state enforcement provided.

**HF2811—Davids (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 495, Grand Meadow, alternative facilities design grant authorized; bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2812—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
St. Cloud State University nursing science program funded, and money appropriated.

**HF2813—Goodno (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Northwest Technical College health science instructional space design, construction and renovation authorized; bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2814—Abeler (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Workers' compensation disability pension offset eliminated for specified public employees.

**HF2815—Carruthers (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Hennepin County; specified citation fine proceeds distribution provided.

**HF2816—Marko (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Payment of omitted salary deductions to the Public Employees Retirement Association authorized for an employee of Dakota County.

**HF2817—Sykora (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Number of children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) who are taking amphetamine prescription drugs determined, and money appropriated.

**HF2818—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Board of Teaching required to report on performance of teacher candidates on reading, writing, and math skills exam and on common core assessments.

**HF2819—Cassell (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Stearns County land conveyance authorized.

**HF2820—McElroy (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Catalyst grants provided to promote Internet access in rural Minnesota and money appropriated.

**HF2821—Solberg (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District Nos. 318, Grand Rapids; 316, Greenway; and 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin; enhanced pairing cooperation and combination aid provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2822—Rhodes (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Capitol area site selected for installation of memorial to Minnesota firefighters.

**HF2823—Howes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Artificial light use provisions modified during hunting season.

**HF2824—Haas (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
One or two license plates provided on collector and similar vehicles at owner's discretion.

**HF2825—Haas (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Local governments prohibited from regulating charges of entities regulated by the commissioner of commerce.

**HF2826—Seifert, M. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota election law procedures clarified and conforming changes made.

**HF2827-Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Local government employees correctional plan membership criteria modified relating to retirement.

**HF2828-Murphy (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Hermantown local sales and use tax usages authorized.

**HF2829-Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
Financial institutions required to process checks in numerical sequence during business day unless customer specifies differently.

**HF2830-Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Criminal penalties enhanced for pimps and patrons of juvenile prostitution, and programs established to train officers relating to prostitution and to provide shelter and counseling to youth at risk, and money appropriated.

**HF2831-Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Commissioner of corrections required to develop a plan for services and transitional housing for Native American women leaving incarceration, and report required.

**HF2832-Dempsey (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School district crime prevention activities funding increased, and money appropriated.

**HF2833-McGuire (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Data sharing provided between probation officers and school officials for juveniles on probation.

**HF2834-McGuire (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Political subdivision data access provided for purposes of child support and paternity actions, and specified court services data sharing authorized.

**HF2835-Marko (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
I-494 Wakota Bridge completion funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2836-Rostberg (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
National Guard and organized militia membership eligibility clarified.

**HF2837-Boudreau (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program use required to verify immigration status of applicants for child care assistance and human services assistance.

**HF2838-Daggett (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Percentage of moose licenses selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.

**HF2839-Storm (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Minnesota Technology, Inc. appropriated money for the e-Business Institute.

**HF2840-Cassell (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Workforce identification systems development support provided and money appropriated.

**HF2841-Seifert, M. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Administrative rulemaking regulated and governor's authority to veto rules made permanent.

**HF2842-Trimble (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Biological control agents transported into Minnesota regulated.

**HF2843-Trimble (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Ramsey County exempted from imposing county conservation fees.

**HF2844-Knoblach (R)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
St. Cloud Department of Transportation facility renovation and addition provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2845-Knoblach (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
St. Cloud Technical College public land and building acquisition and improvement authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2846-Bradley (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Bleacher safety building code requirements modified.

**HF2847-Opatz (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
St. Cloud State University Eastman and Riverview halls building renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2848-Opatz (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
St. Cloud Area Joint Powers Board parks and trails grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2849-Kubly (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Gross income for MinnesotaCare eligibility definition modified.

**HF2850-Kubly (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Educational, charitable, and religious organizations fund-raisers provided food establishment requirements exemption.

**HF2851-Kalis (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
FarmAmerica-Minnesota's agricultural interpretive center in Waseca appropriated money.

**HF2852-Kubly (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
Public Utilities Commission membership expanded to include two commissioners from Greater Minnesota.

**HF2853-Greenfield (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Sexually transmitted infection prevention efforts appropriated money.

**HF2854-Chaudhary (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Alien labor certification program appropriated money.

**HF2855-Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Charter schools provided Profile of Learning alternative.

**HF2856-Gunther (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Martin County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

**HF2857-Gunther (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
State and county environmental partnership program created for individual sewer treatment system (ISTS) improvements, and money appropriated.

**HF2858-Gunther (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Minnesota talented youth math project expanded and money appropriated.

**HF2859-Gunther (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Interactive television future levy authority restored to the previously authorized amount and money appropriated.

**HF2860-Kalis (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**  
FarmAmerica-Minnesota's agricultural interpretive center in Waseca, accessibility and security improvements provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2861-Kalis (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Cemetery upkeep services sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2862-Kalis (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2860, Blue Earth, type III school van age requirement exemption provided.

**HF2863-Kalis (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
St. Clair; Le Sueur River erosion control project grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF2864-Entenza (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
DWI; repeat DWI offender recreational vehicle operating privileges revoked for a period of time.

**HF2865-Mulder (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Luverne border development zone tax incentives authorized, state tax reductions allocated, and money appropriated.

**HF2866-Gray (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
Home mortgage predatory lending model act adopted.

**HF2867-Gray (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
Minneapolis authorized to issue an on-sale wine and malt liquor license to Illusion Theatre.

**HF2868-Haas (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare subsidized insurance account created, and premium and provider taxes repealed.

**HF2869—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Public health occupation licensing, registration, and certification requirements modified.



**HF2870—Bishop (R)****Ways & Means**

State revenue and expenditure forecast parameters and variables provided, and information sharing with the Legislature required.

**HF2871—Juhnke (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Tuition freeze; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) provided additional revenue for the purpose of offsetting tuition rates, and money appropriated.

**HF2872—Juhnke (DFL)****Commerce**

Statewide extended area telephone service provided.

**HF2873—Hackbarth (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Anoka County department head time requirements clarified.

**HF2874—Carlson (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

General education funding increased for class size reduction and full-day kindergarten, and money appropriated.

**HF2875—Orfield (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Business subsidy grant decision review requirements expanded.

**HF2876—Orfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Patient protection measures established.

**HF2877—Peterson (DFL)****Agriculture Policy**

Attorney general agri-business investigative unit established, “support family farms” license plates authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF2878—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Life imprisonment without parole sentence provided to persons causing the intentional and premeditated death of a child under age 14.

**HF2879—Mullery (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Specified convicted criminal sexual conduct offenders provided mandatory minimum sentences.

**HF2880—Skoglund (DFL)****Civil Law**

County attorney access to private data authorized for commitment proceeding determinations.

**HF2881—Rostberg (R)****Education Policy**

Intensive English language program created for students with limited proficiency.

**HF2882—Juhnke (DFL)****Education Policy**

Statewide K-12 teacher bargaining unit created and revenue provided.

**HF2883—Howes (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Prescription drug discounts regulated and remedies provided.

**HF2884—Opatz (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

Outdoor advertising and vegetation control regulations modified.

**HF2885—Stanek (R)****Judiciary Finance**

Regional public safety training facilities grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2886—Bakk (DFL)****Taxes**

County natural resources land in lieu of tax payment provided inflation adjustment and program administration transferred to the commissioner of revenue.

**HF2887—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Trophy buck license created.

**HF2888—Peterson (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Canoe and boating route marking authorized on a portion of the Chippewa River.

**HF2889—Hackbarth (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Archery bows used for bowfishing exempt from casing requirement.

**HF2890—Broecker (R)****Judiciary Finance**

Local adult detention facility construction grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2891—Molnau (R)****Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicles sales tax portions deposited in the highway user tax distribution fund and the multi-modal transportation fund, exclusive bus transit ways established, transit improvement financed, and money appropriated.

**HF2892—Stanek (R)****Crime Prevention**

Statute of limitations expanded to include homicide and specified criminal sexual conduct.

**HF2893—Kelliher (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Minneapolis central library provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2894—Opatz (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Cloud head start community center grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2895—Mulder (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Pipestone County museum grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2896—Paulsen (R)****Crime Prevention**

Predatory offenders failing to comply with registration requirements provided increased criminal penalties and level III sex offender information posted on the Internet.

**HF2897—Goodno (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Moorhead State University acquired land improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2898—Rukavina (DFL)****Commerce**

Quad cities joint recreational center authority on-sale liquor license issuance authorized.

**HF2899—Nornes (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lake Milton muskie stocking prohibited.

**HF2900—Anderson, B. (R)****Crime Prevention**

High-risk sex offender placement after release regulated.

**HF2901—Anderson, B. (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

OSHA; deceased employee next of kin authorized to participate in occupational safety and health citing procedures, and presumptive penalties provided.

**HF2902—Opatz (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

St. Cloud State University Centennial Hall renovation planning provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2903—Stang (R)****Taxes**

Fire department purchases sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2904—Johnson (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Watershed management organizations board membership modified.

**HF2905—Peterson (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Emergency response personnel ruptured gas main and area control training authorized.

**HF2906—Peterson (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota College of Agriculture report to the Legislature required.

**HF2907—Daggett (R)****Transportation Finance**

Wadena; Trunk Highway No. 10 reconstruction appropriated money.

**HF2908—Carruthers (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Adult court jurisdiction over juvenile nonfelony level traffic offenders provided and dispositional alternatives provided.

**HF2909—Abeler (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Physician assistant supervisory requirement modified for rendering care in disaster situations, medical assistance coverage clarified, and physician assistant advisory council terms limited.

**HF2910—Luther (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Registered combined charitable organization definition modified.

**HF2911—Mulder (R)****Civil Law**

Foreign and domestic corporation civil action conciliation court venue provided.

**HF2912—Mulder (R)****Taxes**

June accelerated sales, liquor, cigarette, and tobacco tax payments abolished.

**HF2913—Erickson (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Mille Lacs County nursing home bed moratorium exception provided.

**HF2914—Solberg (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Aitkin County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

**HF2915—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Grea Lake sanitary sewer and water district wastewater infrastructure funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2916—Erickson (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Mora workforce center elevator provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2917—Nornes (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Parkers Prairie storm water sewer grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2918—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Kandiyohi County alternative care and elderly waiver program medical assistance reimbursement rates increased.

**HF2919—Stanek (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Domestic fatality review committee required to collect domestic violence death data.

**HF2920—Rostberg (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Juvenile court appearance by interactive video conferencing authorized.

**HF2921—Rostberg (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Prescription drug income tax credit authorized and money appropriated.

**HF2922—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
No call list; specified telephone sales calls regulated and civil remedies provided.

**HF2923—Winter (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate extended to eligible dependents and persons over age 65, filing dates extended, and money appropriated.

**HF2924—Opatz (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Maternity, prenatal care, and children's health supervision services benefits limitations regulated.

**HF2925—Haas (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Osseo and Osseo Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association unplanned liability increases offset, and money appropriated.

**HF2926—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Urban Indian housing program regulated.

**HF2927—Tuma (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Metropolitan Inter-County Association group insurance protection authorized.

**HF2928—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
MinnesotaCare provider tax exemption provided to chiropractors.

**HF2929—Dempsey (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Library facilities grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2930—Seifert, J. (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Woodbury center for the arts construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2931—Rest (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate provided in 2000, 1999 rebate eligibility expanded, filing dates extended, agricultural assistance provided to at-risk farmers, and money appropriated.

**HF2932—Dorman (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Bleacher safety requirements modified.

**HF2933—Swenson (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Fort Ridgely State Park golf course upgraded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2934—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Crosslake authorized to impose an additional sales and use tax for wastewater treatment facility improvements.

**HF2935—Larsen, P. (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Dental services disclosures and consumer protection requirements clarified, and specified dental benefits disclosures required.

**HF2936—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Public and private property entry authorized for the purposes of examinations and surveys, and town cartway costs recovered.

**HF2937—Wolf (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Telecommunications statutes modified and recodified, and money appropriated.

## Monday, Feb. 7

**HF2938—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate provided in 2000, 1999 rebate eligibility expanded, passenger automobile registration tax and levy limits limited, health care premium taxes modified, tax relief and reform account created, and money appropriated.

**HF2939—Rhodes (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Adult court jurisdiction provided over juvenile offenders charged with serious crimes involving firearms.

**HF2940—Workman (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Dry cleaner environmental response and reimbursement law modified.

**HF2941—Daggett (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Individual income tax rates reduced, health insurance premium subtraction provided, and corporate franchise tax appointment formulas modified.

**HF2942—Daggett (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Telephone solicitors required to register with the secretary of state.

**HF2943—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
Automobile insurance payment for damaged safety glass net cost limit authorized.

**HF2944—Swenson (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2887, McLeod, previous grant provision modified.

**HF2945—Sykora (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Safe place for newborns; immunity and anonymity provided for leaving unharmed newborns at hospital emergency rooms, and procedures established.

**HF2946—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate filing dates extended.

**HF2947—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2948—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales and use tax rate reduced.

**HF2949—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Solid waste management tax account created and excess revenue adjustment provided.

**HF2950—Bishop (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
University Center, Rochester, horticultural facilities improvements provided; bonds issued; and money appropriated.

**HF2951—McCollum (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Minnesota veterans homes maintained and repaired, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2952—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Transportation provisions modified.

**HF2953—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Motor vehicle registration and titling provisions, plate impoundment provisions, and interstate commercial vehicle registration modified.

**HF2954—Pelowski (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Law enforcement expanded notice to school chemical abuse pre-assessment teams provided in cases of student drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or tobacco possession.

**HF2955—Davids (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Shooting Star Trail completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2956—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
University of Minnesota Raptor Center expanded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2957—Kuisle (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Correctional facilities construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2958—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Persons escaping after lawful arrest prior to trial proceedings charged with escape from custody.

**HF2959—Sykora (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Child care assistant classification established for licensing and employment purposes.

**HF2960—Scoe (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 309, Park Rapids, facilities grant authorized and money appropriated.

**HF2961—Scoe (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 25, Pine Point, new K-8 facility constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2962—Haas (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Seizure and administrative forfeiture of firearms and abandoned property provided, trespass citation authority and vehicle forfeiture provisions modified, peace officer definition modified, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

**HF2963—Peterson (DFL)****Judiciary Finance**

Drug task force education measures appropriated money.

**HF2964—Pugh (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

Passenger automobile and hearse additional registration tax rate reduced, and motor vehicle sales tax revenue distributed.

**HF2965—Bakk (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Two Harbors marina and harbor of refuge developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2966—Gunther (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Multicultural development grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2967—Seifert, J. (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Health care facilities specified employees wage increase provided and money appropriated.

**HF2968—Mullery (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Veterans homes support test not to include sales tax rebates or refunds.

**HF2969—Tuma (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Certified public accountant licensing requirements modified.

**HF2970—Lenczewski (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior drug program eligibility expanded and money appropriated.

**HF2971—Tuma (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) prior service credit purchase authorized for private American schools located in foreign countries.

**HF2972—Jaros (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) and Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) general state employees retirement plan members prior and uncredited interim military service credit purchase authorized.

**HF2973—Davids (R)****Commerce**

Financial institution loan charges and payments regulated, and technical changes provided.

**HF2974—Davids (R)****Commerce**

National Association of Insurance Commissioners model legislation conforming state statute changes provided.

**HF2975—Rukavina (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Evtac Mining Company in St. Louis County re-employment insurance claimants provided additional benefits and requirement exemption provided.

**HF2976—Hilty (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

Mash-Ka-Wisen Treatment Center youth alcohol wing constructed and money appropriated.

**HF2977—Peterson (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

State parks account and citizens council created, and lottery ticket in lieu taxes credited to the game and fish fund and natural resources fund.

**HF2978—Haas (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

State park reduced fee age requirement eligibility lowered.

**HF2979—Abeler (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Compensation definition modified for the purposes of public employment retirement annuities limitations.

**HF2980—Haas (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Opening fishing season modified.

**HF2981—Rostberg (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Supervisory or confidential emergency medical services employees or 911 system dispatchers representation by the same exclusive representatives as non-supervisory and non-confidential employees authorized.

**HF2982—Koskinen (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior drug program eligibility expanded, age and asset limitations removed, simplified application form required, and money appropriated.

**HF2983—Nornes (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Community nursing facilities starting minimum wages equal to those at Minnesota veterans homes and money appropriated.

**HF2984—Abrams (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lake Minnetonka public access site acquisition provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2985—Rukavina (DFL)****Taxes**

Property tax levy limit calculation modified for the purposes of eliminating specified mining tax distribution deduction.

**HF2986—Kubly (DFL)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Farm advocates program appropriated money.

**HF2987—Pelowski (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Winona State University science building constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2988—Harder (R)****Taxes**

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF2989—Harder (R)****Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Farm pollution run-off research appropriated money.

**HF2990—Lenczewski (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Harassment restraining order violators provided felony penalties for intent to tamper with an investigation or retaliate against a peace officer.

**HF2991—Swenson (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

State park additions and deletions provided.

**HF2992—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Child care licensing exclusions expanded.

**HF2993—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Predatory offender registration law violator information disclosure authorized.

**HF2994—Fuller (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Ambulance service and EMT requirements modified.

**HF2995—Fuller (R)****Crime Prevention**

DWI; driving while impaired crimes and provisions recodified and simplified.

**HF2996—Wolf (R)****Commerce**

Electric utilities required to provide cost and fuel information to utility customers.

**HF2997—Haas (R)****Commerce**

Fraternal benefit society board membership modified.

**HF2998—Broecker (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Ramsey County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

**HF2999—Mares (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State employees health care reimbursement fund created.

**HF3000—Seifert, M. (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Administrative rules sunset provided and governmental operations committees authorized to formally object to rules.

**HF3001—Milbert (DFL)****Commerce**

Fire insurance; failure to provide timely proof of loss regulated.

**HF3002—Hasskamp (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Pequot Lakes Trailside Information Center grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF3003—Stanek (R)****Crime Prevention**

Department of Corrections fugitive apprehension unit created.



**HF3004—Solberg (DFL)****Taxes**

Maple syrup equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF3005—Pelowski (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Winona State University Maxwell Library renovated, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3006—Mares (R)****Crime Prevention**

High-risk juvenile sex offender community notification provided, court authority provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF3007—Mares (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

School district safety and health levy equalization expanded, and revenue use to include student safety.

**HF3008—Koskinen (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Persons leaving unharmed newborns at hospital emergency rooms not prosecuted, hospital duties specified, and liability immunity provided.

**HF3009—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weapon transfers at gun shows prohibited without a background check.

**HF3010—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Predatory offender registration law retroactive application provided.

**HF3011—Swenson (R)****Transportation Finance**

Rail service improvement program grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3012—Ozment (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Dakota County snowmobile trails grant-in-aid pilot program created.

**HF3013—Anderson, I. (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Minimum secondary and elementary sparsity revenue provided.

**HF3014—Fuller (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District Nos. 38, Red Lake; 115, Cass Lake; 299, Caledonia; 306, Laporte; and 914, Ulen-Hitterdahl, maximum effort capital loans authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3015—Peterson (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Clara City water quality improvement grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3016—Stang (R)****Local Government &****Metropolitan Affairs**

Contiguous city or town annexation to a city or town contiguous to a hospital district authorized.

**HF3017—Biernat (DFL)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota World War II merchant marine honorary plaque placed on the capital grounds.

**HF3018—Entenza (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Voluntary, full-day kindergarten funding established and money appropriated.

**HF3019—Knoblach (R)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Phoenix treatment and behavior change program employment service credit transferred from the General State Employee Retirement Plan to the Correctional Retirement Plan.

**HF3020—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Long-term care provisions modified.

**HF3021—Wejcman (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Maltreatment of minors reporting expanded to include additional persons, failure to report provided increased criminal penalties, and fourth degree assault expanded to include assault of uniform security personnel.

**HF3022—Westfall (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Animal feedlot rules delayed implementation and enforcement provided.

**HF3023—Broecker (R)****Crime Prevention**

Lawful gambling fraud defined and felony penalties imposed.

**HF3024—Daggett (R)****Taxes**

Tax and revenue recapture provisions corrected and administrative changes provided, and attorney general authorized to compromise specified fees.

**HF3025—Stanek (R)****Governmental Operations and****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Part-time Metropolitan Transit police officers provided pension coverage.

**HF3026—Cassell (R)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Police or salaried firefighter prior service credit purchase in the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan authorized.

**HF3027—Westfall (R)****Commerce**

Retailers required to provide items free of charge if scanned price is greater than marked price and exceptions provided.

**HF3028—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Individual income tax long-term capital gain exclusion authorized.

**HF3029—Dempsey (R)****Crime Prevention**

Per diem cost of housing juveniles to be shared by counties and the Department of Corrections.

**HF3030—Seagren (R)****Transportation Policy**

Truck traffic prohibited on Hennepin County Road No. 1 between Trunk Highway No. 169 and Flying Cloud Drive.

**HF3031—Dehler (R)****Transportation Policy**

School bus stops in cul-de-sacs authorized.

**HF3032—McCollum (DFL)****Local Government &****Metropolitan Affairs**

Municipalities definition expanded to include counties for the purpose of highway routing and construction provisions.

**HF3033—Dehler (R)****Local Government &****Metropolitan Affairs**

Additional local sales and use taxes approval by specified voters required.

**HF3034—Hackbarth (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area north metro headquarters repaired, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3035—Erickson (R)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislature size modified, committee organization conditions provided, leadership terms limited, member terms modified, and term limits provided.

**HF3036—Juhnke (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

Employee electronic monitoring notification required.

**HF3037—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Criminal sexual conduct offenses and solicitation offenses prosecution jurisdiction provided in state of origin or termination.

**HF3038—Mares (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 832, Mahtomedi, fund transfer authorized.

**HF3039—Daggett (R)****Taxes**

Wadena County provided a one-time penalty exemption to truth-in-taxation requirements and previous year's levy authorized.

**HF3040—Stanek (R)****Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teachers Retirement Association (TRA), and Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund associations retirement annuity formula computation modified.

**HF3041—Leppik (R)****Commerce**

Paint ball guns sale, rental, discharge, and possession regulated; and criminal penalties imposed; and remedies provided.

**HF3042—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Tax policy modified and administrative changes provided.

**HF3043—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Tax information sample data study provided and specified tax preparers authorized to file electronically.

**HF3044—Dehler (R)****Taxes**

Income tax long-term care insurance credit inflation protection requirement removed.

**HF3045—Dehler (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Public trails construction, administration, and use requirements established.

**HF3046—Holsten (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Resident and nonresident hunting and fishing license fees modified.

**HF3047—Kuisle (R)****Civil Law**

Title insurance mortgage release certificate language modified to include assignment of rents and profits.

**HF3048—Nornes (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

New medical assistance case-mix system based on federal minimum data set transition time lines provided; and education, training, and report required.

**HF3049—Bishop (R)****Crime Prevention**

Predatory offender registration and penalty provisions modified, and money appropriated.

**HF3050—Ness (R)****Taxes**

Retailers accelerated June sales tax liability underpayment penalty repealed and interest modified.

**HF3051—Bradley (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior drug program asset limit increased and money appropriated.

**HF3052—Solberg (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Itasca County medical assistance prepayment demonstration project participation extended.

**HF3053—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

Collector vehicles authorized to display a blue light as part of rear brakes.

**HF3054—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Ambulance driver requirements modified and local units of government required to reimburse additional requirements for ambulance services costs.

**HF3055—Finseth (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Ring dike construction appropriated money.

**HF3056—Finseth (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Farm wrap and rural help network organization grants provided for farm family assistance, and money appropriated.

**HF3057—McElroy (R)****Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

Business subsidy provisions clarified.

**HF3058—Dehler (R)****Crime Prevention**

Trespass definition expanded to include returning to the property after being told not to return.

**HF3059—Finseth (R)****Crime Prevention**

Harassment by electronic means prohibited and harassment crime clarified.

**HF3060—Sykora (R)****Local Government &****Metropolitan Affairs**

Human services licensing tort liability exclusion and indemnification of municipalities provided.

**HF3061—Mares (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

Intermediate school districts authorized to sell and issue bonds under specified conditions.

**HF3062—Leppik (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU) and intermediate school districts coordinating facilities and program planning grant authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF3063—Mares (R)****State Government Finance**

Mighty Kids: children and adolescent recreational programs appropriated money.

**HF3064—Jaros (DFL)****Health & Human Services Finance**

St. Louis County nursing home renovation approval deadline extended and rate setting modified.

**HF3065—Finseth (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Gray wolf management provided and criminal penalties imposed.

**HF3066—Seifert, J. (R)****Commerce**

Secretary of state fees and annual corporate registrations regulated, digital signature technical changes provided, and specified nonprofits extended.

**HF3067—Erickson (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Kathio, South Harbor, and Isle Harbor underground injection control memorandum of understanding provisions administered by the Pollution Control Agency.

**HF3068—Mahoney (DFL)****Commerce**

Tobacco products vending machine sales clarified.

**HF3069—Wenzel (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Little Falls Mississippi River cleanup and building demolition provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3070—Workman (R)****Transportation Policy**

800-MHZ trunked radio system source code access and two vendors required.

**HF3071—Huntley (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3072—Kubly (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Olivia Agricultural Innovation Center established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3073—Solberg (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Fort Snelling building No. 17 restored for use as an international hostel, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3074—Hausman (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Ramsey County soccer fields acquired and improved, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**Thursday, Feb. 10****HF3075—Paulsen (R)****Crime Prevention**

Insurance tax laws recodified, civil and criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF3076—Seifert, J. (R)****Commerce**

Auto glass repair, replacement, and insurance claims practices regulated; and remedies provided.

**HF3077—Koskinen (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior citizen drug program eligibility expanded and name changed to prescription drug program.

**HF3078—Rukavina (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, Eveleth campus, firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical services training facility constructed; bonds issued; and money appropriated.

**HF3079—Koskinen (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing facility salary adjustment per diem modified.

**HF3080—Skoe (DFL)****Taxes**

Agricultural production and farm machinery definitions expanded to include maple syrup harvesting and machinery for the purpose of sales and use tax provisions.

**HF3081—Storm (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Minnesota State University, Mankato improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3082—Tuma (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Higher education facilities authority bonding authority increased.

**HF3083—Bakk (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Permanent school fund lands exchanged for revenue producing state lands and lost revenue reimbursed.

**HF3084—Bakk (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Lake County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

**HF3085—Bishop (R)****Crime Prevention**

Judicial branch, criminal justice technology infrastructure improvements and grants, community corrections act subsidy grants, and sex offender supervision caseload reduction grants funding provided; and money appropriated.

**HF3086—Bakk (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Gitchi-Gami State Trail developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3087—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Nonprofit motor vehicle purchases and leases sales and use tax, and motor vehicle sales tax exemption provided.

**HF3088—Skoglund (DFL)****Crime Prevention**

Gun control law crime of violence definition expanded to include felony theft.

**HF3089—Tomassoni (DFL)****Taxes**

Income tax long-term care insurance credit modified.

**HF3090—Kahn (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Mississippi Whitewater Trail public waters work permit exemption provided, white water course constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3091—Tomassoni (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicles driven in the right-hand lane requirement clarified, exceptions provided, and money appropriated.

**HF3092—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Legislative open meeting law expanded to include caucuses and conference committee negotiations.

**HF3093—Orfield (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Metropolitan revenue distribution act expanded to include Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, and Wright counties.

**HF3094—Mulder (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Pipestone County museum grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3095—Knoblach (R)**  
**Capital Investment**  
Bonding bill public improvements of a capital nature, previous specified projects reduced or eliminated, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF3096—Storm (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) increased enrollment efforts appropriated money.

**HF3097—Tingelstad (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Healthful school buildings: indoor air quality improved, portable classroom use limited, and operating capital revenue portion reserved for facilities purposes.

**HF3098—Leppik (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School district training and experience revenue phaseout restricted.

**HF3099—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Constitutional office of commissioner of agriculture created and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF3100—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Moose Lake State Park geological interpretive center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3101—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Individual income tax long-term capital gain exclusion authorized.

**HF3102—Molnau (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Specified labor agreements ratified, Groups I and II salary limits modified, and public employment labor relations act technical changes provided.

**HF3103—Sykora (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Excluded adult foster care provider right to seek licensure established, tribal licensing agencies provided access to criminal history data, and county agency tort liability licensing exception clarified.

**HF3104—Sykora (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Churches and religious organizations authorized to operate child day care programs, and adherence to group and family day care rules required.

**HF3105—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Indigent persons represented by legal aid offices conflicts or interest studied by court-appointed attorney task force.

**HF3106—Dorn (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State University, Mankato student athletic facilities phase II renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3107—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
Civil commitment relative notification provided, minor voluntary treatment consent provisions modified, and early intervention provisions modified.

**HF3108—Davids (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Lanesboro Theater and Arts Center grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3109—Davids (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Uniform electronic transactions act adopted.

**HF3110—Mares (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission exhibition participation provision repealed.

**HF3111—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Transit zone taxation qualifications clarified.

**HF3112—Broecker (R)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Predatory offender registration information inclusion on offender's driving record required and offender registration system data transfer between state agencies authorized.

**HF3113—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Pharmacies permitted an additional nationally certified pharmacy technician.

**HF3114—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Polk County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

**HF3115—Dorman (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales tax rebate filing dates extended.

**HF3116—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Tax increment financing district reporting requirements modified.

**HF3117—Mahoney (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
St. Paul Phalen corridor initiative west segment construction gap financing grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3118—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided.

**HF3119—Bishop (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Children in need of protection representation by public defenders and court-appointed counsel limited to minors age 10 and older.

**HF3120—Abeler (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Charter schools and nonresident districts not to receive referendum equalization aid.

**HF3121—Howes (R)**  
**Commerce**  
Insurance coverage, notice and filing requirements, and rate increase disclosures provided; and motor vehicle insurance contracts and workers' compensation self-insurance regulated.

**HF3122—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Medical assistance, general assistance, MinnesotaCare, and other health care program provisions modified.

**HF3123—Larsen, P. (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Charter school students authorized to participate in school district sponsored extracurricular activities.

**HF3124—Osskopp (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Court-ordered child visitation enforcement provided and penalties imposed by courts authorized.

**HF3125—Seifert, M. (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Southwest State University library renovation designed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3126—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Campaign finance reform provided, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

**HF3127—Seifert, M. (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Campaign finance reform provided, publicly subsidized candidates prohibited from accepting political committee or fund contributions, state money allocation modified, and income tax checkoff modified.

**HF3128—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Noncompliant Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) recipient sanctions and program eligibility requirements modified.

**HF3129—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Medical assistance income standard increased.

**HF3130—Koskinen (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School district equity revenue program increased and money appropriated.

**HF3131—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
MTBE: gasoline blended with the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether sale prohibited in the state of Minnesota.

**HF3132—Storm (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Security deposit interest rates provided.

**HF3133—Reuter (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Elected officials who move from their districts removal and replacement provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF3134—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Metropolitan mosquito control commission authority to enter specified state lands limited.

**HF3135—Nornes (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Dog field trial land acquired and developed.

**HF3136—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
Theater on-sale intoxicating liquor, wine, and malt liquor licenses authorized.

**HF3137—Biernat (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
Peace officer assault provided increased criminal penalties.

**HF3138—Holsten (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Lottery tickets in lieu of sales tax receipts dedicated for natural resources purposes.

**HF3139—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Utility company property valuation proceedings and appeals provided.

**HF3140—Ness (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Ridgewater Community and Technical College asbestos removal and other improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3141—Trimble (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
School safety capital improvements grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3142—Swenson (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Trunk Highway No. 4 designated as Richard J. Mathiowetz Memorial Highway.

**HF3143—Dorn (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
School district-sponsored choice magnet schools created, start-up grants authorized, location approval required, and sponsorship denial appeals provided.

**HF3144—Lindner (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Dayton wastewater infrastructure program grant provided, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF3145—Swenson (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
School bus transportation, driver's license endorsement, and training provisions modified.

**HF3146—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Tribally owned housing and housing development projects subject to shelter charges.

**HF3147—Greiling (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
Graduation standards, Profile of Learning implementation, graduation rules, and length of school year modified.

**HF3148—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Group residential housing expenditures study and report required.

**HF3149—Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information tort liability exception provided.

**HF3150—McElroy (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Dakota County Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) diversionary assistance pilot project established and money appropriated.

**HF3151—Jennings (DFL)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS) military service credit purchase provided.

**HF3152—Kuisle (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Governmental units removed from corrections industry procurement requirements, uniform municipal contracting law specified dollar limits increased, cooperative purchasing exemption provided, and county credit card purchases authorized.

**HF3153—Skoe (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Big Bog state recreation area established in Beltrami County, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3154—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Norman County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

**HF3155—Cassell (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales, liquor, cigarette, and tobacco tax June accelerated payments eliminated.

**HF3156—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Trunk Highway No. 390 on Interstate Highways I-35 designated and marked as the "34th Infantry (Red Bull) Division Highway."

**HF3157—Stanek (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Specified tribal police officers exercising state arrest powers provided pension coverage.

**HF3158—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Ramsey County conservation fee funds retained in county general fund.

**HF3159—Seifert, M. (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Telecommunication access grant funding provided through reallocation of appropriations.

**HF3160—Pugh (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Debt service equalization aid funding increased, new school buildings property tax levy lowered, and money appropriated.

**HF3161—Harder (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Minnesota River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3162—Buesgens (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
Charter school sponsors expanded to include charitable organizations, and parents included in charter school board majority.

**HF3163—Dorman (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Blazing Star State Trail Bridge construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3164—Larsen, P. (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Washington County housing and redevelopment authority membership increased.

**HF3165—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Capital improvements authorized at specified Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3166—Ozment (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Filing deadline extended for 1999 agricultural assistance aid.

**HF3167—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
Wildlife management areas designated, state forest lands expanded, and all-terrain vehicle use authorized in certain wildlife management areas.

**HF3168—Cassell (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Specified food standards updated to provide federal conformity.

**HF3169—Gerlach (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Dakota County additional personnel board of appeals member authorized.

**HF3170—Bradley (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Rochester nursing facility rate adjustment provided.

**HF3171—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
St. Paul capital projects authorized including Willard Munger Trail connection, Upper Landing Park development, Raspberry Island improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3172—Swenson (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Rural finance authority loan programs eligibility and maximum loan amounts modified.

**HF3173—Westfall (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Board of grain standards meeting provisions and duties modified, and specified grain fees clarified.

**HF3174—Swenson (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Dairy product adulteration penalties modified.

**HF3175—Sykora (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Personal and dependent income tax exemption subtraction provided.

**HF3176—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Unfunded county child protection mandates repealed.

**HF3177—Westerberg (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
National Sports Center sports conference center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.



- HF3178—Knoblach (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
 St. Cloud State University capital improvements at Lawrence Hall, Riverview Hall, and Eastman Hall, and predesign of a new athletic facility authorized; bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3179—Folliard (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Profile of Learning content standards distribution and time line implementation clarified, scoring criteria and record keeping practices determined, and money appropriated.
- HF3180—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Commerce**  
 Sale or rental of restricted video games to minors under age 17 prohibited, display practices regulated, remedies provided, and study and report required.
- HF3181—McGuire (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
 Firearms; civil cause of action provided for negligible manufacture or sale of firearms.
- HF3182—Paymar (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 St. Paul; Highway No. 5 landscaping improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3183—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Itasca County previous land conveyance modified.
- HF3184—McCollum (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Ramsey County alternative waiver and elderly waiver maximum rate for services state conformity provided.
- HF3185—Osthoff (DFL)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Local governments authorized to vary speed limits on specified roads and request variances from engineering standards.
- HF3186—Trimble (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Minnesota Council for Quality grant authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF3187—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Midwifery requirements and definitions modified.
- HF3188—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Special transportation services medical assistance reimbursement study required.
- HF3189—Mulder (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Luverne Carnegie Cultural Center capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3190—Tomassoni (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) capital improvement projects authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3191—Mulder (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Lake Benton visitor center and railroad depot grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3192—Swenson (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Regional development commission grants and regional planning funds authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF3193—Fuller (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
 Beltrami County hospital construction moratorium exception provided.
- HF3194—Fuller (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
 American Indian history center and museum construction initiation deadline postponed.
- HF3195—Leppik (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 University of Minnesota excepted from the designer selection board selection process.
- HF3196—Osskopp (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Nursing facility employee pension benefit costs treated as PERA contributions.
- HF3197—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Naswauk-Keewatin High School joint public library project levy clarified.
- HF3198—Goodno (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
 Tuition waivers for employees of qualifying health care and human services providers authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF3199—Rostberg (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
 State Armory Building Commission bond limit increased.
- HF3200—Stanek (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
 Driver's license photograph access allowed to businesses under certain circumstances.
- HF3201—Seagren (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 Special education funding deficiency additional revenue authorized, and money appropriated.
- HF3202—Wilkin (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 Coroner, deputy coroner, coroner's investigator, and medical examiner compensation provisions clarified.
- HF3203—Clark, K. (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
 Fatal hit and run accident penalties increased while driving recklessly or while impaired.
- HF3204—Gunther (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
 Redevelopment account funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3205—Rest (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 Impacted communities low income housing aid increased.
- HF3206—Rifenberg (R)**  
**Education Policy**  
 Rural teacher education loan forgiveness program created and money appropriated.
- HF3207—Knoblach (R)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
 Partition fence law repealed.
- HF3208—Dawkins (DFL)**  
**Civil Law**  
 Residential real estate held in trust homestead treatment clarified, appeal periods consistency provided, and specified uniform probate code provisions modified.
- HF3209—Seifert, J. (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Health care cost containment major commitment expenditure report requirements modified.
- HF3210—Abrams (R)**  
**Judiciary Finance**  
 Supreme Court, court of appeals, and district court appropriated money.
- HF3211—Mulder (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Minnesota utilization review act and practice of medicine definition modified.
- HF3212—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
 Home care and personal care provider transportation expense reimbursement studied.
- HF3213—Ozment (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
 Heritage forest areas established in specified counties, timber provisions modified, and recreational area public use rules modified.
- HF3214—Knoblach (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
 Partition fence law applicability limited.
- HF3215—Gunther (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
 Swine pseudorabies control program appropriated money.
- HF3216—Anderson, I. (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
 School district outstanding capital loan bond sale limitation modified.
- HF3217—Cassell (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
 Central Lakes Trail improved and developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3218—Howes (R)**  
**Commerce**  
 Tobacco compliance checks requirement that minors be used eliminated.
- HF3219—Osskopp (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
 Paddlewheel location and prize requirements modified, and lawful gambling organizations authorized to pay for premises.
- HF3220—Smith (R)**  
**Civil Law**  
 Common interest ownership communities, certificates of value, and redemptions of realty technical changes provided; and procedural requirements modified.
- HF3221—Wagenius (DFL)**  
**Crime Prevention**  
 Criminal and juvenile justice information policy group membership modified, data group created, technology infrastructure improvements authorized, and money appropriated.

**HF3222—Rhodes (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Health-related boards reporting requirements modified and health professionals services program committee membership requirements modified.

**HF3223—Haas (R)****Commerce**

State of Minnesota made a comprehensive health association contributing member in respect of self-insured employee health plans and money appropriated.

**HF3224—Larson, D. (DFL)****Commerce**

Consumer right to privacy, confidentiality, and secrecy of financial records provided; consumer authorization for records exchange or disclosure required; and civil remedies and penalties imposed.

**HF3225—Gerlach (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Health maintenance organization personal information disclosure circumstances specified.

**HF3226—Nornes (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing home survey process procedure developed.

**HF3227—Dawkins (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Paul; Pierce Butler Avenue relocated and extended, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3228—Rukavina (DFL)****Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Public employment labor relations fair share fee to apply to charitable hospital exclusive representatives and employees.

**HF3229—Abrams (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Hennepin County obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card provided.

**HF3230—Koskinen (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Public higher education system exempt from debt service costs.

**HF3231—Seagren (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

General education, special programs, lifework development, facilities and technology, education excellence, nutrition programs, and libraries provisions modified.

**HF3232—Goodno (R)****Civil Law**

Business corporation and limited liability company shareholder and member rights regulated, director and governor conflicts of interest notification clarified, and share purchasing and contribution allowance agreements regulated.

**HF3233—Carruthers (DFL)****Taxes**

Sales tax rebate provided in 2000, 1999 rebate eligibility expanded, filing dates extended, agricultural assistance provided to at-risk farmers, and money appropriated.

**HF3234—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Sales and use tax law recodified, and provisions clarified.

**HF3235—Hackbarth (R)****Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Joint labor-management safety committee requirements modified to apply to standard industrial classified employees.

**HF3236—Mulder (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Vital record certified copy issuance provisions modified.

**HF3237—Dempsey (R)****Education Policy**

Expelled students prohibited from participating in the enrollment options program.

**HF3238—Swenson (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Farm equipment manufacturers and dealers regulated.

**HF3239—Finseth (R)****Taxes**

Polk County increased levy limit base provided.

**HF3240—Finseth (R)****Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural land set aside and payment program established, and money appropriated.

**HF3241—Otremba (DFL)****Agriculture Policy**

Animal feedlot rules delayed implementation and enforcement provided.

**HF3242—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Senior drug program eligibility expanded and qualified Medicare beneficiaries asset limits increased.

**HF3243—Otremba (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Secondary vocational education funding extended for one year and money appropriated.

**HF3244—Otremba (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare income and asset provisions modified.

**HF3245—Otremba (DFL)****K-12 Education Finance**

Secondary vocational education funding reinstated and money appropriated.

**HF3246—Osskopp (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Card club table number limitation clarified.

**HF3247—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing facilities authorized to place licensed beds on layaway status and medical assistance reimbursement adjusted.

**HF3248—Goodno (R)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) maintenance of effort (MOE) expenditures specified and legislative advisory commission review of spending procedures provided.

**HF3249—Hausman (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Metropolitan Council transit appropriated money.

**HF3250—Greenfield (DFL)****Health & Human Services Policy**

Vulnerable adult maltreatment determinations review and reconsideration rights specified.

**HF3251—Rukavina (DFL)****Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Recreational gold prospecting authorized and restrictions provided.

**HF3252—Huntley (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota, Duluth, Bulldog sports center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3253—Huntley (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota, Duluth, music performance laboratory constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3254—Huntley (DFL)****Taxes**

Aircraft shipped to a purchaser outside Minnesota sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF3255—Jaros (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

County capital improvements definition expanded to include historical society, museum, and cultural and art centers.

**HF3256—Swapinski (DFL)****Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicle registration application filing fee increased and provisions clarified.

**HF3257—Jennings (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Sanitary district annexation study expenses payment requirements modified.

**HF3258—Larson, D. (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport impact mitigation planning provided, impact zones and tax increment financing districts established, airport impact mitigation fund created, and money appropriated.

**HF3259—Seifert, J. (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Metro greenways and natural areas grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3260—Olson (R)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lake improvement district provisions modified.

**HF3261—Erhardt (R)****Taxes**

Residential homestead property tax classification rates modified.

**HF3262—Westfall (R)****Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Stream maintenance grant program appropriated money.

**HF3263—Swapinski (DFL)****Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Duluth human rights commission additional powers authorized or new commission established.

**HF3264—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Minnesota Program Development, Inc. in northeastern Minnesota domestic abuse intervention program facilities grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF3265—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Fond du Lac area water and sanitary sewer service improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3266—Huntley (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Duluth/North Shore sanitary district improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3267—Kubly (DFL)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Feedlots with under 300 animal units exempted from regulation.

**HF3268—Leppik (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Metropolitan regional park acquisition and betterment authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3269—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Duluth Lake Superior College multipurpose recreation complex authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3270—Jaros (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Spirit Mountain Recreation Authority improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3271—Ness (R)**  
**Agriculture Policy**  
Feedlot permit obligations disclosure and timely permit issuance required, and remedies provided for permit denied.

**HF3272—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**  
Local excise tax on motor vehicles limited.

**HF3273—Swapinski (DFL)**  
**Taxes**  
Sales and use tax exemption provided sales to political subdivisions of the state.

**HF3274—Workman (R)**  
**Transportation Policy**  
Utility-owned vehicles exempted from specified weight restrictions.

**HF3275—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Special limits for nursing facility bed limit moratorium exceptions provision clarified.

**HF3276—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Regional treatment center surplus building use study required.

**HF3277—Juhnke (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Adult foster care rate-setting methods advisory task force established, and report required.

**HF3278—Abeler (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Seniors' agenda for independent living program expanded, congregate housing services project administration modified, and money appropriated.

**HF3279—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Prepaid medical assistance capitation rates for non-metropolitan counties increased.

**HF3280—Ozment (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Recovered material and environmental factors in state purchasing modified.

**HF3281—Boudreau (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
State building energy code authority transferred to commissioner of administration.

**HF3282—Hackbarth (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Secondary vocational education funding extended one additional year, and money appropriated.

**HF3283—Otremba (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 787, Browerville, fund transfer authorized.

**HF3284—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Pharmacists not disciplined for refusing to dispense prescriptions for moral or religious reasons.

**HF3285—Lindner (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Wage payment provisions modified, and employers prohibited from charging employees or applicants for background checks and specified training.

**HF3286—Knoblach (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Respite care for family adult foster care providers legislative proposals developed.

**HF3287—Boudreau (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and Blind improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3288—Fuller (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Bemidji headwaters science center constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3289—Biernat (DFL)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Minneapolis northeast culture and fitness campus constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3290—Dorman (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**  
Specified discrimination complaint communications classified as privileged.

**HF3291—Dorman (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Owatonna heritage halls appropriated money.

**HF3292—Dorman (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**  
MTBE; gasoline blended with the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether sale prohibited in the state of Minnesota.

**HF3293—Kielkucki (R)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Public school employees mandatory statewide health care plan studied and money appropriated.

**HF3294—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) increased enrollment efforts appropriated money.

**HF3295—Mulder (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Rock County bicycle and pedestrian trail provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3296—Hasskamp (DFL)**  
**K-12 Education Finance**  
Crosslake library constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3297—Paulsen (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**  
Technology business and activity defined, and regulations provided.

**HF3298—Entenza (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Minnesota Children's Museum permanent exhibits grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3299—Wejcman (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**  
Minneapolis empowerment zone sub-projects infrastructure improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF3300—Boudreau (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Policy**  
Community action, head start, and food shelf data classification provided; child care program provisions modified; and learning readiness program plan submission requirement modified.

**HF3301—Goodno (R)**  
**Health & Human Services Finance**  
Family and adult self-sufficiency provisions modified.



**FYI**

### **Time off for caucuses**

The House of Representatives will take some time off to accommodate the upcoming caucuses.

It was announced this week that there will be no House committee meetings between noon Tuesday, March 7 and noon the following day. The Republican and Reform parties will hold caucuses the evening of March 7.

There also will be no committee meetings on Saturday, March 11. That is the day the DFL will hold its precinct caucuses.

## MONDAY, February 14

8 a.m.

### GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

**Agenda:** HF2733 (Mares) Soccer; Amateur Sports Commission new facilities plan developed and implemented statewide, grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2836 (Rostberg) National Guard and organized militia membership eligibility clarified.  
HFXXXX (Rostberg) Increases the bonding authority of the Minnesota State Armory Building Commission to \$15 million.

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

**Agenda:** Discussion of bonding priorities continued from Wed., Feb. 9th.

Discussion of the following deficiency appropriation requests: MN Board of Psychology - extraordinary litigation costs; Department of Health Poison Control Center; Department of Human Services Adoption Assistance; Department of Human Services - equalization of state and county MFIP recoveries.

### JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF2820 (McElroy) Catalyst grants provided to promote Internet access in rural Minnesota and money appropriated.

HF2839 (Storm) Minnesota Technology, Inc. appropriated money for the e-Business Institute.  
HF2840 (Cassell) Workforce identification systems development support provided and money appropriated.

HF2625 (Anderson, B.) Buffalo community center grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3074 (Hausman) Ramsey County soccer fields acquired and improved, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1432 (Hausman) St. Paul RiverCentre and skyway system underground connection grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1722 (Trimble) St. Paul Dale Street shops, Maxson Steel, and the former Stroh Brewery capital redevelopment activities grant provided; and money appropriated.

### TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

**Agenda:** HF2730 (Dempsey) Port development assistance grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Department of Transportation personnel issues, AFSCME Council 6.

10 a.m.

### CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

**Agenda:** HF2550 (Storm) Private college campus security personnel authorized to receive telephone access to motor vehicle registration information.

HF2837 (Boudreau) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program use required to verify immigration status of applicants for child care assistance and human services assistance.

HF537 (Boudreau) Complementary and alternative health care freedom of access act adopted.

### ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

**Agenda:** Board of Water and Soil Resources bonding recommendations:

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); RIM Reserve - Wetland Reserve Partnership; Statewide RIM Reserve; operating costs for easement programs; and local government wetland banking.

### HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

**Agenda:** University of Minnesota bonding requests.

Overview of priorities.

### K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

**Agenda:** HF2547 (Lieder) Independent School District No. 914, Ulen-Hitterdal, K-6 school building constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2575 (Howes) Independent School District No. 115, Cass Lake, maximum effort capital loan approved and money appropriated.

HF2811 (Davids) Independent School District No. 495, Grand Meadow, alternative facilities design grant

authorized; bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2961 (Skoe) Independent School District No. 25, Pine Point, new K-8 facility constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3014 (Fuller) Independent School District Nos. 38, Red Lake, 115, Cass Lake, 299, Caledonia, 306 Laporte, and 914, Ulen-Hitterdal, maximum effort capital loans authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2775 (Kielkucki) Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, achievement plus facility construction completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

**Agenda:** HF2769 (Wilkin) Residential property containing four or more units tax class rates reduced.

HF2781 (Mulder) Wind energy conversion systems assessment required.

HF2681 (Juhnke) Manufactured homes low market value improvements property tax exemption provided.

HF2985 (Rukavina) Property tax levy limit calculation modified for the purposes of eliminating specified mining tax distribution deduction.

HF2201 (Dawkins) Residential property containing four or more units tax class rates reduced.

12:30 p.m.

### FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

**Agenda:** Community crime prevention grants: Charlie Weaver, Department of Public Safety; Mary Ellison, Department of Children, Families and Learning (DCFL).

Child care update: Karen Carlson and Cherie Kotilinek, DCFL.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

**Agenda:** HF590 (Anderson, B.) Private property rights protection act adopted.

HF591 as amended (Anderson, B.) Private property protection act adopted (continued from Feb. 9 meeting; committee deliberation).

HF2722 (Tunheim) Kittson County granted the authority to dissolve a town with less than five full-time residents (originally on Feb. 9 agenda).

HF2517 (Haake) Local governing body members prohibited from serving on city charter commissions.

HF2535 (Sykora) Shorewood authorized to establish wards and elect city council members by wards.

HF2791 (Abrams) Hennepin County human resources board and department provisions modified.

HF2873 (Hackbarth) Anoka County department head time requirements clarified.

### Regulated Industries Subcommittee/COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

**Agenda:** HF2942 (Daggett) Telephone solicitors required to register with the secretary of state.

HF2996 (Wolf) Electric utilities required to provide cost and fuel information to utility customers.



3 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

4 p.m.

#### **Hennepin County Delegation**

318 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Linda Higgins

**Agenda:** Discussion of Hennepin County's legislative proposals for the 2000 Session.

## **TUESDAY, February 15**

8 a.m.

#### **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

**Agenda:** HF2716 (Bradley) Tobacco settlement revenues credited to the health care access fund, provider premium tax modified, and contingent elimination of MinnesotaCare provider taxes created.

HF2707 (Juhnke) Organization sponsored potluck event requirements modified.

HF2909 (Abeler) Physician assistant supervisory requirement modified for rendering care in disaster situations, medical assistance coverage clarified, and physician assistant advisory council terms limited.

#### **JOBES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

**Agenda:** Presentation of Airport Community Stabilization Report from the Department of Trade and Economic Development.

HFXXXX repealing laws governing entertainment agencies.

HF2926 (Clark, K.) Urban Indian housing program regulated.

Continuation of housing discussion by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

#### **JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

**Agenda:** Overview of courts budget.

Auto Theft Prevention Board.

#### **TRANSPORTATION POLICY**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

**Agenda:** HF2824 (Haas) One or two license plates provided on collector and similar vehicles at owner's discretion.

HF2884 (Opatz) Outdoor advertising and vegetation control regulations modified.

HF2635 (Luther) Drivers' license applicants authorized to make a donation for public education and information on anatomical gifts.

HF2502 (Wenzel) Trunk Highway No. 371 portion known as the Brainerd Bypass designated as C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway.

HF3070 (Workman) 800-MHZ trunked radio system source code access and two vendors required.

8:30 a.m.

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

**Agenda:** Department of Military Affairs capital bonding requests.

10 a.m.

#### **CRIME PREVENTION**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

**Agenda:** HF2892 (Stanek) Statute of limitations expanded to include homicide and specified criminal sexual conduct.

HF2491 (Skoglund) Kidnapping statute of limitations lengthened.

HF2492 (Skoglund) Kidnapping statute of limitations modified.

HF2493 (Skoglund) Kidnapping statute of limitations eliminated.

HF2747 (Holberg) Felons required to notify prosecuting authorities of name change requests, challenges authorized, proof of name change law compliance required for marriage licenses, and license issuance and dissolution conditions imposed.

HF2448 (Skoglund) Inmate name change request notice to victims and criminal justice system officials provided, and inmate name changes limited.

HF2746 (Haake) Predatory offender registration law violations provided increased penalties.

HF2748 (Fuller) Specified offenders required to register under the predatory offender registration law for life.

Others to be announced.

#### **EDUCATION POLICY**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

**Agenda:** Report from Accountability in Education Working Group, Rep. Mark Buesgens.

Other items to be announced.

#### **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

**Agenda:** HF3213 (Ozment) Heritage forest areas established in specified counties, timber provisions modified, and recreational area public use rules modified.

HF2613 (Boudreau) Big Woods Heritage Forest established through specified county board resolutions.

HF3167 (Ozment) Wildlife management areas designated, state forest lands expanded, and all-terrain vehicle use authorized in certain wildlife management areas.

#### **TAXES**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

**Agenda:** HF2938 (Abrams) Sales tax rebate provided in 2000, 1999 rebate eligibility expanded, passenger automobile registration tax and levy limits limited, health care premium taxes modified, tax relief and reform account created, and money appropriated (Governor's tax bill).

HF2742 (Dorman) Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

12:30 p.m.

#### **AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

**Agenda:** To be announced.

#### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

**Agenda:** Overview of light rail transit by the Department of Transportation.

#### **COMMERCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

**Agenda:** HF2641 (Fuller) School bank pilot project made permanent.

HF2515 (Solberg) Independent School District Nos. 508, St. Peter, and 316, Greenway-Coleraine, authorized to create school banks for educational purposes and sunset eliminated.

HF2652 (Goodno) Border cities provided residential building energy code requirements exemption.

HF3066 (Seifert, J.) Secretary of State fees and annual corporate registrations regulated, digital signature technical changes provided, and specified nonprofits extended.

HF1757 (Haas) Health insurer and health maintenance organization regulations simplified.

HF2713 (Rest) Funeral acts and services regulated, and pre-need arrangement requirements established.

HF2829 (Clark, K.) Financial institutions required to process checks in numerical sequence during business day unless customer specifies differently.

Other bills to be announced.

## **WEDNESDAY, February 16**

8 a.m.

#### **Joint ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE/ JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Mark Holsten,

Rep. Dan McElroy

**Agenda:** HF2636 (Mulder) Lewis and Clark Joint Powers Board grant provided for a rural water system, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2917 (Nornes) Parkers Prairie storm water sewer grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2583 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County Minnesota cold weather testing center construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2915 (Juhnke) Green Lake sanitary sewer and water district wastewater infrastructure funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2418 (Otremba) Eagle Bend wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2438 (Otremba) Clarissa wastewater funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**Note:** The Environment & Natural Resources Finance Committee will hold its regularly scheduled 10 a.m. meeting in 300S State Office Building to discuss DNR bonding recommendations. See listing below.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno  
**Agenda:** Discussion of the Department of Human Services budget forecast.  
Discussion of TANF regulations and their impact on the general fund.

**TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**10 a.m.**

**CIVIL LAW**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith  
**Agenda:** HF2589 (Smith) Health care provider action expert review certification regulated.  
HF2803 (Smith) Court reporters allowed to organize under the Public Employment Labor Relations act.  
HF2919 (Stanek) Domestic fatality review committee required to collect domestic violence death data.  
HF3047 (Kuisse) Title insurance mortgage release certificate language modified to include assignment of rents and profits.  
HF1662 (Boudreau) Medical assistance programs and liens modified, and claims clearance provided.  
HF2911 (Mulder) Foreign and domestic corporation civil action conciliation court venue provided.  
HF2555 (Carruthers) Civil third-party liability imposed for damages caused by intoxicated persons under age 21.  
HF2527 (Biernat) Sole physical custody of a child modification standards altered.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE**

**\*\*\*NOTE ROOM\*\*\***

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** DNR bonding recommendations.

**HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE**

**\*\*\*NOTE ROOM CHANGE\*\*\***

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** University of Minnesota bonding requests.  
Overview of priorities.  
MSUSA/MSCSA presentation.

**K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**Property Tax Division/TAXES**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt  
**Agenda:** HF2758 (Swenson) Family farm corporations and partnerships specified shareholders authorized to reside off the homestead property.  
HF2544 (Lieder) Agricultural relative homestead definition expanded to include grandchildren.  
HF2600 (Tunheim) Family farm corporations and partnerships specified shareholders authorized to reside off the homestead property.  
Other bills to be announced.

**12:30 p.m.**

**AGRICULTURE POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** Department of Agriculture agency bills:  
HFXXXX (Finseth) Uniformity for meat and poultry inspection requirements.  
HFXXXX (Westfall) Grain inspection technical changes.  
HFXXXX (Swenson) RFA technical changes.  
HFXXXX (Swenson) Revise adulterated dairy products; remove penalties.  
HFXXXX (Wenzel) Clarification of ag value-added/coop grants.  
HFXXXX (Wenzel) Anhydrous ammonia tampering bill.  
HFXXXX (Harder) Pesticide and fertilizer technical amendments.  
HFXXXX (Harder) Changes to the corporate farm law/estate planning adjustments.  
HFXXXX (Cassell) Technical changes to food safety law.  
Overview of Department of Agriculture study on contracts.  
Overview of the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Agriculture and the Pollution Control Agency on dairy inspectors.  
**Note: This meeting is scheduled to last until 6 p.m.**

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora  
**Agenda:** HF2554 (Sykora) Adult basic education performance accountability system created and data sharing provided.  
Early childhood centers bonding proposal.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen  
**Agenda:** HF1937 (Bishop) County services districts established, county cooperation required, and boards and advisory committees authorized.  
HF2723 (Ness) McLeod County authority to temporarily office in Glencoe Township extended.  
HF2927 (Tuma) Metropolitan Inter-County Association group insurance protection authorized.  
HF2673 (Rest) Political subdivision corporation creation standards established and existing corporations continued.  
HF2634 (Anderson, I.) Northern Itasca Hospital District hospital board membership modified.  
HF2737 (Solberg) Municipalities and veterans' organizations authorized to donate to all public school programs and facilities.  
HF2745 (Stanek) DWI; repeat DWI offenders provided felony penalties, and incarceration and intensive probation supervision sentencing required.

**Regulated Industries Subcommittee/ COMMERCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf  
**Agenda:** HF2757 (Jennings) Biomass power mandate regulated for electric generating facilities using poultry litter as a fuel source.  
HF2996 (Wolf) Electric utilities required to provide cost and fuel information to utility customers.  
Continuation of discussion from Feb. 14 meeting.  
Other bills to be announced.

**3 p.m.**

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** HF2808 (Howes) Cass County; Tri-County Leech Lake watershed critical habitat protection provided, bond sale authorized, and money appropriated.  
HF2848 (Opatz) St. Cloud Area Joint Powers Board parks and trails grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.  
HF2739 (Solberg) Itasca County railroad authority grant, Itasca County highway improvement grant, and Nashwauk wells and wastewater treatment facilities construction grant provided; bonds issued; and money appropriated.  
Finance Committee reports.

**Jobs Training Criteria Work Group/ JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Gunther  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

**THURSDAY, February 17**

**8 a.m.**

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley  
**Agenda:** HFXXXX (Abeler) Department of Human Services health care bill.  
HF3020 (Bradley) Long-term care provisions modified.  
HFXXXX (Nornes) Requiring nursing home regulatory reform.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner  
**Agenda:** Presentation of Business Climate Report from the Department of Trade and Economic Development.  
HF3057 (McElroy) Business subsidy provisions clarified.  
HF22 (Jaros) Minnesota office of international affairs established, and money appropriated.

**JUDICIARY FINANCE**

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

8:30 a.m.

## STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie  
**Agenda:** HF2500 (Krinkie) Light rail transit project contract requirement language modified and usual state procurement laws explicitly required.

10 a.m.

## CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** HF2896 (Paulsen) Predatory offenders failing to comply with registration requirements provided increased criminal penalties and Level III sex offender information posted on the Internet.  
HFXXXX (Abeler) Predatory offender registration law expanded to include additional offenses.  
HF3037 (Skoglund) Criminal sexual conduct offenses and solicitation offenses prosecution jurisdiction provided in state of origin or termination.  
Other bills to be announced.

## EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares  
**Agenda:** HF2752 (Mares) Department of Children, Families and Learning commissioner's referendum date authority sunset removed.  
Other items to be announced.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## TAXES

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HF2549 (Tuma) Eligible county enhanced 911 program expenses special assessment procedure authorized, municipality and improvement definitions modified, and authorized improvements expanded.  
HF2828 (Murphy) Hermantown local sales and use tax usages authorized.  
HF2903 (Stang) Fire department purchases sales and use tax exemption provided.  
HF2921 (Rostberg) Prescription drug income tax credit authorized and money appropriated.  
HF2934 (Hasskamp) Crosslake authorized to impose an additional sales and use tax for wastewater treatment facility improvements.  
Other bills may be added and/or deleted.

12:30 p.m.

## AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness  
**Agenda:** Department of Agriculture bonding recommendations.  
To be announced.

## CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## COMMERCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids  
**Agenda:** HF2942 (Daggett) Telephone solicitors required to register with the secretary of state.  
HF2810 (Buesgens) Financial institution federal data privacy regulation conformity required and state enforcement provided.  
Other bills to be announced.

3 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

Immediately Following Session

## AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth  
**Agenda:** Continuation of Feb. 16 agenda.

## FRIDAY, February 18

8 a.m.

## GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

10 a.m.

## CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room  
State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek  
**Agenda:** HF2751 (Stanek) Financial institutions provided limited liability for information furnished for investigative purposes, stolen and counterfeit check reporting or transfer provided criminal penalties, and racketeering expanded.  
HFXXXX (Stanek) Board of Public Defense; expert witness fee expenses.  
HFXXXX (Haas) Department of Natural Resources enforcement bill.  
HF3023 (Broecker) Lawful gambling fraud defined and felony penalties imposed.  
HF2920 (Rostberg) Juvenile court appearance by interactive video conferencing authorized.  
HFXXXX (Dempsey) Department of Corrections facility at Red Wing.  
HF2533 (Kielkucki) Correctional fees allocated and probation officer salary state reimbursement prorated eliminated.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten  
**Agenda:** HF2651 (Tuma) Legacy 2000; statewide natural resources projects provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.  
HF3268 (Leppik) Metropolitan regional park acquisition and betterment authorized, bonds

issued, and money appropriated.

HF3259 (Seifert, J.) Metro greenways and natural areas grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3161 (Harder) Minnesota River Basin conservation reserve enhancement program projects funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.  
HF2170 (Ozment) Board of Water and Soil Resources shoreland protection pilot program created, and money appropriated.  
**Note possible addition of other legacy initiatives.**

## HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik  
**Agenda:** HF2649 (Abeler) Anoka-Hennepin Technical College facilities remodeled and repaired, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

## K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

200 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren  
**Agenda:** To be announced.

## TAXES

5 State Office Building  
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams  
**Agenda:** HF2277 (Otremba) Municipalities authorized to use the Revenue Recapture Act to collect delinquent payments for ambulance services.  
HF2377 (Carruthers) Governmental pension plan income tax subtraction allowed.  
HF2523 (Harder) Bleacher safety materials sales and use tax exemption provided.  
HF2865 (Mulder) Luverne border development zone tax incentives authorized, state tax reductions allocated, and money appropriated.  
Other bills may be added and/or deleted.

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The Legislative Reference Library maintains an exceptionally thorough and useful links page that provides easy access to a massive amount of information on issues related to politics and government.

The regularly updated links are organized under broad topics relevant to a political audience. There are more than 40 such topics, ranging from agriculture to criminal justice and from demographics to weather. Under each topic, the links are further organized, with sections for state government offices, federal government resources, academic and non-profit institutions, relevant journals and magazines, and so on.

It's a great place to start for researching just about any issue.

To find the library's links, just go to the Legislature's site ([www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us)) and click on "Links to the World."



Continued from page 15

crime,” Chutich said. “We are always making distinctions in crime based on harm done.”

Brian Rusche, executive director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, said he was pleased with the bipartisan support for the bill.

“We feel very strongly this legislation can repudiate these acts and isolate perpetrators,” Rusche said.

He said it’s important for people who burn crosses and paint swastikas on buildings to understand the magnitude of their acts, even though the crimes associated with them are technically only minor property crimes.

“I can’t see how (a misdemeanor) reflects the terror that crime brings into a community,” Rusche said.

Oertelt is hopeful the bill would lead to change.

“My hope is these idiots will be a bit more scared because they will be punished for something they weren’t before,” he said.

Oertelt is writing a book about his experiences that he hopes will be published this year. He said he is occasionally the victim of bias crimes, often in the form of hate mail.

“It is frustration and anger,” he said. “People who refuse to learn from history.”

The committee had discussed this proposal during an interim meeting last October. The Senate, which passed a similar bill last year, currently has a version awaiting a hearing in the Senate Crime Prevention Committee sponsored by Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul).

Continued from page 18

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) said it seems the governor “overlooked rural Minnesota” and asked why the administration’s plan isn’t more balanced.

The \$1 billion bonding law passed in 1998 included more than \$281 million for higher education facilities. This year’s Legislature is free to add or subtract projects from the governor’s proposal.

On Feb. 9, MnSCU officials came before the Higher Education Finance Committee to begin explaining the system’s bonding requests in full.

Chancellor Morrie Anderson said MnSCU is a “big system with big needs” and he told lawmakers that the state’s strong economy is at least partly a product of good colleges and universities.

“We have an opportunity because of good times,” Anderson said. “I think that should be a winning opportunity.”

Continued from page 16

One proposal (HF2617) would establish joint House and Senate standing committees, a concept that is found in the Connecticut and Maine legislatures. Instead of having two versions of the same bill in each body, the joint committees would introduce one bill that would “ping pong” back and forth to reconsider and amend the bill.

The other (HF2718) proposal is loosely based on Sweden’s parliament, McElroy said. It would retain two bodies, but each would have slightly different duties.

One body — the “Assembly” — would be like the proposed unicameral Legislature, responsible for passing most legislation and determining the biennial budget.

The other body — the “Council” — would confirm some types of legislation, such as laws that change the number of members of the legislature, change district boundaries, propose a constitutional amendment, cause the

state to incur debt, change tax rates, eliminate a tax or establish a new tax. The “Council” would also confirm governor’s appointments, which is currently done by the Senate, except that McElroy’s proposal would add judicial appointments and deputy commissioners to those that are currently confirmed by the Senate.

Also, members of the “Council” from the metropolitan area would serve as the Metropolitan Council, and remaining members would form a “Greater Minnesota Council.”

The Met Council is currently an appointed body. Leaders have criticized that structure, saying it makes the council less accountable because its members don’t have to face voters periodically.

The Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy is considering the unicameral bill and other reforms proposed by House members. No action has been taken yet on the bills.

#### Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Title of Publication Session Weekly	Publication No. 1049-8176	Date of Filing 9-15-99
Frequency of issue Weekly during legislative session	No. of Issues Published Annually 22 odd yr.; 12 even	Annual Subscription Price No Charge
Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN, Ramsey Co., 55155-1298		Contact person Nicole Wood
Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN, Ramsey Co., 55155-1298		Telephone 651-296-7592
Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor		
Publisher LeClair G. Lambert, 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298		
Editor Nick Healy, 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298		
Managing Editor Michelle Kibiger, 100 Constitution Ave., Rm. 175, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298		
Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereafter the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or unincorporated firm, its name and address as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Do Not Leave Blank.)		
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Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities. If none, check here. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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Publication Name Session Weekly	Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 5/21/99	
Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published nearest to Filing date
a. Total No. Copies	18,361	21,600
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales (Not Mailed)		
(2) Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies)	15,499	18,075
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2))	15,499	18,075
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free)		
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	2,502	2,825
f. Total Distribution	2,502	2,825
g. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15f)	18,001	20,900
h. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office use, left over, Spoiled	360	700
2. Return from News Agents		
i. Total (Sum of 15g, 15h(1), and 15h(2))	18,361	21,600
Percent paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c/15g x 100)	86%	86%
This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the 12/10/00 issue of this publication.		
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MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY  
MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

## MINNESOTA INDEX

### A century of change

State population in 1900, in millions .....	1.75
in 1998 .....	4.73
Governor's annual salary, 1900 .....	\$5,000
in 1999 .....	\$114,506
Years in term for governor, 1900 .....	2
in 1999 .....	4
Total seats in the Legislature, 1900 .....	182
in 1999 .....	201
Number of U.S. congressional districts, 1900 .....	7
in 1999 .....	8
Percentage of eligible voters participating in presidential election, 1900 .....	76.7
in 1996 .....	64.8
Percentage of people living in urban areas, 1900 .....	33
in 1998 .....	72
Non-white percentage of population, 1900 .....	0.8
in 1998 .....	8
Number of Minnesotans unable to speak English, 1900 .....	75,071
in 1990 .....	79,000
Percentage of families that owned homes, 1900 .....	64
in 1998 .....	75.4
Average size of a farm, in acres, 1900 .....	150
in 1999 .....	343
Percentage of women employed, 1900 .....	16.2
in 1997 .....	68
People in average household, 1900 .....	4.9
in 1997 .....	2.55
Percentage of people ages 15 to 19 attending school, 1900 .....	28
in 1990 .....	87
Minnesota breweries operating in 1900 .....	85
in 1999 .....	16
Newspapers in Minnesota, 1900 .....	677
in 1999 .....	466

Sources: *Turn of the Century: Minnesota's Population in 1900 and Today*, Minnesota Planning State Demographic Center, 1999; *Minnesota in a Century of Change: The State and Its People Since 1900*, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1989; *Minnesota Labor Market Review 1996*, Minnesota Department of Economic Security; Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development.

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