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In this issue:

LONG-TERM CARE PLANS

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IDENTIFYING VOTERS, AND MORE

HF1360-HF1604

Session Weekly

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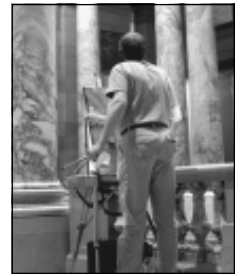
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On the cover: Lisa Enleutner, case manager at the Presbyterian Homes of Roseville, stands among cutouts that represent long-term care facilities in Minnesota that couldn't be present at a March 6 Rotunda rally in support of proposed nursing home reform legislation.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Long-term care in crisis

Legislature works to reform an outdated and complex system, while caring for the needs of patients and health care workers

By MARY KAY WATSON

Few Minnesotans are untouched by the issues of long-term health care, whether personally or through family and friends. Strokes, Alzheimer's, and other disabling events can be emotionally and financially devastating for the individual and his or her family.

But the prognosis for long-term health care in Minnesota is guarded, at best. People who work in the field agree: the patient is critical.

Last year, a task force of lawmakers and state agency commissioners worked to understand the issues, develop strategies, and recommend actions to the 2001 Legislature.

On March 6, three bills addressing long-term care reform were heard by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee:

- HF1220 is based on the recommendations of the Minnesota Long Term Care Task Force.
- HF1324 is based on policy changes requested by the Department of Human Services.
- HF376 is a collaborative effort of two nursing facility trade organizations: Care Providers and the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance.

"This is the beginning of a journey that could take several years," said committee chair Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), sponsor of the bills.

Following a rigorous review of the bills and lengthy testimony from stakeholders, Bradley said he would likely consolidate the three bills into a completely new one, which is expected to be ready for consideration in coming weeks.

In varying language, the bills cover similar territory: consumer information, insurance, system planning and transition, nursing facility reimbursement and regulation, cost-of-living adjustments, and workforce issues.

All three bills provide for expanded consumer information services that would build on the existing Senior LinkAge Line, a phone-based service. Two would modify pre-admission screening and prohibit the charging of fees for consultations.

"People don't choose long-term care facili-

ties more than once or twice in their lives. If you don't get it right the first time that's pretty much the ball game," said Robert Kane, chair of aging and long-term care at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

Long-term care is not a one-size-fits-all proposition. People need a way to know what they are buying, Kane said.

David Norrgard, who works with the Advocacy Center for Long Term Care, said information should include "hidden costs," such as selling the home, packing, and moving.

Norrgard said his family spent \$86,000 for a year of care for his parents, not including basics such as clothing.

"We are spending down their assets," he said. "One of their frustrations is that they will not

insurance, including an increase in the tax credit from \$100 to \$250.

In recent years, the focus of long-term care has shifted dramatically from nursing facilities to community-based care. "People are voting with their feet," Kane said. He said lawmakers should capitalize on this trend to "bring Minnesota in line with the rest of the country."

HF1220 would require the commissioner of human services to develop a process that would adjust long-term care services to serve demand. This would include using community and regional planning groups, voluntary nursing facility closures, and expansion or establishment of needed services.

HF1324 would provide funding for alternative care programs, such as foster care, assisted living, and environmental modifications.

These are a step in the direction of a more balanced system, one that would offer affordable community-based services for aging and disabled people of all income levels.

Clearly, the balance is a delicate one. Experts

with varying viewpoints testified before the committee. Even Bradley seemed ambivalent, acknowledging that Minnesota's system is biased toward nursing homes while voicing concern that, in closing some of those facilities, the state could wind up short of needed capacity.

In general, there was enthusiasm about the promise of community-based care when appropriate.

"Seniors prefer to live in their own

homes and communities for as long as possible," Ken Moritz, chair of the Minnesota Board on Aging, wrote to the committee. "It is clear that the elderly will not choose nursing homes if there are affordable alternatives in their communities."

"The idea of community-based care is laudable but not always realistic," said Norrgard.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Tracy Mosoti, right, director of nursing at the Jones Harrison Care Center; Beth Anderson, second from right, who has a daughter in long term care; Jacki Nelson, second from left, administrator at Augustana, and Greg Carlson, left, Board Chair, Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance testify March 6 before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee on a proposed long term care bill.

be able to pass on an inheritance."

Private insurance can help prevent such financial devastation. HF1220 would require the Board of Aging to promote employer-sponsored long-term care insurance and provide regulation of insurers to protect consumers. HF376 also includes provisions regarding long-term care

"As a person becomes frail and vulnerable, they gradually need more care, not less."

The three bills before the committee all address the need for a new nursing home system that would be reimbursed in new ways. A voluntary closure process is proposed in HF1220 and HF1324, and a program that would aid in the conversion of nursing homes to assisted-living facilities is addressed in HF376.

"We don't want these facilities to turn into 'Medicaid ghettos,'" said Patti Cullen, vice president of Care Providers. "Private payers won't want to go to these older facilities."

State reimbursement to nursing homes is a knotty issue. The bills' provisions for a cost-of-living increase range from 2 percent to 3.5 percent per year.

"Three percent isn't going to touch the needs we have in long-term care," said Traci Mosoti, director of nursing at the Jones Harrison Care Center in Minneapolis.

Kane echoed others' concerns over staffing situations. "There is an enormous crisis in staffing. We need to pay people more but must realize that we can never pay them enough — a morale boost is needed."


Donna Kalis, a nurse at the Lutheran Care Center in Little Falls, said many of the staff at her center have left to work for temporary staffing agencies as "pool" workers because they can make more money. She said pool workers lack a commitment to the facility and the people they care for.

The use of pool workers elicited anger and frustration from administrators, staff, and family members.

"When I see pool aids sitting around or out in their cars while full-time staff do their jobs and get paid less, I get very angry," said Beth Anderson, whose 30-year-old daughter with Huntington's Disease was sexually abused by a pool worker.

HF1220 would require that the Department of Health register pools that provide services to nursing facilities and do background checks on pool workers.

Paying staff more without an increase in state support was a moot point for administrators of most facilities, who said they sometimes have to choose between paying utilities and paying staff.

Workforce issues are addressed in HF220 and HF376. Included are grants that promote health care careers and help pay for summer interns. Loan forgiveness programs for nurses who serve in nursing homes and the establishment of a scholarship program for nursing assistants are other features of the bills. 



Permanent school fund

Federal land grants help pay for education

Children across the state receive funds for education that were set aside more than a century ago, around the time Minnesota became a state.

In 1857, Congress granted land — sections 16 and 36 in each township — to the state as a trust to be used for purposes such as railroads, internal improvements, colleges and universities, and schools. Eight million acres were reserved, with three million of those dedicated to permanent school funds, or trust funds.

In the case of the school lands, they could be sold and the revenue would be invested for educational purposes.

The original Minnesota Constitution states: "The proceeds of such lands as are or hereafter may be granted by the United States for the use of schools within each township of the state shall remain a perpetual school fund to the State.

"The principal of all funds arising from sales or other disposition of land or other property granted to this state in each township for educational purposes shall forever be preserved inviolate and undiminished."

The Minnesota school fund is unique in the United States. Only Texas, which came into the Union with all its lands, has a larger public estate.

In 1871, according to *The Children's Heritage, The Achievement of the Minnesota Trust Funds and How It Came About*, compiled in 1928 by John Stone Pardee, hard times came to the state in a "falling off" in agriculture sales.

While school lands comprised three million acres, only one-half the state was available for agriculture, due to swamp or overflowed lands, so there was really only 1.5 million acres in "what was recognizable as the habitable part of the state." And of that the larger part was sold. Of the remainder, in 1880, "two-fifths of the uninhabited portion, or one-fifth of the state, is unsurveyed, and one-fifth of the timbered region, or one-tenth of the state, is in Indian reservations."

Today, 2.5 million acres exist in what is now called the permanent school fund. The Department of Natural Resources manages

the land, the majority of which is state forest.

The department's goal for management of school fund lands is "to secure the maximum long-term economic return from the school trust land consistent with sound natural resource conservation and management principles and specific policy guidance as provided in state law," according to a 1983 school fund management report by the DNR.

Costs incurred in the management, administration, and protection of the lands are deducted from forestry proceeds earned by those lands. Costs include fire suppression protection, timber sale preparation, timber regeneration, law enforcement, insect and disease protection, soil survey, and general office operations.

Principal of the trust includes cash and investments generated from land sales, mining royalties, timber sales, lakeshore and other leases, gifts to the fund, and other sources. Funds are overseen by the State Board of Investment, and the majority of those funds are divided between domestic stocks and domestic bonds.

Each year interest earned by the investment of the permanent school fund principal is distributed to school districts on a per-pupil basis. These funds, because they are part of the general education formula, reduce the amount of state general fund money needed to fund that formula.

The fund distributed about \$30 million annually during most of the 1990s. That number dropped in 1997 when the board changed investment practices, but is expected to reach the same level of funding or more in the coming years.

Perhaps Pardee best stated the intent of the funds that would build a more prosperous state. "...The land of Minnesota was a gift to the settlers who would make it worth owning and the railroads which would make it worth claiming, except for about one-tenth of the state. And that is the land which, dedicated to the Minnesota trust funds, has been kept for the heritage of the children."

(T. STAHL)

★ AGRICULTURE

Dairy dollar dilemma

During the latter part of the 1980s, the Legislature sought to address increased public concern regarding the processing of milk contaminated by bovine medicines.

To do so, lawmakers created civil penalties for farmers who repeatedly permitted their own tainted milk to be included in the large collections of milk gathered by dairy processors.

The state Department of Agriculture was permitted to impose fines on producers, which then passed the charge along to the offending farmers. More than \$100,000 in fines have been imposed in the past three years. Legislators repealed the civil penalties last year under lobbying pressure from farmers.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) is now sponsoring HF791 to reimburse dairy producers fined during the few months between the passage of the bill repealing the fines (April 13, 2000) and its enactment on Aug. 1, 2000. During that period, the Department of Agriculture worked with violating producers to forgo payments of what was expected to become an obsolete fine.

Nine producers were fined more than \$37,000 for violating the law, although only one producer, Land O' Lakes Pine Island, paid its assessed fine in the intervening time. Under HF791, it stands to be reimbursed nearly \$12,000.

Kuisle told the House Agriculture Policy Committee March 7 that, although it is the producer which would receive payment from the Department of Agriculture, farmers themselves would ultimately receive reimbursement.

Doug Engbretson, the department's assistant to the dairy department, described the original impetus for the penalty as "somewhat of a political, consumer reaction to a political scare." He assured the committee that milk is still closely regulated and eight million pounds of unsafe milk are destroyed each year in Minnesota.

The Agriculture Policy Committee unanimously approved the bill. It now moves to the Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee.

★ CRIME

Concealed carrying concerns

Legislators are considering a bill that would make it easier to be granted a permit to carry handguns.

Under HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), county sheriffs would be required to issue a permit within 15 days of an application unless the applicant fails a background check.

According to existing law, sheriffs and police chiefs have discretion regarding when and to whom they issue concealed weapons permits. The law reads that they have the authority to authorize permits to those who demonstrate "an occupation or personal safety hazard" that would necessitate being armed.

Under Boudreau's plan, an applicant seeking a permit must be at least 21 years old, have successfully completed a training course or demonstrate experience, not have been convicted of a felony, and not be listed in the state criminal gang registry. Sheriffs would be forbidden from considering any other information and would be required to explain in writing a decision to deny a request.

Boudreau told a March 8 meeting of the



Texas State Rep. Suzanna Gratia Hupp makes a gun gesture with her hand as she tells the House Crime Prevention Committee March 8, how a gunman shot her parents in a restaurant.

House Crime Prevention Committee that the current law "is unfair and discriminatory" because local officials have the power to arbitrarily deny requests. She emphasized her bill "does not change current handgun restrictions, it only changes the permit process." Boudreau added, "The established human right to personal protection must be realized in Minnesota."

David Gross, a St. Louis Park attorney, endorsed the legislation, saying, "This is about treating people respectfully, democratically, and fairly. Because of the discretionary authority vested in local officials, we experience discrimination."

Texas State Representative Suzanna Gratia Hupp said violent crime "immediately dropped in Texas" after that state began issuing permits to carry handguns in the mid-1990s.

George Hayes, a state-licensed peace officer in Minnesota, said, "Real working cops agree that concealed-weapon permit holders are no threat to police officers." He added, "The people most likely to be victimized are the ones prevented from carrying handguns."

Opponents to bill included Dr. Kathy Sweetman, president of the Minnesota Academy of Pediatrics, who said the number of "suicides, homicides, and accidental deaths (by handguns) is 40 times higher than (the number of times a gun is used) in self-defense." She added that the "best way to protect children is to remove guns from individuals and communities."

Testimony was scheduled to continue into the evening March 8, after this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press. Look for more on this story in next week's issue.

Racial profiling bill progresses

A measure to address racial profiling is moving its way through House committees.

The House Crime Prevention Committee approved a bill March 6 that defines racial profiling, requires the establishment of a statewide model policy, mandates training requirements, and provides for administrative oversight of police departments by the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training Board.

HF505, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), would appropriate \$400,000 to the POST board and \$100,000 for a "public awareness campaign" aimed, in part, at



Dennis Flaherty, left, executive director of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, Anoka County Sheriff Larry Podany, center, and Dennis J. Delmont, executive director of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, testify March 6 before the House Crime Prevention Committee regarding a racial profiling bill.

explaining to those who have been racially profiled how to lodge a complaint. Legislators referred the measure to the House Judiciary Finance Committee to address these expenditures.

Stanek fended off an amendment which would have mandated a statewide study of racial profiling featuring an independent analysis of data including the cause of all traffic stops, the outcome of any searches, and the age, race, and ethnicity of the driver. "I support the collecting of information," he said. "But this is a local issue best left up to local officials."

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored the amendment, which borrowed language from HF737 and HF1029, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) respectively.

Paymar argued that, although local law enforcement agencies are intimately involved in the issue of racial profiling, Minnesota has a statewide responsibility to protect civil rights. "Looking back to the 1960s Voting Rights Act, you can see that (relying upon local officials to enforce civil rights protections) just doesn't work."

"We are looking for a win-win situation for all Minnesota citizens; police and residents of color," Mariani told the committee. He said the study should collect as much statewide information as possible to ensure that communities of color accepted the study as valid. "You can't fix what you don't identify," he said.

Gray faulted the Stanek bill for not addressing the "growing gap in trust" between communities of color and police. "If it's a training issue, why has it taken so long? Why have we had to come here to get the Legislature to do something?"

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★ DEVELOPMENT

Eminent domain extension

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee considered a bill March 5 that would amend state law governing the procedures for taking or purchasing private property for public use.

The committee took no action, but Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), the committee chair, said further action might be taken when the differing sides can come up with a bill that's more acceptable.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township) said HF652 is similar to a bill approved by the committee last year. Before it was amended, that bill originally was much more wide reaching, and would have established a property protection act in the state.

HF652 would lengthen the notification period that a condemning authority must provide to a property owner. That notification must clearly state that the authority intends to take possession of the property.

Under the measure the quick-take period would be lengthened from 90 days to nine months.

The bill also would require that in eminent domain proceedings a property owner would be entitled to reimbursement of all reasonable costs of expert fees, appraisal fees, and legal fees if the final award or damages exceeds the original offer by 15 percent or more.

John Schmick, a commercial real estate appraiser said the existing eminent domain law is "seriously flawed." He said the law is currently being used by some authorities as "a weapon against property owners to intimidate them."

Schmick said the bill is patterned after Wisconsin law, and would help level the playing field, which would ultimately result in fewer lawsuits being filed.

Leland Frankman, a Minneapolis attorney, said he was a member of the lawyer's committee that helped draft the state's 1971 eminent domain law.

Frankman spoke against the bill saying most property owners he works with would not want the quick time period lengthened. He said in many cases the property owners want to collect their money "as quick as possible so they can get on with their lives."

★ EDUCATION

Religion in history

History books today are shorter than they were a few decades ago. Over time religious references have been taken out, reflecting the separation of church and state.

Proponents of a bill (HF1028) say students should have the opportunity to study America's founding documents, regardless of whether they contain religious content, without concern for being disciplined and school administrators should not fear legal recourse for allowing such activities.

"It's about freedom; it's about perpetuating our roots," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake), the bill's sponsor, at the March 6 House Education Policy Committee meeting.

HF1028 says, "Districts may not limit or restrain instruction in American or Minnesota state history or heritage based on religious references in documents, writing, speeches, proclamations, or records." It adds, "These and any other materials must be used for educational purposes and not to establish any religion."

"We emphasize getting back to original documents," said David Barton, founder and president of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization. Barton, of Aledo, Texas, said Olson's bill is similar to legislation that is being passed in other states.

Displaying many original historical documents, Barton said religion and prayer influenced America's first lawmakers and political systems.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said examples of historical documents listed in the bill might include controversial laws and information, such as the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v Wade* decision. Olson replied that it is part of history. It should be there to develop critical thinking skills, he said, and all sides of an issue need to be preserved.

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), said

Committee deadlines changed

Each year, the House and Senate set deadlines by which most bills must be heard in a committee and forwarded through the legislative process.

The first committee deadline, for bills to be through policy committees in house of origin, will be **Friday, March 30**.

The second committee deadline has been changed to **Wednesday, April 11**. By that date, bills other than those containing appropriations will have to be through all policy committees in both the House and the Senate.

The third deadline will be **Wednesday, April 25**. All omnibus finance bills will have to pass out of committee by that date.

Exceptions to the deadlines include the taxes committees and rules committees in both bodies. And a bill can be heard after the deadlines if the rules committee in either body grants permission.



Aledo, Texas resident David Barton, president of WallBuilders, testifies before the House Education Policy Committee March 6 in support of a bill that would ensure the access of educators and students to historical documents with religious content.

she doesn't disagree with the bill but asked why the Legislature should make a law that repeats the law. "Why do we need this clarification?"

"While these things are permitted, I hear from students and teachers that they are not," Olson replied. For instance, he said some teachers instead of reciting the pledge of allegiance, recite a "pledge to the earth."

Barton added the perception from highly publicized cases of taking prayer out of schools have made teachers and school officials wary of any religion in the classroom. He cited cases such as students being disciplined for saying prayer over their own lunch and athletes for saying a prayer before a game.

Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria) said, as a superintendent of schools, he was approached by principals who questioned singing Christmas songs in the classroom that made religious references, or discussing the meaning behind Thanksgiving. "This will help clarify the fact that we could do it," he said.

All-day kindergarten proposed

Three bills heard March 2 in a House committee propose funding full-day kindergarten for all school districts in the state.

"Research demonstrates it's very effective for getting kids on track for the first grade," said Jim Grathwol, representing the Minneapolis Public Schools.

Currently, the state provides half-day funding for most kindergarten programs and \$7 million annually for full-day kindergarten programs.

The bills (HF247, HF311, and HF997), which were heard in the House K-12 Education Finance Committee, vary slightly. They will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

HF247, sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), and HF311, sponsored by Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center), would bump up pupil weight funding for kindergarten students from .557 to 1.115. The annual cost for a 75 percent attendance rate would be about \$120 million.

John Fredericksen, superintendent of International Falls School District, said in order to be successful as first graders, students have to spend more time in kindergarten.

"We need to make the child care experience into an education experience," he said.

Another issue is parents' concern for day care, Fredericksen said. "It's a hassle to find half-day day care."

High levels of poverty, students of color, and mobility in schools make it more important for learners to be more active earlier on, said Chris Richardson, superintendent of the Osseo school district, the state's fourth largest. Cultural diversity early on in the classroom, he said, helps students work in the social diversity of school for students whose first language is not English.

HF997, sponsored by Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), takes a gradual approach, starting in 2002 by increasing funding for schools with a high number of students that are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. The program would be fully phased in by 2007, costing about \$123 million annually by that time.

"A half-day program is not enough time to meet academic needs," said Kari Knutson, a kindergarten teacher in Alexandria and past president of the Minnesota Kindergarten Association.

Knutson said she pays \$45 each week to have her daughter in all-day kindergarten, but many families cannot afford the expense. "By having parents pay, we're missing a lot of children."

"I pledge allegiance..."

The House Education Policy Committee approved a bill (HF915) March 8 that would require students in public schools to recite the pledge of allegiance at least once a week.

HF915 now moves to the House floor.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), would allow school boards to waive the state requirement for recitation of the pledge and adopt a local recitation policy. The bill would also excuse teachers or students who object to reciting the pledge without penalty.

Committee members denied an amendment by a 13-17 vote that would expand the requirement to all public, nonpublic, and charter school students.

Virgil Persing, Legislative chair for the American Legion, spoke in support of the bill.

"This is what we have to instill in our children today," he said.

Special education funding sought

A bill that would send a message urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education was approved by the House Education Policy Committee Feb. 28.

"Over 25 years ago, the federal government required states to provide children with disabilities an appropriate education, and for 25 years, the government has failed to meet its promise to pay 40 percent of the cost," the bill states. HF456, sponsored by Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), has been sent to the House floor.

Federal allocations for special education funding have averaged 13 percent annually for the past few years. Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) said he doesn't remember a school board meeting in the past few months that the issue of federal funding for special education hasn't come up. Lack of promised funds has forced local school districts to cover the shortfall.

Westerberg said at the National Governor's Convention last month Gov. Jesse Ventura petitioned President George W. Bush to pay 40 percent of special education costs. HF456 reminds Congress that during his campaign Bush vowed to meet the federal obligation as mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, passed in May 2000.

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) says the federal government has the finances — by way of a projected \$5.6 billion surplus — to pay their part of special education. There are two reasons for a budget surplus, he says. One, there is money that was budgeted but never spent; two, bills are not being paid.

"This is to remind Congress that they do have the means to fulfill their promise," he said.

Aiding adults with disabilities

A bill that would expand community education programs for adults with disabilities was presented March 5 to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee.

HF786, sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), would modify the program piloted in 1986 to identify strategies to integrate adults with physical and mental challenges into the community.

Programs would no longer need to be approved by the Department of Children, Families and Learning. Instead, submission of a program and budget to the department every five years would be sufficient for funding eligibility. The department would be required to provide monitoring and technical assistance to all programs.

The bill would expand the number of programs that qualify for Adults with Disabilities funding and would guarantee the continuation of existing programs by requiring that annual funding be at least as much as that received in fiscal year 2001. It was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

According to Chris Orr, coordinator for the Anoka-Hennepin Adults with Disabilities program, approximately 50,000 people are currently being served in Minnesota. She anticipates that number could double with the passage of Abeler's bill.

"One of the benefits of this program that's hard to measure," Abeler said, "is the collaborative support that comes from the families of participants."

Toni Lippert, the mother of a 50-year-old severely disabled woman, spoke of what the

program has meant to her. She said her daughter spent years in state facilities where she regressed "to a fetal position." Her daughter now lives in a foster home in Anoka, where she participates in a program.

"When I first received the Community Education schedule of programs she could be involved in, I cried," Lippert said. Her daughter now goes on field trips and makes craft projects.

"She never went to school. I never had artwork to hang on the refrigerator as most parents do. This year I got a valentine card from her that she dictated. It was the most verbalizing she has ever done," Lippert said. "It's hanging on my refrigerator."

ELECTIONS



Electoral college change considered

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 5 that would modify the way Minnesota helps elect the nation's president.

HF70, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would change the state's winner take all approach in selecting presidential electors and establish a system of proportional selection.

Under the measure, each major political party in the state would nominate an elector from each congressional district and two from the state at large. The presidential candidate that receives the most votes in a congressional district would get that electoral vote. The winner of the entire state would get the two at large votes.

Seifert said two states, Maine and Nebraska, currently select their electors in this manner. He said had Minnesota used the system in the 2000 presidential election, both President George W. Bush and former Vice-President Al Gore would have each received five of Minnesota's 10 electoral votes. That is because Gore's vote came predominantly from the Twin Cities metropolitan area while Bush carried much of Greater Minnesota. Under the current system, Gore was awarded all 10 votes.

Nationwide, instead of the eventual 271 electoral votes that Bush won, had each state had a proportional method of selecting electors, he would have won 286 electoral college votes.

Seifert was prepared to offer the bill before the 2000 election because, he said, it is important for regions of the state to have a voice, and HF70 would allow that by not just relying on the state's popular vote.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that by adopting the proportional selection, Minnesota would be "unilaterally

disarming" itself. Without the full 10 electoral votes, Kahn said candidates would be less likely to spend as much time in the state.

Kahn offered a successful amendment that would require a majority of states to adopt a similar proportional selection process before Minnesota's method of choosing electors would be changed.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) said under HF70 the likelihood of the presidential election ending up in the U.S. House of Representatives would be increased.

He said a strong regional candidate could carry enough congressional districts so that no candidate would receive the necessary 270 electoral votes to win.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

Two or four?

Voters would be allowed to decide whether members of the Minnesota House of Representatives should serve two or four-year terms, under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 7.

HF289, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), would place a constitutional amendment question on the general election ballot asking voters whether the state should go to a system of staggered four-year terms in both the House and the Senate.

Daggett said during her last campaign she often heard "weren't you just here?" when knocking on doors.

"It created in my mind the concern that we really are a bother. People are tired of the ads and the fund raising," she said.

The current system of having representatives elected every two years as opposed to their counterparts in the Senate who serve four-year terms was to allow greater accountability in one chamber of the Legislature.

But Daggett said with increasing technology, legislators are more accessible than ever before. She said she spends much of her time responding to e-mails from constituents.

Serving for a longer term would allow representatives to focus more attention to the needs of their constituents rather than to the next campaign, she said.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) spoke against the bill saying it would further the advantages of incumbents because they can better establish themselves.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) agreed with Lipman and said if given the choice, many legislators would prefer 10-year terms. Seifert said the two-year election cycle allows voters the opportunity to make wholesale changes to the Legislature.

"I prefer what Thomas Jefferson said,



Toni Lippert holds a valentine that she showed and read to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 5. The valentine was made by her 50-year-old disabled daughter, Mary, who participates in Anoka's "Project Power" program. The committee was considering a bill that would modify the adults with disabilities community education programs.

‘frequent elections are man’s best friend,’” Seifert said.

The bill now goes to the House Civil Law Committee.

★ ENVIRONMENT

Locks and dam expansion

A bill urging legislative support for modernization of inland waterways, in particular the Upper Mississippi River Basin, was returned to the House floor by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee March 6.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), author of HF208, acknowledged the debate had been “contentious” so far. The bill was recommended by the House Committee on Transportation Policy and referred to the House Floor, where it was re-referred to the environment committee.

The contentiousness has centered on the wording of the resolution, in particular the term “modernization,” which in the context of the bill means an extension of the lock-and-dam system.

Most of the current system is more than 60 years old and in need of repair. According to the National Corn Growers Association, lock delays in the river basin cost U.S. farmers and businesses an average of \$94 million per year.

Barges are efficient at carrying bulk commodities. One barge can carry as much as 58 large semi trucks, according to the Iowa Department of Transportation. Fifteen-barge tows, a common configuration, are more than 1,100 feet long.

“We want to see some of the locks and dams extended from 600 feet to 1,200 feet,” said Gerald Tumbleson, a farmer and member of the corn growers association. “We need a way to move our grain and want to do it in a more environmentally friendly way.”

There was disagreement among both testifiers and committee members as to whether increasing barge traffic would do just that.

“Waterborne transportation has environmental costs one-fifth that of rail and one-tenth that of trucks, primarily as a result of fuel consumption,” said Al Vogel, director of the Minnesota Department of Transportation Rail and Waterways Division.

Less air pollution, significantly fewer accidents, and no wear and tear on the highway system are factors in favor of water transportation, said Vogel.

However, wear and tear on the river may be another matter.

“The ecological consequences of barge traffic are significant,” said Bill Grant, of the Izaak Walton League. “On balance, we feel the environmental impacts outweigh the benefits of increased barge traffic.”

Workman offered an amendment to HF208 that acknowledged the importance of environmental issues, but he was adamant about inclusion of the term “modernization.”

“I see a system of locks and dams as integral to our transportation system,” he said.

PICTURE PERFECT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Richard Rock from Goodhue County works at his easel on the second floor of the east wing of the Capitol March 6. Rock, who primarily paints landscapes, found moving inside during the cold weather months much more comfortable. Other buildings he has put on canvas are the Como Park Conservatory, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, St. Paul Cathedral and the Basilica in Minneapolis.

Thermometer sales stopped

A bill that would prohibit the sale of mercury thermometers was approved March 1 by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee. It will now go to the House floor.

HF274 was previously laid over by the committee to give its sponsor, Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), time to resolve some questions in relation to industrial and agricultural use of mercury thermometers.

As a result, exceptions were made in the bill for situations in which the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires the use of mercury thermometers, in specified climate control systems, and where mercury thermometers are used to calibrate other thermometers.

For most uses, accurate alternatives to mercury thermometers are readily available. Mercury thermometers already in use would not be affected by the bill, however special care must be taken in their recycling and disposal.

Last March, Duluth enacted a ban on the sale of mercury thermometers, the first city in the nation to do so. In 2000, the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District collected 645 pounds of mercury waste, including 2,447 fever thermometers. Residents who turned in mercury thermometers were given mercury-free replacements.

Jan Malcolm, state commissioner of health, wrote in support of Dorman’s bill. “Accidental breakage and careless disposal of mercury containing thermometers is a significant source of environmental mercury contamination,” she said.

“The impact a small amount of mercury has on the environment is substantial,” Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said in a Feb. 15 hearing. “Each thermometer contains approximately .75 to 1 gram of mercury. That’s enough to call a fish advisory on a lake.”

★ HEALTH

Help for rural hospitals

Two bills designed to help rural hospitals with staffing and facilities were presented to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 1.

Rep. Maxine Penas (R-Badger) set a tone of rural hospitality with home-baked cookies for committee members.

Among the provisions in her bill (HF711) are new loan forgiveness programs for nurses and health care technicians who agree to practice in rural hospitals.

The bill also would modify requirements and appropriate money for the summer health care intern program, which is intended to

expose high school and college students to the experience of working in rural hospitals.

Other provisions in the bill include an extension of the rural hospital capital improvement grant program and a permanent extension of medical assistance benefits for "telemedicine" consultations.

"Hospitals are vital to the existence of rural communities," said Roxanne Ronald, chief executive officer of the Minnewaska District Hospital. "These programs have been central to our providing an essential life service."

Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) said his bill (HF811) is aimed at keeping small hospitals viable by establishing a capital improvement grant and loan program for rural hospitals to upgrade, remodel, and/or replace equipment and facilities.

The bill establishes very restrictive criteria for eligibility. Among other things, an applicant must be the only hospital in a county, serve a migrant worker population, and have 25 or fewer licensed beds.

Currently, three Minnesota hospitals meet these criteria: those in Arlington, Wheaton, and Warren. All are critical access hospitals.

"These hospitals serve a large percentage of elderly people who can't travel long distances for health care," said Mike Schramm, administrator of the Sibley Medical Center and Clinics in Arlington. "Access to primary care and emergency room services is critical in these areas."

Mary Ann Scheid, a physician at Sibley, agreed. "Often people cannot go an additional 30 to 60 minutes for care," she said. "We need the funding to continue to exist, to provide high quality care, and to recruit quality professionals."

Both bills were approved and referred to the Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Teen pregnancy costs

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee reviewed the budget for family planning services before a packed house March 2. Of particular interest were the programs that try to address the problem of teen pregnancy.

Minnesota has extreme disparities in the rates of teen pregnancy. According to the state Department of Health, the rate among white teens is among the lowest in the nation, while the rate among African-American teens is one of the highest. Rates among American Indian, Asian, and Hispanic youth are also unacceptably high and rising, officials say.

The problem has grabbed Gov. Jesse Ventura's attention. His budget for the next biennium includes \$10 million per year for a teen pregnancy prevention program.

"Teen pregnancy fast forwards a young person's life," said Jeanette Taylor-Jones, assistant commissioner of health.

Statistics paint a grim picture for a teen mother: she is more likely to be a single mother, live in poverty, experience sexual abuse, and depend on welfare programs than a woman who waits until beyond her teens to have a baby. She is also less likely to graduate from high school.

Children of teen parents have poorer health, lower cognitive development, more behavioral problems, and fewer educational opportunities. And the pattern continues — they are more likely to become teen parents themselves.

Legislators expressed frustration with the lack of measurable outcomes from current teen pregnancy prevention programs.

"This is a lot of money we've been spending," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester). "How did we miss the boat?"

Ron Campbell, director of maternal and child health, agreed the problem was frustrating and complex. He said the health department has tried to take a comprehensive approach involving a combination of abstinence programs, improved family communication, and family planning.

There was agreement that something has to be done, but lawmakers asked to see some concrete numbers on the results from current programs before they would consider the governor's proposal.

"Are we using enough resources?" asked Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), committee chair. "Or are we putting our resources in the wrong place?"

HIGHER EDUCATION



Pell Grant problem

A bill that would eliminate reductions in state aid for students who receive federal financial aid received a mixed message March 7 from the House Higher Education Committee.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) is the chief sponsor of HF291, which would allow students full benefit that they qualify for under the Pell Grant program. He said the bill has been a House position for a number of years, only to die elsewhere.

The Pell Grant is designed to help students from low-income families pay for college. Late last year Congress raised the maximum award from \$3,300 to \$3,750. The problem is that under current state law when a student's Pell Grant amount is increased, the student's state grant is reduced by a corresponding amount.

Seifert's bill would not reduce the state contribution. He said most states do what the bill requests.

Michael Redlinger, chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association, said that since 1995 more than 10,000 students attending state two-year community or technical colleges are no longer able to receive state grants.

At the same time, he said Pell Grants increased from a maximum of \$2,340 for the 1995-96 school year to \$3,750 for 2001-02.

"To ensure continued community/technical students' access to state grants, enacting the Pell Grant 'Pass-Through' is absolutely

SIGN O' THE TIMES



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mounds View High School seniors Amy Withhart, left, and Candice Bartelle, right, advocate their message for Gov. Jesse Ventura which reads, "My Governor thinks I'm a black hole," as they left his reception room, March 5. The students had come to the Capitol for a rally calling for increased funding for public schools.

essential this legislative session, particularly with the \$450 Pell Grant increase that will take effect next school year," Redlinger said.

Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring) said the bill could ultimately hurt middle income students.

For example, he said, someone whose family income is slightly above qualifying for a Pell Grant may get a state grant, but someone from a lower-income family can get both a Pell Grant and a state grant. "Suddenly those with a low income have more paid for while those making a little more end up with higher debt when they leave college."

Seifert said there is no cost to the proposal.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the committee chair, clarified that statement saying there is a cost shift. If Pell Grant money is deducted it goes back to the general fund, with the money usually being put back into higher education, although it does not have to be.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), in his 15th term, does not recall higher education ever losing the money, "But I can remember having to argue for it."

HF291 was laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Financial assistance extension

A plan to increase the eligibility of those seeking financial aid may be included in the House Higher Education Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) is sponsoring HF342 that would change eligibility rules for students receiving state grants and, in addition to expanding those that are eligible, increasing the amount of a child care grant a student may acquire.

At the March 5 committee meeting, Dehler said his bill would allow students to be eligible for state grants until they receive their baccalaureate degree. Current law allows eligibility for eight semesters or 12 quarters.

"This extended eligibility would mirror the current federal law regarding Pell Grant eligibility," said Robert Anderson, chair of the Minnesota Association of Financial Aid Administrators (MAFAA) Government Issues Committee.

In addition, the bill would increase the maximum child care credit from \$2,000 for each eligible child per academic year to \$2,500. The bill would also extend the eligibility for child care assistance to students attending for-profit institutions. Students attending those institutions are already eligible for state grants.

"MAFAA believes it is a matter of fairness to the parent students attending these excluded institutions," Anderson said. "That

fairness issue becomes a concrete issue for those students and their children when the remedy for child care costs is increased student loan debt."

Representatives had mixed feelings about the proposals.

"I think it is a great idea," said Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona), "but I have a concern of where the money will come from."

The costs are expected to be \$2.3 million for additional child care grant money during the next biennium, and \$10.7 million for extended state grant eligibility. In its current form, the bill contains no appropriations.

"I'd like to see this bill stand alone with appropriations attached without having to take from somewhere else," said Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth).

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley), the committee chair, expressed concern about students not finishing school in a timely manner because money will continue to be there for them.

Anderson said most students want to finish as quickly as they can because life as a student is not financially appealing, but students must also "meet the standards of their institution's satisfactory academic progress policy" to receive aid.

★ INDUSTRY

House grants miners benefits

Miners on the Iron Range, particularly former employees of LTV Steel Mining Co. in Hoyt Lakes, could be kept afloat a bit longer, with the nearly unanimous passage of a bill on the House floor.

Members voted 132-1 to pass HF47 that would aid Iron Range employees and the Hoyt Lakes facility.

"We are in a world of hurt on the Iron Range," said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia), sponsor of the bill.

The bill extends the time a mining plant is kept in operating condition from one year to two years to allow the state to find a buyer for the facility.

The bill also gives an additional 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for laid-off iron mine workers.

Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) is sponsoring another bill (HF157) to give an even longer extension for unemployment.

The bill now awaits action in the Senate.

Public TV going dark?

Legislators pressed public television officials for alternatives to state funding and questioned the need of statewide noncommercial television during a funding request before the House State Government Finance Committee March 1.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), chair of the committee, is sponsoring a bill that would eliminate millions of dollars from the governor's recommendation for state agencies. HF218 allocates no money to public television for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Public television carries family and children's shows, educational programs, arts features, public affairs information, and legislative coverage in the Twin Cities area.

A bill sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) would award a \$20.9 million one-time grant to provide funding for a federal mandate to public television to convert from an analog signal to a digital broadcast signal by May 2003. Funds from HF197 would be matched by the federal government.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) asked if the federal government match would still be available if funding was delayed. Officials said the funds are retroactive and the state would be able to spend the money when it is

FAMILY RESOLUTION



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Tom Prichard, president of Minnesota Family Council, testifies in front of the House Regulated Industries Committee March 5 in support of a resolution "memorializing television networks to reduce violent and sexually explicit material and produce material that promotes wholesome family values."

received. However, stations, not the federal government, would have to pay the interest accrued on any loans to cover costs in the meantime.

Jim Pagliarini, president of Twin Cities Public Television, said stations will auction off analog equipment upon installation of the digital signal. Auction proceeds, which he said are estimated at billions of dollars, will go to the federal government.

"What happens if you don't get money from the state?" Krinkie asked. The Twin Cities and Duluth would use a low-power digital service and other parts of state will have no public television, Pagliarini said. "We would be broadening the digital divide."

Public television receives about \$9 million from 110,000 member contributors. Public television does not receive any funds from payments to cable companies.

Krinkie suggested charging for public television, but supporters said public programming is meant to be a service, and Americans value that service, especially its educational programming. Bill Strusinski, from the Minnesota Public Television Association, said there is an overwhelming demand for public television.

Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti) asked if operating expenses will be higher for a digital signal. Pagliarini said expenses will "more than double."

The committee took no action on the bill.

Steel investigation requested

The House approved a resolution March 5 to send an official message to President George W. Bush requesting that his administration immediately investigate illegal dumping of steel products in the United States. The vote was 119-2.

"Illegal dumping" refers to the practice of other countries exporting their excess steel into the U.S. and selling it a lower price than American manufacturers.

HF219/SF258*, sponsored by Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), maintains that a "crisis has been generated by surges in United States imports of steel."

Officials say illegal imports of steel products have been the cause behind more than 7,000 job losses for steel workers across the nation in the last six months, including 1,500 in Minnesota.

The resolution implores Bush "to immediately impose a one-year ban on imports of all steel products that are the products of, or are manufactured in, Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Mexico, or Brazil

if the President finds that the governments of those countries are not abiding by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States."

The measure was previously approved by the Senate. However, when it came to the House, Sertich amended the House language, and the final product will be sent back to the Senate for its approval, before being sent to the governor.

LAW

District court budget

Members of the House Judiciary Finance Committee heard a familiar message during the budget presentation for the state district courts March 6 and 8: they need more money.

State Court Administrator Sue Dosal cast a dim light on the situation. She characterized the computer system as dating back to the "Reagan era" and said salaries for judges are so low, they can't even attract applicants for the jobs. There are too many cases for judges to handle, as well.

"Judges are handling too much, too fast, and on not enough information," she said. "The demands placed on the courts have outpaced our resources."

District courts, or trial courts, represent the largest chunk of the Judicial Branch in the state. The state Supreme Court and Court of Appeals round out the branch entities. They have not yet presented their budget.

The courts are requesting \$281.1 million from the general fund for 2002-03, nearly \$40 million more than Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation. The request includes an increase of about \$70 million to cover the following costs: attract and retain competent employees, judicial services, mandated costs, and internal efficiency initiatives.

Dosal explained the districts are struggling to hire and retain judges, law clerks, court interpreters, and court reporters because the system's salaries are low and pay increases have been infrequent in recent history. There are also several mandated costs, either by the constitution or state law, that the system must cover.

In addition, the state is overtaking administration and funding of the court system in each county and district throughout the state.

Dosal cited a 1989 report that suggested the state should be responsible for costs. Since then, several pilot projects and other gradual transitions have been undertaken.

Currently four districts, representing 55 counties, are state funded. Beginning July 1

the entire state will be responsible for funding the system. Dosal said the courts are requesting \$1.8 million during the biennium for new staff to conduct accounting and human resources duties.

State courts are proposing nine new judgeships to reduce workloads. Dosal said that of the two million filings in 2000, 10 percent are considered major cases. And judges are spending about 80 percent of their time on those major cases.

Minnesota judges testified they are moving through cases too quickly. In addition, they rank 33rd in the nation for salaries, having received increases in only five of the last 10 years, according to the presentation.

In addition, mandated costs represent about 85 percent of expenses for the trial courts, Dosal said. The system requests \$28.7 million during the biennium to cover these costs, including about \$18 million to reimburse local governments for revenue lost as the state takes over these responsibilities.

Judge Larry Cohen from Ramsey County testified the system needs to support guardians ad litem, interpreters and indigent defense costs.

Guardians ad litem are required by the constitution for each child involved in neglect and abuse cases. These guardians advocate for the child throughout the course of the case.

The plan would also increase requirements for court interpreters, requiring certification and professional standards, which current interpreters support.

When committee members asked judicial officials to prioritize their requests, given the other demands before the committee and the Legislature, they said that these requests are not flexible.

"We have to take everything that comes in the door, and we have to do it constitutionally in a relatively short amount of time," Dosal said. "We have no programs to cut."

More 'robes' needed

Minnesota courts are considered to be among the most respected and efficient of any state courts in the United States, a position some say could be jeopardized unless steps are taken to mitigate judicial overload.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is sponsoring HF810 to add nine district judges. The House Civil Law Committee approved the measure March 7 and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee.

Under the plan, five judges would be assigned to rapidly growing Twin Cities suburban districts, two would be assigned to the southeastern portion of the state, and two to northwestern Minnesota.

According to Supreme Court Senior Research Analyst Linda Green, the number of major cases — including felonies, major civil cases, and family disputes — filed in Minnesota increased 36 percent in the previous decade. She said average major case filings require two hours of a judge's attention. Minor case filings, which require only about two minutes of judicial attention, increased 71 percent during the same period.

Green said changes in state laws were the primary cause of the increase.

"Although violent crime is down nationwide and in Minnesota," she said, "changes in (laws regarding) drug sentencing, gross DWI misdemeanors, and other felonies have caused the increase."

Judge Tom Mott from Ramsey County said state courts receive about 7,800 filings per judge each year. Comparable states experience only about 5,300 filings.

"When I started in 1988, the caseload 'tide' wasn't deep, but it has been rising ever since," he said. "We have increased efficiency statewide, but the water is at nose level and we need life jackets."

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) suggested criminal recidivism rates could rise due to judicial overload.

"Anecdotally, I have no doubt" criminals are more likely to repeatedly offend if judges are incapable of devoting individual attention to a case, Mott said. "As long as litigants feel they have been heard, they are much more likely to adhere to the court order, to modify their behavior."

Judge Gerard Ring of the Third Judicial District in southeastern Minnesota said litigants' "perception of justice will be determined by their experience (in front of judges). I remember when I used to meet with the prosecutor, the defense attorney, and the probation officer before sentencing," but his busy schedule now prevents him from giving that attention.

Public defender budget

The state Public Defense Board, which oversees the 500 public defenders and 200 other staff statewide, is requesting \$111.7 million for 2002-03. The board presented its budget to the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 1.

The board's request is about \$6 million more than Gov. Jesse Ventura's recommendation.

Board officials alerted the committee to several things that could pose potential problems in the future: more judges means increased caseloads, lawyers carrying nearly double the number of cases they should be, and salaries too low to retain attorneys.

"We hire great people," said Gordon Stewart, executive director of the Legal Rights Center in Minneapolis, part of the public defender system. "But we want to keep them."

To accomplish these ends, the board is proposing increases of \$4.2 million in 2002 and \$5.5 million in 2003 to increase the viability of the state's part-time public defender system.

Ventura made no recommendation regarding the request.

Kevin Kajer, fiscal director for the board, said 65 percent of the public defenders in the state are part-time. Many of them are in Greater Minnesota and work on a contract basis.

However, they're handling more cases than they should, he said.

Officials estimate each lawyer should handle 400 cases per year. In 2000, they were handling an average of 784 cases each. And estimates show that with 13 new judgeships in the state, cases will increase to 990 per lawyer at current staffing levels.

Dick Scherman, chief administrator for the board, gave the example of Sherburne County, where the court must shut down two or three times a day because there aren't enough public defenders.

"Frankly, we don't know what we're going to do up there," he said.

The plan would fund an additional 29,000 hours of part-time public defenders, specifically to reduce caseloads.

The budget also includes requests in the base budgets for salary and insurance costs.

In addition, another \$1.2 million is being requested so the public defenders can connect to the developing CrimNet system and other sources for offender and case information. Officials say the lawyers don't get their information promptly, which affects representation by not giving them enough time to prepare.

"There is no doubt about it that the quality of service has definitely suffered in the state of Minnesota," Scherman said. "I think our public defender staff will say that they're concerned about that."

★ RECREATION

Fields of dreams

The happy little feet of the state's youth soccer players would find more land to roam under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 7.

The bill now goes to the House State Government Finance Committee.

HF18, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), would appropriate \$12 million to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to make matching grants available to develop new soccer fields across the state.

The bill requires the grants be equally dispersed across the state as much as possible.

Under the proposal the amount of matching dollars depend on the size of additional funding. For grants up to \$20,000 the recipient would have to match the amount dollar for dollar. For grants between \$20,001 and \$75,000, the recipient would be required to double the amount of the grant. For grants above \$75,000 the recipient would have to triple the amount.

"There's a difference between ideas that sound good and good sound ideas," Mares said. "This is a good sound idea."

He said soccer is the largest sport in the world and the fastest growing sport in Minnesota.

Paul Erickson, the executive director of the commission, said last year the Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million for soccer and other sports. The commission received applications for around \$6 million.

The \$2.5 million was used to build 140 soccer fields, renovate 16 others, and help build baseball, football, and hockey facilities.

BLUE NOTE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Violinist Darren Hall, a junior at Duluth Central High School, performs "Education Funding Blues" along with the school's orchestra in the Rotunda, March 2.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) asked Mares why the money that is due to be paid to the commission as part of the state's loan to St. Paul for the Xcel Energy Center couldn't be used instead of a new appropriation.

Mares said the money has not yet been paid to the commission and there have been other bills introduced that would appropriate that money for other projects.

TAXES



Big businesses oppose plan

Representatives from many of the state's largest corporations spoke against the governor's tax reform proposal March 6.

The House Taxes Committee took testimony from spokespeople from Northwest Airlines, Medtronic, IBM, General Mills, and 3M, all of whom expressed concerns with the proposal, which is being carried by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

Kenneth Levinson, a vice president of Northwest Airlines' tax risk management department, said the airline would have paid between \$50 million and \$60 million more in Minnesota taxes, had the governor's proposal been law last year.

"That's 20 percent of our total net income. This seems to be anti-competitive, anti-business, and financially punitive in an extreme way," Levinson said.

He said expanding the tax to the purchase of flight simulators, repair parts, lubricants, and fuels would have a "significant adverse affect" on the airline as would an expansion of sales taxes on intra-state travel services and delivery services.

Levinson said the proposed decreases in the sales tax rate, along with reductions in property and corporate income taxes would result in a \$1.1 million savings, which would not come close to offsetting the tax increases.

Robert R. Ryan, senior vice president and chief financial officer of Medtronic, said the medical devices company also would be hit hard by the shift in taxes.

Medtronic spent \$590 million in the state last year on research and development. Ryan said a proposed change in HF511 to the state's research and development credit would reduce the incentive to invest in that area in Minnesota.

Under existing law, certain corporations are allowed a credit that is calculated on a percentage of gross receipts. Under the governor's tax proposal, the amount used to calculate the credit would be based on a five-year average of qualified research expenses. The credit would only be allowed if research expenses have increased over that time period.

Ryan also spoke against the proposed elimination of a corporate deduction that allows foreign operating corporations a subtraction equal to 80 percent of royalties, fees, and other similar income from state taxes.

The committee has taken no action on the bill but continues taking testimony regarding its provisions.

'Big Plan' questions

After holding 20 hearings across the state on Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax reform proposal, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) had a question for Department of Revenue Commissioner Matt Smith March 7.

Abrams, chair of the House Taxes Committee, asked Smith why of all the people who testified at the hearings less than a handful spoke in support of the governor's proposal (HF511).

Smith told the committee that public opinion polls both by the media and the department show there is broad public support for the concepts in the proposal — reducing the state's income and property taxes, but expanding the sales tax on to more services.

"There has been more intense scrutiny on this than any other government proposal in over a decade," Smith said.

He said due to that scrutiny it is easy for people to pick out pieces of the reform they don't agree with but it is difficult to fully understand such a "comprehensive and complicated tax proposal."

The governor's proposal has been scaled back to reflect February's reduced revenue forecast. In the original proposal the state's income tax rates would have been reduced by 0.4 percent across the board. That reduction would now be 0.3 percent.

Also a much-discussed expansion of the sales tax to nonprofit services has been removed from the proposal, Smith said.

The governor's proposed license tab registration fee reduction would be delayed for a year, taking effect in 2003 under the amended proposal.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said when he originally looked at Ventura's proposal he thought the property and income tax reforms were "so good" that he was willing to work on the proposed expansion of the sales tax. But he said after hearing testimony on the issue it would be difficult for him to support the proposal.

Abrams was critical of the revised proposal maintaining its elimination of sales tax on local government purchases while reducing the income tax relief in the bill.

He said representatives from local government testified that savings from the elimination of the sales tax on their purchases would be spent on services rather than on property tax reductions.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he hoped the concerns about the sales tax expansion didn't sound a "death knell" on the entire proposal.

"I hope we can continue to work towards a more equitable, efficient, and stable tax system," Dawkins said.

Extra tax credit

Minnesota taxpayers would receive extra credit towards their education expenses under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 8.

HF575, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would expand the state's current K-12 education tax credit to relatives of eligible students.

Under existing law, a subtraction is allowed of up to \$2,500 for children in grades 7-12, and \$1,625 for students in kindergarten



10-year-old Amber Brown-Jones tells the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee that "It's good for Grandma and Grandpa to give me money for my education." The committee was hearing a bill March 8 that would allow individuals to subtract educational expenses from their income tax.

through the sixth grade. Parents, grandparents and foster parents, with whom the child lives with for more than one-half the tax year, can take the deduction.

Kuisle said the bill would expand the subtraction to apply to education expenses paid by grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews of the qualifying student regardless of where the child lives.

Amber Brown Jones, a 10-year-old student from Ramsey said the expansion of the credit would encourage even greater participation from family members into the education of the students.

"My aunts, uncles, and grandparents have contributed greatly toward my education," she said.

Sonia Greer, executive director of Partnership for Choice in Education, a nonprofit group that supports expanding education choices for families, said more than 57,000 families benefited from the education tax credit in 1999, a 49 percent increase from the previous year.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) expressed concern that expansion of the credit might adversely affect public schools. He said families that send their children to public schools can only claim the subtraction on after school, education-based activities.

Dawkins said that because of a shortage in funding, public schools might be tempted to shift more education-based activities from the regular school day to after school hours.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the bill would be \$350,000 in 2002 and \$365,000 in 2003.

The committee adopted an amendment that would expand the subtraction for noncustodial parents. No further action was taken on the bill, but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

★ TRANSPORTATION

More Greater Minnesota money

Representatives have offered a plan to devote more money to transit in Greater Minnesota than suggested in Gov. Jesse Ventura's budget.

HF998, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston), would appropriate nearly \$22 million during each year of the next biennium, more than \$5 million above what is in Ventura's budget. The bill, heard March 7 in the House Transportation Finance Committee, will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The additional funds would be used to assist in the founding of new transit programs in six

counties and to expand services in others. The bill specifies that counties receiving state funds would have to match between 35 percent and 50 percent of the state's investment.

Lieder told the committee that his bill would be sufficient only to prevent the atrophy of existing services. He said the state is currently not funding the needs for Greater Minnesota transit. Lieder explained that "because of the funding schedule, (rural transit providers) are cutting back services."

Kim Jensen, speaking on behalf of the Mower County Heartland Express and the Minnesota Public Transit Association, said state assistance is necessary for rural programs to continue operation.

"There is no other source of funding available," she said. Jensen warned that underfunding rural transit would serve to increase "the isolation of residents and decrease economic activity."

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said well-funded rural transit programs could help stem the tide of migration away from rural areas. "These systems become the lifeblood for our communities. Maybe keeping people out there could stem the constant migration to the Twin Cities."

Linda Elsstrand of Tri-Cap Heartland Express in the St. Cloud area said, "We have more demand than we can provide. The governor's budget will probably cut back services."

She added that the elderly, poor, and residents with disabilities would be among the most negatively affected if the governor's budget were adopted without amendment.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) expressed

her support for the bill, explaining that "rural transit doesn't always mean buses. Greater Minnesota transit is very different from the (Twin Cities metropolitan area transit)."

Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

Administration	296-6013
Agriculture	297-2200
Children, Families and Learning	582-8200
Commerce	296-4026
Corrections	642-0200
Economic Security	296-3644
Employee Relations	297-1184
Job Information	296-2616
Finance	296-5900
Health	215-5803
Human Rights	296-5663
Toll Free	1-800-657-3704
Human Services	296-6117
Labor and Industry	296-6107
Military Affairs	282-4662
Natural Resources	296-6157
Pollution Control Agency	296-6300
Public Safety	296-6642
Driver and Vehicle Services	296-6911
Fire Marshal	215-0500
Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division	296-6979
State Patrol	297-3935
Public Service	296-5120
Revenue Taxpayer Assistance	296-3781
Toll Free	1-800-652-9094
Trade and Economic Development	297-1291
Office of Tourism	296-5029
Transportation	296-3000
Veterans Affairs	296-2562
State Information	296-6013

AIRPORT TOUR



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee get a glimpse of the powerful jets at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport during a March 5 bus tour of new construction.

Board of Education

Two bills propose to restore state board and public oversight of education

BY THERESA STAHL

Two years after the state Board of Education was abolished by the Legislature, two bills from the House of Representatives would reinstate the supervisory board.

The House Education Policy Committee tabled the bills after their March 1 hearings. The bills vary in qualifications of number of board members to authority of the board, but Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), sponsor of HF881, says he and Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), sponsor of HF770, are committed to working together.

Carlson said the board is needed to guarantee public access at the state level.

"It is to ensure education policy issues have broad public input," he said.

His bill would appoint 12 citizens to the board, one of whom must reside in each congressional district; the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities; and the president of the University of Minnesota.

The bill requires at least four of the citizens to have previously served as a local school board member. The governor would appoint the resident citizens with the recommendation of the Senate. One member would be chosen annually to serve as board president, with a maximum term of three consecutive years. Board members would be prohibited to hold public office or be employed by any board of education or school district, public or private during their tenure.

HF770 would give the board "the authority to exercise general supervision over educational agencies and adopt or amend administrative rules." Furthermore, the Revisor of Statutes, in consultation with House and Senate counsel, would give certain powers to the board, and prepare a report for the 2002 Legislature to show changes.

Carlson says the bill would take back authority from the commissioner of the Department of Children, Families and Learning, the state's education department. "It will put it back to the way things once were," he said. The bill would be effective Dec. 1, 2001.

Buesgens' bill proposes a smaller board and describes its specific authority.

The bill would create a state superintendent of public instruction, replacing the commissioner of education, who would have administrative control of the department. The superintendent would hold a four-year term in a nonpartisan position, elected during the state general election.

Under HF881, the board would be composed of eight elected citizens, one from each congressional district. The board would have general supervision "over educational agencies and other education-related matters." It would elect its own president, with a maxi-

legislative task force, composed of House and Senate education committee members that would recommend to the 2002 Legislature "how best to allocate financial and staff resources and education policy-related duties between the State Board of Education and the state superintendent of public instruction."

Most provisions in HF881 would become effective Jan. 1, 2003.

Both bills would require changing back the name of the Department of Children, Families and Learning to the Department of Education. The department was renamed under Gov. Carlson's administration in 1995. Representatives said the new name has been too confusing and people don't realize it is the education department.

Robert Brown, a professor at the University of St. Thomas and once a member of the board of education, spoke to the committee about the history of the board and why it no longer exists in the state. Minnesota is one of only two states that do not have such a body.

Over a period of time, Brown said, the Legislature reduced its authority. Teacher licensure was taken away, and the commissioner of the department was appointed directly by the governor. Serious problems arose, including the governor appointing his own paid workers to

"We need to create a board not based on what we did in the past, but what we need in the future."

***—Prof. Robert Brown
former member of the State Board of Education***

mum term of three consecutive years. Members would have the same conflict of interest restrictions as provided in Carlson's bill, and would serve staggered four-year terms.

The bill's provisions on rulemaking say the board "may adopt new rules and amend any of its existing rules under legislative authority." Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said rules can take hours to review and warned committee members the bill may bring "more charges to ourselves."

HF881 also permits the board to grant a local school district a rule variance for "implementing experimental programs in learning or school management." Any new rule would have to meet the approval by the superintendent of public instruction before adoption.


To create what Buesgens calls a "statement of policy," the bill would order a temporary

serve on the board, Brown said. Eventually, in 1999, the Legislature voted to abolish the board.

But Brown stressed the need for reinstatement and addressed several goals for the Legislature. "We need more discussion to make the board as effective as can be," he said. "We want a structure that least interferes with kids' ability to learn."

He said there is no cookie-cutter formula for such a board, and legislators need to learn from mistakes in the past.

"We need to create a board not based on what we did in the past, but what we need in the future," Brown said.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said he supports a board of education, and the Legislature needs to "move this out" this session. "I think we've lost something," he said. 

Freeze frame

A bill that would require a photo identification to vote is being met with some resistance

BY DAVID MAEDA

The bedlam that broke out following the 2000 presidential election focused unparalleled public examination on the voting process. In Florida the manner in which the votes ultimately were counted became just as important an issue as the results of the count itself.

Minnesota Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Election Subcommittee March 5 that since the election she has heard from “an overwhelming” number of citizens concerned with the integrity of Minnesota’s voting systems.

Kiffmeyer said a number of people were surprised to discover the state doesn’t require a person to show any identification at the polling place before voting.

Although the state traditionally has one of the nation’s highest voter turnouts, Kiffmeyer said she has heard from many of those that don’t vote because they think the system is “a sham.”

“The biggest controversy is that just anybody could walk in and claim a name,” she said. “There has been a tremendous shaking of the general confidence in the system.”

HF857 a bill Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said he was carrying on Kiffmeyer’s behalf, would require voters to present picture identification at the polling place before receiving a ballot.

The subcommittee approved an amendment that would allow a person who doesn’t own a picture identification to vote after signing an affidavit. The amended bill was approved and referred to the full committee.

The bill would also require that registrants list the last four digits of their social security number on the voter registration card. Those four numbers would be printed on the polling place roster and could be used to further verify the identity of a person.

“The outcome of an election is only as good as the inputs we put into the process,” Kielkucki said.

Under current law voters are allowed to register to vote any time except during the 20 days

prior to the election. The 20-day period allows election officials to finalize the election day roster that voters must sign under oath prior to receiving a ballot.

Minnesota is one of the few states that also allows registration on election day. To do so a potential voter has to show a prescribed picture identification (generally a drivers license or state ID card). If the address on the identification is not current, state law allows a number of documents such as a current utility bill to verify the address of the person.

A person who does not have the proper identifying documentation is also allowed to bring in a person who lives in the same precinct who can verify or “vouch” that the wannabe voter also lives in the precinct.



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, *left*, testifies March 5 before the Elections Subcommittee of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in favor of a bill that would require picture identification to vote. Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), *right*, is the bill’s author.

Kiffmeyer offered anecdotal evidence of some fraud in the state, but committee members did not press the issue further.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) expressed concern with the bill’s photo identification requirement, pointing out those who register more than 20 days prior to an election don’t have to present identification to prove who they are when they register.

Kubly said requiring someone who has been vouched for to also present a photo identification doesn’t make sense since the voucher has already confirmed they know the person lives in that precinct.

“This bill is raising at least as many questions as it resolves,” he said.

Kielkucki said there were two separate issues involved, verifying the identity of the voter and verifying the residence.

Luci Botzek, from the Association of Minnesota County Officials, said that although her organization has not taken an official position on the bill, local election officials believe the current system “works very well.” She said the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners recently approved a resolution stating its opposition to the photo identification requirement.

Victoria Davis, from the St. Paul chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the issue that should be learned from the Florida experience was not there was rampant fraud, but rather thousands

of voters were left disenfranchised because their names were mistakenly left off the voter rolls and thus were unable to vote.

She said instead of increasing requirements to vote the state should be looking for ways to increase access.

“I’m struggling with the ‘why’ of this bill,” Davis said. “Why would you want to do things that might exclude some people from voting?”

Kielkucki said the intent of the identification requirement was not meant to lower voter participation. He said it was ironic

that a person has to show picture identification before getting served in a bar but doesn’t have to do so to vote.

“I believe the right to vote is paramount,” he said. “I’m not trying to deny access to vote. I’m trying to ensure the integrity of the process.”

Amy Caucutt, who served as an election judge in Rochester, said she heard voters

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Boy wonder

Gov. Harold Stassen — youngest U.S. governor, perennial presidential candidate, signatory of U.N. charter — dies at age 93

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

Flags flew at half-staff to honor him. Former colleagues mused about his political promise. Legislators sighed and reminisced about his kindnesses to them. Friends and family mourned.

Gov. Harold Stassen's long life and diverse career touched the lives of many in the House of Representatives and the culture of the State Capitol. And they were moved to honor the man whose tenacity almost made him a caricature of Minnesota politics.

Stassen died March 4 in Bloomington of natural causes. He was 93.

Members of the House passed a resolution March 5 honoring Stassen and his contributions to the state, the United States and the world.

Resolution sponsor Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview) reminded the body of Stassen's life's work and the esteem with which members could hold his accomplishments.

"He is someone who I think we can all admire and respect in his dedication to public service and his commitment not only to the citizens of the state of Minnesota but his commitment to world peace and his work in the United Nations," Krinkie said.

"He truly was a rather phenomenal man."

Stassen's journey began on a farm in West St. Paul, born to Baptist parents in 1907. He was the third of five children.

His father, William, served as head of the

local school board and as mayor of West St. Paul. Those political roots drove Stassen, who would complete high school by 15, finish undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota by age 19, and earn a law degree at age 21.

By 1929, Stassen had received his degree, passed the bar, opened a law office, and achieved his first public office — that being Dakota County Attorney.

He sought his first statewide office, governor, at age 31, in 1938. And Stassen would not

be stopped, winning by nearly 300,000 votes and becoming the youngest man to be elected governor in Minnesota and the nation. To this day, that feat has yet to be bested.

Stassen, a Republican, easily won reelection in both 1940 and 1942, at a time when governors were only elected to two-year terms.

However, Stassen resigned his post in 1943 to join the armed forces in World War II. In fact, the governor signed bills until midnight April 21, 1943, the day the Legislature adjourned, and resigned the next day.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Stassen to lead the United States delegation to San Francisco to draft and sign the United Nations Charter.

After the war, Minnesotans expected Stassen to return home and seek a seat in the U.S. Senate, where his challenger would be then-Mayor of Minneapolis Hubert Humphrey.

But Stassen had higher aspirations —

"He is someone who I think we can all admire and respect in his dedication to public service and his commitment not only to the citizens of the state of Minnesota but his commitment to world peace and his work in the United Nations. He truly was a rather phenomenal man."

—Rep. Phil Krinkie

seeking the Republican nomination for president in 1948 against Thomas Dewey.

For much of the contest, Stassen was ahead, but the campaign would turn in Oregon in May 1948. There, Dewey campaigned aggressively, requiring Stassen to make strong anti-Communist statements. In addition, the two engaged in a radio debate — the first of its kind — which many call the turning point because newspapers and pundits called Dewey the victor.

Dewey would win the Oregon primary and Stassen would never catch up. Democrat Harry S. Truman would defeat Dewey that November and gain the presidency.

Though he would run for president unsuccessfully a total of nine times, the last being in 1992, his first was the closest he ever came to that office. However, he would serve in President Dwight Eisenhower's administration in various security and foreign affairs roles.

Stassen also served as president of the University of Pennsylvania from 1948 to 1953.

On the House floor March 5, Krinkie credited Stassen for his commitment to world peace. He quoted from a 1951 speech Stassen delivered about the former Soviet Union:

"I believe we'll help a liberation and upward climb of mankind for both better conditions than a free and democratic world can provide this latter goal will not come quickly, but I anticipate that the half century that lies before the youth of today will seize this expanding freedom, this better life."

Said Krinkie, "I think we can all appreciate this man's endeavor, his persistence and

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PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Former Gov. Harold Stassen spoke with members in the retiring room before giving a speech to announce his presidential candidacy in the House Chamber March 11, 1992.

Justice for all

Minnesota law library offers special collections and other legal resources since early territory days to officials and the public

BY DAVID MAEDA

It is a slight exaggeration to say the Minnesota State Law Library is as old as the wind. But it's not a stretch to say the library is as old as the state. An 1849 act of Congress that established the Minnesota Territory also provided a \$5,000 appropriation for a library to be located at the seat of government. The library was set up later that year in the St. Paul Central House.

Originally the facility, like most libraries, had a variety of books on different subjects. But in the 1870s, the state Supreme Court assumed administration of the library and the collection's focus changed to an emphasis on law-related material.

In the early 1990s, the library moved to its current location in the state's Judicial Center. The expansive space houses a myriad of legal documents from treatises and briefs, to court transcripts and federal and state regulations.

With its elegant, regal design, the library is well worth a tour just for its impressive architecture, layout and historical atmosphere.

Over the years the library's primary task has been assisting a wide variety of people trying to understand the gray areas inherent in the complexity of law.

Daniel Lunde, the library's head of public services, said that many of the visitors come in believing that the legal information they seek will be readily available in one spot, and that the law itself will be black and white.

But Lunde said legal research often is much more detailed because laws are created from a variety of sources including: state statutes, local ordinances, state agency rules and court decisions. He said something as seemingly simple as a particular law's statute of limitations can be difficult to ascertain depending on circumstances involved. Nonetheless he said library staff members do their best to at least get patrons started in retrieving the information they seek.

And because the basis for all law lies within historical decisions and information, the library is often the gateway for everyone from lawmakers to lawyers to homeless people.



PHOTO BY SARA KIRK

The Minnesota State Law Library offers many resources for legal research, including legal documents, briefs and court transcripts. In addition, books that are several centuries old, rare and out-of-print are located in the special collections room, pictured here.

In his 1964 song "Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," Minnesotan Bob Dylan wrote that in our system of justice, "the ladder of law has no top and no bottom." In other words, all people are supposed to be treated equally under the law.

Lunde said that statement is borne out every day at the law library.

"We see everyone from the chief (Minnesota) Supreme Court justice, to a person who walks in off the street and everyone in between," he said.

He added that many of the people who use the library's services cannot afford legal representation and are trying to find as much information as they can to help their own situation.

"We are guides through the whole law process — educators, too," Lunde said.

Among the library's resources are the typical things you would find in any law library: Minnesota Statutes, Session Laws, case decisions, and legal reviews. There are many other resources for researching laws, as well, including legal periodicals.

The staff is also well versed in legal research and can help direct your legal search. And the library has guidelines in place so patrons are aware staff cannot give out legal advice and cannot attempt to interpret laws.

Staff assistance doesn't stop at the door as the library has two outreach programs that provide services to those who cannot necessarily make it to St. Paul.

One is the Law Library Service to Prisoners that helps provide legal materials to inmates trying to research the law as it applies to their own case. The other enables counties in Greater Minnesota that do not have law libraries of their own to request materials from the state law library.

Perhaps the most interesting room in the library is the one that probably is visited the least — the special collections room.

Located off to the side of all the stacks of materials is a mid-size room with an ominous warning sign outside the door: "Do not enter room when alarm sounds. Halon 1301 being released." (Halon is a commonly used fire suppressant.)

If there is ever a fire in the library Halon gas removes oxygen from the room so the fire cannot burn.

This is especially important as the room contains many of the library's most valuable and treasured books — such as those from the 1700s and rare, long out-of-print books.

While the material from the special collections room cannot be checked out, most of the library's collection is available to the general public. The library's catalog can be found online: www.state.mn.us/courts/library/

Monday, March 5

HF1360—Boudreau (R)

Crime Prevention

Minnesota Citizens' Personal Protection Act of 2001 adopted recognizing the right to self-defense, providing permits to carry a pistol, and imposing criminal penalties.

HF1361—Workman (R)

Civil Law

Trucking firms provided civil liability immunity for disclosure of employment history.

HF1362—Workman (R)

Civil Law

ICF/MRs provided civil liability immunity for disclosure of employment history.

HF1363—Clark, K. (DFL)

Judiciary Finance

Marijuana medical use research grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1364—Dibble (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Marijuana; affirmative defense established for possession or sale of small amount of marijuana solely for use with a debilitating medical condition.

HF1365—Dorman (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Clean fuel use required in state vehicles, grants provided motor fuel retailers who install pumps to dispense cleaner fuel, and money appropriated.

HF1366—Buesgens (R)

Education Policy

School district contracts with teachers required to be structurally balanced.

HF1367—Wolf (R)

Regulated Industries

Owner-occupied residential housing program authorized to use rental energy revolving loan program funds.

HF1368—Westerberg (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Manufactured home park redevelopment program established and money appropriated.

HF1369—Leighton (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Rehabilitation Council for the Blind, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and other specified committees and councils sunsets repealed.

HF1370—Dehler (R)

K-12 Education Finance

School boards authorized to transfer excess revenue in the debt redemption fund to the operating capital account in the general fund.

HF1371—Dehler (R)

K-12 Education Finance

Referendum authority increase provided without election in certain circumstances.

HF1372—Erickson (R)

K-12 Education Finance

Electronic continual learning plan grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1373—Stanek (R)

Crime Prevention

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension authorized to charge a fee for Internet access to public criminal history data.

HF1374—Clark, K. (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Banks required to process checks received on a banking day in sequence by check number.

HF1375—Clark, K. (DFL)

Civil Law

Service charges, time limits, and civil penalties for dishonored checks regulated.

HF1376—Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Human services licensing background studies provisions modified.

HF1377—Abeler (R)

K-12 Education Finance

General education basic formula allowance increased and indexed.

HF1378—McGuire (DFL)

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Multi-county, multi-type library system grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1379—Krinkie (R)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State procurement provisions modified.

HF1380—Dibble (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Section 8 home ownership assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF1381—Wilkin (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Human services licensure background studies requirements modified.

HF1382—Olson (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Como Lake and Powderhorn Lake aeration treatments provided and money appropriated.

HF1383—Workman (R)

Transportation Policy

Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.

HF1384—Otremba (DFL)

Agriculture Policy

Poultry included in prompt payment for livestock purchases requirement.

HF1385—Mullery (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Assaults and robberies committed in bus zones provided enhanced criminal penalties.

HF1386—Ozment (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Shoreland protection program established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF1387—Kuisle (R)

K-12 Education Finance

State commitment to debt service equalization increased and money appropriated.

HF1388—Murphy (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Background studies conducted of individuals providing services in secure and non-secure juvenile residential and detention facilities.

HF1389—Ozment (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Non-game wildlife account contribution matching funds provided and money appropriated.

HF1390—Clark, K. (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Spoken language interpreter demonstration training project established.

HF1391—Solberg (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Resolution urging the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing Eric Enstrom's photograph "Grace."

HF1392—Gunther (R)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Minnesota Investment Fund usage provisions modified.

HF1393—Workman (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Waste Management Act modified to provide flexibility to counties, SCORE fund redistribution provided, solid waste management plan requirements modified, and other solid waste statutes and rules clarified.

HF1394—Tingelstad (R)

K-12 Education Finance

Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public elementary and secondary school students.

HF1395—Otremba (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Turtle licensing and taking provisions modified.

HF1396—Wenzel (DFL)

Agriculture Policy

Dairy Producers Board sunset extended and money appropriated.

HF1397—Tingelstad (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.

HF1398—Dorman (R)

Taxes

Residential rental property class rates reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid computation adjusted to compensate for lost revenue.

HF1399—McElroy (R)

Taxes

Sales tax rebate of 2000 eligibility expanded and money appropriated.

HF1400—Nornes (R)

Education Policy

Health and safety revenue use authorized to pay interest on health and safety program project finance agreements.

HF1401—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Cook County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.

HF1402—Erhardt (R)

Taxes

Homestead, agricultural, and seasonal recreational property exempted from general education tax; property tax class rates reduced; homestead credit program established, school district levy computation modified, and money appropriated.

HF1403—Hilstrom (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Criminal records sealing petitioning provisions modified.

HF1404—Kuisle (R)**Transportation Policy**

Towed implements of husbandry provided an exemption from tail lamp display requirement.

HF1405—Gleason (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Prescription drug price discrimination provisions strengthened, drug price disclosure required, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF1406—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Maternal death review and study provided.

HF1407—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Health-related councils expiration dates modified; funeral goods and services regulation authority transferred, public health collaboration plan provisions modified, rural hospital program modified, and boxing regulation repealed.

HF1408—Gunther (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Minnesota State University, Mankato, rural policy and development center funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1409—Jacobson (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.

HF1410—Gunther (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in state insurance, retirement, and other plans that apply to state employees.

HF1411—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Predatory offender registration provision repealed retroactively and legislative intent specified.

HF1412—Boudreau (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Medical assistance reimbursement provided for certain employee travel costs in conjunction with services provided in the recipient's home, and money appropriated.

HF1413—Tuma (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

No-fault auto insurance basic economic loss benefits regulated.

HF1414—Cassell (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Alexandria Technical College post-secondary outreach grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1415—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities annuity program provisions modified.

HF1416—Abrams (R)**Taxes**

Electronic filing and paying of taxes programs established, uniform sales and use tax administration provided, and money appropriated.

HF1417—Koskinen (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Nursing facilities minimum staffing standards established, facilities required to post information on staffing standards, studies required, and money appropriated.

HF1418—Johnson, S. (DFL)**Judiciary Finance**

Neighborhood-based crime victim and witness services grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1419—Bradley (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Children's mental health screening, diagnosis, and treatment demonstration project established; report required; and money appropriated.

HF1420—Sertich (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district levy for retired employee health benefits extended.

HF1421—Dehler (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 485, Royalton, fund transfer authorized.

HF1422—Dehler (R)**Civil Law**

Immunity from liability extended for owners of land used for recreational purposes to certain owners of adjoining land.

HF1423—Leppik (R)**Education Policy**

Pupil transportation requirements for school districts removed and pupil transportation fees allowed.

HF1424—Krinkie (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Airports Commission capital improvement program legislation required and legislative approval of individual capital projects required.

HF1425—Hilty (DFL)**Taxes**

Sales ratio study modified for purposes of certain state property tax aid formulas.

HF1426—Fuller (R)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; persons employed in health-related occupations allowed to administer chemical tests for DWI purposes, and terms relating to alcoholic beverage concentration defined.

HF1427—Fuller (R)**Crime Prevention**

DWI; preliminary screening test results deemed admissible for implied consent prosecution, certain first-time offenders prohibited from receiving reduced revocation period, plate impoundment law amended, and criminal penalties enhanced.

HF1428—Davids (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Insurance rates and coverages regulated and minimum anticipated loss ratios established.

HF1429—Sykora (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Annual market rate surveys for child care required and money appropriated.

HF1430—Winter (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 175, Westbrook, student entrepreneurship project grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1431—Hilty (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Environmental learning center grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1432—Hilty (DFL)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Minnesota institute of sustainable agriculture funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1433—Leighton (DFL)**Civil Law**

Limitations on actions based on services or construction to improve real property modified.

HF1434—Juhnke (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Metropolitan magnet school grant program extended statewide and money appropriated.

HF1435—Howes (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Yellow perch daily and possession limits established.

HF1436—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Wholesale drug distributors required to report the best price and information on the prescription drug and prescription drug patient assistance programs required.

HF1437—Skoe (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care market rate survey modified.

HF1438—Bishop (R)**Crime Prevention**

Prison inmate conditional release board established.

HF1439—Anderson, B. (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

National Guard eligibility and rank designation requirements clarified, unused armory site disposal authorized, and other armory provisions clarified.

HF1440—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Nurse licensure compact enacted.

HF1441—Slawik (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Early childhood immunization efforts funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1442—Mulder (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Professional sports; commissioner of trade and economic development authorized to negotiate with teams for control and use of the team name in the event the team relocates.

HF1443—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Medication therapy management pilot program implemented and money appropriated.

HF1444—Wilkin (R)**Taxes**

Tax withholding on wages abolished, and payment of estimated taxes on wages provided.

HF1445—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Temporary employment agencies serving nursing facilities licensure required, facilities required to report use of agencies, and rate adjustments provided.

HF1446—Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution, child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided.

HF1447—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Eggs; shell egg handling regulations modified.

HF1448—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Sustainable and organic foods program base funding restored, dairy diagnostics program funded, biological control facility operation provided, and money appropriated.

HF1449—Swapinski (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care providers and staff education and retention program established and money appropriated.

HF1450—Winter (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Resolution memorializing Congress to begin repealing and rewriting the Freedom to Farm Act.

HF1451—Larson (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport expansion impact provided, airport mitigation planning authorized and airport impact zones established, mitigation fund created, and money appropriated.

HF1452—Penas (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Turf grass research initiated, report required, and money appropriated.

HF1453—McGuire (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

After-school enrichment grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1454—McGuire (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Early Childhood Care and Education Services Act adopted.

HF1455—Osskopp (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Designer selection board provisions modified.

HF1456—McGuire (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

School readiness program services and eligibility requirements expanded and money appropriated.

HF1457—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare gross income definition modified.

HF1458—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare eligibility for single adults and households with no children expanded.

HF1459—Lipman (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Washington County tax-forfeited land conveyances and public and private land sales authorized.

HF1460—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Prescription drug program eligibility expanded.

HF1461—Marquart (DFL)**Taxes**

Agricultural homestead classification maximum distance from residency extended.

HF1462—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Teacher retirement service credit purchases provided, fund transfer permitted, and prior service credit determination procedure extended.

HF1463—Marquart (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Marginal cost pupil unit count for districts with declining enrollment increased.

Thursday, March 8**HF1464—Abeler (R)****K-12 Education Finance**

School district equity revenue increased.

HF1465—Stanek (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.

HF1466—Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority data regulations extended to all housing and redevelopment authorities.

HF1467—Holberg (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Payment bonds regulation clarifying and technical changes provided relating to notice of claims.

HF1468—Jaros (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Veterans' unemployment benefits provided to qualified veterans currently receiving federal military pension.

HF1469—Finseth (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Coyotes; counties authorized to offer bounties for destruction of coyotes.

HF1470—Kuisle (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district teacher contracts required to be structurally balanced.

HF1471—Boudreau (R)**Crime Prevention**

Alternative response programs for child protection or assessments data privacy provided.

HF1472—Thompson (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Emergency 911 telephone service fee collection responsibility transferred to revenue department, and enhanced 911 service funding expenditures authorized for signs and markers.

HF1473—Osthoff (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

St. Paul Port Authority funding provided for acquisition of Trout Brook area properties and money appropriated.

HF1474—Osthoff (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Paul Port Authority funding provided for Trout Brook area blight removal and money appropriated.

HF1475—Walz (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Ironton; Cuyuna Range Technology Center grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1476—Nornes (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Minnesota economic opportunity grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1477—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association law reorganized.

HF1478—Wagenius (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Parents' Right To Know Act; parental notice required when Head Start program or child care provider plans to use certain pesticides.

HF1479—Walker (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Employed individuals with disabilities temporary medical assistance eligibility extension provided.

HF1480—Walker (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Ventilator—dependent persons nursing facility rates modified.

HF1481—Cassell (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Landowner definition modified for participation in the RIM program.

HF1482—Murphy (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

MSRS disability benefits, early retirement requirements, eligibility, refund, and survivor benefit provisions modified, pilot project extended, and technical changes provided.

HF1483—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Human services direct support professional incentive program established and money appropriated.

HF1484—Kelliher (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Child exposure to toxic chemicals awareness grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1485—Kelliher (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Pollution Control Agency required to provide emissions information and money appropriated.

HF1486—Murphy (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Model policing program pilot project authorized, community mental health peace officer advisory board created, reports required, and money appropriated.

HF1487—Haas (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Provisions rendered obsolete by the electronic licensing board modified, disposition of certain taxes and proceeds modified, watercraft license and title provisions modified, sale of live animals and animal portions clarified.

HF1488—Workman (R)**Transportation Policy**

Speed limits in highway work zones provisions modified, seasonal highway weight limitations modified, and commissioner of transportation allowed to convey interest in certain land to property owners.

HF1489—Hilty (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Northern Technology Initiative, Inc. created.

HF1490—Tuma (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Center for Reducing Rural Violence program continuation provided and money appropriated.

HF1491—Fuller (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Environmental review concerning sunken log removal clarified, local approval required, and money appropriated.

HF1492—Howes (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 116, Pillager, fund transfer authorized.

HF1493—Davids (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Consumer financial and health information privacy regulated.

HF1494—Skoe (DFL)**Taxes**

Agriculture preservation organizations property tax exemption provided.

HF1495—Lenczewski (DFL)**Taxes**

Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, and Metropolitan Airports Commission joint public safety training facility construction materials and equipment purchase sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF1496—Smith (R)**State Government Finance**

Fair Labor Standards Act compliance cost money appropriated.

HF1497—Nornes (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lake County state land sales authorized, lakeshore land exchange terms modified, and certain charges exempted.

HF1498—Larson (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Minneapolis and Richfield Highway 62 construction and reconstruction delayed and report required.

HF1499—Osskopp (R)**Crime Prevention**

Automobile theft prevention program eliminated.

HF1500—Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Medical support bonus incentives program expanded, medical and child support laws reformed, and cost-of-living adjustments provided for.

HF1501—Lenczewski (DFL)**Taxes**

Bloomington city facility construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF1502—Evans (DFL)**Agriculture Policy**

Agriculture advisory committees and a review board extended.

HF1503—Kalis (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Outstanding state general obligation bonds callable in 2003 money appropriated.

HF1504—Mahoney (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Departments of administration and health directed to adopt certain standards and pipe layer licensing requirements clarified.

HF1505—Lenczewski (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Pre-1990 tax district five-year rule applied and time limitations provided.

HF1506—Jaros (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Pistol and semiautomatic military-style assault weaponry licensing required, application and background check procedures provided, and dealer license conditions prescribed.

HF1507—Bishop (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Treatment of legal nonconforming uses of land clarified.

HF1508—Howes (R)**Civil Law**

Phosphorous-based fertilizer application restricted, adulteration factors clarified, and civil penalties provided.

HF1509—Gunther (R)**Transportation Finance**

Snow removal expense grant money appropriated.

HF1510—Gunther (R)**Taxes**

Fairmont motor vehicle sales and use tax and excise tax authorized.

HF1511—Westerberg (R)**Taxes**

Telework assessment and telecommuting expense income tax credits provided.

HF1512—Tingelstad (R)**Crime Prevention**

Telecommuting effects on juvenile crime and other social issues study provided and money appropriated.

HF1513—Westerberg (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Telecommuting days designation authority provided to Department of Public Safety and money appropriated.

HF1514—Jaros (DFL)**State Government Finance**

Duluth Veterans Memorial Hall financial assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF1515—Sykora (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Basic sliding fee child care assistance and MFIP programs consolidated and income eligibility modified.

HF1516—Hilstrom (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Child neglect definition modified.

HF1517—Wilkin (R)**Civil Law**

Swimming pool requirements established for family day care homes and municipalities provided immunity from claims based on provider's failure to comply.

HF1518—Clark, J. (R)**Taxes**

Homestead property classification provided individuals residing in elderly assisted living facilities.

HF1519—Clark, J. (R)**Crime Prevention**

Sex offender DNA submission requirements expanded, penalty increased for fleeing a peace officer resulting in death, crime of aiding an offender expanded, and domestic abuse case evidence provisions modified.

HF1520—Kuisle (R)**Transportation Finance**

County and municipal state-aid street fund restrictions modified, highway safety center grant authority transferred, and state rail bank lease provisions modified.

HF1521—Leppik (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Paint ball guns sale and rental regulated.

HF1522—Bradley (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.

HF1523—Tingelstad (R)**Taxes**

Ham Lake Fire Department facility construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

HF1524—Leppik (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Phosphorus fertilizer use regulated.

HF1525—Skoglund (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

PERA-coordinated retirement plan service credit purchase authorized for a specified Minneapolis employee.

HF1526—Erhardt (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

ATV; metropolitan cities authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles.

HF1527—Kuisle (R)**Transportation Policy**

Driver's License Agreement Act adopted, motor vehicle and motor vehicle dealer regulations modified, electronic accident reporting authorized, and clarifying changes provided.

HF1528—Penas (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Cooperative meat inspection program financing provisions modified.

HF1529—Tingelstad (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Pesticide application in schools regulated.

HF1530—Penas (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Roseau County nursing facilities rate increase provided.

HF1531—Bradley (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Young adult transitional services provided and community-based mental health services increased.

HF1532—Murphy (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Duluth Teachers Retirement Fund provisions modified, service credit purchases allowed for members collecting workers' compensation, partial post-retirement adjustment increase provided, and annuity formula modified.

HF1533—Ruth (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Waseca tax increment financing district expenditures authorized.

HF1534—Tingelstad (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District Nos. 728, Elk River, and 535, Rochester, high performance school facilities pilot projects established and money appropriated.

HF1535—Ruth (R)**Taxes**

Agricultural education property owned by nonprofit entity property tax exemption provided.

HF1536—Westrom (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Farm Connect grant provided establishing links between farmers and marketing opportunities and money appropriated.

HF1537—Lipman (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill.

HF1538—Evans (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Ramsey County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

HF1539—Solberg (DFL)**State Government Finance**

Shooting sports facility grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1540—Kielkucki (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Incentive funding program created for career and technical education programs and money appropriated.

HF1541—Mullery (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Landlords required to accept current tenant reports on prospective tenants.

HF1542—Eastlund (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

CLEARCorps lead hazard reduction project grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1543—Holsten (R)**Crime Prevention**

Fireworks limited personal use authorized, affidavit of safety guidelines required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1544—Hilty (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

New counties standard of market value provided, petition to change county boundaries signatures required, and county board special elections provided to fill vacancies.

HF1545—Wasiluk (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF1546—Goodwin (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Alzheimer's; disclosure of form of care required in certain special care status units, and penalties and remedies provided.

HF1547—Finseth (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Minnesota grown logo license renewal late fee eliminated and terms clarified.

HF1548—Nornes (R)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Child care resource and referral programs funded and money appropriated.

HF1549—Wenzel (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway portion of Trunk Highway 371 advertising restrictions imposed.

HF1550—Wenzel (DFL)**Civil Law**

Recreational trails; duty of care and liability of landowners limited along recreational trails.

HF1551—Tuma (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Motorized recreational vehicle use restricted on state land, and registration and fee disposition modified.

HF1552—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Lake County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

HF1553—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Job training programs study required including wage rates.

HF1554—Mullery (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Auto insurance discrimination prohibited based upon location within metropolitan area.

HF1555—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Retaliatory action prohibited against nurses declining to work additional hours and patient abandonment by a nurse defined as grounds for disciplinary action.

HF1556—Gunther (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Workers' compensation uniform fees for medical services provided.

HF1557—Milbert (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Inver Grove Heights tax increment financing district local distribution for designated parcels authorized.

HF1558—Abeler (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Qualified school administrator recruiting funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1559—Sviggum (R)
Taxes
Dodge Center Fire Hall construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF1560—Schumacher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Septic system disclosure and inspection required prior to sale of real estate.

HF1561—Bradley (R)
Education Policy
Charter schools; teacher leave to teach in charter schools limited.

HF1562—Hilty (DFL)
Education Policy
Reading; 595 days to reading competency grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1563—Dorn (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
District-sponsored choice magnet schools authorized and start-up grants provided.

HF1564—Mariani (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
African-American Fine Arts Center money appropriated.

HF1565—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minnesota State Retirement System and State Patrol Retirement Fund contribution rates increased, and definition of "average salary" modified.

HF1566—Pelowski (DFL)
Redistricting
Districting principles for legislative and congressional plans established.

HF1567—Pelowski (DFL)
Redistricting
Districting principles for legislative and congressional plans established.

HF1568—Kelliher (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Mighty books grant program established and money appropriated.

HF1569—Osskopp (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minnesota State College and Universities customized trainer positions reclassified.

HF1570—Paulsen (R)
Regulated Industries
Electricity; customer choice pilot program established.

HF1571—Jennings (DFL)
Civil Law
Development costs in government data practices redefined.

HF1572—Greiling (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
PATH mental health program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1573—Wolf (R)
Regulated Industries
Low-income utility customers programs required.

HF1574—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Retired dentist program established, dental practice donation program created, and money appropriated.

HF1575—Carlson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Compensatory revenue clarified for school districts reducing the concentration of students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

HF1576—Clark, K. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Pride in Public Art Act of 2001 established creating task force on State Capitol art work.

HF1577—Bishop (R)
Crime Prevention
Third degree murder and manslaughter scope expanded when use of controlled substances is involved.

HF1578—Goodno (R)
Taxes
Ad valorem property tax levy for watershed districts authorized.

HF1579—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public employees police and fire retirement plan; salary to be used for purposes of calculating benefits clarified and certain payments by the Department of Public Safety required.

HF1580—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Health care coverage product regulation simplified and regulatory reform process established.

HF1581—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Healthy kids learn endowment fund established, radioactive and special nuclear materials fees regulated, immunization data use criteria provided, health related programs modified, tobacco settlement fund modified, and money appropriated.

HF1582—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public employees group long-term care insurance program eligibility expanded.

HF1583—Biernat (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public employees group long-term care insurance program eligibility expanded.

HF1584—McGuire (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Seat belt violations primary offense authorized, all passengers required to wear seat belts, and penalties imposed.

HF1585—Walz (R)
Crime Prevention
Minnesota Citizen's Personal Protection Act of 2001 established.

HF1586—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Local road authorities authorized to prohibit trucks on streets and highways, and five-ton seasonal weight restriction limited.

HF1587—Krinkie (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
City, school, and county election dates established.

HF1588—Slawik (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Early elementary class size reduced and money appropriated.

HF1589—Howes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Bid and performance bond thresholds modified.

HF1590—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Deaf-Blind Services Minnesota, Inc., funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1591—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Aquatic restoration grants authorized, administrative penalty orders provided, laws relating to decoys clarified, turtle licensing modified, conservation law enforcement provided, and penalties established.

HF1592—Kuisle (R)
Transportation Finance
Rochester personal rapid transit study money appropriated.

HF1593—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Iron ore mining company employees provided exemption from MinnesotaCare barriers.

HF1594—Mares (R)
Transportation Policy
Special veterans license plate design specified.

HF1595—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Forest resources partnership members reporting requirements created, forest resource committees duties added, Minnesota Forest Resources Council authorization extended, and money appropriated.

HF1596—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Metropolitan area taxicab service wheelchair-accessible vehicles authorized.

HF1597—Walz (R)
Crime Prevention
District court access to conditional release data permitted.

HF1598—Swenson (R)
Agriculture Policy
Federal dairy regulations uniformity provided.

HF1599—Mullery (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Head Start fund distribution modified.

HF1600—Mullery (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Pollution Control Agency emissions information dissemination required.

HF1601—Carlson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Metro homework hotline grant authorized and money appropriated.

HF1602—Clark, K. (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance eligibility temporarily extended.

HF1603—Dibble (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Specified labor councils and boards exempted from expiration.

HF1604—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Liability waiver for certain agricultural landowners provided related to trespassers, and feedlot requirement exemption provided.

Schedule is subject to change.
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Legislature's Web site.

MONDAY, March 12

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF1179 (Lieder) Public safety
employees assigned to state patrol to enforce
motor vehicle size and weight laws defined as
public safety officers for purposes of survivor
benefits.

HF518 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park firefighters' civil
service commission abolition authorized.

HF1080 (Thompson) Gender-specific language
replaced with gender-neutral language in the
constitution, and constitutional amendment
proposed.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF1068 (Bradley) Crisis nurseries
development and expansion funding provided
and money appropriated.

HF854 (Huntley) HIV; education and awareness
activities in Greater Minnesota funded, and
money appropriated.

HF522 (Huntley) Adolescent compulsive
gambling prevention and education project grant
provided, and money appropriated.

HF603 (Abeler) Council on Disability sunset
extended.

HF703 (Goodno) Senior service corps volunteer
programs; foster grandparent and senior
companion program funding provided and
money appropriated.

HF330 (Abeler) Nonprofit agency grant provided
to agency currently serving deaf and hard-of-
hearing adults with mental illness.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF1252 (Pawlenty) Veterans; homeless
or at-risk veterans housing projects loans and
grants provided, and money appropriated.

Budget Review of the Minnesota Film Board.

Review of the Department of Labor LEAP

Grantees: Women Venture; Anishinabe, Inc.; St.

Paul Urban League; Minneapolis Urban League.

HF23 (Mullery) Work first; nontraditional career

assistance training programs TANF block grant

funding authorized, and programs required to

make available information about nontraditional

women's opportunities.

HF41 (Mullery) Nonprofit organization grants

provided to encourage women to enter

nontraditional careers, and money appropriated.

Joint House and Senate Children's Environmental Health Working Group

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Kathy Tangelstad, Sen. Jane Krentz

Agenda: Paula Maccabee, Air Toxics Report
(continued from Feb. 12 agenda).

Indoor Air Quality in Schools:

Tim Strom and Danyell Punelli, House Research.

Laura Oatman, Health Department,
Environmental Health Division.

Phil Allmon, Department of Children, Families
and Learning.

Bill Angell, University of Minnesota Indoor Air
Quality Project.

Katy Boone, President, Clean Air Group.

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF935 (Goodno) Automatic external
defibrillator; liability immunity for persons
rendering emergency care clarified.

HF1260 (Dawkins) Custodial and noncustodial
parent terminology neutralized relating to family
law.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources
Forestry Management budget presentation
continued.

Department of Natural Resources Operations
Support budget presentation (Day 1).

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF147 (Carlson) Relating to education
finance; increasing the general education basic
formula allowance.

HF744, (Anderson, I.) Relating to education;
modifying the general education revenue
formula; modifying the referendum allowance
for the referendum revenue program.

HF1032 (Bernardy) Relating to education;
increasing the equalization amount for operating
referendums.

HF825 (Peterson) Relating to education finance;
creating a bus purchase levy.

HF740 (Sertich) Relating to education finance;
increasing funding for districts with declining
enrollment.

HF728 (Sertich) Relating to education finance;
using a five-year average enrollment to calculate
declining pupil revenue.

HF1088 (Seagren) Relating to education; general
education. Article Four, the Governor's Budget.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF573 (Finseth) Land payments in lieu
of taxation provisions modified.

HF1059 (Erhardt) Property tax refund provided
for specified homeowners age 65 or over.

HF1178 (Lenczewski) Metropolitan fiscal
disparities program study required and money
appropriated.

HF1202 (Westrom) Poultry litter biomass
electrical generating facility property tax
exemption provided.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda: HF32 (Wenzel) Changes the general
sales tax rate to 6.0%.

HF315 (Kubly) Changes the general sales tax
rate to 5.0%.

HF431 (Vandever) Changes the general sales
tax rate to 5.5%.

HF824 (Winter) Changes the general sales tax
rate to 6.0%.

HF956 (Wasiluk) Changes the general sales tax
rate to 5.5%.

HF1010 (Thompson) Changes the general sales
tax rate to 6.0%.

HF1211 (Daggett) Provides that materials and
equipment used for production of water are
exempt from the sales tax.

HF843 (Haas) Exempts sales and use taxes for
construction materials used for building an Osseo
public works facility and a community and senior
activity center.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: HF1170 (Dawkins) Relating to early childhood education; establishing pilot projects to provide early childhood care and education for every child birth to age five in designated neighborhoods; appropriating money.

HF1165 (Gray) Relating to early childhood education; increasing the hold harmless provision for Head Start grantees; appropriating money.

Additional to be announced.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT &

METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF180 (Ruth) Medford economic development district fund uses authorized.

HFXXXX (Ruth) Relating to the city of Waseca; authorizing certain expenditures by a tax increment financing district in the city.

HF1041 (McElroy) Workforce development tax increment financing districts authorized.

HF1143 (Knoblach) Local tax increment financing contribution modified to avoid state aid offset.

HF1233 (Haas) Brooklyn Park city economic development authority tax increment use authorized.

HF1153 (Mulder) Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.

HF610 (Solberg) Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided.

HF866 (Opatz) St. Cloud area joint planning district plan transportation component development grant provided and money appropriated.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF118 (Kielkucki) Resolution memorializing television networks to reduce violent and sexually explicit material and produce material that promotes wholesome family values. Continuation of Public Testimony on Committee Energy Bills (if necessary):

HF659 (Wolf) State energy plan established, energy conservation promoted, and conforming, technical and clarifying changes provided (Governor's Proposal).

HF1323 (Jennings/Wolf) Energy Reliability and Regulatory Flexibility Act.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

6 p.m. or after session
(whichever is later)

Elections Subcommittee/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Eric Lipman

Agenda: HF966 (Erickson) Voting in the wrong precinct penalties increased, automatic and optional recount provisions modified, and presidential electors meeting procedures modified.

HF901 (Anderson, B) Voting provisions for overseas voters clarified.

HF234 (Goodwin) Legislative day definition modified.

HF1214 (Lipman) Election provisions clarified, and specified election procedures and requirements modified.

HF908 (Dehler) Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of their own candidates limited as a condition of receiving a public subsidy.

6 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

112 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

Agenda: SF53 (Kleis); HF95 (Opatz) PERA; Retroactive Payment of Bounce Back Annuity to Deceased Former St. Cloud City Employee.

SF77 (Wiger) PERA; Exclude Certain St. Paul City Trades Personnel and Metropolitan Airports Commission Plumbers From PERA Coverage.

SF804 (Kleis) MSRS-Correctional; Correctional Plan Coverage for Reshape Program Director. SF1096 (Pogemiller); HF1334 (Kahn) MSRS; University Hospital Employee Disability Benefits Continuation.

SF1124 (Chaudhary); HF514 (Carlson) Teacher Plans; Provide Continued Spouse Insurance Coverage.

SF841 (Kiscaden) TRA; Exempting Certain Teachers From Post-Retirement Earnings Limits and Reductions.

SF1129 (Johnson, Dean); HF968 (Juhnke) Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations; Provide Ambulance Service Personnel State Supplemental Benefits, and Increase Amount and Limits On Supplemental Benefits.

SF810 (Pogemiller) PERA; Contribution Increases, Benefit Modifications, and Coverage Changes.

HF855 (Mares): PERA; Contribution Increases, Benefit Modifications, and Coverage Changes.

7 p.m.

Compensation Council

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. to be elected

Agenda: Organizational matters including introduction of members, election of chair, and administrative matters. Review of Compensation

Council responsibilities. Salaries for Constitutional Officers, Judges and Legislators. Agency head salary ranges. Testimony. Council discussion.

TUESDAY, March 13

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF1149 (Mares) Educational data classification and dissemination provided.

HF788 (Greiling) Children's mental health disorder prevention and treatment outcomes required, school pre-assessment teams role expanded to mental health reporting, school grants provided for developing mental health plans, and money appropriated.

HF1207 (Pugh) Special School District No. 6, South St. Paul, chemical and alcohol-free school grant provided and money appropriated. Other items to be determined.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF478 (Sykora) ADD; parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder, educational neglect definition clarified, number of children affected determined, and money appropriated.

HF450 (Skoglund) Medical malpractice statute of limitations statutory reference clarified.

HF886 (Mulder) Immunization schedule established annually for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions, and task force established.

HF962 (Cassell) County hospital board membership provisions modified, and county hospital borrowing authority provided.

HF967 (Mulder) School-sponsored potluck events authorized.

HF1123 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

HF1124 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

More bills may be added.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: Continuation of Courts budget.

Budget overview for the Legal Professional Board.

Budget overview for the Gang Strike Force.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF69 (Howes) Portion of motor vehicle sales tax dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1300 (Jacobson) Motor vehicle sales tax funds deposited in the highway user tax distribution fund and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF927 (Kuisle) Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds portion dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF972 (Jennings) Local highway assistance fund created and portion of revenues from the motor vehicle sales tax credited to the fund.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

Agenda: HF699 (Sykora) Domestic abuse criminal penalties and procedures modified and money appropriated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: SF615/HF255 (Seifert) Environment; obsolete rules repealed.

HF1188 (Gunther) Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.

HF1354 (Holsten) Petroleum tank release cleanup provisions modified.

HF877 (Bakk) Specified solid waste transfer station project repayment obligations waived.

HF1305 (Hackbarth) Environmental assistance revolving loan account established and money appropriated.

HF1264 (Kahn) Urban rivers act draft preparation required.

HF1386 (Ozment) Shoreland protection program established, grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF819 (Kielkucki) Wright County Board authorized to rename a body of water.

Note: If agenda is not completed, committee will recess until 4 p.m.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 13, continuation of proposed budget for Department of Employee Relations.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF92 (Daggett) Increases the maximum long-term care insurance credit.

HF179 (Abrams) Extends the exemption from the corporate franchise tax for foreign insurance companies to all insurance companies.

HF458 (Penas) Provides that land enrolled in certain conservation programs may qualify as a special agricultural homestead.

HF271 (Anderson, B.) Authorizes Wright County to impose an aggregate materials tax.

HF1077 (Rukavina) Extends the aggregate removal tax to counties that vote to impose the tax; increases the rate of tax increases.

12 noon

Major Transportation Projects Commission

400N State Office Building

Chr. David Jennings

Agenda: Presentations on 2001 legislative session funding proposals.

Setting of time, place and agenda for next meeting.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

Agenda: Overview of Best Management Practices, Department of Agriculture, by Paul Burns, Assistant Director, Development Division.

Overview of Rural Finance Authority Loan program, Department of Agriculture, by Curtis Pietz, Director, Finance Division.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF1053 (Abrams) Relating to insurance; revising certain provisions involving state regulation of private health coverage; transferring certain regulatory control; establishing requirements for managed care plans.

HF905 (Haas) Relating to insurance; simplifying regulation of health insurers and health maintenance organizations; establishing a task force on small business health insurance; providing appointments; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000

HF694 (Davids) Relating to insurance; no-fault auto; regulating income loss benefits to senior citizens.

HF1338 (Haas) Relating to insurance; regulating insurers, agents, coverages and benefits, costs, claims, investments, and notifications and

disclosures; prescribing powers and duties of the commissioner; eliminating the regulation of nonprofit legal services plans.

HF1293 (Davids) Relating to state government; codifying reorganization order No. 181; transferring the remaining duties of the commissioner of public service to the commissioner of commerce.

HF1245 (Stang) Relating to commerce; amending provisions relating to charges recipients of dishonored checks may collect from persons who write the checks.

HF618 (Kubly) Relating to tornado relief; providing disaster relief and other assistance for counties designated a major disaster area due to the July 25, 2000, tornado.

1 p.m.

Joint House and Senate Solid Waste Working Group/ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

400S State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Tom Hackbarth,

Sen. David Tomassoni

Agenda: To be announced.

2 p.m.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

Agenda: Amendments to Permanent Rules of the House.

2:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Gaming/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mike Osskopp

Agenda: HF1267 (Kahn) Sports wagering games authorized, sports bookmaking licenses provided, and Minnesota active recreation fund established.

HF1284 (Rhodes) Lottery funds not dedicated to natural resources trust fund allocated to arts fund and amateur sports fund.

WEDNESDAY, March 14

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HFXXXX (Paulsen) Low voltage.

HF1250 (Rhodes) Military discharge certificates classified as private data.

HF1391 (Solberg) Resolution urging the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing Eric Enstrom's photograph "Grace."

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF1132 (Goodno) Medical assistance income standard and asset limitations for medical assistance eligibility for the elderly and disabled increased, and basic needs benefits disregarded as income for TEFRA medical assistance eligibility.

HF818 (Goodno) Medical assistance eligibility asset limitations modified relating to employed persons with disabilities.

HF1075 (Boudreau) Home-sharing grant program funded and money appropriated.

HF488 (Davids) Ambulance services medical assistance payments paid at Medicare reimbursement rate.

HF574 (Davids) Public assistance eligibility irrevocable trust funds asset exclusion limits modified.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF400 (Pawlenty) Property tax free zones established, individual and business tax incentives provided, tax benefits repaid under specific circumstances, tax free zone aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF402 (Pawlenty) Disaster relief and flood mitigation measures provided counties designated a major disaster area and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HF1197 (Hackbarth) Metropolitan Council demonstration project funding provided for express bus service between downtown Minneapolis and one or more cities located outside the transit taxing district, and money appropriated.

Association of Minnesota Counties presentation, Greg Isakson, Goodhue County Engineer.

Minnesota Safety Council Budget presentation, Carol Bufton, Executive Director.

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF1446 (Smith) Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution, child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Department of Natural Resources

Operations Support budget presentation (Day 2).

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF1414 (Cassell) Alexandria Technical College post-secondary outreach grant provided and money appropriated.

Witness: John Seim, Instructor, Alexandria Technical College.

HF350 (Seifert) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities appropriations distribution provided.

Witnesses: Doug Sweetland, Former President, Southwest State University;

Laura King, Chief Financial Officer, MnSCU; Judy Borgen, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Negotiations, MnSCU.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF1002 (Ness) Allows an additional member on the Agriculture Utilization Resource Institute (AURI) board of directors.

Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner

Agenda: HF739 (Oskopp) Grand Excursion 2004 planning and promotion funded, and money appropriated.

HF808 (Dempsey) Mississippi River Parkway Commission promotion of tourism and economic development along Great River road provided and money appropriated.

HF182 (Paymar) Neighborhood Development Center, Inc., entrepreneur training and staffing grant provided, and money appropriated.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

NOTE ROOM

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: HF141 (Mulder) Relating to education; appropriating money for early childhood family education.

HF591 (Slawik) Relating to education; appropriating money for early childhood family education.

HF677 (Mulder) Relating to family and early childhood education; modifying school readiness aid; appropriating money.

HF1456 (McGuire) Relating to early childhood education; expanding eligibility for school

readiness programs; expanding services offered by school readiness programs; appropriating money.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF326 (Ozment) Local and state government agency denial of requests for action clarified (continued from Feb. 12).

HF570 (Hilstrom) Peace officer license revocation, suspension, and denial grounds prescribed; peace officer standards and training board minority recruiter reporting removed, and city council member peace officer empowerment repealed.

HF1290 (Howes) County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.

HF1298 (Jennings) Joint powers wastewater treatment boards authorized to issue bonds.

HF1350 (Ozment) Dakota County authorized to provide services to Metropolitan Inter-County Association, Dakota County Agricultural Society, and specified employees included in PERA.

HF62 (Kubly) Yellow Medicine and Chippewa counties disaster relief provided for July 25, 2000 tornado, and money appropriated.

1:45 p.m.

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

Agenda: HF981 (McElroy) Legislative commission on metropolitan government established, oversight of Metropolitan Council provided, and legislative authorization required for council budget and programs (continued hearing from Mar. 7).

Other business.

3 p.m.

Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rob Eastlund

Agenda: HF1023 (Biernat) Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) service plaques authorized on capitol grounds.

HF214 (Anderson, B.) National Guard member allowable tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

HF481 (Greiling) Combat wounded veterans day designated as August 7.

HF1247 (Eastlund) Veterans home board administration of planned giving donations provided.

HF1248 (Eastlund) Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.

HF1439 (Anderson, B.) National Guard

eligibility and rank designation requirements clarified, unused armory site disposal authorized, and other armory provisions clarified.

6 p.m.

**Service Credit Purchase Subcommittee/
Legislative Commission on Pensions and
Retirement**

125 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Don Betzold

Agenda: One Person/Small Group Service Credit Purchases

1. S.F. 59 (Foley); H.F. 87 (Koskinen): MTRFA; TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Omitted Contributions Caused By School District Error (Sandra Lenarz)
2. S.F. 106 (Belanger); H.F. 163 (Seagren): MTRFA; Service Credit Grant To Certain MTRFA Member (Pamela Trutnau)
3. S.F. 205 (Berg); H.F. 316 (Peterson): PERA; PERA Service Credit Purchase For Former Lac Qui Parle County Employee (Lori Schwendemann)
4. S.F. 215 (Oliver); H.F. 60 (Workman): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Uncredited Leave Period
5. S.F. 314 (Larson); H.F. 295 (Cassell): TRA; PERA; Service Credit For Former St. Paul Police Officer, Wilkin County Attorney, and Alexandria Technical College Faculty Member (Daniel Sandell)
6. S.F. 315 (Oliver); H.F. 356 (Workman): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Leave, ISD No. 270-Hopkins (Joan Hagburg)
7. S.F. 329 (Johnson, Debbie); H.F. 134 (Tingelstad): MSRS; Service Credit Purchase For Prior State Highway Department Employee (Alan Chapman)
8. S.F. 371 (Anderson); H.F. 907 (Osthoff): TRA; Service Credit Purchase By Teacher Injured In Auto Accident, ISD No. 12-Centennial (Daniel Kennedy)
9. S.F. 435 (Dille); H.F. 527 (Ness): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Extended Leave Of Absence, ISD No. 423-Hutchinson (Bruce Petterson)
10. S.F. 438 (Foley); H.F. 537 (Koskinen): TRA; Service Credit Purchase Due To Clerical Error For Sabbatical Leave, ISD No. 11-Anoka (John Georgopolos)
11. S.F. 656 (Rest); H.F. 732 (Thompson): PERA; Service Credit Purchase For Former Minneapolis Park Board Employees (Virginia Rootes & Loris Longie)
12. S.F. 732 (Neuville); H.F. 142 (Boudreau): MSRS; Prior DOT Service Credit Purchase For Corrections Employee (Mark Miller)
13. S.F. 737 (Cohen); H.F. ____ (): PERA; Service Credit Purchase For Former St. Paul City Council Member (Len Levine)
14. S.F. 928 (Oliver); H.F. 982 (Sykora): MSRS; Service Credit Purchase For Specified DOT Employee (Clint Bucher)
15. S.F. 1114 (Sabo); H.F. 726 (Skoglund): MSRS; Service Credit Purchase For University of Minnesota Carlson School Of Management

Temporary Full-Time Employment (Judith Johnson)

16. S.F. 1273 (Ring); H.F. 1215 (Jennings): TRA; Service Credit Purchase For Prior University of Minnesota Teaching Service, ISD No. 279-Osseo (Joe Pung)

17. S.F. 1327 (Bachmann); H.F. 1326 (Mares): PERA; Service Credit Purchase For Individual Employed By ISD No. 624-White Bear Lake (Ruth Lindbeck)

Generalized Service Credit Purchases

18. S.F. 313 (Larson); H.F. 303 (Cassell): PERA-P&F; Service Credit Purchase For Prior Police Or Paid Firefighter Service

19. S.F. 370 (Wiger); H.F. 465 (Marko): PERA; PERA-P&F; PERA-P&F Prior Military Service Credit Purchase Authorization Modifications & PERA Prior Military Service Credit Purchase Authority Elimination

20. S.F. 409 (Solon); H.F. 619 (Swapinski): Various; Public Pension Plans Prior Military Service Credit Purchase

21. S.F. 517 (Betzold); H.F. 122 (Skoglund): Various; Service Credit Purchase For Parental Or Family Leaves Of Absence Or Breaks In Service

22. S.F. 611 (Betzold); H.F. 1240 (Bernardy): Various; MSRS, PERA, TRA, & State Troopers Prior Military Service Purchase Restrictions Elimination

23. S.F. 1321 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1462 (Mares): TRA; Prior Service Credit Purchase Payment Amount Determination Procedure Expiration Date Extension

THURSDAY, March 15

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF1280 (Seagren) Elementary reading specialist licensure provided, and elementary school teacher license requirements modified. HF1192 (Abeler) Applicants for temporary limited teaching license or personnel variance permitted to submit applications by July 1, and conforming rule changes provided.

HF1366 (Buesgens) School district contracts with teachers required to be structurally balanced.

Other items to be determined.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF1004 (Abeler) Supportive housing and managed care pilot project county and individual eligibility provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF1288 (Daggett) Living-at-home block nurse program numbers and funding increased and money appropriated.

HF1064 (Bradley) Consumer support grant services expanded, waivers provisions clarified, and developmental disabilities services

provisions modified.

HF1193 (Goodno) Home and community-based options for individuals with disabilities access improvements provided, consumer control provisions modified, and consumer-directed home care demonstration project established.

HF1307 (Bradley) Guardianship service providers defined, duties specified, and money appropriated.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: Overview of agencies' (under jurisdiction of the Judiciary Finance Committee) federal and state grants.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF1314 (Mares) Seat belt offense designated as a primary offense.

HF735 (Leppik) Seat belts; passenger restraint requirements for minors prescribed, booster seat requirements provided, seat belt requirement extended to all passengers in vehicle, certain exemptions eliminated, and penalties increased.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

Agenda: To be announced.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF1071 (Bakk) State park and recreation area boundaries modified and boathouse lot leases in Soudan Underground Mine State Park administration provided.

HF980 (Osthoff) Park buildings construction and remodeling projects exempted from legislative notice and review requirements.

HF94 (Haas) Fish and game law gross overlimit violations criminal penalties established, and restitution values determined.

HF697 (Holsten) Reduced property tax rate provided for specified class 2c land bordering public waters.

HF1302 (Hackbarth) Natural resources; specified advisory committee expiration dates extended, hunting stamp provisions modified, snowmobile safety grants carry forward provided, and money appropriated.

HF268 (Mulder) Murray County; Currant Lake level maintenance required.

HF834 (Walz) Triploid grass carp use permitted for aquatic vegetation control, rulemaking required, and criminal penalties resumed.

Note: If agenda is not completed, committee will recess until 15 minutes after floor session.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: To be announced.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda: HF832 (Daggett) Reduces gambling tax rate & modifies reporting requirements.

HF841 (Dorman) Reduces gambling tax rate and modifies reporting requirements.

HF948 (Winter) Reduces gambling tax rate and modifies reporting requirements.

HF885 (Buesgens) Relating to casino sales tax revenues, modifying payments to counties with tribal casinos.

HF838 (Ozment) Exempts sales and use taxes for construction materials used for the Dakota County Rosemount highway shop.

HF676 (Wenzel) Allowing expanded individual income tax deductions for medical care and health insurance.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.

Section 16, proposed budget for Department of Revenue.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: HF724 (Rhodes) Regarding Qualification-Based Selection for state contractual services.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF323 (Haas) Relating to motor vehicle fuel franchises; removing an expiration date; amending Minnesota Statutes 2000, section 80C.147.

HF1007 (Davids) Relating to trade regulations; prohibiting gasoline sales below cost; providing enforcement authority.

2 p.m.

"Chamber Music"

Minnesota Artists Perform at the Capitol House Chamber

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

FRIDAY, March 16

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF1021 (Buesgens) Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.

HF1070 (Osskopp) Lawful gambling premises permits to run concurrently with license of organization and permit fees clarified.

HF995 (Buesgens) Horse racing license applicant requirements modified, and anti-inflammatory medication content maximum amount increased.

HF894 (Osskopp) Casino; card club wagering system definitions modified.

HF1069 (Osskopp) Lawful gambling organization annual audit requirements modified, noon hour bingo authorized, and natural disaster relief expenditures permitted from gambling proceeds.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF1216 (Mulder) Comprehensive advanced life support educational program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF13 (Abeler) Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, enrollment timeline for disabled individuals shortened, and money appropriated.

HF332 (Nornes) Nursing facility case mix transition plan established and fine imposed for noncompliance.

HF648 (Abeler) Birth centers regulatory system study required.

HF526 (Kubly) Compulsive gambling treatment and education; Granite Falls project turnabout reconstruction grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1273 (Goodno) Nursing facility operating cost reimbursement floor established.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy (Rep. Arlon Lindner will chair this meeting)

Agenda: HF590 (Gunther) Extended employment program hourly reimbursement rates increased, welfare-to-work extended employment partnership program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF523 (Gunther) Economic development

redevelopment grants authorized and money appropriated.

HF800 (Wenzel) Camp Ripley Minnesota military museum operating funds provided and money appropriated.

HF964 (Gunther) Minnesota Investment Fund appropriated money.

HF957 (Gunther) Minnesota computers for schools program appropriated money.

10:15 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Remediation Fund and Solid Waste Fund.

Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF15 (Pawlenty) Modifies the subtraction for charitable contributions.

HF26 (Pawlenty) Provides that the location of financial accounts may not be considered in determining residency.

HF1017 (Walker) Appropriates money for grants to nonprofit entities to facilitate the delivery of volunteer assistance to low-income taxpayers for income tax administration.

HF1129 (Abrams) Sales tax recodification.

12:30 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m. or immediately following possible full Local Government committee meeting

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

Agenda: HF1218 (Rhodes) Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extended to 2005.

HF1322 (Buesgens) Metropolitan Council and other related commissions abolished, ownership of metro sports facilities transferred to Minneapolis, wastewater control commission established, duties transferred, and money appropriated.

Other business.

Continued from page 17

express concern the state election laws were too prohibitive. She said voters showed up with mortgage documents and marriage licenses hoping to demonstrate their residence and identity. Since state law doesn't accept those documents as acceptable forms of validation, those voters either had to have someone vouch for them or they were unable to vote.

Caucutt said in many of the state's smaller communities where judges know everyone living in the town, voters would now have to go out and for the first time get an approved form of identification to vote. She said requiring people to purchase a state ID for \$18 "sounds like a poll tax."

"We have a number of people who are elderly, and who are incredibly committed citizens that have never had a drivers license," she said. "You wouldn't believe the number of people who walk two blocks pushing a walker to come and vote." 🗿

Continued from page 18

determination, to bring a message of world peace through his long life's purpose to that achievement."

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) told a story about a legislative retreat he attended where a snowstorm kept most legislators and other guests away.

However, Stassen made it and wowed the crowd with his warmth and brilliance, Skoglund said.

"The best perk of this job is the people you meet," Skoglund said. "I learned more from Governor Stassen than I did from any other governor."

"I'm just sorry that more of you didn't have the opportunity to be snowbound with him, as I was."

Stassen's death leaves five living former Minnesota governors: Orville Freeman, Elmer L. Andersen, Wendell Anderson, Al Quie and Arne Carlson.

He is survived by a daughter, Kathleen Esther Berger of New York; son, Glen Harold Stassen of California; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The former governor will lie in state in the Capitol March 9, and the public is encouraged to attend. His funeral is set for March 10 at the Riverview Baptist Church in West St. Paul.



Reflections

The Minnesota Supreme Court and Legislature are about to lose one of their long-time staffers. State Law Librarian Marvin Roger Anderson plans to retire at the end of this year.

Anderson took over the state library's lead position in 1980 when he was appointed by the state Supreme Court. Since then, he has provided a high level of traditional and electronic services to judicial, governmental, professional, and general public patrons.

Anderson's life and career have come full circle since the time he was born and attended school in St. Paul's old Rondo Avenue neighborhood where he could see the Capitol just a few blocks away. The neighborhood lost its uniqueness when Interstate 94 was constructed through it and between the Capitol complex and downtown St. Paul.

For many years Rondo Avenue was the heart and soul of a larger African-American and Jewish community. Anderson received some societal basics about loyalty and pride from his family, but also learned about fairness, justice, and respect for preserving history from them and the community.

Anderson refined such positive attitudes at Morehouse — an Atlanta college which produced such notables as Martin Luther King, Jr., Maynard Jackson, and Louis Sullivan — under the leadership of the legendary preacher, teacher, and educator Dr. Benjamin E. Mays.

After law school, Anderson joined the Peace Corps and served in Senegal. He returned to Minnesota where he joined the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights and a law firm, before returning to Africa as an import-export consultant for a year.

With his law degree in hand and a deeper sense of preserving the past, Anderson returned and earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Minnesota.

Anderson presently supervises the state's largest law library, one he helped to refine. Over the years he organized and managed the state Appellate Court research libraries and established the County Law Library Program.

He also implemented a service to archive the records and briefs of the state's Appellate Courts, a Law Library to Prisoners Project, and a Shared Government Documents program.

Anderson directed many state government innovations for the law library, while maintaining his dedication to the community and neighborhood he grew up in.

He founded the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers, the annual Remember Rondo celebration, and continues to conduct research and lend assistance to preserving the history of St. Paul's African-American community.

Among Anderson's many contributions to his work and community are numerous law and law library publications, service on the

boards of the state and national law library associations, and other city and community groups. He is co-chairing plans for a national law library conference at the State Capitol in 2002.

Of note is his long-time association as vice-chair for the Archie Givens Harlem Renaissance Rare Books Collection at the University of Minnesota. He now serves as chair of its Foundation for African-American Literature.

A basis for Marvin Anderson's unselfish dedication to his work at the Capitol and in the nearby community, is likened to an often stated quote by Minnie Grier, this writer's grandmother: "Never forget from whence you've come."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Marvin Roger Anderson

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

School safety

Number of secondary students who received the survey from the State Attorney General's Office in January and February 2000	1,500
Number who returned it	1,060
Percent of respondents who attend urban schools	15
Percent who attend suburban schools	40
Percent who attend schools in Greater Minnesota	45
Percentage of respondents who felt "very safe" at school in 1998	28
Percentage of respondents who felt "very safe" at school in 1999-00	19
Percentage of suburban students	17
Percentage of rural students	23
Percentage of urban students	24
Percentage of respondents who felt "safe" at school in 1999-00	48
Percent of respondents who perceive that school violence increased the previous year	22
Percentage of African-American students who said this	43
Asian students	31
Seventh graders	30
Rural students	25
Percent of respondents who indicated the level of violence in their school remained the same	53
Has decreased	18
Percentage of respondents harassed by verbal insults	66
Percent who were pushed, shoved or grabbed	45
Percent who had items stolen	37
Percent of respondents who say a violent act was committed because a peer was provoked	24
Because they want to impress their friends	23
Because they have been insulted	21
Percent of respondents reporting that peers carry knives (the most reported weapon) to school	24
Percent of respondents who believe students at their school do not carry weapons	35
Percent in 1995	27
Percent of respondents who report students try to find an adult if a violent act occurs at school	2
Percent of respondents who reported a violent incident that happened to them	9
Respondents who feel the effort spent addressing violence is adequate or more than adequate, as percent	58

Source: 2000 Minnesota Student Survey, report from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

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