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TAX PLAN IN TROUBLE,

ETHANOL SUPPORT, AND LIGHT RAIL

HF3302-HF3670

Session Weekly

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On the cover: Fourteen-month-old Eva Anderson plays on the "Star of the North" in the Capitol rotunda during a Feb. 15 rally for increased funding for Early Childhood Family Education programs.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Conflict on taxes

The governor's tax plan met with questions and criticism in a House committee

By DAVID MAEDA

Gov. Jesse Ventura's 2000 tax plan ran into strong criticism in a Feb. 15 hearing of the House Taxes Committee.

In fact, two of the people carrying the governor's tax bill in the House — chief sponsor Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) and co-sponsor Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) — were among the harshest voices in the mix.

On one point, committee members agreed with the Ventura administration — Minnesotans will likely receive a tax rebate sometime this summer.

But lawmakers found much to criticize in the specifics of the governor's proposal, which includes a plan to establish a \$75 maximum fee for motor vehicle license tabs.

Abrams ripped the governor's proposal to carry over \$855 million from the current budget surplus into the next biennium, to be used for tax reforms.

Several legislators this year are pushing various proposals to cut taxes, while it seems the governor's carryover plan would leave the tax-cutting debate until next year.

"This is a governor who during his campaign said he was going to send it all back," Abrams said.

Rest agreed that there is little chance the Legislature will approve that amount of carryover. She said with no concrete reform proposals on the table, it is fiscally irresponsible to not balance the state's books at the end of the biennium.

Right now, the state has a forecast surplus of \$1.58 billion, which could be eliminated this biennium through tax rebates, new spending, or, most likely, a mix of both. The governor would bring some of that surplus into the next budget cycle.

Committee members also criticized parts of the governor's plan involving significant changes to the funding structure for state operations such as transportation.

The committee took no action on the bill (HF2938) but will consider it further when compiling this year's omnibus tax package.

Matt Smith, commissioner of the

Department of Revenue, presented the governor's proposal, which would use surplus budget funds for a sales tax rebate.

"It will return the remaining '99 balance to the same general population as last year's rebate," he said. "It is a \$470 million sales tax rebate returned to around 3.2 million people."

Under the governor's proposal, the Revenue Department would mail rebate checks by mid-summer.

Smith said the governor's bill is more inclusive this year, adding about 245,000 people to receive rebates by expanding the pool to include senior citizens living on Social Security and people receiving disability income.

There also is a proposed extension for those

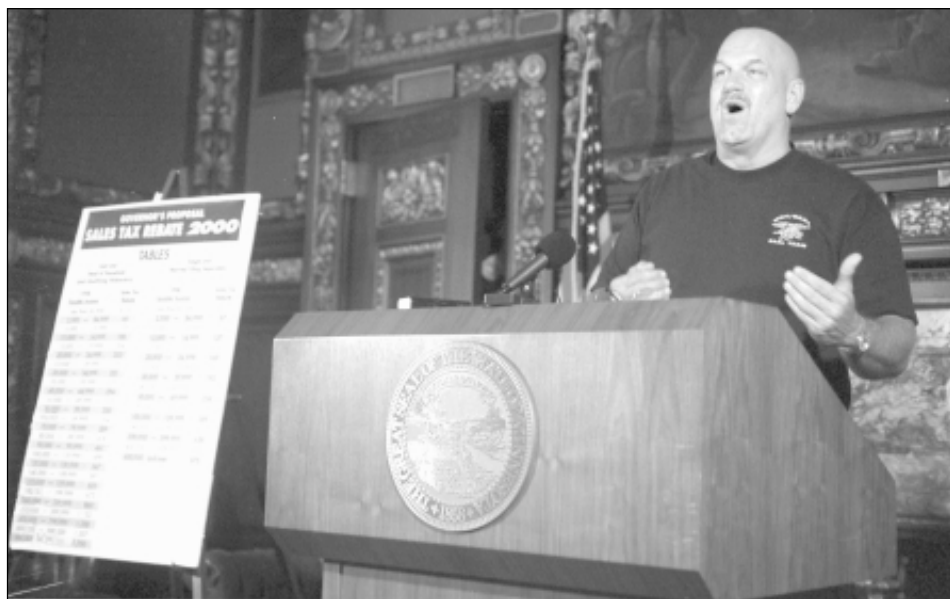
Under the bill, the average rebate for married couples would be \$280, and for single individuals \$139. The minimum for married couples would be \$125, with a maximum of \$1,750. For single filers, the minimum would be \$71, while a maximum of \$875.

However, several state funding provisions in the governor's bill raised alarm among committee members.

Abrams raised two issues from the 1999 session where the governor appears to have circumvented the legislative process.

He said that one of the governor's proposals last year approved by a House-Senate conference committee was an automatic "settle up" provision establishing the criteria for how rebates will be issued from future budget surpluses.

Then the governor vetoed a proposed cut in the health care provider tax, an action that increased the amount of last year's surplus by \$85 million dollars without any legislative input. Abrams said to allow a governor to set



Gov. Jesse Ventura announces his proposed \$470 million sales tax rebate during a news conference earlier this month. The governor's tax plan has met criticism in the House.

who were eligible to receive a rebate last year but did not file in time. It is estimated that this extension would allow 12,000 people to receive a rebate at a cost of \$3.5 million.

However, the governor's proposal would not expand the rebate to those claimed as dependents on their parent's tax returns. Smith said to include them would require a manual process that would be inaccurate, cumbersome, and expensive.

the eventual amount of a budget surplus is too easily susceptible to politics.

"This points out why the Legislature ought to be setting the amount of the rebate," Abrams said.

Abrams said the veto of the proposed transfer of general fund money to support MinnesotaCare, the state's health insurance program for low-income people, led to a violation of law by Department of Finance

Commissioner Pam Wheelock. He said because of a deficiency in the fund, Wheelock was required by law to increase health-care taxes paid by businesses. Abrams said she failed to do so, knowing it was unlikely anyone would sue the department over the violation.

“Just because someone thinks it’s the right thing to do doesn’t mean it’s the legal thing to do,” he said. “The governor was able to take credit for the veto, and not take responsibility for the rest of the statute.”

Abrams was also critical of the governor’s proposed cut in the motor vehicle registration tax. The bill would set maximum tab fees at \$75.

Smith said the cap was a key part of the governor’s plan, being a permanent tax cut provision. He said that as the governor has traveled across the state he has continued to hear from people who dislike the tax and feel it should be reduced.

He said that 55 percent of vehicle owners in the state would see an immediate reduction. Currently about 40 percent register at the minimum \$35 amount.

Revenues from the tax currently go to the state’s highway fund and would be replaced with a one-time general fund payment of \$276 million. The governor supports placing a constitutional amendment on November’s ballot proposing the dedication of 54 percent of future motor vehicle sales taxes to go to the highway fund to offset the revenues lost created by registration tax reduction.

In addition, the governor is proposing to create a new multimodal transportation and transit fund that would be receive its revenue from a statutory dedication of 46 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax. Thus overall transportation funding would increase under the governor’s plan even though the motor vehicle registration tax would be reduced.

However, the governor hasn’t developed an alternative plan, should the constitutional amendment fail at the polls.

In comparison to neighboring states, Minnesota does have a higher tax, Smith said.

Abrams suggested Ventura’s motor vehicle tax plan is too regressive, shifting more of the responsibility to those less able to pay.

Smith acknowledged that is somewhat true, but he also emphasized those objections should not derail the plan.

“The tax relief proposal needs to happen,” he said. “The governor sees the need to increase transportation funding. It is clear how critical infrastructure investment is the kind of thing we need to do to keep Minnesota competitive.”

IT’S A FACT



A different kind of strike

1950s teens were not spared from illegal labor practices

In the 1950s, certain Minnesota businesses exploited scores of children, whose size and speed made them valuable commodities. The state’s child labor laws were often overlooked, trumped by the need for corporate profits.

But the children were not being pressed into labor in some awful urban sweatshop or forced to spend long days at work in a northern mine.

The sector of the business world responsible for the most child labor violations? Bowling alleys. Teen-agers around the state worked as pinsetters, and their employers seemed to have some trouble abiding by the relatively lax limitations of Minnesota’s labor laws.

State law at that time made it illegal for minors under 16 to work after 7 p.m. or before 7 a.m. Those children also could not work more than eight hours a day and 48 hours a week. And the law prohibited children under 14 from working in a factory, mill, or mine, or in the construction of any building.

Between July 1, 1956, and June 30, 1958, the state issued 446 citations for violations of child labor laws. A total of 345 of those were for running afoul of standards regarding hours of work (mostly for keeping children on the job too late in the evening). Fifty-six were for “dangerous employment,” and 26 were for employing children in “beer parlors or where liquor was served,” according to the biennial report of the Department of Labor and Industry’s Industrial Commission.

The violations involved a total of 647 children. Most of them — 395 to be exact — were 15-year-olds, but some of the cases involved much younger children, including 10 workers who were just 10 years old.

Bowling alleys, retail stores, restaurants, and theaters, in that order, were responsible for most of the illegal employment practices, the Industrial Commission found.

In most cases, businesses that violated child labor laws were issued orders to comply, and inspectors would return to ensure

violations did not persist. Criminal prosecution was rare, coming only when serious offenses continued after repeated warnings.

During the two years detailed in the report, three bowling alley operators were prosecuted for violations involving child labor. All three cases ended in convictions.

The report bemoaned the fact that Minnesota’s child labor laws were outdated — most of them had been enacted in 1909 — and called on the 1959 Legislature to make changes.

Foremost among the Industrial Commission’s recommendations was a call for the minimum age for factory, construction, or mine work to be moved from 14 to 16.

There were no recommendations specifically related to bowling alleys and their frequent violations.

Child labor laws had not changed by the time the Industrial Commission issued its next biennial report in 1960, and the number of citations issued by the state had increased by more than 200.

But bowling alleys were no longer the chief violators. Retail stores, restaurants, and agricultural operations, in that order, were more often cited for child labor offenses.

So what happened to knock bowling alleys out of the top spot? A change in the bowling industry might have played a part in solving the problem. Brunswick had installed the first automatic pinsetter in 1956, sealing the ultimate fate of teen-age “pin boys.”

Minnesota’s current labor laws are more restrictive than those of 40 years ago.

Children under 14 cannot be employed, except as newspaper carriers, actors, models, or farmhands. Limits on the employment of 14- and 15-year-olds dictate the hours of day they can work and the maximum number of hours they can log in a week.

The child labor law also includes a long list of prohibited occupations for all minors. The list includes mining, logging, construction, operating heavy machinery, and bartending.

(N. Healy)



A young pinsetter at work in a St. Paul bowling alley.

Photo courtesy Minnesota Historical Society

★ BUSINESS

Subsidy requirements reconsidered

Easing reporting requirements for small businesses that receive government subsidies is one of the goals of a bill approved Feb. 17 by the House Jobs and Economic Development Policy Committee.

The bill (HF3057), sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), would make a number of changes to subsidy reporting requirements that were established last year.

McElroy said that the increased reporting requirements were originally included in a 1999 bill authored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). That bill did not pass the House but several of its provisions were included in the Senate's omnibus tax bill and were agreed to by House conferees.

McElroy's bill would re-define the term "business subsidy" to apply only to amounts over \$100,000. Currently, subsidies are defined as those over \$25,000.

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

McElroy said the bill also would change the current law prohibiting a recipient of a subsidy from moving locations within five years. The bill would allow the recipient to move at any time after a public hearing is held.

Clark offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have kept the dollar amount defining a subsidy at \$25,000. That provision was part of her bill last session after a task force concluded it was a fair amount, she said.

She said that welfare recipients have stringent reporting requirements for every dollar they receive and it was not unfair to expect the same from businesses who receive public subsidies.

Eric Nathanson, from the Minneapolis Community Development Agency, said that the reporting requirements discourage small entrepreneurs, particularly immigrants, from seeking the assistance they need to get a business going.

Beth Fraser, from the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action, said that in 1997, 177 subsidies fell under the \$100,000 threshold. She said this amounted to more than \$11 million. For such substantial amounts of public funding, subsidy recipients should be held accountable for the goals they set, she said.

The bill was sent to the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

★ CHILDREN

Bonding request advances

Although Gov. Jesse Ventura did not recommend any bonding for early childhood learning facilities, the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee on Feb. 16 approved \$5 million for such projects.

The measure will advance in the form of a recommendation to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) said she was angry the governor did not include any early childhood projects in his \$400 million bonding plan. The committee agreed with her, and members approved the request.

"This is the least we need," McGuire said. "If we come in with only \$1 million, they will think that is all we need."

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) sided with McGuire, saying the education facilities are needed.

"I think it looks really bad for the House in a bonding year to do nothing for early childhood facilities," Mariani said. "The governor thinks what we do here is 'nice.' It's not nice to not invest in kids."

The bonding request does not pertain to any

specific sites or projects; it only aims to give the money to the Department of Children, Families and Learning for construction of facilities to promote early childhood education.

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), who chairs the committee, initially suggested the committee aim for \$1 million because of the tight bonding bill requested by Ventura.

McGuire was critical of Ventura for making "healthy and vital communities" a major portion of his Big Plan initiative and then not funding this request.

★ CONSUMERS

Tracking telemarketers

Telemarketers should be required to register with the state and should not use technology to block caller-identification devices, said Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee).

Daggett is sponsoring a bill (HF2942) that would require telemarketing firms to pay a \$75 registration fee to the secretary of state.

Violators would have to pay a \$50 fine within 60 days. If a solicitor continued to violate the law, the state would assess a \$500 fine for every 60 days until the solicitor is registered.

The Regulated Industries Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee approved the measure Feb. 14 and sent it to the full committee, which approved it Feb. 17.

KIDS' CONCERT

Visitors to the Capitol rotunda Feb. 16 were treated to a short concert by the Anoka Cluster Elementary Honors Choir. The choir, conducted by Debra Halstenson, is composed of fourth and fifth graders from seven schools in the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

The bill would also require that telemarketers be fined \$500 for blocking their phone number from appearing on caller-identification boxes.

Registration information would have to include name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses. Information changes would cost an additional \$35.

"There's been a lot of fraud, especially with senior citizens who are very vulnerable," Daggett said of telemarketers. "They are not reputable and we have no way of knowing who they are."

The bill would not ban telemarketing; it would only require registration. Daggett said 300,000 Americans work as telemarketers, making 1.8 million calls each day. None of the firms those workers represent are registered in Minnesota.

Glen Dorfman of the Minnesota Association of Realtors opposed the bill. Dorfman said people can register on a federal 'do not call' list. People also have the option to ignore telemarketers, Dorfman said.

"Enough is enough," Dorfman said. "Support current law. If citizens don't want these calls, let them hang up."

Citizens gain valuable information from telemarketers, Dorfman added.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) questioned why the bill pertains only to telephone advertising and does not include solicitors who use e-mail or U.S. mail.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) supported the Daggett bill, sharing a story about how his grandmother was swindled by a phone scam. He said it is much easier to discard mail than disregard a phone call.

"These people can be very persuasive and really play on your emotions," Gunther said.

★ CRIME

Need for lab questioned

Members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee heard a bonding request Feb. 17 to build a new Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension facility in St. Paul.

The Department of Public Safety, which administers the bureau, is asking for \$58 million in bonds to finance construction of the facility. Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended full funding for the project.

Frank Dolejsi, director of the bureau laboratory, said that a number of renovations have been performed on the existing lab on University Avenue. However, the needs of law enforcement agencies in the state are no longer being supported.

For example, it takes the lab 74 days to analyze DNA, 60 days for drugs, 90 days for

toxicology reports, 150 days for firearms analysis and 120 days for latent fingerprints. The goal in the new facility is 30 days for all analysis, Dolejsi said.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) questioned whether the analysts could use the current lab space and staff it 16 or 24 hours a day to speed up the analysis. Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver said even if the lab worked around the clock, it wouldn't have the space to do all the work.

Several law enforcement officials from around the state also testified in favor of the project. St. Paul Police Chief William Finney said his department's lab does not accommodate some of the sophisticated analysis that the bureau laboratory does.

Police officials in outstate Minnesota said they could not sufficiently investigate crimes without the bureau.

Dolejsi also discussed concerns over an existing mold problem in the ceiling at the bureau laboratory. He said there's a possibility evidence could be altered because of the mold problem.

The committee will soon rank bonding proposals and forward a recommendation to the House Capital Investment Committee.

State courts in funding pinch

State judicial branch officials argued their case before House Judiciary Finance Committee on Feb. 15 for more money to cover severe budget shortfalls anticipated through fiscal year 2001.

The judicial branch is requesting \$3.1 million in funds to cover a deficit for fiscal year 2001. Officials say the court system's operating budget has been forced to absorb significant increases in personnel costs over the past few years.

That budget is no longer sufficient to cover the increases, said Sue Dosál, state court administrator.

"We have literally wrung out every little bit of flexibility that we had," Dosál said.

More than half of the shortfall — \$1.98 million — involves insurance costs alone, which increased between 23 and 42 percent, depending on the program employees elected.

Though they're not requesting the money, the courts expect to accumulate a \$2.1 million deficit for the current fiscal year.

Dosál said the judicial branch is trying a number of strategies to cut costs, including holding all new judgeships or existing judgeships open for five months, holding open law clerk and other staff positions, reducing funding for jury trials, reducing use of retired judges, and holding down the bottom of the pay range.

However, officials said, these cutbacks will ultimately affect the citizens relying on the efficiency of the court system.

Judge Leslie Metzen from South St. Paul said many judges are going without clerks, so they are required to do their own research and file their own orders. The more time they spend on these administrative tasks, Metzen said, the less time they spend on the bench.

And with increasing caseloads, she said, they don't always have spare time during the day to get to the orders and filings fast enough, thus making parties on both sides wait longer.

"This ultimately has an effect on them," she said.

Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada), who chairs the committee, said the panel will consider the branch's request among other spending proposals, possibly combining them into one bill.

Drunken driving laws clarified

Drunken driving laws would be clarified under a bill approved Feb. 11 by the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), who is sponsoring the legislation, led a task force that worked during the interim on plans for simplifying the laws. Police officers would have a better grasp of DWI laws with this legislation, he said. All drunken driving laws would be compiled in one new section of statute.

The bill would provide few substantive changes to DWI laws, but it would create separate levels of impaired-driving crimes. There would be a three-tiered system of first-, second- and third-degree drunken driving offenses.

The third-degree offense, a misdemeanor, would apply to all impaired driving offenses. The second-degree level, a gross misdemeanor, would include one aggravating factor. A first-degree offense would have two or more aggravating factors.

Aggravating factors are prior impaired-driving offenses in the past 15 years, a blood-alcohol concentration higher than 0.20 at the time of the offense, and driving impaired with children under age 16 in the vehicle.

The bill would remove one aggravating factor — driving drunk while crossing train tracks.

State Trooper Mike Asleson told the committee the bill doesn't change the law much, but it would help officers understand the complex DWI statutes.

"It's so important that this be simplified for officers," Asleson said.

The bill (HF2995) was referred to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

★ EDUCATION

Profile of Learning moratorium passed

Minnesota's Profile of Learning would be put on hold, under a bill the House approved Feb. 17. The vote was 97-34.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), was amended on the House floor to include an indefinite moratorium on the Profile.

When it arrived on the House floor, the bill was focused on the controversial writing test administered to high school sophomores last month.

Kielkucki's bill (HF2720) would require test booklets to be scored and returned to students, and it would guarantee that the question given to students this winter would not be used again. The test asked students to write about something about themselves they would like to change, and it drew fire because of the personal nature of the question.

On the House floor, Rep. Gene Pelowski (DFL-Winona) offered an amendment to place a two-year moratorium on the Profile of Learning portion of the state's Graduation Standards initiative.

"We're going to have a train wreck at graduation time if we don't do something," Pelowski said.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) upped the ante, asking lawmakers to change the amendment so it called for a "permanent moratorium."

Seifert's plan won approval and the bill was passed with the amendment attached. The legislation now goes to the Senate.

Rep. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) expressed disappointment over the amended version of the bill, calling it a missed opportunity to improve the Profile of Learning had the House simply limited the moratorium to two years of study.

"We had an opportunity to do something positive for school districts in the form of Rep. Pelowski's amendment, but what we ended up with is legislation that will never receive the governor's approval," he said.

K-12 bonding projects pitched

Education-related capital projects totaling upwards of \$53.1 million were considered Feb. 14 by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Project requests presented before the committee have received the support of the Department of Children, Families and Learning and were submitted to the Department of Finance. The governor's bonding plan was drawn from requests sent to the latter.

The committee delayed action on the projects until further information is released regarding

precisely how much money will be available for K-12 projects in this year's bonding bill.

The proposals call for bond proceeds to go to the Caledonia, Cass Lake, Red Lake, LaPorte, and Ulen-Hitterdal school districts for either building projects or improvements to existing structures.

The Caledonia School District is seeking approximately \$14 million to build a new middle/high school and to remodel the district's current secondary school to serve as an elementary school.

Bonds totaling about \$7.5 million are also being sought by the Cass Lake School District to fund a new middle school for grades 5 to 8.

The Red Lake School District is seeking \$11.2 mil-

lion to construct an early childhood facility and to renovate a middle school and elementary school.

The LaPorte School District is seeking more than \$7 million in for a variety of projects.

Officials from the Ulen-Hitterdal School District came before the committee in search

HOUSE COMMITTEE PROFILE

K-12 Education Finance

Chair: Seagren
(R-Bloomington)

Vice Chair: Ness
(R-Dassel)

Minority Lead: Johnson
(DFL-Spring Lake Park)

Members: 17
(10 R, 7 DFL)

Scope: Provides policy direction and funding for the state's K-12 system, including all public school districts, the Department of Children, Families & Learning, public libraries, and the Permanent School Fund.



Mary Helen Pelton, superintendent of Cass Lake-Bena School District, holds up art work made by students from Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School during her testimony before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee in support of a bill that would provide bond funds for the school district.

of about \$4 million for the construction of a building to house kindergarten through 6th grade students.

Of the requests mentioned, Gov. Jesse Ventura has suggested partial funding for the projects in the Caledonia, Cass Lake, and Red Lake school districts. The governor's bonding proposal provides no funding for the LaPorte and Ulen-Hitterdal districts.

The committee also considered a handful of requests not originally submitted to the Department of Finance. Those requests included \$4.1 million in general obligation bonds to construct a K-8 facility in the Pine Point School District and \$5.2 million to St. Paul's Achievement Plus program for continued construction.

Funds for physically disabled

Separate bills sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) would increase learning opportunities for people who are blind or physically disabled and appropriate money to state academies for the deaf and blind for asset preservation.

The first bill (HF2790) would dedicate \$1.35 million from the state's general fund to the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning for planning, design costs, and improvements to the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Faribault.

The second bill (HF3287) would authorize the state to issue up to \$3.8 million in bonds for various improvements at the Minnesota Academies for the Deaf and Blind, including electrical upgrades and sewer and water improvements.

Both bonding requests were given consideration by the House K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 16, although a decision to take action was delayed until further information on precisely how much money would be available for bonding projects is released.

Speaking in support of HF2790, Edina resident Nadine Jacobson, who is blind, told the committee a bill that would allow the library in Faribault to expand its book and tape selection would be of benefit to her and families in situations like hers.

Jacobson said her husband and two adopted children are also blind and appreciate the resources the Faribault library and libraries similar to it provide.

"In considering this issue, I would hope you'd remember that libraries for the blind and handicapped have special funding needs and should not be treated in the same breath as other public libraries," Jacobson said.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended providing only \$600,000 for the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in his bonding proposal.

★ EMPLOYMENT

Tracking success of adult education

The state would begin tracking adult basic education graduates after they have completed the program, under a bill considered Feb. 16 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), the bill (HF2554) would require adult basic education providers to ask students for their Social Security numbers. The state would then receive information from the Department of Economic Security regarding whether the graduates are employed and how much money they are earning.

"When they leave our program, we have no idea what happens to them," said Carlye Peterson of the Minneapolis schools district. "We have no way to track our learners."

Tracing economic information through the department is easier and more cost-effective than telephone surveys, said Barry Shaffer of the Department of Children, Families and Learning. He estimated the state would spend \$55,000 to \$75,000 on data matching. Telephone surveys would cost \$200,000 to \$400,000, he said.

Peterson said she prefers the data matching. She said many people have disconnected their phones, phone numbers change, and mail is rarely returned.

"It would be difficult to ask a person, 'Do you have a job and how much do you make?'" Peterson said.

Adult basic education teaches skills to people who do not have high school diplomas. Many of the participants are foreign-born and are just beginning to learn English.

Federal law requires the information to be collected, Shaffer said. Each state can decide the best route for collecting the data. Federal law also says states cannot use sampling measures to obtain its information.

Even though providers would have to ask, under the measure, students would not be required to provide the Social Security information. Shaffer said in other states that collect Social Security numbers, about 5 percent of people decline.

"They want to learn, they want to be there, and they would probably provide it," Shaffer said.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) wanted to know if students would be given a written statement saying how the information would be used. Sykora said that is not in the bill.

The bill would cost about \$52,000, Sykora said, but that cost would be paid by the federal government.

Claudia Fuentes of the Urban Coalition in St. Paul said the legislation would have a nega-

tive effect on adult basic education students. She said many of those students from foreign countries are fearful of government. It may keep some of them from attending classes, she said.

The committee took no action on the bill.

Matching workers with jobs

Identifying areas where there may be skilled workers whose abilities are not being used is the focus of a bill proposed by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria).

Cassell told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee on Feb. 14 that the bill (HF2840) would appropriate \$600,000 to the Department of Trade and Economic Development for grants to study areas where the skill sets or education of the available workforce are underused. The grants would go to local or regional development agencies.

"This would help us identify workers that have specific skills but aren't using those skills in their current employment," said Gary Fields, a department official.

The bill was approved Feb. 16 and sent to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Fields said studying the area would help both the companies looking for workers with a specific skill and the workers themselves.

Dr. Richard Lichty, a professor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, said that the northeastern region of the state was surveyed in 1994 with a grant from Minnesota Technology, Inc. The survey identified several issues related to the emerging workforce shortage.

This bill, Lichty said, would establish similar projects to collect information covering the entire state.

According to the measure, the department would establish the criteria for the grants, with projects eligible for up to 60 percent of the total project costs.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said she was concerned that the bill doesn't attempt to address a larger problem of businesses not paying high enough wages to attract and retain qualified workers.

Lichty said that he agreed that high paying jobs are needed to address the workforce shortage.

"I'm not an economist, but there is no shortage if the price is right," he said.

★ ENERGY

Code exemption proposed

The House Commerce Committee approved a bill Feb. 15 that would exempt border cities from the state's new energy code requirements.

The bill (HF2652), sponsored by Rep. Kevin

Goodno (R-Moorhead), would allow the cities of Breckenridge, Dilworth, East Grand Forks, Moorhead, and Ortonville, which are legally designated as border cities, to revert to the energy code that was in place prior to July 1999.

Last year the Legislature passed a law requiring the Department of Administration to develop design and construction standards regarding heat loss control, illumination, and climate control. These standards are in addition to the other building-related standards.

Goodno said that the new energy code will increase the cost of construction on new homes from \$3,000 to \$10,000. He said that cost increases put border cities at an economic disadvantage.

"This increase will stifle new housing starts," he said.

Greg Johnson, a spokesman for the Association of Minnesota Building Officials, spoke against the measure. Johnson said that allowing exemptions to the code would be confusing to contractors who would not be sure which code requirements applied in the particular jurisdiction.

"What's good for Minnesota is good for all of Minnesota," Johnson said.

Linda Taylor from the Department of Commerce also testified against the bill. Taylor said the new energy code was written so that the energy savings would offset the increased building costs within 10 years. She said if the bill passes it would leave the border cities with no residential code requirement.

"Non-uniformity is not good public policy," Taylor said.

Goodno said that the new energy code would not necessarily save homeowners energy costs and that even under last year's legislation, the state does not have a uniform energy code. He said the statute currently applies to cities with populations of more than 2,500 people.

The bill now goes to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Light from litter

A bill that would pave the way for a power plant designed to burn poultry litter as fuel was approved Feb. 16 by the House Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Regulated Industries.

Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), sponsor of the bill (HF2757), explained the proposal stems from the 1994 Prairie Island legislation, which required a public utility operating a nuclear powered plant to develop 125 megawatts of electric energy generated by farm grown biomass.

Jennings said the bill would provide 50 of the 125 megawatts from a facility that uses poultry litter as its primary fuel source.

Rubert Fraser, the chief executive officer of Fiberwatt, the British company proposing to build the plant in Minnesota, said because the state is the second largest turkey producing state in the country, it is an ideal location for the facility.

Fraser said that the plant is similar to two other biomass projects already approved by the Public Utilities Commission — one that uses urban wood waste and another whose fuel source is whole tree combustion.

"We're just looking for a level playing field," Fraser said.

Fiberwatt owns and operates three poultry litter power plants in Great Britain. The plants produce energy by burning the litter at 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit, producing steam that drives a turbine.

Fraser said the company works closely with the local communities to adapt to the plant settings.

"We are good neighbors and responsible members of the community," he said.

David Morris from the Institute for Local Self Reliance, a nonprofit organization that researches environmental economic development issues, said that instead of focusing on one technology and one company, the state would be better off investing in other energy sources including wind-generated power.

"This bill is premature and ill-conceived," Morris said. He said the bill would provide an \$80 to \$140 million public subsidy to burn an

inexpensive fertilizer that might be in short supply.

Linda Taylor, from the Department of Commerce, said that the department is suggesting an alternative proposal to tally up the biomass energy created by Northern States Power Company sources and then accept bid proposals to make up the difference.

The bill now goes to the full Commerce Committee.

★ **GOVERNMENT**

Unicameral proposal advances

The secretary of state would be required to publish an informational guide for voters regarding a proposed switch to a unicameral legislature, under a bill that was sent forward by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee on Feb. 14.

The committee voted unanimously to send the bill (HF159) without further recommendation to the House State Government Finance Committee.

The bill, sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), would put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November. If the voters were to approve the amendment, the House and Senate would be replaced by a single legislative body in the year 2003.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) suggested the requirements for the voters' guide, which would contain "arguments commonly advanced in support of and opposition to bicameral and unicameral state legislatures." The voters' guide would be distributed statewide, and related legal notices would be published in qualified newspapers.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), co-sponsor of the bill, disagreed with Gleason's proposal, because it would be hard to define "commonly advanced" arguments. Many arguments have been presented on the issue, and he said it would be hard to provide an equal amount of information on all of them.

But Gleason said he would welcome any attempt to provide balanced information. Holding up a brochure on unicameralism that was published by Gov. Jesse Ventura's office and Minnesota Planning, Gleason said its claims are not supported with facts and it doesn't list any counter arguments.

"The governor is trying to promote this idea, and this does not make any attempt to make it unbiased, fair, objective, or balanced," he said. "I have a problem with them spending taxpayers' money on this and not providing any balance."

First law of 2000 session extends ice fishing season

The 2000 ice fishing season was extended by nine days, under a law signed Feb. 16 by Gov. Jesse Ventura. It is the first new law of the 2000 session.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), who said it would help small businesses and resorts in areas where ice fishing is popular. Those businesses lost potential income due to unusually warm weather in the early winter and a lack of snow.

Under state law, the ice fishing season lasts until the third Sunday in February, which this year would be Feb. 20.

The new law extends the season through Feb. 29. The extension also includes the spearing season.

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

The law (HF2980/SF2763*/CH251) was effective Feb. 17.

★ **HEALTH**

Alternative health care bill on hold

After several hours of debate, the House Civil Law Committee delayed a vote on legalizing alternative health providers.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) is sponsoring a bill (HF537) that would allow alternative health providers to practice in Minnesota. However, several legislators expressed concern about the lack of consumer protection in the bill.

Alternative health practitioners include people who provide services such as acupuncture, energetic healing, aromatherapy, herbalism, and meditation as a means to cure sicknesses.

Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center) proposed an amendment that would have required all alternative health providers to obtain an official license.

"I'm not willing to give them greater protection than licensed practitioners," he said.

Diane Miller, a lawyer with the Minnesota Natural Health Reform Project, said her group objects to licensing.

"It eliminates many, many alternative health providers that are already practicing," Miller said.

She suggested that instead of licensing them, alternative providers should be required by law to prepare a disclosure form of their prior experience and give it to clients. That way providers would be bound by fraud statutes and face potential lawsuits if they were untruthful.

Carruthers said licensing might be



Rupert Fraser, chief executive officer of Fibrowatt Limited, testifies before the Regulated Industries Subcommittee of the House Commerce Committee on Feb. 16 in support of a bill that would modify the state's biomass mandate to allow a facility that uses poultry litter to generate electricity.

necessary. He opposed language in Boudreau's bill that would eliminate criminal sanctions and limit civil actions that could be brought against unlicensed health providers.

"If licensing is so bad, proponents of this bill should say, 'We should get rid of licensed doctors and dentists,'" Carruthers said. "Who wants to visit an unlicensed dentist?"

The full licensure amendment failed, along with another Carruthers amendment that would have established an investigative and enforcement measure within the Health Department. The amendment also outlined disciplinary action and conduct that would exclude a person from practicing alternative health.

"It does what they say they want, but without all the special protections," Carruthers said.

The investigation amendment also failed.

The bill can be recalled at anytime by the committee chair, Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound).

Boudreau said she believes she had enough votes to pass the bill before it was delayed.

"I don't think the concept is destroyed," she said.

Hotdish and health standards

Much to the delight of scores of casserole-loving Minnesotans, a bill that would ease health regulations regarding food served at community potluck events was approved Feb. 15 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee and sent to the House floor.

"I'm hearing from church ladies from all over the state," joked Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), who said his bill (HF2707) is an attempt to clarify state health regulations as they apply to community potlucks.

The idea behind the bill originated when Juhnke, attending a DFL bean feed at the American Legion in Willmar, was told health regulations prevented outsiders from bringing prepared food into community potlucks.

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

So, following health regulations to the letter, organizers of the event in Willmar politely rejected Juhnke's beans, asking him to return them to his car.

After the experience, Juhnke said he felt all people should be allowed to attend community potlucks and share their food without being subject to health inspection.

The bill Juhnke brought before the committee would allow any person attending a potluck event, not just members of the organization sponsoring the event, to bring individually prepared food for consumption.

It also would allow an organization sponsoring potluck events to advertise the events and permit people who are not members of the organization to attend the event and eat the food.

Patient privacy

A bill that would specify when health maintenance organizations (HMOs) are prohibited from disclosing personal, privileged, and general health information about patients or applicants received the approval of the House Health and Human Service Policy Committee on Feb. 17.

Sponsored by Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley), the bill (HF3225) would make it clear what HMO responsibilities are concerning issues of data privacy.

An existing subdivision of law prohibits the release of data relating to the diagnosis, treatment, or health of any enrollee or applicant, but does not specify to whom it applies.

Gerlach's bill would rewrite the subdivision to make it apply to HMOs, granting exceptions when there are cases of express consent, a court order, or when an individual is suspected of violating a law.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said he sup-

ports the bill but that it needs clarification on how the bill might be interpreted if a communicable disease outbreak were to arise.

"My only concern in looking over this bill would be that it might lock things up so tightly that it would prohibit, say, counties from acting in cases of public good," Haas said.

According to information provided by the nonpartisan House Research Department, the Minnesota Department of Public Health has statutory authority to collect data about patients when a public health epidemic surfaces. St. Paul resident Richard Neumeister spoke in favor of the proposed legislation and offered a few possible changes to the bill the author might consider as the measure travels through the process of committee.

Some of Neumeister's suggestions to modify the bill included establishing an enforcement mechanism to aid patients in getting access to their records and making the willful or negligible disclosure of patient health information a crime punishable by law.

The bill was referred to the House Civil Law Committee.

Organ donation plan advances

Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) wants to disseminate more information about organ donations. Luther, who had an emergency liver transplant in February 1998, is sponsoring a bill that would raise money for public awareness of donations.

The House Transportation Policy Committee approved the bill (HF2635) Feb. 15. The bill would create a \$1 checkoff on driver's license applications. Money raised from the checkoff would then be used to make pamphlets and purchase equipment, such as a mobile unit, to increase awareness of the program.

"It's an innovative approach to solve this crisis," Luther told the committee.

Approximately 1,160 Minnesotans are currently on organ donor waiting lists, said Susan Gunderson, executive director for LifeSource.

"Every day, 12 people die waiting for an organ transplant," Gunderson said.

About six in 10 Minnesotans have signed on as organ donors on their driver's license, Gunderson said.

"If everyone who could donate when they died did we would virtually eliminate the waiting list," she said. "When people have the correct information, the checkoff rate is even higher."

Several states have a \$1 checkoff program, Luther said. Ohio has raised \$1.7 million with its checkoff, she added.

Luther said she would be happy if the

DIABETES RALLY



Eight-year-old Robby Mancini, Oakdale, stands next to his father, Bob, in the Capitol rotunda Feb. 14. Robby, who was diagnosed with diabetes when he was 2 years old, was one of many who spoke about how diabetes has affected their lives. The event was sponsored by the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.



Susan Gunderson, left, executive director of LifeSource, and Jim Connolly, chief of examinations and inspections for the Driver and Vehicle Services Division of the Department of Public Safety, testify in support of a bill that would require that an application for a new or renewed driver's license contain a provision allowing the applicant to add a \$1 donation for purposes of public information and education on organ donation.

program netted \$250,000 in Minnesota next year.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), who voted against the measure, said she feared that creating the organ donor checkoff would lead to bills for more checkoffs from other good causes.

Molnau said she would rather see a financial checkoff on income taxes, similar to the natural resources checkoff.

Luther said it is better to place the checkoff on driver's license forms because people are already choosing whether they want to be a donor at that time.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) noted the Department of Public Safety is equipped to collect and disburse the checkoff funds because it fulfills that function for other programs.

The bill passed after Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), chair of the committee, attached an amendment that would require the funding recipient to report to the Legislature in 2002 on total receipts and expenditures raised through the checkoff.

The bill now awaits action in the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Plan to cover health costs

A proposal that would use money generated by the state's lawsuit against Big Tobacco to off-set the cost of premium taxes and health care provider taxes received the approval of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 15.

The bill (HF2716), sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), would transfer one-time and ongoing tobacco settlement payments into the state's health care access fund, and provide for a contingent elimination of both the 1 percent premium tax and MinnesotaCare provider tax beginning Jan. 1, 2001.

"We have a great opportunity here with the funds available from the tobacco settlement to make health care coverage more affordable by offsetting what many feel are, quite frankly, hidden taxes," Bradley said.

Bradley's bill comes at a time when many people are expressing concern over rising health care coverage costs. Figures show that the average family in Minnesota pays approximately \$6,000 a year for health care coverage, according to Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), co-sponsor of the bill.

Huntley said what many people do not realize is it's ultimately the employee, and not the employer, who pays the cost of his or her health benefits.

To support Huntley's claim, some studies have shown that between 83 and 100 percent of the real cost of employer contributions to health coverage is borne by workers, through offsetting wage cuts.

Blanton Bessinger, from the Minnesota Medical Association, spoke favorably of the bill and told the committee it would provide the greatest relief to low-income patients and fixed-income senior citizens with substantial pharmaceutical costs.

"Our health care tax system, as it exists now, is rather flawed and regressive," Bessinger said. Regressive in the sense that the poorest 10 percent of Minnesotans account for only about 1 percent of income earned but pay 2.6 percent of the MinnesotaCare tax, while the richest 10 percent pay a far less percentage of their total income to the tax, Bessinger said.

The bill now heads to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

★ HIGHER EDUCATION

Art Building must go, officials say

Deplorable. That's one word Steven Rosenstone, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, had for the condition of the Art Building on the Minneapolis campus.

"'Deplorable' hardly begins to describe it," said Rep. Peggy Leppik, chair of the House Higher Education Finance Committee. "It is an absolute disgrace to the university and to the state."

Rosenstone and other U of M officials detailed the university's capital spending proposal during Feb. 14 and Feb. 16 hearings before Leppik's committee.

The U of M is seeking \$134 million in bond proceeds to finance 10 capital initiatives. The Art Building has become a focus of attention for several reasons, not the least of which is the governor's lack of support for the project.

Gov. Jesse Ventura's bonding proposal would provide \$54 million for the U of M, with funds for three of the university's top four priorities. He left out the Art Building, which the university ranked third.

The U of M wants to tear down the Art Building — actually a 1921 industrial facility converted for university use in the 1960s — and replace it with a new structure considered the centerpiece of the "arts quarter" being developed on the West Bank.

The new building would cost \$44 million, but only \$21 million would come from the state. The rest would be paid for with university funds and private donations. A 1998 law provided \$730,000 in state funds for planning a new building.

Rosenstone painted a grim picture when he told lawmakers about the problems of the current facility. For starters, the building is not up to snuff when it comes to fire safety, air quality, and handicap accessibility.

"The building is a hodgepodge of dysfunctional spaces," Rosenstone said.

The governor's plan would provide \$35 million for the Molecular and Cellular Biology Building on the Minneapolis campus, \$10 million for a Microbial and Plant Genomics Building on the St. Paul campus, and \$9 million for maintenance work on all campuses. Ventura did not recommend funding for a proposed music performance center at the Duluth campus, a sports facility in Duluth, and renovation of buildings at Crookston and Morris.

Lawmakers took no action on the matter, but the committee will eventually compile a set of bonding recommendations for post-secondary institutions in Minnesota and send that list to the House Capital Investment Committee.

A major maintenance backlog

A backlog of nearly \$500 million in maintenance work would continue to grow under the governor's bonding plan for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system.

MnSCU requested \$100 million in bond funds for repair and maintenance projects at its 36 institutions. The money would pay for 294 individual projects such as roof repair, tuckpointing, plumbing work, heating and cooling system improvements, and fire sprinkler installations.

During a Feb. 11 meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee, officials from MnSCU explained their 20-year plan to eliminate the backlog of maintenance projects. The committee took no action on the matter.

Allan Johnson, MnSCU's associate vice



Justin Bing, center, a student at Normandale Community College, carries a sign challenging Gov. Jesse Ventura for financial aid during a Feb. 16 rally on the Capitol steps. The Minnesota State College Student Association's annual lobby day gave students the opportunity to talk with legislators about several issues, including lower tuition, bonding to renovate facilities, and the proposed closure of Anoka-Hennepin Technical College.

chancellor for facilities, said the backlog would continue to grow if lawmakers follow Gov. Jesse Ventura's plan to provide only \$30 million for maintenance work.

Under the governor's plan, there would be enough money to repair "only the worst of the worst," Johnson said.

The \$100 million request would allow MnSCU to begin chipping away at a backlog created by years — even decades — of deferred maintenance, Johnson said. At least \$56 million would be needed just to prevent the maintenance backlog from growing even larger.

The governor's \$30 million would pay the \$6.1 million needed for boiler repair and replacement at Winona State University, an item Ventura line-item vetoed from the 1999 bonding bill.

But approval of only \$30 million would force MnSCU to delay dozens of other repair projects, such as roof replacement at the Moorhead State University library, asbestos abatement at Normandale Community College, and replacement of bleachers at several campuses.

The repair and maintenance spending is listed as MnSCU's top priority for this year's bonding bill, but the system also requested funds for 23 new construction projects.

The list of priorities is topped by an \$18.1 million addition for science classrooms and labs at Normandale Community College, an \$11.1 million addition at North Hennepin Community College, \$8 million to renovate and add on at St. Cloud Technical College, and \$18.3 million for a new library at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.

The governor's plan does not include funds for the St. Cloud project or for 19 other projects proposed by MnSCU.

MnSCU's total request of \$230 million includes other projects ranging from \$16.7 million for a new library at Metropolitan State University to \$300,000 for renovations at Riverview Hall at St. Cloud State University.

★ HUMAN SERVICES

Benefits verification program

The state would begin using a service that tracks undocumented aliens who apply for public assistance, under a bill approved by the House Civil Law Committee.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) is sponsoring a bill (HF2837) that would require the commissioner of Children, Families and Learning to verify the immigration status of all recipients using a federal program called Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE).

The SAVE program ensures that benefits would only go to citizens and qualified non-citizens, Boudreau said.

Assistance includes food stamps, general assistance, and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), which is the state's welfare reform initiative.

It is unclear what the total cost of the program would be. The cost for each inquiry would range between 2 cents and 23 cents, but Boudreau did not say what makes one inquiry

cost more than another. The software and employee training also must be factored into total costs, she said.

Currently, 45 states use SAVE to determine whether a person is eligible to receive benefits, Boudreau added. Minnesota received a waiver from participating in SAVE, and this bill would eliminate the waiver.

Patricia Mattos, an immigration lawyer, spoke against a second part of the bill that requires the department to turn over data on unregistered immigrants to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Mattos said the INS provision will have a "chilling effect" on people who are in the country legally and qualify for benefits. INS searches could cause delays for people seeking benefits, she said.

She said she fears the bill would cause people to be singled out by law enforcement for "looking Mexican and speaking Spanish." She told the committee about a lawsuit in Arizona because the state did not comply with the Civil Rights Act.

However, Mattos said she does not have any concerns about using SAVE for benefits.

The committee sent the bill to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Funds for wastewater treatment

The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee was given an overview Feb. 16 of the governor's \$26 million bonding request for wastewater treatment projects.

Terry Kuhlman, director of the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority, said the governor's request includes \$12.8 million for the state matching funds that would draw five federal dollars for every state dollar.

The loans to local governments would be made available through two different programs: the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Drinking Water Revolving Fund administered through the Department of Health.

The funds would be used to address critical infrastructure needs associated with drinking water and wastewater facility improvements.

Kuhlman said the funds help communities contain the high costs associated with the projects.

And he told lawmakers the governor is also recommending \$8 million for the agency's Wastewater Infrastructure Funding, which supplements water pollution loans to match grant assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Christopher English, an engineer from the federal Agriculture Department, said that several of the state's smaller towns and cities are not properly treating and disposing of their wastewater. He said many communities have sewer systems that are failing to meet performance and discharge requirements. The estimated cost to upgrade and replace those systems is over \$1 billion.

Nancy Larson, a lobbyist for the Minnesota Association of Small Cities, and Remi Stone, a lobbyist for the League of Minnesota Cities, said the governor's decision not to recommend additional funds for the Wastewater Infrastructure Fund would mean several cities would not be able to complete their projects.

Stone said the fund provides gap funding for low-revenue communities. Also, by not providing matching funds, the state is in essence turning down federal funds.

"It is a huge mistake," she said.

The Wastewater Infrastructure Fund received \$20.5 million in the 1999 bonding bill, of which approximately \$3 million is left.

New storm sewer requested

The city of Bayport asked the House Judiciary Finance Committee to fund a new storm sewer project Feb. 17.

The city, which is home to the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater, suffers from periodic flooding in the winter, because the storm sewer system built to service the prison is damaged.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) testified for the project, along with Bayport City Administrator Ken Hartung.

Holsten said the old storm sewer pipe, constructed from clay, used to flow directly into the St. Croix River. However, damming on the river has raised the water level and the storm sewer pipe is now covered over by water. As a result, the pipe is damaged.

In addition, a spring-fed pond, which the prison had used for water supply for many years, is not being drained enough and the water is flooding areas of Bayport via a stream, Hartung said.

The project cost is estimated at \$3.8 million. Bayport is requesting bonds for the project because the storm sewer is technically the state's responsibility.

Members of the committee will consider the proposal for inclusion in its omnibus bonding request.

★ RECREATION

ATVs on forest trails

A bill that would modify some of the state's policies regarding all-terrain vehicles in state forests was approved Feb. 15 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

The bill (HF3213) also would modify the procedures used by the Department of Natural Resources to conduct timber sales.

A 1999 law deleted some of the DNR's administrative rules relating to the use of all-terrain vehicles in state parks and forests. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), would restore some of those deletions.

Under the bill, those vehicles would be allowed only on specific, designated trails. The only exception would be for big-game hunters in October through December who use the vehicles to help carry animals. Steve Simmer, recreation and land programs coordinator for the department, said the vehicles cause less damage during those times because the ground is generally frozen.

Also, the bill would specify that no one may cut trees to construct unauthorized, permanent trails on forest lands.

The provisions of the bill related to timber sales are designed to improve customer service and administrative efficiency within the department, said Bob Tomlinson, assistant director of the DNR's forestry division.

The department determines how much timber can be harvested each year on state-owned lands while sustaining forest areas.

Some committee members wanted the public to be more involved in those decisions.

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) proposed an amendment that would require the DNR to publicize each timber auction. Also, each geographic unit of the forestry division would have to prepare a public notification plan every five years.

The committee voted against Kelliher's proposal. But a similar proposal by Ozment was adopted. Under that proposal, the DNR would be required to notify the public each year before its annual harvest plans.

The bill now moves to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

Zoo bonding requests

Minnesota Zoo officials explained their \$5.1 million request for capital projects to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee on Feb. 14.

The request includes \$1.1 million to replace parts of the heating and cooling system. The system mainly consists of a boiler and underground pipes, which carry water to control temperatures in buildings and in exhibits. The pipes are leaking in some areas, and the boiler is more than 20 years old.

Jim Reinholdz, vice president of finance for the zoo, said the system is critical because

BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE



Leah Lumley, *left*, and her sister Hannah share the best seat in the House, their grandfather Rep. Howard Swenson's, during the Feb. 17 floor session. The girls are the daughters of Mark and Ruth Lumley of Austin, who were visiting for the day.

many of the animals need certain temperatures to live. The zoo opened in 1978 after about four years of construction, so parts of the facility are deteriorating.

The remaining \$4 million of the request would be to rebuild paths, roads, and parking lots at the zoo.

The committee will consider including the zoo's request in its recommendation for capital projects.

★ TAXES

Property tax cut proposed

The Property Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee heard two bills Feb. 14 that would address the rising cost of renting an apartment.

HF2201, sponsored by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), and HF2769, sponsored by Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan), would reduce the class rate on the market value of apartment buildings (those with four or more units) from 2.4 percent to 2 percent.

"I hate to use the term, but it would be a shift in taxes," Dawkins said. "It would shift on to the state sales tax and income tax and reduce the government's over-reliance on the property tax."

Wilkin's bill would reduce the rate in 2001 while Dawkins' bill would spread the costs out over two years, reducing the rate from 2.4 percent to 2.2 percent in 2001 and to 2 percent in 2002. The Department of Revenue estimates the costs of either bill would be \$39.3 over the biennium.

The committee took no action on either bill but will consider them for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Wilkin said the rapid increase in the costs of rent is directly related to having too many renters and not enough apartments.

Jack Horner, from the Minnesota Multi-Housing Association, said that the average rent in the metro area is \$728, while the average vacancy rate is 1.7 percent. He said that ideally the area should have a 4 to 5 percent vacancy rate.

Horner said reducing property taxes would encourage new construction and rehabilitation of aging apartment complexes, thus increasing and preserving the supply.

He said that landlords have learned that simply increasing rental rates to offset tax increases is not efficient. At the same time, he said, more government subsidies are also not the answer.

"It is not good for the government to be the primary financier of housing," Horner said. "In other countries where government is, it doesn't work very well."

★ TRANSPORTATION

Rail maintenance funds requested

Railroads across Minnesota would be upgraded if the Legislature provides an additional \$12 million for the Minnesota Rail Service Investment Program.

Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) is sponsoring a bill (HF3011) that would authorize general obligation bonds for the upgrades.

"The rail needs upgrading," Swenson said. "If it was upgraded, it would be used a lot more."

Al Vogel, an official with the state Department of Transportation, told the House Transportation Finance Committee on Feb. 16 that \$17 million has been requested in projects, but only \$6.3 million is currently available. The additional \$12 million would sufficiently meet the current needs.

The project was not included in the governor's bonding proposal, Vogel said.

Francis Schweiss, Renville County commissioner, told the committee the rail upgrades are needed.

"We consider it the lifeblood of the farming community, because it is the best way to

move our goods," Schweiss said.

The program was created in 1976 to rehabilitate rail lines. The system usually provides grants up to \$200,000 on short lines, Vogel said.

Since the program began, the state has spent \$52 million, which has generated an additional \$42 million in private or federal dollars, he said.

Gene Short, Redwood County commissioner, said each train car carries about the same capacity as 3.8 semi-tractor trailers. If train lines are not improved, more trucks will be on the road on two-lane highways, he said.

Schweiss said there are several gravel quarries in his county.

"Everything right now is being shipped by truck," he said.

Bruce Pinske, Seneca Foods plant manager, said his company is losing profits because it ships by truck instead of train.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) asked if money from this program could be used on commuter rail improvements. Vogel said it could not, noting this money is aimed specifically at the smaller rail lines.

Legislators will consider including the bill in the committee's bonding proposal.



Evidence on file

States fight crime with by collecting, storing DNA profiles

Law enforcement officials across the United States are increasingly using DNA technology as a crime-fighting device, and not merely as evidence for trials.

As a result, several states and the federal government are working more aggressively to collect DNA samples into massive databases.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) residue provides a genetic fingerprint often used to identify suspects from hair, bodily fluids, or other materials found at crime scenes. Currently, every state allows the collection of DNA samples from some convicted criminals.

Last October, the FBI unveiled a nationwide system, linking databases from all 50 states into one integrated information system of convicted criminals' DNA samples.

However, each state gathers the DNA data differently. Thirty-one states require people convicted of any violent crime to provide a sample. Nineteen states require only sex offenders to do so.

Louisiana is the only state that allows DNA testing of people arrested (as opposed to convicted) in certain sex crimes. Implementation of that practice has been delayed because of a need to upgrade the police laboratory to handle the increase in testing.

Opponents of the increasing number laws requiring DNA samples worry about privacy issues, while proponents say that DNA samples are merely more detailed fingerprints, which are commonly gathered in databases.

In New York, a new law that took effect on Dec. 1, 1999, added 86 crimes — including arson, burglary, and drug offenses — to the number of offenses subject to mandatory testing. Previously only eight percent of convicted criminals in the state were obligated to give DNA samples, mostly those convicted of violent crimes.

New York Gov. George Pataki, with the support of the New York City police, actually proposed a measure that would have required the collection of DNA samples from anyone currently serving a felony sentence. It also asked for a feasibility study of taking DNA samples from suspects arrested for any felony-level crime.

In Minnesota, samples are currently only required from registered sex offenders. After July 1, 2000, people convicted of murder, assault, kidnapping, and burglary will also be required to give DNA samples.

(D. Maeda)

Subsidizing success

Increasing support for productive ethanol plants is key to success in a depressed market, farmers say

By MIKE DeLARCO

Steve Muller, a farmer from Cottonwood County, is aware of the hardships that low crop prices and unpredictable weather can present for families dependent upon agriculture to pay the bills and put dinner on the table.

For a growing percentage of farmers, Muller said, concern over the uncertainty of crop revenue during any given year can, at some point, be overwhelming. But many farmers who, like Muller, grow corn in Minnesota have found that production of ethanol might be more than just a temporary solution to a somewhat sagging farm economy.

Muller, a partner in the Ethanol 2000 plant in Bingham Lake, said that state subsidies for the production of ethanol have provided farmers in his area an alternative when corn prices are low. The plant, he continued, has

October 1997, all fuels sold in Minnesota must have an oxygenated additive like ethanol.

Growth has been a staple at the Ethanol 2000 plant since its inception. A few ethanol plants in the state, including the plant in Bingham Lake, have, in fact, been able to exceed their approved eligibility level of 12 million gallons a year. But, because such plants are not eligible to receive payments for production above the agreed-to level, many feel their progress is not being rewarded.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea) would allow ethanol producers to qualify for state provided payments based upon actual production rather than documented capacity levels. The bill (HF2698) was approved Feb. 10 by the House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

Dorman's proposal would increase the maximum production level for producer pay-

ments to 15 million gallons per year per plant. Currently, plants that were operating at the approved capacity of 12 million gallons per year as of July 1, 1998 but are now producing more could only receive producer payments up to the 12 million gallon limit.

Currently, plants are receiving payments of 20 cents per gallon of ethanol.

"In a year when we have a surplus of dollars at our disposal, I think this is a proposal that should be fully funded," Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said.

In addition, the bill would increase the amount of ethanol payments from \$68.4 million approved in 1999 to \$72.4 million.

Osthoff said he is also planning to propose legislation that would place a ban on the use

of the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in gasoline in Minnesota later this session. Concern has surfaced in recent months that spills of gasoline containing MTBE can lead to problems of drinking water contamination.

A proposal to ban the use of fuel containing MTBE could benefit the ethanol industry by increasing demand for the fuel additive.

Government subsidies for ethanol production were introduced in the 1970s partly to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and partly to trim pollution associated with the burning of traditionally-blended fuel.

Proponents of ethanol-blended gasoline contend its use reduces pollution, helps to better balance the United States' trade deficit, and expands the American job market as ethanol-producing plants continue to surface in rural areas — not just in Minnesota, but across the nation.

Many ethanol plants in Minnesota are owned and operated by farmer cooperatives. Encouraging the ethanol industry to continue to grow will allow for a bit more stability in farming communities across the state, Dorman said.

Dorman's bill would also remove a quarterly cap of \$8.5 million in total producer payments by the state and allow a plant that has actual production below approved capacity in any of the first seven quarters of a biennium to recapture the "lost" payments in the last quarter of the biennium by producing more.


The bill would keep the cap on total annual payments to a plant at \$3 million.

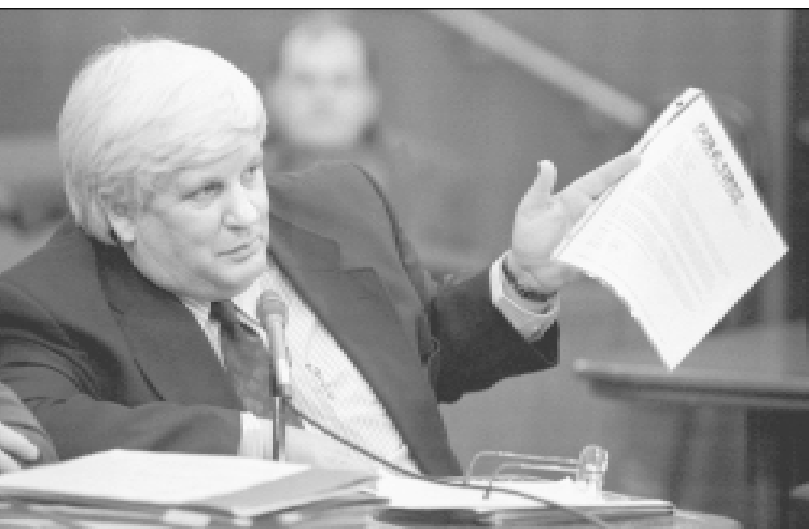
There continues to be some opposition to the use of ethanol-blended gasoline. Tests have shown that fuel containing ethanol can lead to lower gas mileage. Also, the vapor pressure associated with ethanol-blended gasoline is higher and occasionally can hamper a car's acceleration capability.

Maple Grove resident Bret Collier testified before the committee in support of eliminating subsidies for ethanol production.

Collier said his car had engine problems in the past due to ethanol-blended gasoline, and he argued that reports have shown there is no scientific proof that ethanol-blended gasoline significantly benefits environment.

Also, big oil companies have consistently opposed subsidies to the ethanol industry, claiming that doing so is unfair for purposes of marketplace competition.

Dorman's bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. 



Dave Kolsrud, board chairman of a Luverne farmer cooperative, testifies before the Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Committee on Feb. 10 in support of a bill that would increase subsidies to ethanol producers.

also created many jobs.

"The ethanol industry as a whole means a lot to myself, my family, and the community where we live and work," Muller said in testimony before a House committee.

Ethanol is a form of alcohol distilled from corn and used as an additive to fuel. Since

Time to fight crime

Some seek to extend the statute of limitations for sex crimes and other serious offenses

By CHRIS VETTER

Advances in DNA testing mean evidence can remain fresh for years after a crime is committed.

"Memories fade, but DNA profiles never change," Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner told the House Crime Prevention Committee on Feb. 15.

But even with that compelling evidence, if time has run out on the ability to prosecute those cases, officials are powerless to bring the perpetrator to justice.

Gaertner hopes to eliminate the state's current statute of limitations guidelines on sex offense crimes, manslaughter, and criminal vehicular homicide offenses.

Statute of limitations refers to the number of years that attorneys have to convict an offender after a crime has been committed. For instance, the law states that an arsonist cannot be convicted after five years have passed since the incident.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) is sponsoring a bill (HF2892) that would eliminate the current nine-year statute of limitations on sex offense crimes when the victim is older than age 18. The bill also would eliminate the statute of limitations on any crime that resulted in the death of a person, from vehicular homicide or manslaughter.

With new technology developed in recent years, detectives can compile physical evidence from fingerprints to fiber analysis to catch an offender.

Gaertner, who for the first time brought DNA evidence before a jury in 1989, told legislators the practice is now commonplace.

Gaertner also described a series of rapes in Milwaukee in 1993. The crimes were all committed in a similar style. Samples taken from the three victims have been matched to the same offender.

Now, about seven years after those rapes were committed, the offender has not been caught. The prosecutor in Milwaukee filed criminal charges last October against John Doe based on that man's DNA, in hopes to circumvent

Wisconsin's statute of limitations law.

The likelihood that another man has the same DNA as John Doe is one in 1.96 billion to one in 7.25 billion, according to the court complaint.

Gaertner fears the plan will fail, and she doesn't want to see Minnesota prosecutors try a similar route.

"We're asking the Legislature to move on this now, before any prosecutor has to stand before you and say, 'It's too late. Maybe next time,'" she said.

According to Gaertner, DNA evidence has linked a prison inmate to a murder that occurred four years ago in Rochester. It also connected a sex offender to a rape in Minneapolis seven years ago. Statutes of limitation could stop similar cases from leading to convictions in the future, she said.



Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner testifies for a bill that would extend the statute of limitations on several crimes during a Feb. 15 hearing of the House Crime Prevention Committee.

More of these older cases could be solved in the future as states link together through a national DNA database. Minnesota is among 23 states that are linked in the system that was created in October 1998.

Statutes of limitation are in place because witnesses die and memories fade over time, according to the nonpartisan House Research Department. Ideally, a case would be brought to the court when the details are fresh in the minds of witnesses.

In the past 10 years, Minnesota has loosened its statute of limitation rules. In 1989, the state approved a special limit for cases involving minors who fall victim to sex offenders. Cases involving minors, who may have repressed memories of sex crimes or kept silent out of fear, were given two years of extra time. In 1991, the state expanded that time frame from two to three years.

Then in 1995, the statute of limitations on all criminal sexual conduct cases was stretched from seven years to nine years, giving prosecutors more time to seek convictions.


An important rule in sex crime cases is the offense must be reported within 72 hours, if the victim is 18 or older. Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) asked if the length of time should be longer.

Gaertner said the hour-limit should stay in place, saying it gives the victim some time to recover from the incident, but it also gives police prosecutors ample opportunity to collect samples and begin an investigation.

Stanek's bill is expected to become part of a larger measure addressing sex offender laws that will be assembled later this session.

Another proposal expected to be part of statute of limitations legislation this year pertains to kidnapping cases. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) is sponsoring a bill (HF2493) that would eliminate limitations in kidnapping cases.

Skoglund said the bill arose from his concern over the Jessica Swanson case, in which a three-year-old girl vanished in Goodhue County in 1995. Dale Jensen, the boyfriend of Swanson's mother, admitted to accidentally killing the girl last year, but he could not be prosecuted for kidnapping because the time limit had expired.

While the likelihood of a similar case occurring is remote, Skoglund said, the state should pass a law to keep the case open beyond the current three-year limit. 

A full jailhouse

Local officials want to replace overcrowded, outmoded county jails with new regional facilities

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Aitkin County Sheriff Dennis Landborg has watched the same offenders pass in and out of the county's 20-bed jail many times. County law enforcement officials are concerned that their limited resources inhibit their ability to even house the area's prisoners, let alone keep them from coming back.

Landborg and other officials say rural jails aren't providing the adequate programming services to keep inmates from reoffending. And the officials contend new regional facilities are necessary to provide enough space to house all the offenders and to provide rehabilitation programs.

"The people in these facilities keep coming back, coming back, coming back," said Scott Arneson, coordinator for Aitkin County. "Why? It's because we're not doing a lot to try and get these people to not come back."

Aitkin County is one of many in Minnesota working in cooperation with neighboring counties to build regional jail facilities. The House Judiciary Finance Committee has heard requests for nine regional construction projects at a total estimated cost of nearly \$163 million.

Most of the consortia are requesting that a portion of the projects be funded by state bonds. The rest would be covered with local matching funds.

Kevin Corbid from the Association of Minnesota Counties said each community requesting funds has assumed no more than 50 percent of the total costs will come from the state.

Only seven of the regional jail projects were submitted to the Department of Finance by the September 1999 deadline. Those seven requests totaled \$67.3 million in state bonds.

From 1989 to 1998, average daily population in the state's jails grew from 3,718 to 5,282, an increase of 42 percent. Officials attribute the increases to several factors, most of which are controlled by state policy-makers.

For example, in the early 1990s, studies showed that states could save large amounts of money if certain felons were sentenced to

jail time rather than state prison, otherwise known as downward departures.

In 1997, the state sent 880 felons to county jails. According to the state Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Minnesota saved more than \$68 million in operating costs during that year.

Aitkin County has experienced a 32 percent overall inmate increase in the past five years. It has organized with five neighboring counties — Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena — to build a 174 bed facility in Brainerd at an estimated cost of \$16 million.

Currently, those six counties have an average daily population of 251 inmates in their jails and a total population of 325 inmates including the 74 being monitored electronically.

However, 39 inmates are housed out and 83 people in those six counties are currently on waiting lists to get into jail and serve their sentences.

"If you want my opinion, that's a crime right there," Arneson said. "People should not have to wait to get into jail after they commit a crime."

Other consortia of counties in the state are following suit. Only two regional facilities are currently operating in Minnesota. One of them, operating since 1976, needs to build another facility to meet growing needs.

Tri-County Community Corrections, a joint venture of Red Lake, Polk and Norman counties, plans to build a new 200 bed facility for \$16.9 million.

Officials from rural counties say their concerns go beyond merely locking up lawbreakers. With limited resources and small jails, each individual county cannot provide adequate programs to keep offenders from going back behind bars.

The central Minnesota proposal in Brainerd includes operating the jail with 17 chemical dependency counselors, adult basic education programs, and other mental health resources.

The practical impact of increased penalties and downward departures of the 1990s is that many of the state's DWI and drug offenders serve their sentences in county jails. As a result, those inmates need treatment.

But beyond that, officials claim, many of the inmates lack work and social skills to keep them from falling back into destructive lifestyles.

"A lot of these people are missing basic life skills," Arneson said.

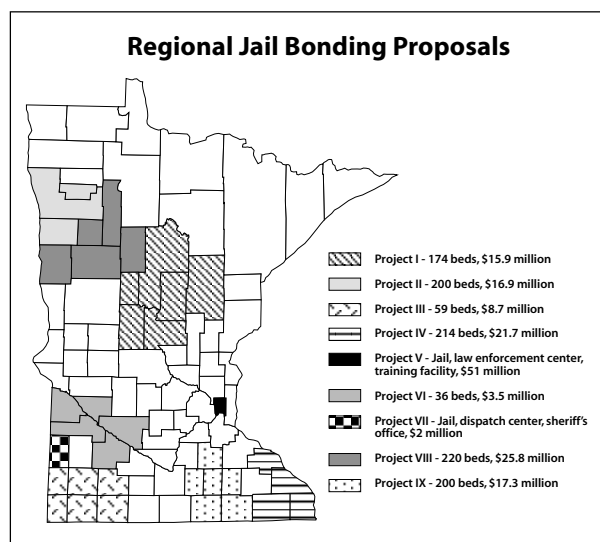
The requests for state funds for the regional jails may be coming at a bad time. Gov. Jesse Ventura has not recommended any bond funding for the projects. In addition, the governor has given judiciary spending a low priority among other capital projects.

"It's not that I don't support the idea," said Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada), chair of the Judiciary Finance Committee. "The committee thinks there's a definite need for regional jails, but a lot of the members are concerned."

Beyond the money factor, legislators have expressed concerns about the precedent that might be set if the state starts funding local projects.

"That's the biggest argument against it," Broecker said.

Broecker agreed that in order for the notion of regional jails to succeed, local governments have to match any state funds.



Source: House Judiciary Finance Committee

A continuing threat

Infamous crimes have prompted efforts to protect citizens from sex offenders

BY BRENDA VAN DYCK

Minnesota's sex offender laws are more stringent now than 10 years ago. Tragically, it's often been terrible crimes that have forced the toughening of these laws.

And with the abduction and apparent murder of 19-year-old Katie Poirier last May, legislators are already looking to increase enforcement of registration laws, close loopholes, and otherwise strengthen the state's sex offender laws.

Efforts to toughen laws began in 1988, after two women were sexually assaulted and then murdered in Minneapolis parking ramps. In both cases, the perpetrators had extensive histories of sexual violence against women and had recently been released from prison for sex crimes.

Legislators responded in the 1989 session by increasing prison time for convicted sex offenders. Under the law, individuals convicted of first-degree murder, who either had prior murder convictions or were guilty of first- or second-degree criminal sexual conduct (involving force or violence), would be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In addition, a person with two previous sex offense convictions who was then convicted of first- or second-degree criminal sexual conduct would be subject to a mandatory 37-year prison sentence.

The law also allowed courts to deviate from sentencing guidelines for offenders who could be defined as predators. For example, judges could double sentences and require treatment upon the person's release. In addition, courts could civilly commit a patterned sex offender under the psychopathic personality statute.

Other provisions in the 1989 law required probation officers to notify local law enforcement authorities of the address of a sex offender when he or she was released from jail. The law also allocated more money for sex offender treatment programs for adults and juveniles.

The Legislature followed up in 1991 by passing a law requiring sex offenders to register their addresses with local law enforcement authorities when they were released from prison.

In 1991, the state was again stunned by the rapes and murders of two young women. One of the women, Melissa Johnson, was sexually assaulted and killed by Scott E. Stewart, who had been released from prison four days earlier for a 1988 rape. The murders prompted some lawmakers to propose reinstating the state's death penalty.

Then-Gov. Arne Carlson formed a 25-member Commission on Violent Crimes, which recommended creating a new "predatory offender" crime classification subject to life imprisonment. The commission also recommended increasing the use of the psychopathic personality law, and increasing supervision following release from prison to 10 years for violent criminals.

The 1992 Legislature followed some of those recommendations and passed a crime law that again increased sentences for sex offenders. Under the law, rapists who murdered their victims would be subject to life in prison without parole; they wouldn't have to have prior convictions for criminal sexual conduct, as was the case under the 1989 law.

Offenders convicted of a rape for a third time would be subject to a mandatory life sentence with the possibility of parole after 30 years. Those convicted of rape who had earlier been convicted of aggravated rape would be subject to a mandatory 30-year sentence.

All sex offenders would undergo intense supervision upon release from prison. Six months prior to their scheduled release, all sex offenders would be reviewed for possible civil commitment to the state's mental health hos-

pital under the psychopathic personality law.

The law also included provisions for sexual violence prevention and sexual harassment education.

In 1994, the state was forced to deal with its psychopathic personality law, then more than 50 years old. The law allowed the state to civilly commit criminals at the end of their prison sentences. (The law also allowed the state to commit people who hadn't been convicted of any crime, if they were proven to be sexual psychopaths.)

Passed in 1939, the law allowed commitment of anyone who showed "emotional instability, or impulsiveness of behavior, or lack of customary standards of good judgment, or failure to appreciate the consequences of personal acts, or a combination of any such conditions, as to render such person irresponsible for personal conduct with respect to sexual matters and thereby dangerous to other persons."

In 1940, a requirement was added that a person could be committed if he or she had an "utter inability" to control his or her impulses. In essence, the law allowed the state to indefinitely hospitalize sexual predators if their behavior was considered unstoppable.



Pam Poirier, at podium, lends her support to Katie, who was allegedly abducted and murdered by Fletcher, Rep. Karen Clark, Minnesota House Minority Leader Tom Ivers.

Registering sex offenders

Sex offenders in Minnesota are separated into three different classifications, based on the risk the offender poses to re-offend in the community. Level 3 is the most serious classification. The state's community notification law requires information to be released according to the offender's classification.

Level 1: Victims and witnesses who have requested notification, people designated by the prosecuting attorney, and other law enforcement agencies are told of the offender's release and whereabouts.

Level 2: Schools and day care centers are added to the list of those to be notified. They also receive the offender's picture.

Level 3: Community notices are posted and hearings are held, where law enforcement informs the community of the offender's release and residence.



Support to legislation that would toughen the laws related to sex crimes during a Feb. 3 news conference. Poirier's daughter, killed by a convicted sex offender. Others attending the news conference were, left to right, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Pugh, Minneapolis Police Sgt. Mick Ganley, Sen. Randy Kelly, Rep. Wes Skoglund, Rep. Joe Mullery, former Minneapolis Mayor Al Hofstede,

leased from prison and moving into their neighborhood.

Offenders are classified under three different levels and notification requirements vary for each level — the higher the risk level, the higher the risk for reoffending. Therefore, notification becomes more broad the higher the risk.

The state's community notification law is consistent with the national "Megan's law," which was named after 7-year-old Megan Kanka, who was kidnapped, raped, and killed in 1994 by a New Jersey neighbor, twice convicted of sexual assaults of young girls.

In 1999, the Legislature passed a law that would revoke the teaching license of anyone convicted of criminal sexual conduct. 🐼

Brenda van Dyck is the editor/publications manager for the nonpartisan House Research Department.

In January 1994, the state Supreme Court upheld the law by a 4-3 vote. Wanting to bolster the law against court challenges, the 1994 Legislature set up a task force to study what to do with the law and sexual predators. That summer, the state Supreme Court ruled that two sexual offenders who had been civilly committed should be released because they didn't display behavior that would mandate their commitment under the law.

One of the men scheduled to be released was Dennis Linehan, who was civilly committed after serving 27 years of a 40-year sentence for the 1965 murder of a 14-year-old girl. Shortly after the murder, Linehan admitted raping a woman and assaulting a 12-year-old girl. He escaped from prison in 1975 and attempted to molest a 12-year-old girl in Michigan.

The Legislature met in special session to fix the law before any people who had been civilly committed could be released. Legislators settled on a law that created the category of "sexually dangerous person."

Such a person, according to the law, could be committed to a state hospital if he or she had a history of harmful sexual offenses, had a sexual mental disorder or dysfunction, and was considered likely to engage in harmful sexual conduct in the future. A key provision of this law is that it did not require showing that the offender was unable to control his or her impulses.

The law was upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1996.

That was also the year that the Legislature passed a community notification law, which required authorities to notify communities when convicted sex offenders were being re-

Still seeking solutions

Lawmakers propose new ways to combat sex crimes

Sex offenders would be subject to stiffer penalties, longer registration periods, and restrictions on legal name changes, under sex offender bills advancing in the House.

The bills come in the wake of the 1999 abduction and apparent killing of Katie Poirier. The suspect in that case, Donald Blom, has a criminal record dotted with sex offenses.

"You're going to see a very tough bill on sex offenders," said Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), who chairs the House Crime Prevention Committee. "It's our job to close loopholes, and we're doing it."

Stanek's committee approved a handful of bills Feb. 15 and Feb. 17 related to sex offenders.

Stanek is carrying a bill (HF2892) that would eliminate the statute of limitations for sex offenses.

Rep. Barb Haake (R-Mounds View) is sponsoring a bill (HF2746) that would increase penalties for not registering properly as a sex offender from a gross misdemeanor to a felony.

The state knows where only 35 percent of sex offenders live, Haake said. The existing penalty is not strict enough to make offenders care about filling out all the paperwork every time they move or change jobs, she said.

The maximum penalty for failure to comply with registration would be two years in prison and a \$4,000 fine. A second offense would lead to a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Another bill (HF2747) would restrict the rights of all felons to change their names. The sponsor, Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), said the public should be given the right to know when felons change their name.

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) is sponsoring a bill (HF2896) that would require the state to create a Web site with information on all Level 3 sex offenders. Currently, the state produces quarterly newsletters.

Police would have the right to impersonate children in Internet chat rooms, under a bill (HF3037) sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

Skoglund is also sponsoring a bill (HF2993) that would allow, but not require, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to publicly share information on sex offenders who have failed to register. The information could be shared with the media or on the Internet.

"I think the public would like to aid the (bureau)," Skoglund said. "I think it will have a positive impact in gaining compliance."

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) is sponsoring a bill (HF3309) that would increase the probationary period from 10 years to 20 years on Level 2 and Level 3 sex offenders.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) is sponsoring a bill (HF2748) that would impose lifetime registration for three categories of repeat sex offenders.

Another measure (HF3112), sponsored by Rep. Sherry Broecker (R-Little Canada), would allow the checking of databases in the state to locate the current residences of sex offenders.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is sponsoring a bill that would require sex offenders to register secondary (non-homestead) property.

Stanek said all the sex offender bills will likely be rolled into one larger piece of legislation. The vehicle is expected to be HF2892, the bill related to the statute of limitations for sex offenses.

(C. Vetter)

Transit trouble

Some lawmakers now want to repeal funding for light-rail transit

By JON FURE

For several years, proponents of light-rail transit in Minnesota have proclaimed its potential benefits, including less traffic congestion, lower air pollution, and enhancing people's ability to get to work and other destinations like the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

In the last two years, the state has authorized \$100 million in bonding revenue to be spent on the Hiawatha Corridor light-rail project. But Republican members of the House would like to repeal that funding and look for less expensive ways to achieve the same benefits.

"Someone has to stand up for the public and say there is a wiser and more effective way to move people, and we are willing to do that," House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said recently.

The project, which would cover 11.4 miles from downtown Minneapolis to Bloomington,

from companies that own underground utility lines where the project is to be built.

Criticism of the project surfaced during a Feb. 15 informational hearing conducted by the House Capital Investment Committee.

Opponents of the proposal object to the costs and to the prospect of spending more money in the future to expand the system throughout the region.

A recent cost-benefit analysis of the Hiawatha project, done by the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Office of Investment Management, found that the project would return about 42 cents for every dollar of construction and estimated operating costs.

Jason Lewis, a conservative radio commentator, spoke against the Hiawatha project during the Capital Investment Committee hearing. He said light rail is likely to take riders away from buses, but is not likely to get people to use transit instead of their automobiles.

Lewis said the project has other hidden expenses, such as costs of police patrolling the system and of moving utility lines to accommodate the construction.

Lynn Woodward of Edina, who specializes in real estate and urban land economics and opposes light rail, said Minnesota should spend more money to try and develop its own technology for transportation instead of using technology developed elsewhere. His suggestions included privatizing some buses and developing a

"personal rapid transit" system.

Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove) said the hearing was giving short shrift to supporters of light rail.

Marko said the state should consider a variety of transit options, and she argued it's unrealistic to think that any plan would elimi-

nate traffic problems in the Twin Cities.

"We're going to have to live with a certain amount of congestion," she said.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) asked, "if the goal is to get people out of their cars, couldn't we just let people ride buses for free?"

Woodward said he regularly takes the bus, and it's often standing-room only.

"I'm not in favor of reducing fees," he said. "People want speed and convenience, and they'll pay for it."

Woodward said only two factors cause auto drivers to switch to a transit mode — visible passing speed of the transit mode compared to other vehicles and door-to-door travel time not more than twice as long as it would take in a car.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said the project's cost estimate has risen since the House approved the \$100 million.


"We were sold a much different package during session last year than we are looking at right now," said Krinkie.

To date, three lawsuits have been filed regarding the Hiawatha project.

Krinkie and other lawmakers have filed a lawsuit against the Transportation Department and the governor, claiming that the department did not properly study the effectiveness of the project. A separate lawsuit filed by Leslie Davis and Earth Protector, Inc., said the proposed route for the project has changed, so the Transportation Department should study the project's environmental impacts again. In another lawsuit, a Ramsey County court found that the department wrongly excluded a company from submitting a bid on a \$400 million contract.

Nacho Diaz, Metropolitan Council transportation planning director, told the House Transportation Finance Committee on Feb. 16 that proposed bus-only transitways would cost about \$100 million each. Three such transitways are part of a long-term plan and would not replace the proposed light-rail line.

Diaz said the Metropolitan Council is seeking \$10 million this year for design and engineering costs for the bus transitways.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), chair of the Transportation Finance Committee, said that the bill to repeal funding for light rail has not been completed. The committee is also looking for alternatives to light rail for the Hiawatha Corridor and the entire metropolitan area. 

Writer Chris Vetter contributed to this article.



Bob Winter, center, of the Department of Transportation, responds to questions from the members of the House Capital Investment Committee on Feb. 15 after giving an overview of the state's light-rail transit plans. Also pictured are light-rail opponents, clockwise from top, Ed Anderson, Jason Lewis, David Strom, and Lynn Woodward.

is expected to cost \$548 million. Half of the funding is expected to come from the Federal Transit Administration. Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Airports Commission are set to spend \$70 million each on the project.

Of the state's contribution, \$34.3 million is already spent, mainly to acquire right of way

Monday, Feb. 14

HF3302—Finseth (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Lawful gambling purpose definition expanded to include expenditures for periodic uniform cleaning reimbursement.

HF3303—Entenza (DFL) Crime Prevention

Failure to pay over state funds criminal penalties provision expanded to include failure to remit a tax.

HF3304—Seifert, J. (R) Civil Law

Seat belt and child passenger restraint system use admissibility into evidence prohibition repealed.

HF3305—Skoe (DFL) Taxes

Mortgage registry and deed tax proceeds apportionment between county and state provided.

HF3306—Wilkin (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Residential hospice program requirements modified.

HF3307—Rest (DFL) Taxes

Job training program income tax credit and participant income limit modified, authorized credit amounts increased, and permanent credit provided.

HF3308—Finseth (R) Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Distance work projects grants-in-aid provided to promote technology in rural areas.

HF3309—Abeler (R) Crime Prevention

Previously unregistered predatory offenders required to register when convicted of specified crimes.

HF3310—Abeler (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Health plan contract stacking regulated and remedy provided.

HF3311—Dawkins (DFL) Civil Law

Parenting plans provided, terminology modified, and money appropriated.

HF3312—Finseth (R) Agriculture Policy

Meat and poultry inspection uniformity provided.

HF3313—Kielkucki (R) K-12 Education Finance

School district equity revenue definition modified and money appropriated.

HF3314—Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Minneapolis Police Relief Association additional post-retirement asset distribution provided.

HF3315—Rhodes (R) Civil Law

Property attachable by garnishment limited.

HF3316—Rhodes (R) Civil Law

Child support obligor appealing a judgment authorized to file a bond with the court pending the appeal outcome.

HF3317—Van Dellen (R) Taxes

Property tax market value increases limited.

HF3318—Luther (DFL) Civil Law

Standby and alternate custodians of children designation provided.

HF3319—Jennings (DFL) Transportation Policy

Driver education programs combined with public safety responsibilities, automobile liability judgment satisfaction regulated, ignition interlock pilot program repealed, and driver's license renewal provisions modified.

HF3320—Carlson (DFL) K-12 Education Finance

School district crime-related costs levy increased and proceeds usage modified.

HF3321—Daggett (R) Taxes

Regional jails operation costs special levy provided.

HF3322—Biernat (DFL) Transportation Policy

Photographic evidence pilot program studying the feasibility of issuing citations for failure to obey traffic signals authorized and money appropriated.

HF3323—Biernat (DFL) Education Policy

Statewide school district employee insurance benefits task force created.

HF3324—Seifert, J. (R) K-12 Education Finance

School District No. 6067, Tri-District, metropolitan magnet school grant provided to construct a new building, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3325—Westrom (R) Agriculture Policy

Seed germination test time period extended.

HF3326—Westrom (R) Agriculture Policy

Dairy product sales below cost exception provided for class I and II products sold the day preceding the open dating stamp.

HF3327—Broecker (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local government authorization to petition to amend or repeal rules sunset eliminated.

HF3328—Hackbarth (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Iron Range off-highway vehicle recreation area addition in St. Louis County provided and previous appropriation availability extended.

HF3329—Wolf (R) Commerce

Minnesota telecommunications act adopted.

HF3330—McCollum (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Campaign finance reform provided and money appropriated.

HF3331—Howes (R) Crime Prevention

Department of crime victims and violence prevention created, office of prevention of violence against women established, consolidating programs within the department, and money appropriated.

HF3332—Swenson (R) Agriculture Policy

Dairy research and promotion council alternative term expiration dates authorized.

HF3333—Nornes (R) Higher Education Finance

Fergus Falls Community College improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3334—Lenczewski (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Outdoor sports and entertainment facility environmental impact statement required.

HF3335—Mares (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Noncompetitive promotions prohibited in specified cases and confidential employee definition modified.

HF3336—Hilty (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Silver election to join the Moose Lake Area Fire Protection district clarified and district equipment certificate issuance authorized.

HF3337—Abeler (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Licensed dentists authorized to bargain collectively with dental health plans.

HF3338—Holberg (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Scott County Board authorized to reorganize and delegate duties.

HF3339—Dempsey (R) Taxes

Historic structure rehabilitation expenditure income tax credit provided.

HF3340—Holsten (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Agricultural petroleum storage tank removal reimbursement provided.

HF3341—Van Dellen (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) uncredited Hennepin County employment service credit purchase authorized.

HF3342—Mariani (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy

Foster care agency and foster parent requirements for children who rely on medical equipment to sustain life or monitor a medical condition provided.

HF3343—Daggett (R)**Taxes**

Lake improvement district special levy authorized.

HF3344—Stang (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Volunteer fire departments authorized to conduct annual raffles and conditions provided.

HF3345—Entenza (DFL)**Civil Law**

Child support enforcement provisions modified.

HF3346—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Criminal and juvenile justice information policy group membership modified, technology infrastructure improvements authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3347—Gleason (DFL)**Civil Law**

Chief administrative law judge authorized to establish a subject matter specialization system for judges.

HF3348—Jennings (DFL)**Taxes**

Improvement order notices to property owners required to contain an assessment estimate.

HF3349—Skoe (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Experimental waters designation and fishing contest provisions modified.

HF3350—McCollum (DFL)**Taxes**

Elderly and disabled federal taxable income subtraction created.

HF3351—Jennings (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Right-of-way acquisition loan fund created, fund uses and transfers provided, and money appropriated.

HF3352—Gerlach (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lighted fishing lures authorized.

HF3353—Jennings (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Overpass improvement fund created, fund uses and transfers provided, advisory committee established, and money appropriated.

HF3354—McCollum (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. grant provided for a national monument and money appropriated.

HF3355—Tomassoni (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

Re-employment insurance noncovered employment definition exclusion provided for smokechasers.

HF3356—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Essential community provider status application deadline extended for a nonprofit community health care facility serving Southeast Asian immigrants and refugees, and termination and renewal designation modified.

HF3357—Folliard (DFL)**Education Policy**

School guidance and counseling incentive grant program established and money appropriated.

HF3358—Bishop (R)**Ways & Means**

Human services, K-12 education, and family and early childhood education appropriation amounts adjusted reflecting state revenue forecast; and money appropriated.

HF3359—Ness (R)**Education Policy**

Uniform minimum length of school year established.

HF3360—Storm (R)**Taxes**

Farm rebate provided for agricultural assistance and money appropriated.

HF3361—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Board of Public Defense responsibility for specified criminal defense costs provided.

HF3362—Trimble (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Intensive intervention transitional employment training project for Southeast Asian refugees and immigrants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3363—Westerberg (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Clean water grants and public water accesses provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3364—Cassell (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Alexandria Technical College improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3365—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Vulnerable adult neglect provisions modified and health licensing boards required to make employment disqualification determinations.

HF3366—Gleason (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 280, Richfield, airport runway impact pupil unit aid provided.

HF3367—Clark, K. (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Spoken language and health care interpreter voluntary registry established, and money appropriated.

HF3368—Kahn (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

State-funded outdoor lighting fixture standards provided and outdoor light pollution restricted.

HF3369—Peterson (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Anhydrous ammonia tampering prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3370—Westerberg (R)**Crime Prevention**

Juvenile alternative residential programs established, report provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF3371—Peterson (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Livestock dealer bond amounts increased, grain buying transaction status clarified, and grain storage provisions modified.

HF3372—Holberg (R)**Crime Prevention**

Convicted defendants required to pay criminal prosecution and investigation costs.

HF3373—Pawlenty (R)**Civil Law**

Business discrimination based on national origin prohibited.

HF3374—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax education homestead credit expanded to include seasonal recreational property and name changed to general education credit.

HF3375—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health care purchasing alliances modified.

HF3376—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Minnesota capitol police department created and merged with capitol complex security division, oversight committee created, governor security increased, and money appropriated.

HF3377—Johnson (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district technology needs grant program created and money appropriated.

HF3378—Tomassoni (DFL)**Local Government &****Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Louis County unclassified service position authorized number increased.

HF3379—Goodno (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Moorhead State University campus security building constructed and state property leased.

HF3380—Pawlenty (R)**Crime Prevention**

Dakota County integrated criminal justice information system pilot project created and money appropriated.

HF3381—Koskinen (DFL)**Commerce**

Convenience store security measures minimum requirements provided, security cameras tax credit provided, and penalties imposed.

HF3382—Rhodes (R)**Taxes**

Investment coins and bullion sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3383—Koskinen (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) Board of Trustees campus closure moratorium imposed.

HF3384—Van Dellen (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

University of Minnesota Board of Regents type 1 diabetes research grant provided and money appropriated.

HF3385—Dorman (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

RIM: fish facilities and wildlife management areas improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3386—Abeler (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Critical habitat matching account funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3387—Ozment (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Water pollution control appropriated money.

HF3388—Westerberg (R)
Taxes
Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

HF3389—Rukavina (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Small gasoline retailer petroleum storage tank removal reimbursement provided.

HF3390—Erickson (R)
Education Policy
Academic achievement charter schools authorized.

HF3391—Kubly (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Trunk Highway No. 71 bridge over the Minnesota River designated as William Angermeyer Memorial Bridge.

HF3392—Seifert, M. (R)
Civil Law
District Court fine and fee transfers clarified related to the state takeover.

HF3393—Goodno (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Recreational access to water bodies restricted.

HF3394—Hasskamp (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Senior drug program eligibility expanded and qualified Medicare beneficiaries asset limits increased.

HF3395—Nornes (R)
Education Policy
Teacher contract deadline date and penalty repealed.

HF3396—Hasskamp (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Conditional use zoning permit decision timeline extended.

HF3397—Gleason (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Airport noise: Congress memorialized to direct the Federal Aviation Administration to release airport impact zone bonds revenue.

HF3398—Sykora (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Early childhood learning and child protection facilities appropriated money.

HF3399—Sykora (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Newspapers with a known or secondary office of issue given priority for official publication for a public body.

HF3400—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Sewage treatment system and wastewater treatment facilities public notice required prior to approval.

HF3401—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Association annual post-retirement benefit provided.

HF3402—Entenza (DFL)
Education Policy
Nonlicensed classroom instructor criminal background checks required.

HF3403—Luther (DFL)
Commerce
No call list: specified telephone sales calls regulated, civil remedies provided, and money appropriated.

HF3404—Peterson (DFL)
Commerce
Biomass mandate modified.

HF3405—Van Dellen (R)
Civil Law
Medical malpractice action statute of limitations reference clarified.

HF3406—McCollum (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Passenger automobile maximum registration tax set and statutory language clarified.

HF3407—Rest (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Passenger automobile registration tax reduced, vehicle depreciation schedule modified, minimum additional registration tax reduced, and statutory language clarified.

HF3408—Tomassoni (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2142, St. Louis County, alternative facilities bonding and levy program authority provided.

HF3409—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Persons with disabilities continuing care services provisions modified.

HF3410—Lenczewski (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Burnsville tax-increment financing district authority repealed.

HF3411—Lenczewski (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Burnsville admissions tax authority repealed.

HF3412—Wagenius (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Water quality and safe drinking water standards risk evaluation required.

HF3413—Vandever (R)
Crime Prevention
Three strikes; minimum imprisonment term provided defendants convicted of a third offense involving a firearm.

HF3414—Leighton (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Child labor law violations provided increased penalties.

HF3415—McCollum (DFL)
Taxes
Permanent sales tax reduction or rebate to local governments provided, and property tax levies reduced to reflect any sales tax rebate.

HF3416—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund real property acquisition conditions specified.

HF3417—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities provided funding comparable to national peer institutions, and money appropriated.

HF3418—Peterson (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
Narcotics; drug-sniffing dog purchase grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF3419—McGuire (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Ramsey County; Gibbs Farm interpretive/visitors center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3420—Larsen, P. (R)
Taxes
Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3421—Bakk (DFL)
Commerce
Electric cooperative's election to be regulated petition and balloting provisions modified.

HF3422—Dempsey (R)
Crime Prevention
Delinquent juveniles and juveniles convicted of crimes confined at same facility, and per diem cost of confinement set at Minnesota Correctional facility-Red Wing.

HF3423—Greiling (DFL)
Commerce
Motor vehicle glass repair and replacement regulated.

HF3424—Pawlenty (R)
Civil Law
Electronic filing of real estate documents task force established, and report to the Legislature required.

HF3425—Peterson (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Dawson; Johnson memorial nursing home renovation and assisted living and adult and child day care space addition authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3426—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Constitutional amendment proposed to dedicate a portion of sales tax receipts on taxable sales for natural resource purposes.

HF3427—Bakk (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Orr-Ely North American Bear Center land acquisition and construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3428—Molnau (R)
Transportation Finance
Wetland replacement provided for public road repair, maintenance, and rehabilitation; bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3429—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties trout angling provisions modified.

HF3430—Luther (DFL)
Taxes
Sales tax rebate provided payable in year 2000, eligibility expanded and deadlines extended for the 1999 sales tax rebate, payment provided for at-risk farmers based on acreage of agricultural use land, and money appropriated.

HF3431—Finseth (R)
Transportation Policy
Driver's license application provisions modified relating to anatomical gifts.

HF3432—Dawkins (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, Achievement Plus facility in Frogtown planning and design grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3433—Osthoff (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Paul Port Authority recreation facilities and purposes powers and jurisdiction provisions modified.

HF3434—Mariani (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) sanctions provisions modified.

HF3435—Otremba (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Value-added agricultural product processing and marketing grant program scope expanded.

HF3436—Seifert, M. (R)
Education Policy
State Board of Teaching prohibited from adopting institution and teacher preparation program approval rules prior to Sept. 1, 2002.

HF3437—Pawlenty (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Gillette Children's Hospital improvements authorized in Ramsey County, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3438—Seifert, J. (R)
Commerce
Insurance companies required to provide written notice of adverse underwriting decisions made on the basis of credit information obtained from a consumer reporting agency.

HF3439—Abeler (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Specified Anoka fire marshal retirement coverage authorized.

HF3440—Pugh (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Debt service tuition rebate provided to public post-secondary students, and money appropriated.

HF3441—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
Pesticide and fertilizer law technical changes provided.

HF3442—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
Corporate and partnership farming law qualifications provisions modified.

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HF3443—Orfield (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Council housing policy plan adoption required, council prohibited from providing facilities for municipalities not participating in the metropolitan livable communities program, and revised housing goals negotiated.

HF3444—Rukavina (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance program pharmacy participation conditions provided.

HF3445—Stang (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative employment provisions modified.

HF3446—Tuma (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Community-based planning sunset removed.

HF3447—Tomassoni (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Mesabi Range Community and Technical College improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3448—McCollum (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Campaign finance reform provided and money appropriated.

HF3449—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Volunteer firefighters lump sum service benefits provided to an eligible former St. Paul employee.

HF3450—Bishop (R)
Ways & Means
State departments supplemental appropriations bill.

HF3451—Mulder (R)
Education Policy
Special education program contracts between private facilities and education entities provided.

HF3452—Mahoney (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
Judiciary finance bonding bill providing public improvements of a capital nature, bond issuance authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3453—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Economic development property tax exemption time period extended.

HF3454—Mariani (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Ethanol producer payment eligibility expanded.

HF3455—Howes (R)
Education Policy
Labor Day; districts prohibited from starting the school year prior to Labor Day.

HF3456—Holberg (R)
Crime Prevention
DWI: four-time offender felony penalties imposed, mandatory minimum sentence and conditional release provided, and corrections conditional release supervision plan required.

HF3457—Holberg (R)
Crime Prevention
Sexually dangerous or psychopathic committed persons transfer to correctional facilities provisions modified.

HF3458—Haas (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Brooklyn Park economic development authority's tax increment financing district No. 18 parcel inclusion regulated.

HF3459—Kelliher (DFL)
Taxes
Minneapolis downtown library construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3460—Kelliher (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Metropolitan State University instructional and parking facility designed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3461—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Employer-subsidized health insurance coverage program created for families with children and eligibility requirements provided.

HF3462—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Class 1c and 4c resort improvement materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF3463—Mariani (DFL)
Commerce
Brewpub off-sale liquor licenses authorized for malt liquor brewed on premises.

HF3464—Rukavina (DFL)
Commerce
Merged or consolidated electric cooperative members authorized to re-establish former electric cooperative.

HF3465—Larsen, P. (R)
Crime Prevention
Assault in the fifth degree defined as a crime of violence.

HF3466—Harder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Redwood County nursing facility rate setting modified and money appropriated.

HF3467—Larsen, P. (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Operating referendum authorized on an alternate day for specified independent school districts.

HF3468—Kelliher (DFL)
Transportation Policy
State open bottle law federal conformity provided, school bus driver stop signal activation requirement exception provided, odometer regulations adopted, and emergency vehicle siren standards modified.

HF3469—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
Charity care aid paid to counties for indigent nonresident medical care expenses and to reduce reliance on property taxes.

HF3470—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Rural health clinics and federally qualified health centers cost-based medical assistance reimbursement continued, and rural hospital capital improvement grant program appropriated money.

HF3471—Skoe (DFL)
Education Policy
Teacher loan forgiveness program established, rulemaking provided, and money appropriated.

HF3472—Van Dellen (R)
Taxes
Single factor sales apportionment adopted for the purposes of corporate franchise taxes.

HF3473—Peterson (DFL)
Taxes
Tax increment financing district property tax abatement authority modified.

HF3474—Osthoff (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
East Como Lake restoration project provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3475—Anderson, B. (R)
Transportation Policy
State vehicle identification requirements modified.

HF3476—Smith (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Board of Psychology access to client records modified.

HF3477—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Speech language pathology services medical assistance reimbursement clarified.

HF3478—Bakk (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Cook County higher education project appropriated money.

HF3479—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Auxiliary hazard lighting systems required on all new snowmobiles.

HF3480—Gunther (R)
Agriculture Policy
Wholesale produce dealer regulations scope clarified.

HF3481—Gunther (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Housing and redevelopment authority member number modified, and per diem limit increased.

HF3482—Juhnke (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Department of Agriculture principal offices required to be located outside the metropolitan area.

HF3483—Seifert, M. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Reports to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board electronic filing and Web site publication required.

HF3484—Otremba (DFL)
Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy
Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) disability benefits application authorized for an eligible employee.

HF3485—Westrom (R)
Transportation Policy
Specified motor carriers record of duty status requirement exemption provided.

HF3486—Westrom (R)
Transportation Policy
Farm truck quarterly registration beginning date modified.

HF3487—Fuller (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Forest Resources Council activities and forest inventory assessment appropriated money.

HF3488—Van Dellen (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Private attorney retention sunshine act adopted authorizing state agencies to employ private counsel.

HF3489—Larsen, P. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Council abolished with exceptions, powers and duties transferred, metropolitan wastewater control commission established, and money appropriated.

HF3490—Abeler (R)
Education Policy
Minnesota new teacher project established for recruitment and retention, and money appropriated.

HF3491—Davids (R)
Commerce
Insurance technical changes provided.

HF3492—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce
Telecommunications consumer privacy act adopted.

HF3493—Westfall (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Department of Agriculture laboratory facility designed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3494—Cassell (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) limited purpose allowable service credit grant authorized for an eligible teacher.

HF3495—Anderson, B. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State purchases open bidding authorized.

HF3496—Sykora (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Voluntary interdistrict integration efforts expanded, metropolitan magnet schools start-up aid created, west metro education program capital project funding recipients modified, integration aid funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3497—Tuma (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State of Minnesota attorney fees recovery regulated, federal conformity provided, fee application procedures established, and existing law clarified.

HF3498—Johnson (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) specified annuity formulas modified.

HF3499—Mariani (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Public utilities additional hydropower purchase environmental impact statement required.

HF3500—Stang (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Entertainment agencies provisions repealed.

HF3501—Stang (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Department of Labor and Industry information exchange with the Department of Revenue provisions modified.

HF3502—Leighton (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Polling places required on college campuses with 500 or more students.

HF3503—Erickson (R)
Education Policy
Charter school students Profile of Learning exemption provided.

HF3504—Rukavina (DFL)
Commerce
No-fault auto insurance basic economic loss benefits regulated through termination and denial arbitration requirements.

HF3505—Davids (R)
Commerce
Commerce Department; managing general agents, securities broker-dealers, investment advisors, contractor recovery fund, collection agencies, and notarial acts provisions modified.

HF3506—Rhodes (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Commissioner of public service remaining duties transferred to the commissioner of commerce.

HF3507—Schumacher (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Minnesota veterans homes maintained and repaired, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3508—Osskopp (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Timber wolf designated as the state mammal.

HF3509—Greenfield (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
School immunization requirements modified.

HF3510—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Taking two deer authorization extended in specified counties.

HF3511—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance pharmacy dispensing fee increased, and demonstration providers required to reimburse at or above medical assistance rate.

HF3512—Anderson, B. (R)
Crime Prevention
Local and state correctional facility inmate telephone access regulated.

HF3513—Otremba (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Special choose life license plates authorized.

HF3514—Gerlach (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Office of technology name changed to the technology policy bureau and business license responsibilities modified.

HF3515—Paymar (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Crime prohibiting possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon on school property exemption for permit holders eliminated.

HF3516—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Natural resources provisions modified.

HF3517—Biernat (DFL)
Civil Law
Child support provisions clarified, notice to remove filing period modified, and specified requirements repealed.

HF3518—Smith (R)
Civil Law
Juvenile and adult criminal history data practices provisions modified.

- HF3519—Biernat (DFL)**
Civil Law
Expedited child support process provisions modified.
- HF3520—Osthoff (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Environmental response and liability settlement reimbursement provisions modified.
- HF3521—Hackbarth (R)**
Transportation Finance
Express bus service between downtown Minneapolis and Anoka County Trunk Highway No. 22 provided, and money appropriated.
- HF3522—Davids (R)**
Commerce
Credit union lending authority regulated and financial institution examination fee assessments equitable adjustment provided.
- HF3523—Reuter (Ind.)**
Taxes
Indoor ice arena construction materials sales and use tax exemption extended retroactively.
- HF3524—Bakk (DFL)**
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Lake Superior safe harbor developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3525—Rhodes (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Technology policy bureau's long-range plan approved.
- HF3526—Lenczewski (DFL)**
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Public services privatization procedures and standards established, and public accountability provided.
- HF3527—Winter (DFL)**
Taxes
Sales and use tax rate reduced, and political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.
- HF3528—Winter (DFL)**
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Assigned risk plan and workers' compensation reinsurance association surpluses distributed.
- HF3529—Larsen, P. (R)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Council made a state agency.
- HF3530—Abrams (R)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan area transit and paratransit additional bonding authority provided for capital expenditures.
- HF3531—Pelowski (DFL)**
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Winona tax-increment financing district continued.
- HF3532—Jennings (DFL)**
Health & Human Services Policy
Social anxiety disorder health insurance coverage required.
- HF3533—Juhnke (DFL)**
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Community education revenue provided for youth programs and money appropriated.
- HF3534—Harder (R)**
Agriculture Policy
Agricultural contract requirements and enforcement procedures modified.
- HF3535—Winter (DFL)**
Commerce
Automobile insurance medical claim denial and coverage terminations prohibited unless determined by a neutral health care professional.
- HF3536—Winter (DFL)**
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Workers' compensation; injured employee examination by employer's physician requirement repealed, and benefits discontinuation prohibited unless determined by a neutral health care professional.
- HF3537—Bradley (R)**
Health & Human Services Policy
Downsized or closed nursing facilities special rate adjustment process provided, and budget neutrality required.
- HF3538—Dorn (DFL)**
Transportation Finance
Large construction projects charge for public cost recovery provided, DM & E Railroad mitigation grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3539—Lieder (DFL)**
Transportation Policy
Surface multi-modal transportation fund established, receipts deposited, motor vehicle sales tax portion dedicated, and money appropriated.
- HF3540—Kuisle (R)**
Transportation Policy
I-35E maximum speed limit established between West Seventh Street and I-94 in St. Paul.
- HF3541—Kuisle (R)**
Agriculture Policy
John's Disease: Board of Animal Health paratuberculosis diagnosis information classified as nonpublic data.
- HF3542—Kuisle (R)**
K-12 Education Finance
School district property tax equity provided and money appropriated.
- HF3543—McElroy (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative proceedings rules required and constitutional amendment proposed.
- HF3544—Chaudhary (DFL)**
Taxes
Long-term care income tax credit expanded and money appropriated.
- HF3545—Westfall (R)**
Taxes
Special property tax levy and levy limit adjustments provided.
- HF3546—Westrom (R)**
Health & Human Services Finance
Traverse County nursing facility rate adjustment provided and money appropriated.
- HF3547—Westrom (R)**
Transportation Policy
Motor vehicle weight records retention and inspection provisions, and overweight evidence provisions repealed.
- HF3548—Molnau (R)**
Transportation Policy
Commuter rail funding restricted.
- HF3549—Storm (R)**
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Rural finance authority program appropriated money and bonds authorized.
- HF3550—Hilty (DFL)**
Crime Prevention
Commissioner of Public Safety rule authority continued, and Private Detectives and Protective Agents Board members per diem payments and training program rules modified.
- HF3551—Kielkucki (R)**
Commerce
Electric signaling circuit rule definition repealed.
- HF3552—Larsen, P. (R)**
Judiciary Finance
Ramsey County law enforcement and firefighting training facilities constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3553—Holberg (R)**
Crime Prevention
Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services battered women's shelter per diem guidelines established.
- HF3554—Rostberg (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Veterans affairs commissioner duties technical changes provided, and agent orange information and assistance program expanded.
- HF3555—Westerberg (R)**
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Snowmobile metal traction device sticker requirement civil enforcement provided.
- HF3556—Pelowski (DFL)**
Education Policy
Profile of Learning graduation requirements application delayed, and contract for independent review of state's standards and assessments required.
- HF3557—Krinkie (R)**
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Previous Mankato area growth management and planning study completion transferred to the Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning, and technology initiatives inventory required.
- HF3558—Haake (R)**
Crime Prevention
Commissioner of public safety authorized to award public safety grants.
- HF3559—Molnau (R)**
Transportation Finance
Transit system grants authorized for the public transit subsidy program, metropolitan area transit operations, rolling stock and intelligent transportation system technology, and transit hubs, and money appropriated.
- HF3560—Wenzel (DFL)**
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Little Falls, Minnesota, fishing museum construction grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
- HF3561—Lieder (DFL)**
Transportation Policy
Payment of preliminary engineering costs from the town bridge account authorized.

HF3562—Harder (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural chemical response and reimbursement account maximum reimbursement amount increased.

HF3563—Clark, K. (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Minneapolis Hiawatha Corridor affordable housing and mixed commercial and residential development appropriation provided; streets, infrastructure and capital improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3564—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Commissioner of administration duties modified relating to public lands, procurements, easements, designer selection, parking, energy efficiency, project redesign, and appropriations, and state archaeologist authority modified.

HF3565—Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Human rights technical changes; discriminatory practices definition extended relating to receipt of public assistance or housing subsidies.

HF3566—Dawkins (DFL)**Civil Law**

Liens; motor vehicles towed at request of law enforcement lien provided, extent of lien clarified, and notice provided to owner for towing, sale, and right to reclaim.

HF3567—Mares (R)**Education Policy**

Education; facilities levies consolidation provided, and handicapped access and fire safety program revenue cap eliminated.

HF3568—Otremba (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Commercial turtle seller's helper license created, and general duties of natural resources commissioner statement modified.

HF3569—Skoglund (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund service credit purchase authorized for a specified employee.

HF3570—Dorman (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) institutions health care benefits costs equalized.

HF3571—Osskopp (R)**Crime Prevention**

Dangerous weapon possession at gambling establishment felony penalty provided, signage required, detention of suspects provided, shipment of gambling devices regulated, and definitions and penalties provided for cheating.

HF3572—Rukavina (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Virginia Silver Lake storm sewer outlet relocation provided, and money appropriated.

HF3573—Knoblach (R)**Transportation Policy**

Minnesota Highway Safety Center at St. Cloud State University alcohol and highway safety education in elementary and secondary schools grants administration transferred to commissioner of public safety.

HF3574—Olson (R)**Civil Law**

Ethical standards for the chief administrative law judge provided, administrative law judges, and compensation judges, and tape recordings included with file of hearings.

HF3575—Cassell (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Agricultural production certification methods pilot program established in conjunction with University of Minnesota, Department of Trade and Economic Development, and the Board of Animal Health; and report to Legislature required.

Thursday, Feb. 17**HF3576—Osskopp (R)****Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Solid waste and wastewater treatment facilities reporting requirements modified, and toxics in packaging exemption period extended.

HF3577—Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

Creditors' garnishments, executions, and levies regulated; forms revised; notification provided; attorneys' execution levies increased; and technical changes provided.

HF3578—Rostberg (R)**Civil Law**

Plats, coordinates, maps, and surveys provisions enacted; and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3579—Ness (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Driver education requirement modified to allow for classroom and behind-the-wheel integrated training.

HF3580—Finseth (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Wolf depredation payments per animal limit removed.

HF3581—McElroy (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Board of Electricity inspection fee rules codified.

HF3582—Holsten (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Phosphorus plant food use prohibition provisions modified for specified counties, and adulteration factors clarified.

HF3583—Pelowski (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) and University of Minnesota Board of Regents asset preservation and replacement capital improvements authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3584—Lindner (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Policy**

Manufactured homes limited dealer license requirements clarified.

HF3585—Biernat (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

K-12 education finance appropriations provided.

HF3586—Larsen, P. (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Alternative dispute resolution process use clarified.

HF3587—Swapinski (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Genetically engineered organism permits moratorium imposed.

HF3588—Molnau (R)**Transportation Finance**

State trunk highway and state transportation bonds issued, trunk highway and bridge improvements funded, and money appropriated.

HF3589—McElroy (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Habitat for Humanity of Minnesota, Inc. loan provided, Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) recipient rental housing funded, and money appropriated.

HF3590—McCollum (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Combat wounded veterans honorary plaque placed in the court of honor on the Capitol mall.

HF3591—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health care premium and provider taxes and surcharges repealed, purchaser savings required, tobacco settlement money deposited in the health care access fund, and civil penalties imposed.

HF3592—Hackbarth (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) members on leaves of absence notified of allowable service rights.

HF3593—Dorman (R)**Taxes**

Solid waste management tax rates reduced and automatic adjustment provided.

HF3594—Ness (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district adjusted pupil units modified.

HF3595—Gleason (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Airline tickets purchase by public entities limited.

HF3596—Ozment (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Special purpose districts with environmental responsibilities grants provided, special purpose district restructuring pilot projects authorized, and board of government innovation and cooperation pilot project grants provided.

HF3597—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State investments; annual expense reimbursement disclosure eliminated, and medical education endowment fund and tobacco use prevention and local public health endowment fund investment options modified.

HF3598—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing home facility conversion loan program and nursing home grant program created, and money appropriated.

HF3599—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Child support and maintenance state distribution provided, block grant use expanded, federal child support recoveries reimbursed, and housing development fund and Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) employment services funded.

HF3600—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Northstar research coalition established.

HF3601—Dempsey (R)**Education Policy**

Minnesota Correctional Facility-Red Wing educational services vendor selection process repealed.

HF3602—Osskopp (R)**Civil Law**

Child support, maintenance, and wage garnishment limited; and notice required.

HF3603—Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Juvenile and adult criminal history data practices provisions modified,

HF3604—Hackbarth (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety training and youth operating provisions modified.

HF3605—Koskinen (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Birth and adoption leave program created, and money appropriated.

HF3606—Jennings (DFL)**Commerce**

Rental automobile insurance coverage regulated.

HF3607—Wilkin (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Mendota Heights tax increment financing district continued.

HF3608—Kielkucki (R)**Taxes**

High school league tournament admission sales tax exemption provided.

HF3609—Sykora (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Full-day enrichment kindergarten pilot grant program established and money appropriated.

HF3610—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health care patient protections provided and medical clinical trials insurance coverage required.

HF3611—Wejcman (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

After-school enrichment grants modified to include Lyndale neighborhood in Minneapolis and money appropriated.

HF3612—Holberg (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 194, Lakeville, fund transfer authorized.

HF3613—Holberg (R)**Transportation Policy**

Claims against the state limited relating to losses involving the operation of a recreational vehicle on a trunk highway right-of-way.

HF3614—Holberg (R)**Crime Prevention**

Automobile theft prevention special revenue account funds provided for prevention activities, insurance surcharge exemptions provided for specified vehicles, and money appropriated.

HF3615—Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority and St. Paul economic assistance data classification provided.

HF3616—Mahoney (DFL)**Civil Law**

Tax court abolished and district court tax law jurisdiction clarified.

HF3617—Mullery (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Anhydrous ammonia tampering prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties imposed.

HF3618—Ness (R)**Education Policy**

Profile of Learning statewide accountability and district autonomy balance provided, graduation rule independently developed, content standards number reduced, and scoring criteria and recordkeeping practices determined.

HF3619—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Tax increment financing district pooling authorized for qualified low-income housing developments.

HF3620—Rest (DFL)**Taxes**

Property tax refund amounts adjusted.

HF3621—Winter (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

County detoxification services reimbursed by the state and liquor sales tax increased.

HF3622—Ozment (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan disposal system cost allocation modified.

HF3623—Entenza (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Constitutional officer ethical requirements clarified.

HF3624—Olson (R)**Crime Prevention**

Character development program completion required for juvenile property offenders on probation and repeat offenders required to pay full restitution plus program completion.

HF3625—Olson (R)**Education Policy**

Transitional and employment related contracts legislative approval required; basic skills test, curriculum, enrollment options, and education program provisions modified; and lifework development plan repealed.

HF3626—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Psychologist supervisory and disciplinary requirements modified.

HF3627—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Psychologist variance from supervision requirements modified.

HF3628—Olson (R)**Education Policy**

Graduation rule assessments regarding student's personal characteristics and beliefs excluded.

HF3629—Olson (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Public hospital executive directors, pharmacists, and psychologists compensation limit exemption provided.

HF3630—Buesgens (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Public entity construction debris recycling encouraged.

HF3631—Trimble (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Paul Rehabilitation Center job training and related services appropriated money.

HF3632—Haas (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Long-term care insurance advisory group and duties modified, and long-term care insurance program implementation delayed for advisory group input.

HF3633—Rhodes (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Mighty eighth air force week designated.

HF3634—Olson (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Mental health professional defined for medical assistance coverage purposes.

HF3635—Smith (R)**Commerce**

Beer keg off-sale prohibited.

HF3636—Clark, K. (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Healing touch therapy health plan coverage required

HF3637—Bishop (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Deferred state building maintenance financed with state budget surplus.

HF3638—Pugh (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Manufacturer refusal to sell gambling supplies to a distributor conditions specified.

HF3639—McCollum (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Periodic well testing recommendation notice to property owners required, notice created, and money appropriated.

HF3640—Mariani (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota showboat rebuilt and money appropriated.

HF3641—Kalis (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Smoking restricted in state or federally assisted rental housing.

HF3642—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical education program funds application and distribution provisions modified.

HF3643—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Minnesota identification card or driver's license seizure authorized from deported persons and cancellation provided.

HF3644—Bishop (R)**Civil Law**

Board of public defense responsibility for specified criminal defense costs provided, search and rescue operations support authority expanded, and money appropriated.

HF3645—McCollum (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
 Well test disclosure to potential property buyer and liability for failure to disclose required.

HF3646—Bishop (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Policy
 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) workforce center locations plan developed.

HF3647—Lindner (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
 St. Anthony Falls mill ruins historic site and museum provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3648—Wenzel (DFL)
Transportation Finance
 North star corridor Rice to Camp Ripley alternatives analysis grant provided and money appropriated.

HF3649—McCollum (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
 Minnesota environmental report card required.

HF3650—Dawkins (DFL)
Civil Law
 De facto custodian rights clarified.

HF3651—Sykora (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
 Department of Children, Families, and Learning energy assistance responsibilities transferred to the Department of Economic Security; energy assistance program requirements provided; and report required.

HF3652—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
 Human services and pre K-12 education housekeeping bill and money appropriated.

HF3653—Anderson, I. (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.

HF3654—Kelliher (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
 Genetically engineered seed permits moratorium imposed.

HF3655—Luther (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
 Youth enrichment facilities capital improvement grants provided and money appropriated.

HF3656—Trimble (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 Pigs Eye landfill in St. Paul environmental response grant provided, previous environmental response capital costs bonding cancelled, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3657—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
 Pistol and semi-automatic millitary-style assault weapons mass purchases prohibited, and collectors exception provided.

HF3658—Smith (R)
Civil Law
 Germany and Japan; forced labor actions statue of limitations waived.

HF3659—Wenzel (DFL)
Crime Prevention
 Child abuse services professionals training requirements expanded, services determinations to consider risks of child living with unrelated adult, child endangerment felony penalties increased, and minimum sentencing imposed.

HF3660—Mariani (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
 Children's development fund created with tobacco settlement proceeds, advisory task force established, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF3661—Rukavina (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
 City replacement heating systems and related energy conservation measures authorized.

HF3662—Olson (R)
Commerce
 Internet parent information act adopted.

HF3663—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
 Pet poison prevention program appropriated money.

HF3664—Larson, D. (DFL)
Transportation Policy
 Freeway ramp meter fair use standards imposed.

HF3665—Olson (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
 Federal agreements legislative approval required.

HF3666—Carruthers (DFL)
Crime Prevention
 DWI; motor vehicle forfeiture provisions clarified.

HF3667—Tingelstad (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
 Pesticide management report required.

HF3668—Seagren (R)
K-12 Education Finance
 School district net tax capacity assessment/sales ratio study annual adjustment modified.

HF3669—Clark, K. (DFL)
Crime Prevention
 Marijuana possession and sale for debilitating medical condition affirmative defense established.

HF3670—Wenzel (DFL)
Crime Prevention
 Camp Ripley law enforcement training center constructed and money appropriated.

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Secretary of the Senate
 231 Capitol 296-0271
 Voice mail/order bills 296-2343
Chief Clerk of the House
 211 Capitol 296-2314
Index, Senate
 110 Capitol 296-2887
Index, House
 211 Capitol 296-6646
Information, Senate
 231 Capitol 296-0504
Information, House
 175 State Office Building 296-2146

Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088
Committee Hotline, House 296-9283
Sergeant at Arms, Senate
 Senate Chamber 296-7159/6-1119
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 45 State Office Building 296-4860
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 700 State Office Building 296-2868
Governor's Office
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 102 Capitol 296-6196
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 180 State Office Building 296-9208
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MONDAY, February 21

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF2518 (Haake) State employee government efficiency suggestion program developed, income tax check-off provided, and money appropriated.

HF2629 (Tingelstad) K-12 educational facilities indoor air quality standards provided.

HF2463 (Carruthers) Electronic government services and funding reviewed for the purpose of promoting public access.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

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.

Discussion of federal funds application request process, Department of Finance.

Discussion of federal funds application requests for the departments of human services and health.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Overview of the governor's bonding request for energy investment loans.

HF2966 (Gunther) Multicultural development grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2930 (Seifert, J.) Woodbury center for the arts construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2804 (Kubly) Lake Lillian community center construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2703 (Leighton) Austin Riverside Arena expanded and remodeled, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2704 (Leighton) Austin Historic Paramount Atmospheric Theatre restoration grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2894 (Opatz) St. Cloud Head Start Community Center grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3069 (Wenzel) Little Falls Mississippi River cleanup and building demolition provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HFXXXX (Molnau) Trunk highway bonds and local bridge bonds.

Department of Transportation legislative study of state bridge grant funding for local bridges.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF2731 (Davids) Motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and factory branches unfair practices regulated.

HF3220 (Smith) Common interest ownership communities, certificates of value, and redemptions of realty technical changes provided; and procedural requirements modified.

HF3119 (Bishop) Children in need of protection representation by public defenders and court-appointed counsel limited to minors age 10 and older.

HF3232 (Goodno) 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.

HF3304 (Seifert, J.) Seat belt and child passenger restraint system use admissibility into evidence prohibition repealed.

HF3392 (Seifert, M.) District Court fine and fee transfers clarified related to the state takeover.

HF3200 (Stanek) Driver's license photograph access allowed to businesses under certain circumstances.

Note: Any business not conducted during the morning session will be concluded at 4 p.m. or immediately after session in the Basement Hearing Room.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF2505 (Leppik) Annual state park permits effective for a 12-month period.

HF2582 (Tingelstad) Rice Creek Regional Trail in Anoka County previous capital improvement appropriation provisions expanded.

HF2734 (Westfall) Pelican Rapids natural resources district office provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2765 (Cassell) Pope/Douglas, and Dodge and Olmsted counties materials recovery facilities construction provided; and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF3178 (Knoblach) 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.

HF2847 (Opatz) St. Cloud State University Eastman and Riverview halls building renovation authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2902 (Opatz) St. Cloud State University Centennial Hall renovation planning provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2845 (Knoblach) St. Cloud Technical College public land and building acquisition and improvement authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3082 (Tuma) Higher Education Facilities Authority bonding authority increased.

University of Minnesota HEAPR presentation.

Additional bills may be added.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF2384 (Carruthers) Independent School District No. 286, Brooklyn Center, facility grant provided, bond sale authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2624 (Anderson, B.) Independent School District No. 728, Elk River, debt service levy rate provided.

HF2726 (Ness) Litchfield City Library grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3324 (Seifert, J.) School District No. 6067, Tri-District, metropolitan magnet school grant provided to construct a new building, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3216 (Anderson, I.) School district outstanding capital loan bond sale limitation modified.

HF3296 (Hasskamp) Crosslake library constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF2645 (Trimble) Outdoor advertising devices considered taxable property.

HF3261 (Erhardt) Residential homestead property tax classification rates modified.

HF3139 (Abrams) Utility company property valuation proceedings and appeals provided.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Reports to Legislature: Consolidation Plan for Early Childhood Initiatives; Childcare (Employer Pre-tax Accounts); and Learning Materials (Distribution Partnership).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF2673 (Rest) Political subdivision corporation creation standards established and existing corporations continued. Continued from Feb. 16 meeting.

HF2737 (Solberg) Municipalities and veterans' organizations authorized to donate to all public school programs and facilities. Originally on Feb. 16 agenda.

HF3164 (Larsen, P.) Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority membership increased.

HF3169 (Gerlach) Dakota County additional personnel board of appeals member authorized.
HF3202 (Wilkin) Coroner, deputy coroner, coroner's investigator, and medical examiner compensation provisions clarified.

HF3229 (Abrams) Hennepin County obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card provided.

HF3263 (Swapinski) Duluth Human Rights Commission additional powers authorized or new commission established.

Regulated Industries Subcommittee/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF2996 (Wolf) Electric utilities required to provide cost and fuel information to utility customers.

Continuation of discussion from Feb. 14 meeting.
HF2820 (McElroy) Catalyst grants provided to promote Internet access in rural Minnesota and money appropriated.

Other bills to be announced.

3 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

TUESDAY, February 22

7:30 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF3188 (Tingelstad) Special transportation services medical assistance reimbursement study required.

HF3212 (Tingelstad) Home care and personal care provider transportation expense reimbursement studied.

HF2959 (Sykora) Child care assistant classification established for licensing and employment purposes.

HF3113 (Goodno) Pharmacies permitted an additional nationally certified pharmacy technician.

HF3279 (Goodno) Prepaid medical assistance capitation rates for nonmetropolitan counties increased.

HF3306 (Wilkin) Residential hospice program requirements modified.

HF3375 (Mulder) Health care purchasing alliances modified.

HF2609 (Peterson) Physician licensure requirements modified.

HF3236 (Mulder) Vital record certified copy issuance provisions modified.

HF2994 (Fuller) Ambulance service and EMT requirements modified.

HF1383 (Wilkin) Optometrist licensing provisions modified.

Note: Meeting to continue from 4 to 7 p.m. in 5 State Office Building.

8 a.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: HF2901 (Anderson, B.) OSHA; deceased employee next of kin authorized to participate in occupational safety and health citing procedures, and presumptive penalties provided.

HF2604 (Hilty) Northern Technology Initiative, Inc. created.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: Final discussion of capital budget projects.

Governor's deficiency requests.

HF2112 (Murphy) Carlton County criminal prosecution expenses reimbursement provided and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF3145 (Swenson) School bus transportation, driver's license endorsement, and training provisions modified.

HF3274 (Workman) Utility-owned vehicles exempted from specified weight restrictions.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration capital bonding requests.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF3346 (Stanek) Criminal and juvenile justice information policy group membership modified, technology infrastructure improvements authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3322 (Biernat) Photographic evidence pilot program studying the feasibility of issuing citations for failure to obey traffic signals authorized and money appropriated.

HF3137 (Biernat) Peace officer assault provided increased criminal penalties.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF3359 (Ness) Uniform minimum length of school year established.

HF3436 (Seifert, M.) State Board of Teaching prohibited from adopting institution and teacher preparation program approval rules prior to Sept. 1, 2002.

HF3395 (Nornes) Teacher contract deadline date and penalty repealed.

Other items to be determined.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF2838 (Daggett) Percentage of moose licenses selected from previously unsuccessful applicants.

HF3012 (Ozment) Dakota County snowmobile trails grant-in-aid pilot program created.

HF3328 (Hackbarth) Iron Range off-highway vehicle recreation area addition in St. Louis County provided and previous appropriation availability extended.

HF2559 (Howes) Inland water sunken logs recovery provided.

HF3352 (Gerlach) Lighted fishing lures authorized.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF2742 (Dorman) Sales tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

HF3039 (Daggett) Wadena County provided a one-time penalty exemption to truth-in-taxation requirements and previous year's levy authorized.
HF2715 (Daggett) Lawful gambling tax rates reduced.

HF2608 (Westerberg) Telecommuting expenses income and franchise tax credit provided for employers.

HF2946 (Lenczewski) Sales tax rebate filing dates extended.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF3312 (Finseth) Meat and poultry inspection uniformity provided.

HF3575 (Cassell) Agricultural production certification methods pilot program established in conjunction with the University of Minnesota, Department of Trade and Economic Development, and the Board of Animal Health; and report to legislature required.

HF3480 (Gunther) Wholesale produce dealer regulations scope clarified.

HF3541 (Kuisle) John's Disease: Board of Animal Health paratuberculosis diagnosis information classified as nonpublic data.

HF3240 (Finseth) Agricultural land set aside and payment program established, and money appropriated.

HF3332 (Swenson) Dairy Research and Promotion Council alternative term expiration dates authorized.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF2820 (McElroy) Catalyst grants provided to promote Internet access in rural Minnesota and money appropriated.

HF1094 (McElroy) Providing that intangible property does not include gift certificates or layaway accounts.

HF562 (Paulsen) Regulating collection agencies and exempting out-of-state agencies from regulation.

HF3223 (Haas) State of Minnesota made a Comprehensive Health Association contributing

member with respect to self-insured employee health plans and money appropriated.
HF1841 (Davids) Insurance compliance self-audit privilege established.
HF2017 (Mahoney) Administration and Health departments directed to adopt newest editions of certain building code standards.
HF2829 (Clark, K.) Financial institutions required to process checks in numerical sequence during business day unless customer specifies differently. Other bills to be announced.

6 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: Consideration of the actuarial assumption changes and actuarial method changes recommended by the commission actuary.

Consideration of a change in the re-employment annuitant earnings maximums of the various retirement plans.

HF675 (Mares) Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), and Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) provisions modified; and service credit pilot program established.

HF3019 (Knoblach) Phoenix Treatment and Behavior Change Program employment service credit transferred from the general state employee retirement plan to the correctional retirement plan.

SF2275 (Betzold) Judges retirement plan final average compensation and contribution rate modifications, benefit maximum increases and early retirement penalty reductions.

HF2543 (Gleason); SF2358 (Ranum) Special School District No. 1, Minneapolis, Teachers Retirement Fund Association prior service credit purchase authorized.

HF2685 (Wagenius); SF2506 (Ranum) Survivor benefits extended for spouses of deceased Minneapolis Fire Relief Association members.

HF3025 (Stanek); SF2463 (Betzold) Part-time Metropolitan Transit police officers provided pension coverage.

HF1466 (Dorman); SF1616 (Piper) Albert Lea police and fire survivor retirement benefit increase allowed.

HF1838 (Davids); SF1559 (Oliver) Public supplemental pension and deferred compensation plans investments availability expanded.

HF2979 (Abeler); SF3042 (Scheid) Compensation definition modified for the purposes of public employment retirement annuities limitations.

HF2925 (Haas); SF2431 (Betzold) Osseo and Osseo Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association unplanned liability increases offset, and money appropriated.

Other items as designated by the commission chair.

WEDNESDAY, February 23

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF3297(Paulsen) Technology business and activity defined, and regulations provided.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF2699 (Goodno) Nursing facility operating cost reimbursement floor established. To be announced.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Overview of the governor's bonding request for the Minnesota Historical Society.

HF3108 (Davids) Lanesboro Theater and Arts Center grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1936 (Dempsey) Hastings LeDuc Mansion refurbished, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3291 (Dorman) Owatonna Heritage Halls appropriated money.

HFXXXX (Lindner) Funding for the Minnesota Historical Society's project at St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis.

HF2917 (Nornes) Parkers Prairie storm water sewer grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Swenson) Funding for projects by county historical societies.

HF2580 (Kubly) Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission grant authorized for the Minnesota River Tourism Initiative, bonds issued, 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.

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

HF3011 (Swenson) Rail service improvement program grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HFXXXX (Molnau) Trunk highway bonds and local bridge bonds.

Metropolitan Council Transit transitways bonding request.

Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) Detroit Lakes headquarters bonding request.

MnDOT Moorhead truck station bonding request.

MnDOT Regional Transportation Management Center bonding request.

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF3149 (Holberg) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information tort liability exception provided.

HF2896 (Paulsen) Predatory offenders failing to comply with registration requirements provided increased criminal penalties and Level 3 sex offender information posted on the Internet.

HF2481 (Carruthers) Government data copy charges modified, copyright limited, local government private or confidential data dissemination authority limited, monitoring of citizens prohibited, data practices compliance officers required, and remedies provided.

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

HF3105 (Hasskamp) Indigent persons represented by legal aid offices conflicts of interest studied by court-appointed attorney task force.

HF2655 (Leppik) Underage persons attempting to purchase alcohol or tobacco products with false identification provided increased penalties and driver license sanctions, and retailers authorized to seize false I.D.

Note: Any business not conducted during the morning session will be concluded at 4 p.m. or immediately after session in the Basement Hearing Room.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF3163 (Dorman) Blazing Star state trail bridge construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3086 (Bakk) Gitchi-Gami state trail developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2965 (Bakk) Two Harbors marina and harbor of refuge developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3524 (Bakk) Lake Superior safe harbor developed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2955 (Davids) Shooting Star Trail completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2576 (Tuma) Rice County Joint Powers Board grant provided for Dundas to Faribault Milltown Trail acquisition and betterment, and money appropriated.

HF3295 (Mulder) Rock County bicycle and pedestrian trail provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2767 (Kubly) Fair Ridge Trail in Renville County improvements provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2848 (Opatz) St. Cloud Area Joint Powers Board parks and trails grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2690 (Solberg) Itasca County Taconite Trail head building constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF 3002 (Hasskamp) Pequot Lakes trailside information center grant provided and money appropriated.

HF3090 (Kahn) Mississippi Whitewater Trail public waters work permit exemption provided, white water course constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF2969 (Tuma) Certified public accountant licensing requirements modified.

HF3062 (Carlson) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnSCU) and intermediate school districts coordinating facilities and program planning grant authorized, and money appropriated.

HF3379 (Goodno) Moorhead State University campus security building constructed and state property leased.

Morris Student Association presentation. Additional bills may be added.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF2532 (Kielkucki) Five star school accreditation program established and money appropriated.

HF3097 (Tingelstad) Healthful school buildings: indoor air quality improved, portable classroom use limited, and operating capital revenue portion reserved for facilities purposes.

HF2811 (Davids) Independent School District No. 495, Grand Meadow, alternative facilities design grant authorized; bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2631 (Abeler) School district levy for crime prevention increased.

HF3141 (Trimble) School safety capital improvements grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2621 (Folliard) School district health and safety program expanded to include student and staff safety plans, and money appropriated.

HF3320 (Carlson) School district crime-related costs levy increased and proceeds usage modified.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF2468 (Harder) Homestead status provided for trustee-owned qualified property.

HF2781 (Mulder) Wind energy conversion systems assessment required.

Other bills to be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: Continuation of Feb. 22 agenda.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Adult Basic Education: discussion; bills; governor's initiatives.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peg Larsen

Agenda: HF2691 (Dehler) Town officer and employee personnel data classification provided.

HF3327 (Broecker) Local government authorization to petition to amend or repeal rules sunset eliminated.

HF3338 (Holberg) Scott County Board authorized to reorganize and delegate duties.

HF3399 (Sykora) Newspapers with a known or secondary office of issue given priority for official publication for a public body.

HF3205 (Rest) Impacted communities low income housing aid increased.

HF3458 (Haas) Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority's Tax Increment Financing District No. 18 parcel inclusion regulated.

HF2591 (Anderson, I.) Koochiching County economic development commission created.

Regulated Industries Subcommittee/ COMMERCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF2496 (Davids) Department of Public Service abolished, and powers and duties transferred.

Discussion of Telecommunication Proposals: HF2937 (Wolf) Telecommunications statutes modified and recodified, and money appropriated.

Other bills to be announced.

3 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

Immediately Following Session

Subcommittee on Land/ ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

400S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Osskopp

Agenda: HF2856 (Gunther) Martin County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2077 (Lieder) Norman County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF3114 (Lieder) Polk County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF3154 (Lieder) Norman County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2819 (Cassell) Stearns County land conveyance authorized.

HF2513 (Vandever) Washington County authorized to privately sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2914 (Solberg) Aitkin County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF2998 (Broecker) Ramsey County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

HF3084 (Bakk) Lake County authorized to sell tax-forfeited land bordering public water.

THURSDAY, February 24

7:30 a.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF3301 (Goodno) Family and adult self-sufficiency provisions modified.

HF3128 (Goodno) Noncompliant Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) recipient sanctions and program eligibility requirements modified.

HF3150 (McElroy) Dakota County Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) diversionary assistance pilot project established and money appropriated.

HF2553 (Seifert, J.) Supportive housing and managed care pilot project appropriated money.

8 a.m.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: Governor's mini-cabinet report on workforce development presented by the Department of Economic Security, Department of Trade and Economic Development, Minnesota Planning, and MnSCU.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Sherry Broecker

Agenda: HF1172 (Holberg) Harassment and stalking enhanced criminal penalty provision

expanded to include violations from another state.

HF3029 (Dempsey) Per diem cost of housing juveniles to be shared by counties and the Department of Corrections.

HF2516 (Smith) Harassment definition and provisions modified relating to restraining orders.

HF3418 (Peterson) Narcotics; drug-sniffing dog

purchase grants provided, and money

appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF3053 (Workman) Collector vehicles authorized to display a blue light as part of rear brakes.

HF3070 (Workman) 800-MHZ trunked radio system source code access and two vendors required.

HF2952 (Workman) Transportation provisions modified.

8:30 a.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration and Amateur Sports Commission capital bonding requests.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF1159 (Stanek) Correctional officers discipline procedures act adopted.

HF3370 (Westerberg) Juvenile alternative residential programs established, report provisions modified, and money appropriated.

HF2939 (Rhodes) Adult court jurisdiction provided over juvenile offenders charged with serious crimes involving firearms.

Other bills to be announced.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: To be announced.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF304 (Tunheim) Shipment and possession of wild animals taken on the Red Lake Indian Reservation north of the 49th parallel authorized, and no state license required.

HFXXXX (Tingelstad) Pesticide management in public buildings.

HF3292 (Dorman) MTBE; gasoline blended with the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether sale prohibited in the state of Minnesota.

HF3131 (Osthoff) MTBE; gasoline blended with the oxygenate methyl tertiary butyl ether sale prohibited in the state of Minnesota.

TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Department of Agriculture report on the Price-Reporting Program.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: Overview of the Anoka Hennepin Technical College capital budget request.

COMMERCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF 3522 (Davids) Credit union lending authority regulated and financial institution examination fee assessments equitable adjustment provided.

HF 3491 (Davids) relating to insurance; providing technical changes.

HF 2757 (Jennings) Biomass power mandate regulated for electric generating facilities using poultry litter as a fuel source.

Other bills to be announced.

3 p.m.

The House meets in Session.

FRIDAY, February 25

8 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF3508 (Osskopp) Timber wolf designated as the state mammal.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Presentation on capital investment requests for northeast Minnesota.

HF3427 (Bakk) Orr-Ely North American Bear Center land acquisition and construction authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3266 (Huntley) Duluth/North Shore sanitary district improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3071 (Huntley) Seaway Port Authority of Duluth warehouse grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3269 (Jaros) Duluth Lake Superior College multipurpose recreation complex authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3270 (Jaros) Spirit Mountain recreation area improvements authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3255 (Jaros) County capital improvements definition expanded to include historical society, museum, and cultural and art centers.

HF3265 (Swapinski) Duluth water and sanitary sewer service improvements for the Fond du Lac area authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3190 (Tomassoni) Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) capital improvement projects authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

10 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF2774 (Broecker) Carisoprodol schedule IV controlled substance listing effective date delayed.

HF2958 (Mahoney) Persons escaping after lawful arrest prior to trial proceedings charged with escape from custody.

Other bills to be announced.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF2933 (Swenson) Fort Ridgely State Park Golf Course upgraded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2674 (Finseth) Red River state recreation area established in Polk County, visitors' center and campground constructed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2626 (Kelliher) Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board flood mitigation grant provided for Lake of the Isles, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF3171 (Trimble) St. Paul capital projects authorized including Willard Munger Trail connection, Upper Landing park development, Raspberry Island improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF3195 (Leppik) University of Minnesota excepted from the designer selection board selection process.

HF3096 (Storm) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) increased enrollment efforts appropriated money.

HF2812 (Opatz) St. Cloud State University nursing science program funded, and money appropriated.

Additional bills may be added.

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: HF3234 (Abrams) Sales and use tax law recodified, and provisions clarified.

HF2523 (Harder) Bleacher safety materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2957 (Kuisle) Correctional facilities construction materials sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF3254 (Huntley) Aircraft shipped to a purchaser outside Minnesota sales and use tax exemption provided.

SATURDAY, February 26

10 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF1646 (Boudreau) Extended family members provided child visitation rights.

HF764 (Smith) Grandparent visitation rights expanded, procedures specified, and mediation required.

HF1787 (Dawkins) Foster sibling visitation with a child formerly in foster care provided.

HF3311 (Dawkins) Parenting plans provided, terminology modified, and money appropriated.

HF460 (Smith) Custodial parent child support and public assistance accounting required upon request.

HF461 (Smith) Child support, custody, and visitation orders six-month review required.

HF3124 (Osskopp) Court-ordered child visitation enforcement provided and penalties imposed by courts authorized.

HF3318 (Luther) Standby and alternate custodians of children designation provided.

HF3345 (Entenza) Child support enforcement provisions modified.

What's on the Web

Session Daily is the new online companion to *Session Weekly* magazine, which is published by the nonpartisan House Public Information Office.

As the name suggests, the Web page offers news from the House on a daily basis, so you can stay on top of major events at the Capitol. Brief but informative updates about daily committee and floor action are posted before 8 a.m. Monday through Friday.

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Minnesota House of Representatives

2000 Standing Committee Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8 to 9:45 a.m.	Health & Human Services Finance 10 Jobs & Economic Development Finance 200 Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy B Transportation Finance 5	Health & Human Services Policy 10 Jobs & Economic Development Policy 200 State Government Finance 300N Transportation Policy 5 Judiciary Finance B	Health & Human Services Finance 10 Jobs & Economic Development Finance 200 Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy B Transportation Finance 5	Health & Human Services Policy 10 Jobs & Economic Development Policy 200 State Government Finance 300N Transportation Policy 5 Judiciary Finance B	Health & Human Services Finance 10 Jobs & Economic Development Finance 200 Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy B
10 to 11:45 a.m.	K-12 Education Finance 5 Higher Education Finance 300S Property Tax Division 200 Civil Law B Environment & Natural Resources Finance 10	Education Policy 200 Taxes 5 Crime Prevention B Environment & Natural Resources Policy 10	K-12 Education Finance 5 Higher Education Finance 300S Property Tax Division 200 Civil Law B Environment & Natural Resources Finance 10	Education Policy 200 Taxes 5 Crime Prevention B Environment & Natural Resources Policy 10	K-12 Education Finance 200 Higher Education Finance 300S Taxes 5 Crime Prevention B Environment & Natural Resources Finance 10
12:30 to 2:15 p.m.	Family & Early Childhood Education Finance 5 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs 200 Regulated Industries Subcommittee B	Capital Investment 5 Commerce 200 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance 10	Family & Early Childhood Education Finance 5 Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs 200 Agriculture Policy 10 Regulated Industries Subcommittee B	Capital Investment 5 Commerce 200 Agriculture & Rural Development Finance 10	
3 to 4:45 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION		HOUSE IN SESSION	HOUSE IN SESSION	

Ways & Means, Rules & Legislative Administration, and Ethics meet at the call of the chair.

2/15/00

B - Basement Hearing Room
All rooms in State Office Building
Full committees in bold

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

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

The state's ethanol industry

Gallons of ethanol produced statewide in 1999, in millions	218
Gallons of gasoline Minnesotans use each year, in billions	2
Bushels of corn used to produce ethanol statewide in 1999, in millions	84.5
Dollar value of corn committed by farmers to ethanol plants, in millions,	\$260
Number of ethanol plants operating in Minnesota, 1999	15
Number of ethanol plants operating in Minnesota, 1997	9
Highest capacity at a single ethanol plant, 1999, in millions of gallons	32
Lowest capacity at a single ethanol plant, 1999, in thousands of gallons	500
Percentage of the state's corn crop used to make ethanol and related products, 1999	17
Gallons of gasoline replaced with ethanol annually, in millions	200
Year mandate to use oxygenated gasoline expanded from metro area to entire state	1997
Percent of ethanol in a gallon of oxygenated gasoline	15
Amount appropriated by 1999 Legislature for ethanol producer payments in 2000-01 biennium, in millions	\$68.4
Amount appropriated as a loan for the Little Falls ethanol plant by 1999 Legislature, in thousands	\$500
Amount gasoline prices are increased by adding ethanol per gallon, in cents	2-3
Estimated cost to the state for ethanol programs, 1999, in millions	\$25
Estimated cost to consumers due to higher gas prices for ethanol, 1999, in millions	\$42
Estimated annual benefit to the state from ethanol industry, in millions	\$350

Sources: Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Ethanol Program; House Research Department; *Laws of Minnesota*, 1999; Senate Fiscal Analysis; *1998 Ethanol Resource Guide Supplement*, Minnesota Corn Growers Association; *Ethanol Programs: A Program Evaluation Report*, Office of the Legislative Auditor, 1997.

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