


A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION ★ ★ ★

SESSION Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

MARCH 16, 2001
VOLUME 18, NUMBER 11



In this issue:

NONTRADITIONAL JOBS FOR WOMEN

RITALIN USE QUESTIONED, SPORTS WAGERING PLAN, AND MORE

HF1605-HF1872

Session Weekly

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

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

Director
LeClair G. Lambert

Editor/Assistant Director
Michelle Kibiger

Assistant Editor
Mike Cook

Art & Production Coordinator
Paul Battaglia

Writers
David Maeda, Theresa Stahl,
Jonas M. Walker, Mary Kay Watson

Chief Photographer
Tom Olmscheid

Photographers
Andrew Von Bank, Sara Kirk

Office Manager
Nicole Wood

Staff Assistants
Christy Novak, Michelle Sorvari

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

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled,
30% post-consumer content.



CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Crime • 5
Development • 6
Education • 6
Elections • 7
Energy • 8
Environment • 8

Family • 8
Gambling • 9
Government • 10
Health • 10
Higher Education • 11
Human Services • 12

Industry • 13
Local Government • 13
Military • 14
Taxes • 14
Transportation • 15

FEATURES

At Issue: Children — Parents and school officials are questioning the potential overuse of Ritalin to control behavioral disorders. • 17

At Issue: Crime — A proposal to remove law enforcement discretion in granting permits to carry concealed weapons in public has cleared one House committee. • 18

At Issue: Employment — Proposals providing incentives for programs to attract women into nontraditional jobs and industries were approved by a House committee. • 19

At Issue: Government — Legislators have developed a plan to change the process for establishing administrative rules that may result in more legislative oversight. • 20

DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's A Fact: Lights, camera, action	4	Reflections: Getting there	35
Bill Introductions (HF1604-HF1872)	21	Minnesota Index: Minnesota Weather	36
Committee Schedule (March 19-23)	28		

On the cover: Three-year-old Sara Plan peeks between the committee table and chair to watch as her father, Dave, testifies before the House Family and Early Childhood Finance Committee, March 14. Dave Plan testified for a bill that would appropriate money for early childhood family education. He and his daughter attend the North St. Paul/Maplewood ECFE program.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Don't bet on it

Plan to legalize sports bookmaking in Minnesota faces difficult odds, but could receive further consideration during the interim

BY DAVID MAEDA

Bookies might start taking bets on the battle that could occur between the state and the federal government if a bill legalizing sports betting makes its way through the Legislature.

HF1267, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls), would make Minnesota the second state to legally allow wagering on sports events.

"This bill has to do with my dislike of seeing lots of money being spent that we don't get our part," Kahn told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Subcommittee on Gaming March 13.

The subcommittee referred the bill to the full committee without recommendation. But committee leaders suggest the bill might have

sports," she said. "One of the most American things to do is bet on sports teams."

In 1992 a federal law known as the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act banned all sports wagering in states other than Nevada. It is estimated that legal sports betting in Las Vegas totals between \$2 billion and \$3 billion every year.

She said there will undoubtedly be much illegal wagering occurring during the next few weeks since the NCAA men's basketball tournament is the single most popular sporting event for people to wager on, followed by the Super Bowl.

HF1267 would authorize the state lottery director to adopt rules and game procedures for sports wagering. Retailers authorized to sell lottery tickets would be allowed to offer sports betting under the measure.

Revenues generated by the wagering would be deposited in a new Minnesota Active Recreation Fund created by the bill. Money from the fund would go toward children's sports programs, amateur sports facilities, and hiking and biking trails.

The idea behind the new fund appealed to Kahn because she appreciates the "juxtaposition" between funding children's sports with the groups most likely to oppose the bill — those representing the "big Vegas scene" and illegal bookmakers.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), chair of the subcommittee, said he had heard that Gov. Jesse Ventura would sign the bill if it reached his desk. Osskopp said the governor is anxious to challenge the legality of the federal sports betting ban on states and would like to see the state's attorney general argue the case.

Kahn said an attorney general opinion determined the state could not challenge the legality of the federal law. But if the bill should become law and the federal government were to take action to stop sports wagering in Minnesota, then the case could go to court.

She said state's rights issues could be argued in light of the United States Supreme Court decision in the Florida election case that raised the visibility of the Equal Protection clause of the United States Constitution. She said that clause might also apply to the legality of allowing sports betting in one state but not others.

The state of Oregon does allow a lottery-type wagering on football games. In that state a bettor fills out a card provided by the Oregon Lottery. The minimum bet per game is \$2 with a \$20 maximum. Bettors must wager on at least



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Betting on sports events taking place in the Metrodome, such as the NCAA men's basketball tournament which tips off this week, would be legal in Minnesota under a bill introduced March 13 to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

to wait for more hearings to be scheduled about legalized gambling after the 2001 Legislature has adjourned.

"I don't know many people that gamble a lot, but I do know a lot of people that bet on

Kahn said there is an estimated \$380 billion illegally bet on sporting events throughout the country each year, and in Minnesota alone the number may be \$1 billion to \$2 billion annually.

three games or special selections such as the point spread or whether a team scores more points or fewer points than predicted. Winners are those that win all of their bets.

Existing law is unclear regarding whether sports' wagering on the Internet is a legal or illegal activity.

Osskopp said even though he was a co-sponsor of the bill, he had some concerns with the way it was drafted. He had originally envisioned the sports wagering occurring in state casinos, but the Minnesota Indian Gaming Commission had not expressed an interest in the bill.

He said it would be a "logistics nightmare" to run the betting through convenience stores where inexperienced sales clerks would have to handle the bets.

Another concern, Osskopp said, was that if betting were allowed on local sports teams, a large number of winners could result in a huge bill for the state to pay. He said he was inclined to vote against the bill but that he doesn't believe three legislators (a majority of the subcommittee) should kill the measure, especially since the governor had expressed interest in the bill.


George Andersen, director of the Minnesota State Lottery, said that currently there is a prize reserve for the Powerball game that can be tapped in the instance of a high payout. He likened the betting on one specific team with current Powerball practice where many people choose the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

Andersen said that legal and illegal sports betting in the country is "an extremely lucrative venture" and that even with an occasional large payout, the house/state would still always come out ahead.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) said he was concerned that because not every bar could likely be equipped to handle the wagering, some would be placed at an economic disadvantage. He also said it was unlikely that people would change their betting habits on sporting events, particularly when the legalized wagering would have a maximum cap amount.

Osskopp agreed and said he had an aversion to allowing sports betting "in every corner of the state even though it's already being done now."

Kahn said that one of the major reasons she was offering the bill was to stop the illegal sports betting in the state. She said many people would choose to place legal bets because they prefer not to engage in illegal activity.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the chair of the full government operations committee, said he would consider holding further hearings on the bill this summer. Rhodes has already committed to holding hearings on bills proposing a state-run casino, and though he said the issues involved are separate, more information on legalizing sports betting might be useful. 



Lights, camera, action

Leaders have long thought Minnesota a great location for the movies

Back in the early days of filmmaking in the United States, Minnesota had a few notable production companies that primarily made their living from doing educational, industrial, and promotional films.

But that was still small time, compared to the vision community leaders had for the opportunities that the television and film industries provided.

A February 1983 report from the Advisory Commission on Film, Video, and Graphic Arts, presented to Gov. Rudy Perpich, strongly advised the Legislature and the governor to promote Minnesota as both a great location for films and for the film industry.

At the time, the report said, Minnesota was already among the top states for promotional and educational film and slide production. But 47 of the 50 states in the nation — not including Minnesota — had committed both funds and personnel resources to attracting big name producers and films, which could mean millions of dollars in economic benefit, the report said.

The commission said it was time for Minnesota to catch up.

Chaired by John Stout of Minneapolis, the group gave several recommendations, including establishing a motion picture and television advisory board and creating a business climate to attract producers and businesses.

"The commission members believe strongly that the communications industries are important to Minnesota's economic future, and that the recommendations made in the report are important steps towards that future," the report said.

The commission noted the industry was primarily producing public relations and training films, television commercials, and educational productions.

The state had a handful of feature and non-feature films to its credit, as well as large corporate producers and educational institutions such as the University of Minnesota feeding the film industry.

The commission estimated large growth in the film industry due to 1982 trends

indicating 16 percent more people were attending movies and as many as 72 percent of Americans watched television daily.

The commission recommended that the state establish a non-profit, private sector organization, serving as a film and video board, to solicit film producers. To that end the Legislature should appropriate \$200,000 in 1984-85, and at least \$50,000 per year thereafter.

The governor and lieutenant governor should then raise \$100,000 combined for those two years and \$100,000 each year following from local governments, public and private foundations and any other funding source, the group concluded.

Both officials should sit on the board and appoint a member of the administration to serve as a liaison to the board. They should also actively promote the mission of the board upon every opportunity.

"The governor and Lt. governor should be available

to receive and meet with ranking industry management and professionals, and make at least one trip annually to New York and Los Angeles to promote film and video production within the state," the report said.

And in nearly the same breath, the report warned against imposing the sales tax to services such as advertising, public relations, and similar service businesses.

The commission was instrumental in convincing the Legislature that the board was needed. The 1983 Legislature appropriated \$120,000, through the commissioner of economic development, to create the Minnesota Motion Picture and Television Board. In its first report for fiscal year 1984, it boasted economic benefit from television and films at \$6.71 million — including nearly \$5 million from the film *Purple Rain*, made famous by pop singer Prince.

The board would eventually become the Minnesota Film Board, still a private, non-profit entity. The board's Web site now boasts that feature film projects in the past decade have brought \$115 million to Minnesota.

(M. KIBIGER)



Film crew from Mills and Bell Motion Pictures, Inc. on University Avenue, St. Paul in the 1920s.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

★ CRIME

Pornography crackdown

Responding to improvements in computer technology that makes existing child-protection laws difficult to enforce, lawmakers are considering a bill aimed at easing the work of law enforcement officials in their attempts to prosecute creators and distributors of child pornography.

HF848, sponsored by Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), would require corporations based in other states that provide electronic communication services in Minnesota to comply with search warrants issued by judges in other states. Likewise, Minnesota corporations would be required to comply with warrants issued by other states' judges.

Law enforcement officials in other states now must find a Minnesota judge to issue a search warrant before corporations within the state are subject to a search. Under the new legislation, Minnesota would enter into a reciprocity agreement with other states that have passed this legislation.

Skoglund told the March 15 meeting of the House Crime Prevention Committee that the rise in Internet popularity has increased the availability of child pornography.

"In the 1980s, we were catching (perpetrators)," he said. "These days, wires can carry images, and we are seeing new images online daily."

HF848 would also increase the penalty for disseminating child pornography from a five-year to a seven-year maximum sentence for the first offense, and raise the penalty for a second offense from 10 years to 15 years. The penalties for knowingly possessing child pornography would also be increased by the bill. A first offense would be raised from three to five years, and a second offense from five to 10 years.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked if there is some evidence that additional penalties could reduce the likelihood of additional offenses. Skoglund said, "The tougher we are, the more likely we are to deter."

He also assured the committee that innocent people receiving unsolicited e-mail would not find themselves searched or prosecuted under the new HF848.

Assistant Attorney General Tim Rank testified that any such search powers would have to be part of an ongoing criminal investigation, and would not be available for civil suits.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the House Civil Law Committee.

Gang strike force

Officials with the Minnesota Gang Strike Force appeared briefly before the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 13 to present its annual report and discuss its budget request.

The group, which provides grants to local law enforcement agencies through the Department of Public Safety to fund gang crackdown initiatives, requested about \$2.4 million, as budgeted for 2001, from Gov. Jesse Ventura for each year of the 2002-03 biennium.

However, the governor recommended funding at about \$1.6 million annually, which reflected a base-level funding, according to budget documents.

Committee Chair Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) said the committee will hear a bill in coming weeks that would include funding to restore the strike force's funding level to about \$2.4 million per year for the biennium. He asked department officials what the original request to the governor was and why it was cut.

Sara Schlauderaff, assistant commissioner with the department, said the group's initial request was \$2.4 million, but that was reduced during the prioritizing process at the Department of Finance. She said officials discussed the issue at length, but in the end decided to only fund the base.

"I know that they are committed (to this project)," Schlauderaff said. "It was a difficult decision but it was about priorities."

She also said there really aren't additional

resources the department can draw from internally. The CriMNet plan is the department's top priority, she said, and any additional funds will go there.

"To me it sounds like you're waiting to see if the Legislature will bail out the Department of Public Safety and the governor's office," Stanek responded.

The strike force was established by the Legislature to identify, investigate, arrest, and prosecute gang members engaged in crimes throughout the state.

Chair of the strike force, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, said the program has been very successful in reducing gang violence throughout the state.

"What you've created is something to be proud of," Fletcher said. "Coming here every two years to beg for money is no fun."

★ DEVELOPMENT

Tax-free zones

Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) has introduced a bill that may spur economic development in parts of Greater Minnesota, a plan he estimates would cost up to \$25 million, but would bring much more benefit and prosperity to the state in the long run.

"The incentives are far greater than anything

PUBLIC FAREWELL

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Two-year-old Daniel Harold Stassen crawls across the State Capitol Rotunda as his great-grandfather, former Gov. Harold Stassen, lies in state March 9.

the state has attempted before,” Pawlenty told members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 14.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee’s omnibus bill and was referred to the House Taxes Committee without recommendation.

Pawlenty said HF400, which calls for tax-free zones in distressed parts of the state, could bring thousands of jobs and major dollars in private investments, as has resulted in Michigan and Pennsylvania under similar legislation in the last few years.

Modeled after statutes in those states, it would create up to 10 zones free of the individual income tax; property tax, though not exempt from the cost associated with financing general obligation bonds; corporate franchise tax; state sales tax and local tax on purchases; and the state sales tax on motor vehicles.

Pawlenty said zones would be put into places that are economically declining, and only in regions outside the metropolitan area. “We don’t want things to be ‘metro-centric,’” he said.

However, members argued territory within the Twin Cities that is economically strapped, such as the Phillips neighborhood in Minneapolis and the Frogtown area of St. Paul, may benefit from development prompted by a tax-free zone. Pawlenty said he would be open to amendment to include the metro area, but no action was taken.

Under the bill, local governments would apply to the commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development for designation of an area as a tax-free zone. The maximum size of a zone would be 5,000 acres, which could incorporate non-contiguous zones of at least 20 acres. Maximum duration of a zone would be 12 years.

Rep. Arlon Linder (R-Corcoran) asked how the bill would affect established businesses. Pawlenty said the best use for a zone would be in an area that is not very developed and county boards and city councils would have to decide how zones are configured.

Pawlenty said the estimated cost of \$25 million is speculative; the bill gives no exact cost. Committee Chair Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said it would be necessary to have a cap, which could be monitored by the department.

“We need a new approach to our statewide economy,” said Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook), a co-sponsor of the bill. Rural areas need to be rebuilt so they can retain kids he says they export every May. “There’s nothing there for them to stay.”

A funding fix

Existing state law prohibits elected officials from taking part in a sale, lease, or contract as a part of their official duties, if that person has a personal financial interest.

But for some officials, especially those serving smaller communities, that may put them on unequal terms with others in the community.

HF610, sponsored by Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), would allow public officials to apply for a community development block grant or federal economic development administration funds as long as the officer discloses that he or she has applied for the funds and abstains from voting on the measure.

Jeff Kletscher, a city council member from Floodwood, told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee March 12 that business owners who serve on the city council cannot apply for the same grants that every other main street business owner is entitled.

He said that in rural communities like Floodwood, located 45 miles west of Duluth, many who serve on city councils are small business owners.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) expressed concern about expanding the state’s conflict of interest laws for public officials. He said to allow elected officials to receive public

funds for their personal business would lead to the perception there is an unfair advantage in the process of deciding upon the grants and loans.

“In politics, perception is reality,” Krinkie said.

Solberg said if community residents question the propriety of a loan or grant, they could always vote the official out of office.

Rep. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls) said he supported the bill because the current restrictions might be a disincentive for qualified people to serve in public office.

But he agreed with some of Krinkie’s concerns. Dibble offered an amendment that would have prohibited public officials from participating in the discussion or debate either in public or in private when personally involved with a loan or grant.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) expressed concern that Dibble’s amendment would violate first amendment, freedom of speech rights.

Dibble withdrew his amendment.

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Hastings), the committee chair, decided to postpone a vote on the bill so Solberg could work to make the bill apply more specifically to the concerns raised by the Floodwood situation.

DEAF SERVICES



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Valerie Fuechtmann, a member of the deaf community, testifies in front of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 12 with the aid of sign language interpreter Lauri Krouse in support of HF330. The bill would provide nonprofit agency grants to agencies currently serving deaf and hard-of-hearing adults with mental illness.

EDUCATION



Audit raises more questions

An investigation into the allegation that the Department of Children, Families and Learning inappropriately handled a grant contract has uncovered other possible infractions of state rules.

Legislative Auditor James Nobles presented a brief report on the investigation, performed by his office, to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 12. A more comprehensive hearing will be held in coming weeks.

Conclusions of the investigation were as follows:

- The Department of Children, Families and Learning “inappropriately initiated” a grant agreement with the United Way of Olmsted County to avoid returning unexpended funds to the Pew Charitable Trusts. It then filed an inaccurate financial report to the Trusts stating the funds had been spent by June 30, 1998.
- As a result of the United Way grant, the department was able to use an outside bank account to administer the grant funds, thus “circumventing” state policies and procedures. This situation created conflicts of interest and resulted in

“questionable financial reimbursements” to employees.

- The department established “inappropriate” arrangements with other counties and nonprofit organizations to avoid returning unexpended funds to grantors or to the state’s general fund.

“This is a serious problem,” Nobles said. “There were false statements and dishonest dealings. It raises questions about management practices at the (department).”

“I apologize to all of you and take responsibility for this,” said Barbara Yates, deputy commissioner of the department. “We take this very, very seriously. It’s important to us to prevent this from ever occurring again.”

Yates assured the committee the department had accepted all the auditor’s recommendations and was proceeding to make corrections.

“We cannot tolerate this,” said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin). “We must have internal management controls and reviews.”

Technology in education

Teachers from all corners of the state testified March 9 before the House K-12 Education Finance Committee as to the benefits of technology funding.

The committee is considering a bill (HF1217) that would allocate nearly \$20.7 million for the 2002-03 biennium to continue supporting technology such as telecommunications, interactive television, and the Internet.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel), the bill’s sponsor, said he has carried legislation the last six years for technology in education.

“We are part-way there but certainly not all the way,” he said.

The majority of the funds would go toward continuing costs of a telecommunications network for schools and public libraries initiated by the Legislature three years ago. Today there is “more connectivity between districts than ever before,” according to Steve Jatczak, telecommunications coordinator for a northwestern Minnesota school district.

Renee Klinkner, a principal in the Granada-Huntley-East Chain School District in south-central Minnesota, said interactive television (ITV) gives “a completeness to our curriculum,” by allowing schools to offer classes such as foreign languages and advanced math.

“We would never get a teacher because we would only offer the class for one hour a day,” she said.

Deb Thompson, who teaches Spanish via interactive television in Braham, echoed the importance of offering distance learning courses. “If it weren’t for ITV I wouldn’t be a

full-time teacher in east-central Minnesota,” she said.

Video conferencing that allows students to “visit” zoos across the country and take art classes from instructors hundreds of miles away is not just for the taking, says Tracy Baxter, technology coordinator for Hawley Public Schools in northwestern Minnesota. Her school also gives back by conducting classes on subjects such as nature.

HF1217 will be considered for inclusion in the committee’s omnibus bill.

Mental illness education

When Roseville High School students wanted to do a presentation to educate their peers about mental illness after a fellow student committed suicide, school administrators worried that the students would be glorifying the death and there might be copycat suicides, according to Jenny Holm, a senior at Roseville.

“It was a big struggle to get students to do the presentation in front of the whole school,” Holm said. Even after getting permission, they still were restricted as to what they could say.

Under a bill sponsored by Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) to help identify, treat, and create awareness of mental health disorders, screening for mental health disorders would be part of a preschool screening program. Through prevention and early intervention, challenges and disabilities in mental health might be reduced, she said.

The goal of bill “is to point to kids who need help,” Greiling said. “This is to get people talking about this so schools don’t feel alone.”

The bill was presented to the House Education Policy Committee March 13 and will be sent to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Under HF788, children’s mental health disorders would be evaluated and treated in schools in an attempt to reduce suicides and school shootings, which are sometimes attributed to mental illnesses.

Glenace Edwall, director of children’s mental health at the Department of Human Services, said mental illness is common but treatable. “Education is a critical player,” she said, so that children’s needs are met.

Willard Harley, a licensed psychologist who has spent most of his career in suicide prevention, found several problems with the bill.

With screening, he said, “you get a lot of false positives,” and diagnosing someone is very difficult. Students who don’t need help might be treated, and that treatment may leave them worse off, he said.

The mental health community can work

with schools effectively without the law, he said. “Schools becoming mental health centers is the problem.”

Harley would prefer that treatment were done through a mental health center where privacy could be maintained.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato) asked if this is an “all-or-nothing” situation. Harley replied education about common symptoms of mental health disorders might be a better solution.

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffero Township) said he has received several calls from people asking him not to support the bill. Greiling, who noted she is working on revising and clarifying the bill, said she thinks there are a lot of misperceptions about bill.

ELECTIONS



Voting penalty

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee’s Election Subcommittee approved a bill March 12 that would re-establish a felony penalty for those who vote in the wrong precinct.

The bill, which also makes changes to the state’s recount procedures, now goes to the full committee.

HF966, sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), would establish a sliding scale of penalties for those who are caught voting in the wrong precinct.

The first violation would result in election officials mailing the voter a notification letter stating the correct precinct location. The letter would also notify the voter of a requirement to show proper identification to the election judges at the next election.

A second violation would be a misdemeanor, and subsequent violations would be felonies.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said that from 1981 to 1999, it was a felony in the state to vote in the wrong precinct. The severity of the penalty made county attorneys reluctant to charge offenders since many of the voters may have accidentally voted at the wrong precinct.

In 1999 the law was changed requiring counties to send out notification to those that voted in the wrong precinct and reduced the penalty from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Kiffmeyer said by establishing a sliding scale of penalties it will send a message to those who are intentionally violating the law. No statistics were presented on the numbers of those voting in the wrong precinct.

“This helps ensure the integrity of elections,” she said.

The bill also establishes a different standard

for when an automatic recount takes place following an election.

Under current law there is a sliding scale based on the total number of votes cast. For example, in contests where more than 10,000 votes are cast, an automatic recount takes place when the difference between candidates is 100 votes or less. For contests where there are 100 votes cast, the automatic recount is required when the candidates are five votes or less apart.

Under HF966, an automatic recount would occur when candidate totals are within one-half of one percent of each other. An exception is in races where 400 votes or less are cast, the recount would occur if the difference is 10 votes or less.

★ ENERGY

Exemption extension requested

The 1999 omnibus tax bill included a sales tax exemption for materials used in the construction of a biomass power plant proposed for a northern Minnesota community.

That exemption is due to expire July 1, and owners of the facility are still working on permit issues. Thus, HF545 sponsored by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls) would extend the sunset of the exemption until July 1, 2003.

Dean Sedgwick, president of Itasca Power Company, told the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee March 8 that the 15-megawatt electrical generation facility in Northome, a rural city in north central Minnesota, would use tree bark, sawdust and other wood waste as fuel.

Construction of the plant, Sedgwick said, would help a struggling economic area of the state by creating jobs. He said the plant would also help address some of the state's energy issues.

Sedgwick said the permit to construct the facility has already been granted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, but inside the permit are provisions that would put the plant in violation the day it opened.

The plant will use "cutting edge technology," Sedgwick said, and a lack of understanding of that technology by the PCA was one of the reasons the permit was delayed.

It will take six to nine months to sort out the permit issues and 10 to 12 months to complete construction of the facility, he said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said he supports the measure and expects that it will be included in the final omnibus tax bill. But he questioned why the Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the measure to be \$200,000 during the biennium when the cost was already included in the 1999 tax bill.

A response is expected at a future meeting.

The division took no action 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.

★ ENVIRONMENT

Saving shoreland

A bill that would establish a shoreline protection program was presented March 13 to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee by sponsor Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount).

The committee approved HF1386 and referred it to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

Non-point source pollution, often caused by disturbances from development, is the greatest threat to Minnesota's lakes and rivers, Whitney Clark, executive director of Friends of the Mississippi River, told committee members.

Several state and national programs address the problem with regard to current or former agricultural land, but none specifically targets shoreland, he said.

Ozment's bill would appropriate \$5 million for the next biennium from the general fund to create a cost-share grant program for private landowners to restore shoreland or establish conservation easements. The bill would require landowners to use native plants when practical.

To participate in the program, counties would have to set up working groups to establish criteria for grants together with county boards and local soil and water conservation districts.

"This bill offers tools that can be used by local soil and water conservation districts where agricultural land is not a criteria," said Rick Hanson from the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) said he believed the bill would duplicate programs already in existence, such as Reinvest in Minnesota.

"In many of these cases RIM would not be able to be used because it's underfunded," said Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus).

"It's an investment," said Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul). "We help a private landowner make an improvement, and everyone downstream benefits."

A thorny Capitol issue

When Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) was out door knocking last fall, she was surprised to learn from a constituent that there is not only a noxious plant growing on the Capitol grounds, but that the state

groundskeepers groom and nurture the plant.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill, sponsored by McGuire, March 13 requiring the Department of Administration to remove all European Buckthorn from the Capitol area grounds by Nov. 1.

HF684 now goes to the House State Government Finance Committee.

McGuire said a Minnesota Interagency Exotic Species Task Force identified European Buckthorn as one of the most severe and harmful exotic plants. The plant was once popular because of its easy maintenance and leaves that remain green far into autumn. However, because of its invasive qualities, it is now banned from nursery sales.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, Buckthorn was introduced to North America from Eurasia as an ornamental shrub. The berries cause a laxative effect, quickly distributing the seeds quite literally through birds.

Nancy Stark, executive secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, said it would cost around \$164,000 to remove approximately 2,400 linear feet of Buckthorn and replace it around the mall area. She said the hedge would need to be replaced to maintain the mall's aesthetics.

A plan for landscaping around the Capitol was developed in the late 1980s and included the removal of all Buckthorn. Because of the costs, the plant prominently remains between the Capitol and the Veterans Service Building.

Bernie Steele, a complex services manager of the Department of Administration, said the plant has been removed incrementally whenever landscape projects are done around the Capitol. Steele said the plant is not allowed to spread because it is trimmed back before it can bear berries.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) found it difficult to believe the \$20,000 cost stated to remove the hedge. Osskopp said he could bring up a Boy Scout troop that could remove the plant for a lunch at White Castle.

McGuire said because of the importance of removing the Buckthorn, she would work on the funding issue to assist the board.

★ FAMILY

Child support law

Lawmakers have begun work on legislation that many agree will make Minnesota's laws regarding marriage dissolution and child support more fair, enforceable, understandable, and consistent with other states' practices.

HF1446, sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), makes several significant changes to existing law.

First, courts would consider the gross incomes of both parents when setting a child support amount. Currently, only the non-custodial parents' net earnings are included in the calculation.

Christa Anders of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Support Enforcement Division endorsed the change during a March 14 House Civil Law Committee meeting. She said calculations using gross income are more fair than those employing net income are because most child-support payments are tax-deductible.

Anders described the shift from considering only the non-custodial parent's income to both parents' income as "the right thing to do." This income-share model would make Minnesota law consistent with most other states. Anders said adopting the change would help family law practitioners deal with the reality that most adults work outside the home.

Judge Dennis Murphy from Thief River Falls endorsed the bill. He said guaranteeing such a change would lead to a "better disposition" for all involved, and would likely increase the respect that family law litigants would feel for the final outcome. Anders echoed his comments, saying, "if the amount of child support is not perceived as fair, we have a difficult time collecting."

Another change is that the bill would mandate the use of federal data on actual costs of child rearing in the Midwest to set child support payment amounts. Minh Ta, public policy director for the Children's Defense Fund, said his group anticipates that setting the figures will "help avoid undue litigation." The cost of childcare is currently set by a formula established in a 1983 statute.

The bill will appear again before the Civil Law committee, which may approve the bill and refer it to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

Prevention methods planned

Legislators are moving toward appropriating money to address domestic violence.

On March 13, the House Crime Prevention Committee approved HF699, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), and referred it to the House Civil Law Committee.

The bill would appropriate \$5 million to the Department of Corrections to reduce the number of high-risk domestic assailant offenders supervised by an individual probation officer to an average of 35. Sykora said that figure is often more than 100 today.

HF699 also appropriates \$7.5 million to the Department of Public Safety for per diem funding for battered women's shelters and safe homes, an additional \$546,000 in grants to

ARTS CELEBRATION



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Andrea Conger and Donald LaCourse of the Ethnic Dance Theatre perform "Dances from Bohemia" March 15 in the House Chamber as part of "Chamber Music and More," a celebration of Minnesota's cultural treasures. Several music, dancing, and theatrical groups performed at the event.

organizations for the tracking of judicial responses to domestic assault cases, and to provide "advocacy and outreach programs for battered women" in Greater Minnesota.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) expressed approval for an additional \$100,000 for organizations to provide safe housing services to men and their children who are victims of domestic abuse. "This addresses abusers as abusers," he said, referring to the bill's mostly gender-neutral language.

Expressing concern that recipient programs be well-managed and fiscally accountable, Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), chair of the committee, asked, "Where are the safeguards so that practitioners (of safehouse management and victim advocacy) use a best-practices approach?"

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said the community of individuals and institutions that respond to domestic violence is developing a set of minimum standards independent of legislation. "We are setting this up without a bureaucracy. It behooves judges to have a list of programs to which they can refer victims," he said.

Representatives expressed concern about a provision that would change the rules of evidence in domestic violence cases so judges could elevate "out-of-court" statements to the level of admissible evidence. Currently, statements not made in court are considered hearsay, except in some child abuse cases.

Advocates of the provision argue that changing evidentiary rules will help prosecutors win guilty verdicts against abusers whose victims decline to testify because of their ongoing relationship. That matter will likely be the focus of attention during the bill's Civil Law hearing.

GAMBLING



'Wanna bet?'

This is the first generation of Minnesota teenagers to be exposed to widespread and easily accessible gambling. And while the danger of gambling for adolescents is rarely in the news, research indicates that teens are twice as likely as adults to become compulsive gamblers.

On March 12, the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee heard a bill that would provide funding for a compulsive gambling education and prevention program for Minnesota teens.

HF522, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), would take \$175,000 from the lottery prize fund each year of the biennium and transfer it to the general fund for the purpose of a grant to the Minnesota Council on Compulsive Gambling.

The committee will consider including the bill in its omnibus bill.

The council, a nonprofit organization located in Duluth, was established at the request of the Legislature in 1988. It has been cited as the leader in teen gambling prevention and education in North America.

The council has developed an anti-gambling curriculum called "Wanna Bet?" and a Web site, www.wannabet.org, which is designed by teens for teens.

Identifying a gambling problem early is critical to successful treatment, according to Elizabeth George, executive director of the council. To that end, in addition to promoting its curriculum package to state teachers, the council trains counselors in treating gambling addiction.

George said gambling has become a "rite of passage" into adulthood for some teens. One of the lawmakers said he had personal experience with the phenomena — his "otherwise sensible" son went to a casino on his 18th birthday.

Of course, not everyone who gambles becomes an addict anymore than does everyone who drinks alcohol become an alcoholic. Variables associated with excessive teenage gambling include alcohol use, tobacco use, antisocial behavior, and gender — they're most likely to be boys.

"A lot of people don't realize what an insidious disease compulsive gambling is," Huntley said. "Those who get that rush in their brain are the same as alcoholics."

★ GOVERNMENT

★ Eliminating gender-specific language

Minnesota voters would be asked to approve a constitutional amendment changing the state's constitution to a gender-neutral document under a bill approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 12.

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope), the sponsor of HF1080, said five other states already use gender-neutral language in their constitutions. In Florida, changes to the constitution become effective in 2003.

He said eight other states are now considering similar bills.

Currently, the language in the Minnesota Constitution refers to repeated mentions of the constitutional officers and legislators by using masculine pronouns. The bill would change that by referring to the officer's job title — so instead of "He vetoes a bill..." it would now read "The governor vetoes a bill."

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton) said that as an English teacher she was concerned some of the changes make the constitution less grammatically correct and that, in general, diminishes the flow of the language in the document.

Erickson said historic documents like the state constitution can be read as great literature.

Thompson said that he would answer concerns with tampering with a "very old document" by reiterating that the constitution has been greatly changed twice in recent history, in 1964 and 1974.

In 1964 the changes included the removal of restrictions for women's right to vote, and in 1974 the number of articles was reduced from 21 to 14 and much of the document was rearranged.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said he supported the bill but was concerned it would become a vehicle on the House floor for other changes to the constitution.

Thompson said he would pull the bill if it were greatly expanded.

"I don't intend to change the meaning of the state constitution," he said.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said she was surprised to learn that the language in the constitution was not made gender neutral at the same time that the state's statutes were changed to remove gender-specific language.

★ HEALTH

★ Transport services at risk

Ambulance services took a double hit when Congress passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. Non-emergency medical transportation services are in even more dire straits.

Two bills before the Legislature are designed to help these critical providers survive.

A federal rules change that bars ambulance services from billing Medicare patients for unpaid balances and a restrictive new national fee schedule will become effective April 1. Combined, the changes will cost state ambulance services almost \$37 million, according to the Minnesota Ambulance Association.

"A volunteer ambulance service in Minnesota cannot cover its costs now by taking medical assistance patients," said O.J. Doyle, a lobbyist for the association.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) presented HF488 to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 14. The bill would increase medical assistance reimbursements to ambulance services retroactive to July 1, 2000.

Davids' bill, estimated to cost the state about \$625,000 per year, would mandate that reimbursement be no less than what Medicaid is paying now. HF488 will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) presented a bill (HF1014) to the Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 8 that would increase medical assistance reimbursement to companies who transport disabled and elderly people. The bill was approved and referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

"This is desperately needed legislation," said John Dundon, of MODE Transportation Services in Minneapolis.

"Special" or non-emergency medical transportation helps non-ambulatory people access medical care by taking them to doctor appointments.

Medical assistance reimbursements for the service have not kept up with costs. "I can't make the numbers work," said Steve Elwood,

of R&S Transport from Rochester. He said insurance premiums on transport vehicles have tripled this year.

The bill would increase reimbursement rates by \$5 for wheelchair clients and 50 cents for non-wheelchair clients. Mileage reimbursement would go from \$1.20 to \$1.30 per mile.

"Without this legislation we will be forced to cease operating by June of this year," said Dundon. "I'm begging for your help before costs force us out."

★ Keeping children healthy

A bill that would authorize the commissioner of health to annually establish a school immunization schedule was heard by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 13.

"I think we're setting up the best system we can," said Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), sponsor of HF886. The bill was held over for further discussion.

Existing state law gives the Legislature the power to establish immunization requirements. The Minnesota Department of Health has requested this power instead be given to the commissioner of health, who would base decisions on recommendations from the Minnesota Immunization Practices Task Force.

The argument they proffer is the legislative process is too slow to respond to changes in state and national vaccination recommendations or to rapid advancements in new, safer, and more effective vaccines.

"A host of new vaccines are becoming available," said Scott Giebink, director of pediatric infectious disease for the University of Minnesota, and task force chair. "It is simply not effective to require the Legislature to approve these changes every year."

"Immunization is one of the most important public health measures," State Epidemiologist Harry Hull said. "For every dollar spent on immunization, the medical system saves as much as 15 dollars."

Immunizations have not been a success for everyone. Mary Therneau, from Grand Rapids, told the committee about the devastation wrought on her family by a vaccination administered to her daughter when she was a baby.

The child had mild seizures after the first vaccination, but the doctor administered another at six months over Therneau's objections. Her daughter is now 20 years old and has "intractable epilepsy."

"I had a normal healthy child at four months of age," Therneau said. "It has stripped our lives of any normalcy. It's not a life I'd want



Mary Therneau from Grand Rapids, tells the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 13 of the catastrophic reaction her daughter, Dyane, had to an immunization when she was 4 months old. Her testimony was in opposition to a bill that would establish an annual immunization schedule for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions.

to see anyone else ever go through.”

The law does not require a parent to have their children immunized. Medical reasons or “conscientiously held beliefs” are sufficient for exemption from immunization. Therneau said she was never told she had an option.

“If we can get 95 percent of the population immunized it benefits the 5 percent who aren’t immunized,” Hull said. “But if we stop immunization, we will see these diseases come back with a vengeance.”

Dental care access

Barriers to dental access for disadvantaged people in Minnesota are almost insurmountable, according to experts who testified before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 8.

After listening to the discouraging results of the Department of Human Services’ dental access report, committee members heard from sponsors of two bills that attempt to begin tearing down the barriers.

HF693, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would establish a dental loan forgiveness program and a dental services demonstration project. It would also increase reimbursement for specified dental services and providers.

HF278, sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), would set up a grant program for nonprofit community dental clinics, expand the role of dental hygienists, and allow for an increase in medical assistance reimbursement.

Both bills were approved with amendments

and referred to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

People on Minnesota health care programs are having serious trouble accessing dental care, according to Jim Chase, director of health care purchasing for the Department of Health. When they do get dental care, they have significantly more restorative work.

The Health Department report detailed the extreme difficulties people on medical assistance face in getting dental care. Rural, racial, and ethnic disparities are significant and worsening.

The reasons behind the problem include low reimbursement rates to dentists, who often choose not to serve these populations, and a shortage of dentists, especially in rural areas.

“My concern is that this bill is ‘dental lite.’ I feel like we can go further,” said Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins).

“No doubt this is a baby step toward solving the problem,” Goodno said. “But we need to take the steps we can.”

Increased tax credit

There would be an increased tax incentive for those who purchase long-term care insurance, under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee March 13.

Existing law allows a 25 percent tax credit for premiums not deducted federally. The maximum amount of credit is \$100 for individuals and \$200 for those filing joint returns.

HF92, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), would increase the maximum credit to \$250 per individual and \$500 for married couples.

The Department of Revenue estimates the bill would cost about \$8.4 million in the next biennium and \$10.1 million during 2004-05. There were 16,765 returns claiming the credit in 1999, with an average credit amount of \$132.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Daggett said Minnesota has one of the lowest numbers of people enrolled in long-term care coverage plans.

She said in Gov. Jesse Ventura’s budget proposal there is recognition of rapidly increasing health care costs.

“For health and human services, the governor is increasing funding by 18 percent, the largest increase for one particular issue,” Daggett said.

She said the average annual nursing home cost for an individual is now around \$50,000. Medicaid currently pays two-thirds of the cost for those living in nursing homes.

Steve Nelson, an actuary from Lutheran Brotherhood, said a 30-year projection, using the increased credit amounts and assuming a growth in the number of people who purchase long-term care insurance with a corresponding reduction in Medicaid expenses, shows that in six years the state would actually save money.

Nelson said by 2006 the state would save \$2.53 on every dollar paid out for the credit.

HIGHER EDUCATION



Camp funding sought

A plan that would allocate state funds to expose middle school age girls to certain career possibilities may be included in the omnibus bill of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

HF1414, sponsored by Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), seeks \$30,000 in each of the next two years for a Science Technology and Engineering Preview Summer Camp for Girls at Alexandria Technical College.

Cassell presented his bill to the committee March 14.

The one-week camp exposes girls entering seventh grade to the possibilities of a career in a technical field. The goal is to interest them early enough so the girls take the proper math and science classes in middle and high school, which, in turn, prepares them to enter and succeed in college level programs, such as engineering.

Stephanie Maras, assistant camp coordinator, told the committee that 152 girls from

around the state took part in last year's inaugural event, divided over four weeks, and that the camp can accommodate 160 campers.

"We expect a waiting list this year," she said. Tuition is free, and Maras said some girls were only able to participate because there is no fee.

Last year's camp cost \$93,392 to operate, and was funded by seed money from private donations designed to get the camp started, including more than \$56,000 from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers Education Foundation through a grant provided by the Bush Foundation. However, that grant will be reduced to 50 percent this year, 25 percent in 2002 and zero in 2003.

Maras said camp leaders have pursued other funding sources, but have found some Minnesota companies aren't willing to contribute because they do not have any operations in the Alexandria area.

Committee Chair Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) said the program is important as it encourages young women to choose careers in the sciences. "It sounds like an interesting program, and I hope that it succeeds."

HUMAN SERVICES

Helping children in crisis

A bill that would appropriate \$1 million to expand existing crisis nurseries to meet increased need and another \$1 million to develop new crisis nurseries for unserved areas of the state was heard by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 12.

HF1068, sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), would appropriate money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the biennium beginning July 1. The bill will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

In addition to the state, funding for crisis nurseries comes from a variety of sources, such as the United Way, the Children's Trust Fund, various foundations, and local governments.

Crisis nurseries help prevent child abuse and neglect by providing short-term care for children from birth to age 12. Experts who spoke in support of Bradley's bill said their goal was to have these programs available for all Minnesota families.

The first crisis nursery in Minnesota was established in Minneapolis in 1983. Since then, the program has grown to 20 sites throughout the state, serving families in 26 of Minnesota's 87 counties. More than 1,600 families and 3,200 children were served in 1999.

The services provided by crisis nurseries include:

- Emergency short-term care for children up to 72 hours;
- Assessments to identify families' needs and strengths;
- Referrals to appropriate agencies and community resources;
- 24-hour phone and service availability;
- Crisis counseling and information;
- Transportation services; and
- Advocacy for children.

"These programs are a very cost effective way of preventing child abuse and neglect," said Stephanie Tribby-Wallbridge, program director for the Anoka County Crisis Nursery.

Studies show a 72 percent reduction in the involvement of Child Protection Services for families who have used the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. The average cost per family for crisis nursery services is \$120, while a child protection assessment costs \$630 per family.

"Some of the benefits of crisis nurseries are not quantifiable," said Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka). For example, "less harm to the child, less emotional damage to families."

Citizen watchdog

Who do you turn to when government or its agencies are unresponsive or unfair? An ombudsman.

A what? The term ombudsman is a gender-neutral term derived from the Swedish word for representative. In the public sector, an ombudsman is an independent representative who receives and investigates citizens' complaints, concerns, or questions about government agencies in a confidential way.

Minnesota has 10 ombudsman offices, which cover areas from agriculture to taxpayer rights. With relatively small budgets, those who work in these offices attempt to accomplish a lot.

In an effort to stretch those budgets, Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended the state establish a Center for Ombudsman Services. This center would begin by placing three ombudsman offices — Mental Health and Retardation, Corrections, and Crime Victims — in one location. A one-time budget request of \$250,000 accompanies the governor's proposal. No action has yet been taken on the proposal.

"We think this will allow us to serve more people with the same amount of staff," Roberta Opheim, ombudsman for mental health and mental retardation, told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 9.

"There is nothing more frustrating for a person who is trying to help people than to



Edwina Garcia, former legislator and ombudsman for families, speaks before the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 9 during a budget overview.

say, 'Yes, your problem is a serious one but we don't have the resources to help you,'" Opheim said.

The plan is to share operational expenses, pool administrative resources and personnel, and improve collaboration. Other ombudsman programs would be invited to join the center. Each group would retain its statutory authority and funding.

Representatives from the Office of Ombudsperson for Families also reported to the committee. This office helps to ensure that children and their families who are covered by child protection services are given fair treatment.

"We strive to see that laws are implemented in a culturally sensitive manner," said ombudsman Edwina Garcia. "Our goal is to help families be whole and self-sufficient."

The office includes representatives for African-American, Asian-Pacific, Hispanic, and American Indian families.

The four core principles by which all Minnesota ombudsman offices are guided were first outlined in the 1997 Model Ombudsman Act: independence, impartiality and fairness, credible review process, and confidentiality.

Moving?

Please help save postage costs by keeping us informed of address changes. Call (651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550.

★ INDUSTRY

Installation inequities

The way existing Minnesota law is interpreted, a person is allowed to install his or her own garage door opener but cannot install the device for another person without a license.

That is one of the issues behind HF1683, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie).

Paulsen told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 14 that the bill clarifies what electrical installation activities require a licensed master electrician to perform and what activities can be performed by other technicians.

He said the bill is similar to one that passed the committee last year, although he incorporated some changes to address concerns that were raised at that time.

The committee failed to approve the measure this time however by a 9-9 vote.

Paulsen said the bill attempts to address a problem of unnecessary burdens facing many of the state's companies, particularly some in high-tech industries. He said the state's Board of Electricity has interpreted law and imposed rules requiring those who install low voltage connections to have the same license as installation of high voltage connections.

The bill would require that certain technology-based businesses register with the Department of Administration and would be exempt from licensing requirements of the board.

The installation activities covered under the bill would be: alarm and security, telecom, irrigation and landscaping, central vacuum, building automation, power-limited lighting, automatic door, heating, venting, air conditioning or refrigeration, and other control systems that the department considers appropriate.

Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti) supports the bill because, as a building manager, he said one of the biggest problems is the amount of time it

takes to find a licensed electrician to do work.

"The electrician is the guy we always end up waiting for," he said.

Building managers are concerned with the safety of work being done, Eastlund said. "We don't want to have to deal with the consequences of shoddy workmanship."

John Schultz, executive secretary of the Board of Electricity, spoke against the bill, saying the "fragmenting of authority" would create more bureaucracy. He said the measure is unclear regarding what enforcing agency would ensure that work being done is up to standard.

★ LAW

Judicial branch budget

Officials from the Minnesota Supreme Court and Court of Appeals presented their budget requests to the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 13.

The Supreme Court is requesting \$85 million for the 2002-03 biennium, including about \$53 million for state court administration, \$4 million for the state law library, nearly \$17 million for civil legal services, and about \$11 million for the operation of the Supreme Court.

The request reflects an increase of about \$31 million over the biennium. The governor recommended a total of about \$58 million for all Supreme Court operations for the biennium, which included none of the requested increases.

The Court of Appeals is asking for about \$16 million for the biennium, an increase of about \$2 million.

Officials from both entities testified that, like the district courts, the higher courts in the state need more money to cover base costs. In addition, they are requesting funds to increase salaries in the branch so it can compete for qualified applicants.

"This is work that is absolutely basic to the essential functioning of the Judicial Branch," said State Court Administrator Sue Dosal.

Judge Edward Toussaint, chief judge for the Court of Appeals, said the court needs more staff attorneys and law clerks to handle the volume of case files coming.

He showed a picture of the filings for one case that fit into nine large boxes. He said the clerk assigned to the case needed two weeks to digest all the information.

"We are running out of places for the files to go," he said of the workload current clerks are carrying.

Several judges and attorneys also testified for the Civil Legal Services portion of the budget.

Judge Larry Cohen from Ramsey County said the services provide a valuable role in that

they keep people from filing frivolous lawsuits and help people navigate their way through the judicial system.

He described a case he had once worked on while a lawyer, and the professional way lawyers handled the case on behalf of nursing home residents.

"Without legal aid, those people would not have had any representation," he said. "And while I was on the other side, I appreciated them because they served as a buffer."

Civil Legal Services has been state-funded since 1981, said Bruce Beneke, executive director of Southern Minnesota Regional Service, Inc. They're also requesting some additional funding for salaries, which one witness said are so low, they could almost qualify for legal aid themselves.

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Appointing local officers

The House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee approved a bill March 14 that could reduce the number of elected county officials in the state.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF1290, sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), would allow county boards by a four-fifths vote to make the positions of the county recorder, auditor, treasurer, or auditor-treasurer appointed rather than elected positions.

Howes said that eight years ago the Legislature passed a similar bill that was vetoed by Gov. Arne Carlson. He said about 20 counties have had special legislation passed allowing them to convert the positions.

Under current law counties may change the positions if a referendum passes allowing the change.

Ken Jude, a Wright County commissioner, said the bill would allow counties greater flexibility in structuring their services. He said although the elected positions make decisions about operations within their offices, they have no policy-making authority.

Gary Iocco, a Goodhue County commissioner, said the recorder recently retired in his county. The replacement upset local realtors by enforcing laws that had not been previously enforced. As a result, the person felt she could not be elected and eventually accepted a job elsewhere.

"We can't have a popular person running an office that does not have the experience," he said.

Pat Soberg, the Grant County treasurer, spoke against the bill. She said appointed officials would not only be reluctant to challenge county



Jon Mastel from Minneapolis, holds up a low voltage irrigation master control and control valve while testifying March 14 in front of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee in support of HF1683, a bill that would free low voltage electrical workers from local permitting processes.

board policies, but would probably remain silent on issues in order to keep their jobs.

She said many of the current office holders support the change from elected to appointed positions because it ensures greater job security.

"This is self-serving and not in the best interest of the public," Soberg said.

★ MILITARY

Making absentee votes count

For military personnel serving overseas, casting a ballot that is sure to be counted can sometimes be a difficult proposition.

"There is no mail or fax machine on a submarine," Michael Kodluboy, a Navy veteran who served 22 years on a submarine, told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Election Subcommittee March 12. The bill now moves to the full committee.

Kodluboy was speaking in favor of HF901, sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township). The bill would lessen some of the restrictions on election officials accepting military absentee ballot applications, which allow them to process requests in a more timely manner.

"This bill would help alleviate problems that could occur similar to what happened in Florida," Anderson said. Part of that state's 2000 presidential election problems stemmed from absentee ballots that arrived from overseas without a postmark.

Under the measure election officials would be allowed to accept applications from service personnel by fax.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said the bill would make absentee election laws consistent. Voters who live in Minnesota currently are allowed to fax applications for absentee ballots.

The bill also clarifies that election officials can accept an application with a military person's social security number listed on the application instead of a military identification number.

Kiffmeyer said in 1972 the military identification number became identical to the person's social security number.

All voters are required to submit an application to the appropriate election official before receiving an absentee ballot. For those who live overseas, Kiffmeyer said time can be a problem since the completed ballot has to be at the polling place on Election Day.

According to information provided to the committee by Samuel Wright, a Washington D.C. attorney who specializes in military election issues, a United States Department of Defense survey showed that approximately 200,000 military personnel who tried to vote

in the 1996 presidential election were unable to do so because they received their ballot late, or did not receive one at all.

Kiffmeyer said the issue was personally important to her since six of her 13 siblings had served in the military.

"We need to count their vote not just their years of service," she said.

★ TAXES

Capital gains savings

The ideal state tax system would be one that does not distort financial decisions, an economics professor from the University of Minnesota told the House Taxes Committee March 14.

Speaking in support of three bills that would increase a tax subtraction on capital gains, V.V. Chari said there is no methodical formula to determine what the proper balance is between a family's spending and savings needs.

"Families have a much better idea of that than economists," he said.

Chari said income taxes "distort" work and savings decisions people make. As an example, he said, if the state decided to tax economic professors more than lawyers many of the educators would leave the profession and become attorneys.

Currently in Minnesota, capital gains, or money earned from investments, is treated the same as other income.

HF10, sponsored by Rep. Jeff Johnson (R-Plymouth), would allow a 50 percent capital gains subtraction in determining individual income tax. The bill would also allow a subtraction both for the regular income tax and the alternative minimum tax.

Johnson said the bill would move the state closer to what Wisconsin's tax treatment is. That state allows a 60 percent subtraction. He said the bill addresses competitive issues, as well as equity issues.

"This is sound public policy long term," he said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the bill would be around \$794 million in 2002-03.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, is sponsoring a similar measure (HF73). That bill would allow a 60 percent subtraction and make corresponding reductions in the alternative minimum tax rate, decreasing it from 6.4 percent to 5.0 percent.

HF337, sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would allow a 50 percent subtraction or \$10,000 of adjusted net capital gain, whichever is greater.

The committee adopted a technical amend-

ment to Erhardt's bill but took no further action on any of the measures. Abrams said each would be considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Sextet of savings

The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard six bills March 12 that would reduce the state's sales tax rate by varying amounts.

HF32, sponsored by Rep. Stephen Wenzel (DFL-Little Falls), HF824, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), and HF1010, sponsored by Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope), all would reduce the rate from the current 6.5 percent to 6 percent.

HF431, sponsored by Rep. Ray Vandever (R-Forest Lake), and HF956, sponsored by Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood), would reduce the rate to 5.5 percent.

HF315 sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would reduce the rate to 5 percent.

Wenzel said HF32 was the first piece of legislation he sponsored this session, an indication of the importance he gives to reducing the sales tax rate.

The rate was increased from 6 percent to 6.5 percent in 1991 to help balance the state budget. Wenzel said that with current budget surpluses it is time to reduce the rate.

Kubly said the sales tax "imposes a form of double taxation" because businesses pass the cost along to consumers. Thus consumers pay the additional cost of products plus the sales tax.

Vandever said although he supports reductions in the state's income tax rates, information provided by the nonpartisan House Research department, shows that nearly 20 percent of those reductions eventually go toward paying more federal income tax.

"The important thing is the net impact of tax reductions," he said. "We have to (cut taxes) in a way that benefits the most Minnesotans."

The committee approved amendments to HF32, HF431, and HF956 that would replace revenue lost in the state's highway user tax distribution fund caused by the sales tax reduction with money from the general fund.

Amendments were also approved to the three bills that would raise the rate of the tax imposed on rental cars from 6.2 percent to 7.2 percent.

No further action was taken on any of the bills but the division chair, Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), said each would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Sweet tax tunes

The musical tones echoing through the hallways of the state's schools might have a more permanent ring under two bills heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 8.

HF499, sponsored by Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), and HF548, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), would give families who purchase musical instruments used for school music classes a tax break.

The committee took no action on either bill but Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson), the division chair, said both would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax package.

Currently, instruments that are rented qualify under the state K-12 education tax credit and subtraction but instruments that are owned do not qualify. John Haugen from the Department of Revenue said although this distinction does not appear in the state statutes, the state's 1981 tax instructions established a precedent the department has since held to.

Haugen said it was his guess that the reason the state made the distinction is people who buy an instrument have something of value that can be resold but people who rent an instrument do not.

HF499 would allow purchases of musical instruments to qualify for both a tax subtraction and credit that rental instruments now enjoy. The Department of Revenue estimates its cost would be about \$1.6 million over the biennium.

HF548 would allow the purchases to qualify for the subtraction only. The department estimates it would cost approximately \$120,000 in 2002-2003.

Cynthia Smith, a parent from St. Louis Park, said she recently purchased a violin for her daughter and was surprised to find out that because she purchased the instrument she did not qualify for either the education credit or subtraction.

Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) echoed a similar experience saying she recently purchased a flute for her daughter. Bernardy said the cost to buy the flute was \$300, but had the family decided to enter into a rent-to-buy agreement the cost would have been \$725.

Rate reductions requested

For the third consecutive year Minnesotans would see a decrease in their state income taxes under three bills heard by the House Taxes Committee March 14.

HF1, sponsored by Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights), and HF554, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), would reduce the state's lowest and highest tax bracket rates by 0.50 percent. The middle rate would be lowered by 0.75 percent.

HF74, sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), would reduce all three rates by 0.50 percent.

Jacobson said his bill would result in a 9.5 percent tax cut for a family of four with an income of \$50,000. He said that although the state couldn't do anything about those leaving Minnesota because of the weather, an income tax cut would provide an incentive to stay.

"This will reduce the flow of good paying jobs and businesses out of Minnesota," he said.

Dorman said an accountant recently told him more people are leaving the state to receive more favorable tax treatment elsewhere.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said in his six years in the Legislature he has never heard a constituent calling for an income tax cut, but rather he gets more calls for other tax reductions.

Leighton said in rural Minnesota few make high incomes and proposals that would increase personal exemptions would be more

beneficial to more people.

David Strom from the Minnesota Taxpayers League spoke in support of all three bills. He said there has been a "dramatic growth" in state spending over the past few years and that family budgets are more important than the state budget.

"Government programs don't have the track record of individuals or communities in solving social problems," Strom said.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said income tax cuts should focus on reducing taxes for the people who pay them.

"The people who pay taxes are the ones that make money," he said.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said he had a differing philosophy and that relieving the tax burdens on those in the middle and lower brackets "creates the environment to allow people to be successful."

The committee took no action on any of the bills, but Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said all will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

TRANSPORTATION



Road funding plans

Legislators are moving through a number of bills that could change the way the state funds road projects.

On March 13, the House Transportation Policy Committee approved three bills that would propose constitutional amendments guaranteeing 32 percent, 50 percent, and 75 percent respectively, of motor vehicle sales tax revenue to the highway user tax distribution fund. The Minnesota constitution may be amended only by a popular vote.

The bills now move to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

Currently, state law appropriates 32 percent of tax revenue from the sale of motor vehicles to a fund that aids county and municipal street projects. Lawmakers are proposing the bills as a response to a decline in revenue from recently reduced license plate tab fees.

In addition to proposing constitutional amendments, one of the bills also appropriates \$170 million over two years, most of which would be spent on Twin Cities freeways and buses.

HF927, sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would devote \$42 million to "projects that efficiently give the greatest number of people reliable, safe, alternative transportation options."

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) expressed concern that restricting transit funds

W.A.S.P. TALE



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Elizabeth Strohfus, 82, originally from Faribault, testifies in front of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs March 14 in support of HF1023, a bill that would authorize Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots (W.A.S.P.) plaques on capitol grounds. Strohfus began flying in 1942 when she joined the Civil Air Patrol and served as a W.A.S.P. from 1943 until she was de-activated on Dec. 20, 1944. In September 2000 Strohfus was voted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame.

to buses could drive funding away from projects such as light rail or commuter trains. "I'm worried about the unintended consequences of such limitations," she said.

While Kuisle's bill proposes devoting the current percentage of the motor vehicles sales tax to the highway user transportation fund, HF69, sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), would propose setting the figure at 50 percent, and HF1300, sponsored by Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights), would devote 76 percent.

'Kings' funding crowned

A House committee has approved the dedication of a state highway as the "King of Trails," but rejected an amendment that would have required the state to fund the placement of signs designating a highway as such.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) sponsored HF757 memorializing state Highway 75 from the Manitoba border to Iowa. Mulder told a March 8 meeting of the House Transportation Policy Committee the proposed ceremonial name is derived from the route's history as a American Indian fur trading route stretching from Winnipeg, Canada to Galveston, Texas.

Mulder endorsed an amendment, proposed by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), that would have mandated the signs be funded by Department of Transportation. State policy says the responsibility for paying for such memorial signage rests with the groups sponsoring the special designation.

He said the exemption from normal policy was appropriate because "not a cent of money was spent (to build new roads) in my district last year." Mulder represents a district through which Highway 75 runs.

Mulder expressed hope the signs would attract media attention and increase tourism, which he said has declined in recent years.

Betsy Parker, representing MnDOT, estimated the initial cost of the signs would be

\$15,000 to \$20,000. She said the department "feared a proliferation" of special signage requests if the Legislature departed from the standing policy of requiring groups to fund memorial signs.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska) said the amendment "is an issue of fairness for the state."

Following the failure of the amendment, Workman suggested the counties through which Highway 75 passes collectively fund the placement of signs.

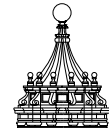
The bill now goes to the House floor.

POLICE TESTIMONY



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

St. Paul Police Officer Paul Schnell testifies March 13 before the House Education Policy Committee in support of a bill that would require a law enforcement agency to provide written notice to the chemical abuse preassessment team in a student's school when the agency has probable cause to believe the student is using or possessing drug paraphernalia.



NOTES

The strains of cultural music filled the House chamber before the session March 15. Groups ranging from a boy choir to bohemian dancers to a self-described "one-man acoustic jam" performed on the House floor prior to debate.

And in honor of St. Patrick's Day March 17, members were treated to a special Irish ditty, as well. Some wore six-inch paper clovers that had been left for the members on their desks in honor of the upcoming holiday. Several members, including Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing) and Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins), addressed the body.

Not to be outdone by the Irish, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) rose in honor of St. Urho (pronounced with a husky roll of the 'r'), the patron saint of Finnish vineyard workers who is honored March 16.

He explained that Finns on the Iron Range invented the heavenly entity because their Irish neighbors celebrated St. Patrick's Day. Reminiscent of his own mythological ancestor, St. Urho was credited with quixotically chasing grasshoppers from Finland.

Rukavina reminded members of their Finnish heritage. He and three other members are married to Finns and at least four representatives are of Finnish ancestry. He added that Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) can boast of having the House's only Finnish surname.

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

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Information, House

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

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

TTY, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Sergeant at Arms, House

45 State Office Building..... 296-4860

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-2343

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-5560

Sergeant at Arms, Senate

Senate Chamber 296-7514/296-1119

Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088

Legislative Reference Library

645 State Office Building 296-3398

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

102 Capitol 296-6196

Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building..... 296-2803

Capitol Security

B-5 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

Just say 'no'

Parents, education officials question potential overuse of Ritalin for school children

BY MARY KAY WATSON

It's paradoxical. On the one hand, schools are charged with educating children to say "no" to drugs. On the other, some might encourage medicating students with Ritalin when students exhibit restlessness or a wandering mind — not necessarily associated with a disorder.

A bill that would give parents the right to make the decision as to whether their child should take Ritalin was heard March 13 by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

HF478, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), would also authorize a study to examine the use of Ritalin and other sympathomimetic drugs in Minnesota. The committee approved the measure, and now it moves to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Increasingly, parents are charging that schools are Orwellian in their demands that children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) take Ritalin. Some parents who do not follow through have been accused of educational neglect.

Sykora said she knows of one instance where a school threatened to call child protection services because the parents refused to put their child on Ritalin. Her bill would give parents the right to make that decision without repercussions.

According to U.S. government statistics, only 4 percent to 6 percent of children need Ritalin; however, 10 percent to 30 percent of American children are taking it. The United States uses 90 percent of the world's supply of Ritalin.

Minnesota is ninth in the nation in the use of Ritalin.

There is no question that Ritalin helps most people who have ADD or ADHD. Studies show it improves attentiveness and reduces restlessness.

"For some parents, putting their child on Ritalin has been a lifesaver," Sykora said. "For others it has not."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Legislators and officials are questioning the practice of prescribing Ritalin for school children, saying that attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders are overdiagnosed and parents are coerced into giving the drug unnecessarily.

During the hearing, many expressed distress at anecdotal evidence that increasing numbers of children who do not have these disorders are being given prescriptions for the drug, often at the insistence of teachers and schools.

Ritalin, known generically as methylphenidate, is a stimulant in the same class of drugs as amphetamines and cocaine. In short, it has addictive qualities. Parents are understandably reluctant to put their child on such a drug.

Michele Nash, a parent from Blaine, testified that she was called by her first-grade son's teacher within a few weeks of his starting school and told she should have him tested for ADHD. Nash said she believed her son's behavior was normal for a first-grader, but she felt intimidated and reluctantly went along with the assessment.

The assessment found her son to be normal. Yet, the psychologist recommended that Nash

see a doctor about getting her son on Ritalin.

"This is the most disturbing encounter I've had in nine years of parenting," Nash said. "I experienced aggressive coercion."

"I can accept diagnoses by medical professionals, but not by teachers. They wanted to medicate him to fit their needs."

Some legislators spoke about experiences of friends and family members who were "brow-beaten" by schools to put a child on Ritalin.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the committee chair, said members of his family whose school wanted their child on Ritalin asked the child why he thought he was at the assessment. "Because I'm stupid," the child replied.

"Teachers need to be educated about this," Goodno said. "It's completely inappropriate."

Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) said Ritalin was the "first drug of choice in dealing with children of color."

Sykora's bill provides for training teachers in both basic educational training and in-service education to use "positive behavior interventions." These interventions would have to be part of an individual education plan for students with ADD or ADHD.

When a child has symptoms suggestive of these disorders, it is important to investigate other possible causes, such as food or ecological allergies, said Bob DeBoer, founder of New Visions Charter School in Minneapolis.

"Ritalin doesn't change the underlying problem," DeBoer said. "It can cause a child to have a flat affect. And if you have a flat affect during developmental years, you have no experience dealing with emotional highs and lows."

Even when the drug is called for, there may be reasons not to use it. Some of Ritalin's side effects include loss of appetite, anxiety, headaches, and sleeplessness. And its long-term effects are unknown.

There are alternatives to medication. One, in use at New Visions, is a method of biofeedback that uses computer technology. Some physicians recommend nutritional supplements or a change in diet.

Clearly, more information is needed. HF478 would appropriate \$50,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of Children, Families and Learning for a study on the use of Ritalin and similar medications in Minnesota. The report would be due Feb. 15, 2002.

Concealed carry concerns

Differing opinions and high emotions regarding whether Minnesotans should be able to legally carry handguns

By JONAS M. WALKER

Years ago, one woman in Texas and another returning from a vacation in Chicago lost their parents in violent, stomach-churning shootings. Despite their experiences, the two developed diametrically opposite opinions as to the role legal, concealed weapons could play in such horrific situations.

One felt resentment at her state legislature for forbidding her to carry a handgun she would have used to return fire, and then went on to win a seat in her state legislature; the other joined an organization aimed at “protecting our communities from gun-related trauma.”

Texas Rep. Suzanna Gratia Hupp and Gay Trachsel were among many testers before House members considering a bill intended

chiefs discretion in determining whether applicants meet the legal requirements for a concealed weapon and demonstrate “an occupational or personal safety hazard” that would necessitate being armed.

Under HF1360, sponsored by Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), county sheriffs would be required to issue a permit within 15 days of receiving an application unless the applicant fails a background check. The bill would officially designate county sheriffs as the sole authority to issue permits.

Under Boudreau’s plan, a successful applicant must be at least 21 years old, compared to the current age limit of 18; have successfully completed a training course or demonstrated experience in handling a pistol; have

sons authorized to carry pistols that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to law enforcement agencies.”

Boudreau said HF1360 “will not make it easier” to carry a pistol in public. Instead, she argues, applicants who meet the existing standards regulating permit issuance would be guaranteed a fair process.

Passage of the bill would add Minnesota to the 31 states that currently use a “shall issue” standard in determining which applicants will be granted permits. The bill is similar to others offered during the previous three biennial sessions of the Minnesota Legislature.

Proponents at the meeting included those who felt discriminated against under existing law.

Minneapolis resident Joel Rosenberg told the committee that he was first granted a permit in 1997 after documenting “repeated anti-Semitic and racist death threats.” Two years later, he was denied a permit because, he was told, he had not properly reported the threats.

“Despite my having reported each and every threat and incident to the Minneapolis Police Department precisely in the way the MPD Licensing Division had instructed me to, I was told they had no record of these threats.” Rosenberg described his experience as “the sort of unfairness and wrongness that the present system lends itself too.”

Police response to the bill was mixed. Major law enforcement organizations, including the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and the Minnesota State Sheriffs Association, expressed disapproval. Meanwhile, Boudreau characterized their opposition as “politically-motivated” and produced a letter from two Minneapolis police officers endorsing the proposal.

Hupp, whose parents were killed by a gunman at a restaurant in 1991, said violent crimes immediately dropped after Texas began permitting residents to carry concealed weapons.

Opponents of the bill include Trachsel, whose parents were shot while sitting in a car in Chicago and Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). At the hearing, he said, “It is simply not true that (increasing handgun permits) reduces violent crime. The more handguns we have, we are going to see more assault, more deaths.”

Paymar cited his experience working with



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A bill to remove law enforcement discretion for granting permits to legally carry a concealed weapon in the state is moving through House committees.

to make granting of concealed weapons permits more consistent — a process proponents now characterize as “arbitrary and capricious.”

The House Crime Prevention Committee approved HF1360 after nearly four hours of testimony March 8, referring it to the House Civil Law Committee.

Existing law grants local sheriffs and police

not 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 permit application.

Another significant element of HF1360 is that it creates an “automated database of per-

Continued on page 35

Trading places

Two bills would provide funding for women in nontraditional workplace settings

BY THERESA STAHL

Jeanine, a single mother of three, was working at a dead-end job for \$8 an hour when she saw a flyer in a local grocery store for WomenVenture, an organization that helps women achieve economic success and prosperity in nontraditional occupations.

After looking into the organization, Jeanine decided to begin training to become a bricklayer. She needed to work part-time throughout the program, so WomenVenture, a statewide program, helped her find work that would coordinate with her training schedule.

Upon completion of the training, she was selected for the bricklayers apprenticeship program and now earns more than \$15 an hour.

Jeanine's story is one of many Jan Jordet told the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 12. Jordet, vice president of WomenVenture, and other representatives of grantees of the Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) funding came to testify to the program's success.

"Through LEAP funding we are able to produce capable, job-ready applicants and provide excellent career paths for our clients," Jordet said.

At the committee's second meeting of the week on March 14, Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls)

introduced two bills that would allocate money to programs that encourage women to enter nontraditional careers in the trades through organizations such as WomenVenture. The trades employ few women and there is much demand for highly skilled people to take the good-paying jobs the industry offers.

Terry Clements, executive director of Women in Trades, told the committee a career qualifies as "nontraditional" if less than 25 percent of a

particular profession is made up of women. Trades include plumbing, drywall, painting, insulation, cement masonry, pipefitting, carpentry, printing, automotive service and repair, welding, heating and cooling systems, and low-voltage wiring.

HF23 would amend statutes to "require all general employment and training programs that receive state funds to make available information about opportunities for women in nontraditional careers in the trades and technical occupations."

The bill would also appropriate \$1 million of federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds for grants for nontraditional career assistance training programs in the 2002-

03 biennium. (TANF funds help families with children move from welfare to work.) HF23 next travels to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

HF41 would earmark \$900,000 for "grants to nonprofit organizations for programs that encourage and assist women to enter nontraditional careers in the trades and in manual and technical occupations."

To be eligible for the grants, a program must meet specific qualifications. One set of criteria says a program must perform outreach to girls and women through schools, community organizations, or state employment and training programs.

The bill continues saying, "The outreach must consist of general information concerning opportunities for women in the trades, manual, and technical occupations, including specific fields where worker shortages exist and specific information about training programs offered."

The other option to qualify for grant money under HF41 would be to provide assistance for women entering careers in the trades. The program must include "training designed to prepare women to succeed in nontraditional occupations."

The bill lists specific training requirements for women to be prepared to enter the trades in today's work environment, including "information about on-the-job realities for women in the particular trade, physical strength, and stamina training as needed, opportunities for developing workplace problem-solving skills, and information about the current and projected future job market and likely career paths."

The program must also provide:

- Assistance with childcare and transportation during training, job searching, and the first two months of employment for low-income women;
- Assistance with job placement during and for at least two years after completion of the training program; and
- Job retention support, such as mentorship programs, support groups, or ongoing staff contact.

"Job retention support is very important because they may be the only woman on a worksite," Mullery said.

Clements, of Women in Trades, said there are two reasons women leave the trades: isolation and the "daily psychological grind."

She talked about the YWCA Girl Power program that gives hands-on experience in

Continued on page 35



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Terry Clements, executive director of Women in Trades, testifies for a pair of bills that would provide grants encouraging women to enter nontraditional careers. Her testimony came March 14 before the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

Clarifying changes

Task force recommends bill that would change the way state departments develop administrative rules

BY DAVID MAEDA

After the Legislature passes a bill and the governor signs it into law, the lawmaking process isn't always complete. Many bills that are more technical in nature require state agencies administering the changes to develop rules for implementation.

Administrative rules have the force of law, and thus there is a legal process that state agencies must go through before the rules are adopted.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 9 that makes several changes to the state's rulemaking process.

The bill now goes to the House Civil Law Committee.

HF667, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), results from a 2000 law that established a Rules Reform Task Force to make recommendations on how the state could improve its rules making process.

The task force, which met between the 2000 and 2001 sessions, was composed of members of the House and Senate, representatives from state agencies, Gov. Jesse Ventura's staff, business people, and citizens. Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona) chaired the task force.

Seifert said the task force tried to find balance between allowing agencies to interpret and implement the Legislature's intent when developing rules, while maintaining legislative oversight. He pointed to rules involving the

Profile of Learning standards and feedlot regulations as examples where the adopted rules overstepped the Legislature's intent.

Under existing law, agencies draft proposed rules and then publish them in the State Register. A 30-day comment period is then required. If 25 people request a hearing on the proposed rules, a public hearing before an administrative law judge must then be held.

HF667 establishes a process for the Legislature to delay implementation of rules until it adjourns an annual session. The provision would give the House and Senate standing committees with jurisdiction over the subject matter the opportunity to review new rules and to delay the adoption of rules by a majority vote of the entire committees.

The bill also allows any person to petition a state agency for a variance of a rule. Agencies are allowed to grant the variance with conditions attached or if the rule causes undue hardship.

Seifert said the variance section was meant to give agencies flexibility.

"The feedlot rules are an example — where compliance with the rules meant some would have to go out of business," he said.

People may also petition the Office of Administrative Hearings when they feel an agency is enforcing, or attempting to enforce a policy, guideline, bulletin, criterion, or manual as though it were an adopted rule.

Patti Cullen from the Care Providers of Minnesota, said that provision was "a well-needed section." She said the nursing home industry is among the most heavily regulated in the state.

HF667 also establishes a process to repeal obsolete rules. Under the process an agency would identify obsolete rules in its annual report. The agency would be required to publish a legal

notice and notify those that might be affected of the rules' repeal. If 25 or more people request in writing that they want a more thorough examination, the customary rulemaking process would need to be followed.

The bill further repeals the June 30, 2001 sunset of the governor's rule veto authority.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) offered an unsuccessful amendment to that section of the bill. His amendment would have established that the governor could not veto a rule or a portion of a rule promulgated by a constitutional officer.

Lipman said there should be separation between the constitutional officers of the state, and that the governor does not have jurisdiction over the attorney general, state auditor, secretary of state, or state treasurer.

"This is really, really important stuff," he said. "Constitutional officers are not serving at the pleasure of the governor."

Laura Offerdahl from the governor's office said the veto serves an important function by allowing a final forum to be in place.

"It is the last opportunity for the stakeholders to express concerns," she said.


Lipman said the governor has never vetoed a proposed rule but had threatened to do so last year to the election administration rules proposed by the secretary of state. The state's chief election official, among other changes, had proposed modifying the state's Election Day registration requirements.

Seifert opposed the amendment even though he had sympathy for Lipman's concerns. He said the amendment could jeopardize the work put in by the task force, and it was likely the governor would veto the bill without the rule veto authority included.

The amendment failed by a 10-6 vote.

Duane Benson, executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership, said the bill continues efforts begun in the mid-1990s to engage the public in the state's rule making process. In 1995 the Legislature passed a law that required agencies to make reasonable efforts to notify people who may be significantly affected by proposed rules.

Benson said he supported maintaining the governor's rule veto authority and the bill in general.

"This is a big step in the right direction," Benson said. "It's consistent with more active participation by the Legislature and in fixing accountability." 

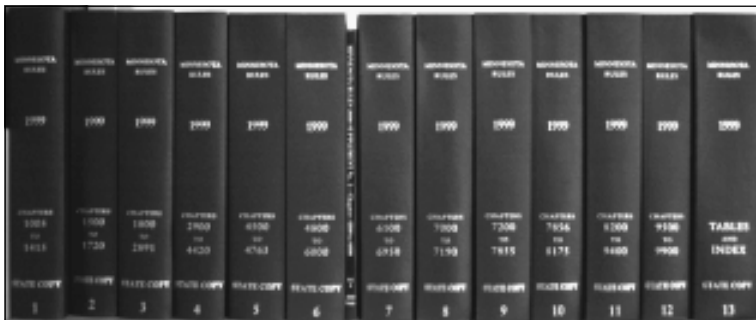


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

An administrative rule, destined for future versions of these books, might have a different path to take, including a stop at the Legislature, under a bill heard by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 9.

Monday, March 12

HF1605—Harder (R)

K-12 Education Finance

School district emergency fuel assistance revolving loan fund established and money appropriated.

HF1606—Holberg (R)

Civil Law

Public data requests; advisory opinion issuance authorized regarding overly burdensome requests and security information and applicant data provisions clarified.

HF1607—Tuma (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Residential and day habilitation service costs county responsibility eliminated.

HF1608—Tuma (R)

Crime Prevention

Repeat offenders prior offenses committed considered when sentencing specified offenders, and consecutive sentences provided for dangerous and repeat offenders.

HF1609—Dehler (R)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State personnel system provisions modified.

HF1610—Jennings (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Resolution relating to treatments for congestive heart failure.

HF1611—Rukavina (DFL)

Taxes

Taconite production tax distribution provided.

HF1612—Kelliher (DFL)

Civil Law

Public waters administrative penalty orders authorized, water appropriation permit provisions modified, fees established, and civil penalties imposed.

HF1613—Wagenius (DFL)

Taxes

Low-income housing owned by a qualified nonprofit exempted from property taxation, construction and rehabilitation exempted from sales tax, payments in lieu of taxes provided.

HF1614—Gerlach (R)

K-12 Education Finance

Compensatory revenue concentration factor eliminated.

HF1615—Entenza (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Liquidations and investments of insurers regulated.

HF1616—Thompson (DFL)

Transportation Policy

Emergency vehicle siren standards obsolete rules repealed.

HF1617—Walker (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Five-year limit on assistance to needy families repealed.

HF1618—Koskinen (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

MFIP noncompliance sanctions modified, and report on past sanctions required.

HF1619—Dawkins (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

New and existing housing program funding provided, programs created, and money appropriated.

HF1620—Howes (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Orderly annexation agreements strengthened.

HF1621—Dehler (R)

Taxes

Sartell public facilities construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

HF1622—Goodno (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Health care safety net preservation program established and voluntary agreements to expand intergovernmental transfers allowed.

HF1623—Mullery (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Voluntary paid parental leave program established and money appropriated.

HF1624—Pawlenty (R)

Taxes

Conservation lands; income tax credit created for land donated to the state for conservation purposes.

HF1625—Wolf (R)

Regulated Industries

211 telephone human services-related referral and information system established.

HF1626—Haas (R)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of candidates limited as a condition of receiving a public subsidy, additional public disclosure required, multi-candidate expenditures limited, and contribution refund increased.

HF1627—Workman (R)

Transportation Policy

Major transportation project fund established, motor vehicle sales tax proceeds allocated, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1628—Huntley (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Brain injury support pilot project grants continued and money appropriated.

HF1629—Tingelstad (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Uniform Parentage Act study and report required.

HF1630—Ness (R)

Education Policy

Secondary school science teacher alternative licensure requirements established.

HF1631—Mullery (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Hennepin County Southeast Asian collaborative transitional employment training project funded and money appropriated.

HF1632—Mullery (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Blind; job assistance training provided for counselors for the blind, and money appropriated.

HF1633—Boudreau (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Hennepin County group residential housing supplementary rate modified for specified facilities.

HF1634—Mahoney (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form and participate in professional firms.

HF1635—Daggett (R)

Taxes

Subwatershed unit tax levies authorized, and ad valorem tax levy authorized for watershed management cost increases.

HF1636—Huntley (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

MFIP participant performance bonuses provided.

HF1637—Buesgens (R)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

County licensure of hawkers and peddlers repealed.

HF1638—Skoglund (DFL)

Civil Law

Name change affidavits accepted in lieu of court hearings.

HF1639—Wolf (R)

Regulated Industries

Telecommunication services purchasing cooperatives regulated.

HF1640—Buesgens (R)

Taxes

Shakopee library and police facility construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF1641—Cassell (R)

Education Policy

Educators required to display license or credential in school.

HF1642—Erickson (R)

Family & Early Childhood

Education Finance

State agency library on-line computer-based library catalog system funded and money appropriated.

HF1643—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State and local government sustainability-based government procurement policies created, penalties provided, and money appropriated.

HF1644—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Capital improvement project and public building energy efficiency impact statement and energy efficiency standards required.

HF1645—Rhodes (R)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

St. Louis Park additional on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses authorized.

HF1646—Wenzel (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Labor organization employee teacher retirement provisions modified.

HF1647—Mares (R)
Transportation Finance
Ramsey and Washington counties trail engineering study provided and money appropriated.

HF1648—Hausman (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
St. Paul Raspberry Island capital improvement grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1649—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Resident tuition rates for certain non-resident students provided and tuition reciprocity program phased out.

HF1650—Penas (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Teacher mentoring pilot program created and money appropriated.

HF1651—Olson (R)
Taxes
Annandale City Hall construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption authorized.

HF1652—Mares (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Ramsey County Bruce Vento Regional Trail grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1653—Gleason (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Crime—related costs levy increased to provide for criminal background checks on new school district employees.

HF1654—Wenzel (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Little Falls Pine Grove Park Zoo improvements provided and money appropriated.

HF1655—Dorn (DFL)
Civil Law
Civil actions against the state authorized under the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

HF1656—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Teacher purchase of developmental achievement center or day activity center teaching service credit under certain conditions authorized.

HF1657—Haas (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees.

HF1658—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Nursing facilities, ICF/MRs, and community—based providers 3.5 percent rate increase authorized.

HF1659—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Solid waste management tax revenue usage requirements provided.

HF1660—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Foster care reimbursement provisions modified.

HF1661—Tuma (R)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities credit transfer required for specified lower-division courses.

HF1662—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Board established, one-half cent metro sales tax election required, one-half cent metro sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax authorized, revenue dedicated, and money appropriated.

HF1663—Mahoney (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Second Judicial District Court administration costs payment provided and money appropriated.

HF1664—Kalis (DFL)
Agriculture and Rural Development Finance
FarmAmerica—Minnesota's agricultural interpretive center in Waseca capital improvements grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1665—Mahoney (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
RiverCentre arena loan repayment directed to St. Paul Economic Development Fund.

HF1666—Dawkins (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Ramsey County board tax-forfeited land sale, valuation, and use regulations provided and census reference updated.

HF1667—Entenza (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Charter school financial reporting and management practices improvements specified.

HF1668—Mullery (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Hennepin County Southeast Asian collaborative transitional employment training project federal TANF funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1669—Krinkie (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Ramsey and Hennepin counties local public corporations and municipalities public notice publication provided on Web sites.

HF1670—Cassell (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Previous wastewater infrastructure funding program provision effective date applied.

HF1671—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Heritage enhancement fund and council established, sales tax revenue dedicated, lottery ticket payments in lieu of sales tax disposition modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1672—Koskinen (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local government aid for mutual aid and emergency medical communication services provided from 911 fees.

HF1673—Stang (R)
Taxes
Fire department equipment purchases exempted from sales tax.

HF1674—Paulsen (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF1675—Wasiluk (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Maplewood historic Bruentrup farm restoration grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1676—Wasiluk (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
North St. Paul provided tax increment financing grant.

HF1677—Hackbarth (R)
Education Policy
Educational agencies and institutions required to provide student information to military recruiting officers, notice required, and right to refuse specified.

HF1678—Otremba (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Central Lakes Agricultural Center educational and research program grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1679—Paulsen (R)
Taxes
Retailers provided deduction in sales tax remittance to compensate for costs of collecting the tax.

HF1680—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Cass Lake spear fishing authorized.

HF1681—Dehler (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State hiring process pilot project extended, employee identification numbers classified as public, human services chief executive officers placed in the unclassified service, and other technical housekeeping changes provided.

HF1682—Kubly (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2159, Buffalo Lake-Hector, additional disabled access levy authority provided.

HF1683—Paulsen (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Technology business and activity definitions and regulation provided.

HF1684—Entenza (DFL)
Crime Prevention
First and second degree criminal sexual conduct offenders provided indeterminate sentencing.

HF1685—Lieder (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Crookston; Rural Minnesota technology service center funding provided to University of Minnesota and money appropriated.

HF1686—Kuisle (R)
Taxes
State high school league event admissions exempted from sales tax.

HF1687—Clark, K. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.

HF1688—Clark, J. (R)
Transportation Policy
Seasonal highway weight restriction exemptions provided for vehicles transporting livestock or feed.

HF1689—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Casino; state lottery authorized to operate a casino in the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and money appropriated.

HF1690—Dibble (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan disposal system cost allocation system modified.

HF1691—Sykora (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Head Start fund services and eligibility expanded.

HF1692—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
First class city teacher pension funds modified; lump sum benefit payments, reporting and remittance requirements provided, and authority to amend articles of incorporation to Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association granted.

HF1693—Entenza (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Correctional employees plan service credit provided.

HF1694—Lieder (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 593, Crookston, severance levy authorized.

HF1695—Mulder (R)
Taxes
Sales made by certain small town businesses exempted from taxation.

HF1696—Bakk (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
St. Louis County Partridge River wood products plant employees provided extra unemployment benefits.

HF1697—Smith (R)
Crime Prevention
Dismissal of nonsupport of spouse or child charges authorized under certain circumstances.

HF1698—Smith (R)
Civil Law
Local authority concerning regulation and causes of action by political subdivisions against firearms industry limited.

HF1699—Wilkin (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Radiation therapy facility major spending commitments prospective review provided.

HF1700—Dawkins (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Student worker program to encourage employment of protected groups and economically disadvantaged persons created and money appropriated.

HF1701—Entenza (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Voter's guide for primary and general elections provided and money appropriated.

HF1702—Rukavina (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Fireworks; sparklers legalized.

HF1703—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Vehicle license plate costs revolving appropriation established.

HF1704—Larson (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Dissemination of certain juvenile data authorized.

HF1705—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Driver's license account in special revenue fund created, proceeds of fees relating to functions of Department of Public Safety allocated, and money appropriated.

HF1706—Wasiluk (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Prescription drug rebate program established and money appropriated.

HF1707—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Finance
St. Paul Como Park remote parking shuttle and internal transit system planning grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1708—Haas (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Long-term care employee health insurance assistance program established and money appropriated.

HF1709—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Emergency financial assistance to needy pregnant women or families with children extended.

Thursday, March 15

HF1710—Dibble (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minor political party definition clarified, secretary of state required to notify parties of their status, and Progressive Minnesota tax check-off provided.

HF1711—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Light rail; commuter rail funding provided for design costs, engineering, and environmental analysis for specified transit corridors, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1712—Kubly (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Minnesota rural partners grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1713—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Voting age lowered to 16 and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1714—Kahn (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Smoking prohibited in workplaces, smoke-free areas provided in multi-tenant buildings, littering of cigarettes defined, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1715—Dorn (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Railroad improvement tax increment financing districts authorized and TIF requirement exemptions provided.

HF1716—Workman (R)
Crime Prevention
Law enforcement agencies required to return seized property under the forfeiture law if criminal charges are not filed within 30 days.

HF1717—Workman (R)
Transportation Finance
Trunk highway turnbacks rehabilitation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1718—Rhodes (R)
Civil Law
Spousal maintenance orders provisions limited.

HF1719—Hilty (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Water and soil resources board duties modified to include providing operating grants, local water planning base grants increased, and money appropriated.

HF1720—Erickson (R)
Education Policy
Retired teachers provided lifetime short-call substitute teaching licenses.

HF1721—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Medical education program distribution formula modified.

HF1722—Mahoney (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Landlord authority to apportion utility payments among residential units repealed.

HF1723—Nornes (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Home school pupils counted in pupil units for basic school district revenue.

HF1724—Holsten (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Stillwater historic territorial prison wall renovation funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1725—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
WomenVenture business development programming grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1726—Sertich (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Metropolitan economic development association grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1727—Anderson, B. (R)
State Government Finance
Camp Ripley National Guard Youth Camp operation and staffing assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF1728—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Transit assistance fund expenditures restricted to operating and capital assistance to public transit systems, motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1729—Kubly (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Senior congregate dining and home-delivered meals funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1730—Molnau (R)
Transportation Policy
Metropolitan Council required to contract for bus maintenance.

HF1731—Kuisle (R)
Taxes
Transit vehicles and parts sales tax and motor vehicle sales tax exemptions provided.

HF1732—Evans (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Mounds View and New Brighton housing replacement tax increment financing projects authorized.

HF1733—Entenza (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Uniform Commercial Code Article 9 revision corrective and conforming amendments provided and money appropriated.

HF1734—Kuisle (R)
Agriculture Policy
Feedlots; level one feedlot inventory provided.

HF1735—Johnson, S. (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
St. Paul victim intervention project grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1736—Bakk (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Taconite plant capital improvements loan fund established and money appropriated.

HF1737—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Minneapolis parks grant provided for Bassett's Creek Trail construction and money appropriated.

HF1738—Wilkin (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public subsidies prohibited to candidates who fail to file a campaign report within five days.

HF1739—Molnau (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State agency head salary recommendation provisions specified, and agency head, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities administrator, and government engineer salary recommendations ratified.

HF1740—Clark, J. (R)
Taxes
State tax share payments to counties with tribal casinos increased.

HF1741—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Biogas recovery facilities included in the renewable energy production incentive program.

HF1742—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Municipal employee salary compensation limit increased.

HF1743—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Tribal police departments exercising state arrest powers authorized to receive police state aid.

HF1744—Entenza (DFL)
State Government Finance
State Employee Combined Charities Campaign administered by Department of Employee Relations and money appropriated.

HF1745—Nornes (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Accredited child care centers annual bonus incentive established and money appropriated.

HF1746—Nornes (R)
K-12 Education Finance
After-school enrichment grant program organizations required to be charitable, grant priority established, and money appropriated.

HF1747—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.

HF1748—Harder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board authorized to grant staffing variances for basic life support ambulances operated rural ambulance services.

HF1749—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties emergency communications equipment funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1750—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Renewable energy production incentive payments provided.

HF1751—Rhodes (R)
Crime Prevention
Child support calculation modified, custodial parent required to submit declaration of a child's residence, occupational and driver's license suspension process modified, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1752—Solberg (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
County-provided detoxification services reimbursed by the state.

HF1753—Sertich (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Hibbing Community College central campus building purchase provided and money appropriated.

HF1754—Kuisle (R)
Taxes
County purchases exempted from sales tax and county aid payments reduced to reflect reduced county spending.

HF1755—Murphy (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Speed limits reduced for vehicles within 1,000 feet of stopped emergency vehicles, and public awareness plan developed.

HF1756—Sertich (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Natural Resources Research Institute grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1757—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Prior service credit purchase authorized for Minnesota correctional retirement plan member.

HF1758—Kubly (DFL)
Taxes
Raymond Street reconstruction project materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

HF1759—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Greater Minnesota and metropolitan transit funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1760—Mulder (R)
Education Policy
Independent School District No. 671, Hills-Beaver Creek, school year start prior to Labor Day authorized.

HF1761—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Stream protection and improvement loan program grant funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1762—Howes (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Longville City Hall ambulance building construction completion grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1763—Olson (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Water management authority public drainage system transfer allowed and water management authority defined.

HF1764—Gleason (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Coldwater Springs Camp Coldwater area historical preservation ensured.

HF1765—Abrams (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Election equipment upgrades authorized, obsolete language eliminated, voting instructions translated, more accurate election results provided, and money appropriated.

HF1766—Holberg (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative and congressional districts coordinated and size of legislature reduced.

HF1767—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Transportation Policy
High school driver education classroom instruction on interactive television allowed and rulemaking provided.

HF1768—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minneapolis Police Relief Association voluntary employee benefit organization establishment required.

HF1769—Stanek (R)
Transportation Finance
Metropolitan Council express bus service to downtown Minneapolis demonstration project provided and money appropriated.

HF1770—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Ring dike construction grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1771—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Red River Basin flood hazard mitigation grants provided, references to subwatershed projects removed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1772—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Supplemental pension plan contribution restriction exception provided.

HF1773—Swenson (R)
Transportation Finance
Minnesota rail service improvement program money appropriated.

HF1774—Clark, J. (R)
Transportation Finance
Trunk highway right-of-way advance acquisition money appropriated.

HF1775—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Metropolitan Transit operating and capital assistance provided, commuter rail project and Greater Minnesota transit operating funded, and money appropriated.

HF1776—Lieder (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Trunk highway bridge construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation money appropriated.

HF1777—Walz (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Methamphetamine lab law enforcement cost grant money appropriated.

HF1778—Walz (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the State Capitol provided.

HF1779—Westrom (R)**Regulated Industries**

411; immediate credit provided for calls made to directory assistance when incorrect information is given.

HF1780—Rhodes (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

St. Louis Park Westwood Hills Nature Center grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1781—Walz (R)**Crime Prevention**

Corrections policies relating to chemical dependency treatment, background studies, inmate deaths, sexual activities with inmates, and HIV testing established.

HF1782—Otremba (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Long Prairie River declared a canoe and boating route.

HF1783—Smith (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minnesota State Retirement System correctional plan contribution rates increased.

HF1784—Skoglund (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Controlled substance analogue treatment defined and amphetamine and gamma hydroxybutyric acid sale and possession penalties provided.

HF1785—Ozment (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Science Museum of Minnesota operating expenses provided and money appropriated.

HF1786—Kubly (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Upper Minnesota Valley travel information facility construction grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1787—Walker (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare tax exemption provided for direct payments not involving a third party insurer.

HF1788—Lindner (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Rental housing assistance program for persons with mental illness program funded and money appropriated.

HF1789—Lindner (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Employment support services for persons with mental illness grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1790—Workman (R)**Civil Law**

Facility maltreatment of a child provisions established, maltreatment investigation access to medical records access clarified, appeal rights provided, facility operator duties expanded, training required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1791—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Ambulance staffing requirements waiver provided.

HF1792—Otremba (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Referendum revenue stabilized in districts with declining enrollment.

HF1793—Kahn (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Minneapolis Police Relief Association member referendum authorized.

HF1794—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Nursing facility emergency energy assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF1795—Eastlund (R)**Transportation Finance**

Transportation revolving loan funds transferred from the general fund.

HF1796—Otremba (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Insurance information reporting regulated and credit scoring prohibited.

HF1797—Peterson (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 378, Dawson-Boyd, fund transfer authorized.

HF1798—Wenzel (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Sentencing to service crew leaders included in correctional employees retirement plan, and coverage provided for prior state service for specified employees.

HF1799—Sertich (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Centers for independent living grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1800—Stang (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Bloomington hotel on-sales at hotels authorized and exempted from on-sale hours restrictions.

HF1801—Clark, K. (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

“Nickel-a-drink” tax on alcoholic beverages imposed, deposit of revenues provided, aftercare services revenues earmarked.

HF1802—Johnson, R. (DFL)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Manure methane digester loan funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1803—Walker (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MFIP unearned income provision relating to public housing and assisted rental subsidies repealed.

HF1804—Winter (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Hospital, nursing facility, ICF/MR, and home/community based provider automatic annual inflation adjustments provided and rate increase provided.

HF1805—Folliard (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MFIP assistance 60-month time limit exemptions and extensions provided.

HF1806—Knoblach (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St. Augusta local sales and use tax imposition authorized to pay for costs of regional airport and library.

HF1807—Skoglund (DFL)**Civil Law**

Child support collection and enforcement improvement measures and civil penalties provided.

HF1808—Clark, J. (R)**Crime Prevention**

Methamphetamine; MDMA added to list of schedule I controlled substances and MDMA and MDA added to controlled substance penalty enhancement provisions.

HF1809—Fuller (R)**Crime Prevention**

Impaired driving consecutive sentencing provisions clarified.

HF1810—Fuller (R)**Civil Law**

Health professionals required to report injuries resulting from alcohol- or controlled substance-related accidents when asked by a peace officer, and civil and criminal immunity granted.

HF1811—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Judges retirement plan modifications effective date clarified.

HF1812—McGuire (DFL)**Family & Early Childhood Education Finance**

Basic sliding fee child care program parent fees reduced and money appropriated.

HF1813—McGuire (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Alcohol retailer compliance grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated.

HF1814—Swenson (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Finance**

Agricultural society exhibitor award indexed funding levels provided, and money appropriated.

HF1815—Dorman (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Feedlot permit requirements specified.

HF1816—Seifert (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Community support services expanded by waiver for persons with brain injuries or who otherwise would be in a health facility.

HF1817—Workman (R)**Transportation Policy**

Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.

HF1818—McGuire (DFL)**Civil Law**

Alcohol retailer compliance checks grant program established, minimum civil and license penalties imposed for underage sale violations, reports required, and money appropriated.

HF1819—Nornes (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Alcohol and drug counselor licensure reporting requirement repealed, and exchange of information provided for investigations of counselors.

HF1820—Clark, J. (R)**Taxes**

New Ulm public building improvements construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF1821—Kuisle (R)**Transportation Policy**

Motor vehicle dealers allowed temporary licensing exemption for sale of horse trailers and recreational vehicles.

HF1822—Ozment (R)**Education Policy**

Environmental fund revenues dedicated and expenditures authorized, remediation fund established, and money appropriated.

HF1823—Holberg (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Prostitution; residential rehabilitative program grant provided for chemically dependent women leaving prostitution, and money appropriated.

HF1824—Stanek (R)**Judiciary Finance**

Reimbursement grants provided for organizations that have contributed to the criminal gang strike force.

HF1825—Harder (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 173, Mountain Lake, fund transfer authorized.

HF1826—Erickson (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Veterans educational assistance provisions modified.

HF1827—Swenson (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.

HF1828—Ozment (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Wetland replacement and classification provisions modified, wetland delineator certification program established, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1829—Larson (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Autistic children intensive early intervention behavior therapy medical assistance coverage provided.

HF1830—Workman (R)**Transportation Policy**

Public access to specified motor vehicle accident data granted.

HF1831—Anderson, B. (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Instant runoff voting system adopted and money appropriated.

HF1832—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MFIP sanctions and program eligibility requirements for non-compliant recipients modified, and hardship extensions established.

HF1833—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Multiple Sclerosis services nursing facility reimbursement pilot project authorized and money appropriated.

HF1834—Marquart (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Breckenridge and East Grand Forks grants provided to reimburse temporary financing in anticipation of FEMA financing for 1997 flood recovery projects and money appropriated.

HF1835—Tuma (R)**Crime Prevention**

Local financial crimes investigation units authorized and money appropriated.

HF1836—Westrom (R)**Transportation Policy**

Permits authorized for vehicles and combinations up to 88,000 pounds gross weight on interstate highways and fees provided.

HF1837—Clark, K. (DFL)**Civil Law**

Voluntary landlord and tenant mediation programs authorized.

HF1838—Koskinen (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Long-term care facility employee health coverage account established, task force created, and money appropriated.

HF1839—Mares (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Volunteer firefighter relief associations allowed to pay service pensions to former members who are full-time employees of the fire department.

HF1840—Slawik (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Human services advisory councils and committees expiration dates extended.

HF1841—Kelliher (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Minneapolis maximum total sales tax increased.

HF1842—Westerberg (R)**Taxes**

Long-term capital gain income tax exclusion provided.

HF1843—Mullery (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Geographic restriction standards provided for offenders on probation and supervised release.

HF1844—Mullery (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Gang loitering definitions, enforcement, and penalties provided.

HF1845—Marquart (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Red River Basin water management grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1846—Mullery (DFL)**Judiciary Finance**

Passenger and driver safety improvements provided on MCTO buses and money appropriated.

HF1847—Wilkin (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Basic formula allowance increased and compensatory revenue eliminated.

HF1848—Knoblach (R)**Taxes**

Marriage; income tax penalty for marriage reduced.

HF1849—Mullery (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Prostitution solicitation, inducement, and promotion subject to increased sentences for dangerous and repeat offenders.

HF1850—Abeler (R)**Education Policy**

Flexible learning year program expansion three-year pilot project established.

HF1851—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

State health care program provider participation non-financial barrier identification required.

HF1852—Abeler (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Referendum offset adjustment continued until a district's referendum is renewed.

HF1853—Abeler (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Special education; 100 percent state funding provided over a seven year period and money appropriated.

HF1854—Abeler (R)**Education Policy**

Special education services developed and access to information provided.

HF1855—Knoblach (R)**Capital Investment**

Design-build contracts and exempt rules provided.

HF1856—Mullery (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Cockfighting, dogfighting, and other domestic animal fighting criminal penalties imposed, disposition and care of animals provided, hearings specified, and evidence admissibility clarified.

HF1857—Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Uniform Arbitration Act adopted providing for arbitration of disputes.

HF1858—Cassell (R)**Education Policy**

Technical college printing and publishing program created and reports required.

HF1859—McElroy (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Department of Economic and Workforce Development created; certain duties of the departments of trade and economic development, economic security, and labor and industry transferred, and money appropriated.

HF1860—Bishop (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Sexual assault victim emergency contraception and information provided by hospital emergency rooms, and penalties provided.

HF1861—Holberg (R)**Transportation Policy**

General obligation bonds authorized to be issued for trunk highway construction, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1862—Seagren (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Advanced placement and international baccalaureate program provisions clarified and money appropriated.

HF1863—Leppik (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Mental health services rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF1864—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

General assistance and general assistance medical care ineligibility provision removed.

HF1865—Milbert (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

School District No. 199, Inver Grove, full-day kindergarten program grant authorized and money appropriated.

HF1866—Kelliher (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Parenting leave unemployment insurance benefit eligibility specified and solvency assessments regulated.

HF1867—Walker (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Minneapolis health education and promotion program on food safety in the Latino, Somali, and Southeast Asian communities grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1868—Davids (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Mandatory statewide health insurance plan for school district employees established, post-retirement health insurance coverage provided through individual trust funds, labor management design team established, and money appropriated.

HF1869—Anderson, B. (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Expiration dates of various advisory councils, committees, and other multimember entities changed.

HF1870—Otremba (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

MinnesotaCare 18-month employer-subsidized coverage barrier exclusion provided for certain families and individuals.

HF1871—Huntley (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Supplementary service rates for mental illness or chemical dependency facilities not to exceed the nonfederal share for case mix A.

HF1872—Marquart (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R)
B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R)
Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)

2 A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL)
B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL)
Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)

3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL)
B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL)
Sen. Bob Lessard-(IP)

4 A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R)
B • Rep. Larry Howes-(R)
Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)

5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL)
B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL)
Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)

6 A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bakk-(DFL)
B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL)
Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)

7 A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL)
B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL)
Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)

8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL)
B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL)
Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)

9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R)
B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL)
Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)

10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-(R)
B • Rep. George Cassell-(R)
Sen. Cal Larson-(R)

11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R)
B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL)
Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)

12 A • Rep. Dale Walz-(R)
B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-(DFL)
Sen. Don Samuelson-(DFL)

13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R)
B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL)
Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)

14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R)
B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R)
Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)

15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL)
B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL)
Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)

16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL)
B • Rep. Jim Knobloch-(R)
Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)

17 A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R)
B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL)
Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)

18 A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R)
B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL)
Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)

19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R)
B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R)
Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)

20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R)
B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-(R)
Sen. Steve Dille-(R)

21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R)
B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R)
Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)

22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL)
B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R)
Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)

23 A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R)
B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R)
Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)

24 A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL)
B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL)
Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)

25 A • Rep. John Tuma-(R)
B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R)
Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)

26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-(R)
B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-(DFL)
Sen. Chuck Fowler-(DFL)

27 A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R)
B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL)
Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)

28 A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R)
B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R)
Sen. Dick Day-(R)

29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R)
B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R)
Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)

30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R)
B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R)
Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)

31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R)
B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R)
Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)

32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL)
B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R)
Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)

33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R)
B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R)
Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)

34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R)
B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R)
Sen. Gen Olson-(R)

35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R)
B • Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R)
Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)

36 A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R)
B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R)
Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)

37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R)
B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R)
Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)

38 A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R)
B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R)
Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)

39 A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL)
B • Rep. Bob Milbert-(DFL)
Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)

40 A • Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL)
B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL)
Sen. David H. Johnson-(DFL)

41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R)
B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R)
Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)

42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R)
B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R)
Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)

43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R)
B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R)
Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)

44 A • Rep. Betty Folliard-(DFL)
B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R)
Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)

45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R)
B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R)
Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)

46 A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL)
B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL)
Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)

47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL)
B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL)
Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)

48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R)
B • Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL)
Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)

49 A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R)
B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL)
Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)

50 A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R)
B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R)
Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)

51 A • Rep. Andrew Westberg-(R)
B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R)
Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)

52 A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL)
B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL)
Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)

53 A • Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R)
B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R)
Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)

54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-(DFL)
B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL)
Sen. John Marty-(DFL)

55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R)
B • Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL)
Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)

56 A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R)
B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R)
Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)

57 A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL)
B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL)
Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)

58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL)
B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL)
Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)

59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL)
B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL)
Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)

60 A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL)
B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)

61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL)
B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL)
Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)

62 A • Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL)
B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL)
Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)

63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL)
B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-(DFL)
Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)

64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL)
B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL)
Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)

65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL)
B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL)
Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)

66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL)
B • Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL)
Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)

67 A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL)
B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL)
Sen. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call House Calls at **(651) 296-9283**.

All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services:
(651) 224-6548 v/tty.

To have the House committee schedule delivered to your e-mail address, send an e-mail message to joinhouseschedule@ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us or direct your Web browser to <http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule> and fill out the subscription form on the Legislature's Web site.

MONDAY, March 19

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF857 (Kielkucki) Election day registration to require picture identification, additional registration information required, certain felony convictions reported, and rulemaking authorized.

HF479 (Lipman) Election day voter registration identity and residence requirements modified, election administration practice study requested, election equipment purchase revolving loan fund created, and money appropriated.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF1123 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan county prepaid medical assistance program capitation rates increased.

HF1124 (Mulder) Nonmetropolitan inpatient hospital rates for certain diagnosis-related groups adjusted.

HF281 (Greiling) Civil commitment mentally ill definition and emergency hold standard modified, early intervention hospital stay extended, and specified hearings on medications combined with commitment proceeding.

HF812 (Bradley) Suicide prevention goals, programs, duties and studies required; mental illness transition plans established; provider payment rates adjusted; mental health services and treatment coverage requirements provided; and money appropriated.

HF1531 (Bradley) Young adult transitional services provided and community-based mental health services increased.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF1003 (Gunther) Displaced homemakers program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF387/SF142 (Walker/Higgins) Black Minnesotans council membership increased.

HF1038 (Clark, J.) Minnesota Inventors Congress grants provided and money appropriated.

Review of Occupational Industrial Center (OIC) programs.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HF1773 (Swenson) Minnesota rail service improvement program money appropriated.

HF1520 (Kuisle) County and municipal state-aid street fund restrictions modified, highway safety center grant authority transferred, and state rail bank lease provisions modified.

HF672 (Hausman) Railroad bridge expansion financial assistance authorized.

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. HF1360 (Boudreau) Minnesota Citizens' Personal Protection act of 2001 adopted recognizing the right to self-defense, providing permits to carry a pistol, and imposing criminal penalties.

Note: Any unfinished business will be conducted in 500S State Office Building at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20.

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.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF1661 (Tuma) Minnesota State Colleges and Universities credit transfer required for specified lower-division courses.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF1372 (Erickson) Relating to education; appropriating money for electronic continual learning plans.

HF1351 (Abeler) Relating to education; allowing local learn and earn programs to add up to five additional program slots; providing for a subsequent evaluation of student outcomes; appropriating money.

HF1434 (Juhnke) Relating to education finance; extending the metropolitan magnet school grant program statewide; appropriating money.

HF1052 (Leighton) Relating to education finance; extending the disabled access levy for Independent School District No. 500, Southland.

HF1601 (Carlson) Relating to education funding; authorizing a grant for the metro homework hotline; appropriating money.

HF1575 (Carlson) Relating to education finance; continuing the same level of compensatory revenue for districts that reduce the concentration of students eligible for free or reduced price meals by closing a school facility.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF1398 (Dorman) Residential rental property class rates reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid computation adjusted to compensate for lost revenue.

HF1035 (Peterson) Agricultural homestead property residency location requirement exception provided for employer-provided housing.

HF1461 (Marquart) Agricultural homestead classification maximum distance from residency extended.

HF1187 (Mulder) Education agricultural property tax credit increased.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda: HF1559 (Sviggum) Exempts construction materials and equipment for a fire hall in the city of Dodge Center from sales and use taxes.

HF931 (Cassell) Extends the same sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax exemptions applicable to nonpublic schools to school districts.

HF946 (Winter) Eliminates the special sales and use tax rates on motor vehicle rentals and alcohol sales.

HF947 (Winter) Extends the exemption for the construction of an agricultural processing facility by one year.

HF1190 (Dorman) Exempts construction materials and equipment for certain agricultural processing facilities from the sales and use taxes.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Child Care, Gerald Cutts, Development Corporation for Children.

Fiscal Overview of Child Care, Katherine Schill, House Fiscal Analyst.

HF1515 (Sykora) Relating to family and early childhood education finance; consolidating MFIP and basic sliding fee child care assistance programs; modifying income eligibility.

HF504 (Mulder) Relating to family and early childhood education; modifying the at-home infant child care program.

HF1449 (Swapinski) Relating to early childhood; creating a grant program to increase the education and retention of child care providers and staff.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF1340 (Anderson, B.) Wright County recorder appointment permitted.

HF1589 (Howes) Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects.

HF1465 (Stanek) Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.

HF1077 (Rukavina) Aggregate material removal tax extended to counties that vote to impose the tax and rate of tax increased.

HF610 (Solberg) Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided (continued hearing).

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: Mark-up of Committee Energy Bills:

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.

Note: Meeting will be continued at 7 p.m. in 118 State Capitol if agenda is not finished during our regular meeting.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

**After session at the call of the chair
(approx. 6 p.m. — monitor schedule)**

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

Agenda: HF1690 (Dibble) Metropolitan disposal system cost allocation system modified.

Other business: Consider previously heard bills (HF46, HF444, HF1218, HF1322).

6 p.m.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

107 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

Agenda: Update briefing on Minnesota retirement building project.

S.F. 53 (Kleis); H.F. 95 (Opatz): PERA; Retroactive payment of bounce back annuity to deceased former St. Cloud city employee.

S.F. 77 (Wiger); H.F. XXXX: PERA; Exclude certain St. Paul city trades personnel and Metropolitan Airports Commission plumbers from PERA coverage.

S.F. 1096 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1334 (Kahn): MSRS; University hospital employee disability benefits continuation.

S.F. 841 (Kiscaden); H.F. XXXX: TRA; Exempting certain teachers from post-retirement earnings limits and reductions. S.F. 1129 (Johnson, Dean); H.F. 968 (Juhnke): Volunteer Firefighter Relief Associations; Provide ambulance service personnel state supplemental benefits, and increase amount and limits on supplemental benefits.

S.F. 695 (Vickerman); H.F. 597 (Evans): Various; Automatic joint and survivor annuities.

S.F. 777 (Tomassoni); H.F. 1161 (Sertich): MSRS; Refund eligibility.

S.F. 24 (Wiger); H.F. XXXX: Volunteer Fire; Service pension payment upon fire department reemployment.

S.F. XXXX; H.F. 855 (Mares): PERA; Contribution increases, benefit modifications, and coverage changes.

S.F. 810 (Pogemiller); H.F. XXXX: PERA; Contribution.

TUESDAY, March 20

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF1366 (Buesgens)/HF 1470 (Kuisle) School district contracts with teachers required to be structurally balanced.

HF1192 (Abeler) Applicants for temporary

limited teaching license or personnel variance permitted to submit applications by July 1, and conforming rule changes provided.

HF1231 (Erickson) School media program staff position established, school media center study initiated, and money appropriated.

HF1280 (Seagren) Elementary reading specialist licensure provided, and elementary school teacher license requirements modified.

HF923 (Skoe) Repealing mandated three additional days of student instruction or staff development training.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF1658 (Bradley) Nursing facilities, ICF/MRs, and community-based providers 3.5 percent rate increase authorized.

HF1522 (Bradley) Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.

HF985 (Knoblach) Respite care for family adult foster care providers program established.

HF994 (Dorn) Hospitals operation, construction and equipment rules variance or waiver request procedure.

HF424 (Greiling) Mental retardation and related conditions waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR).

HF886 (Mulder) Immunization schedule established annually for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions, and task force established.

HF729 (Ozment) Nursing grant program for persons of color established, summer health care interns and nursing loan forgiveness programs modified, nursing scholarship and health care planning programs established, study required, and money appropriated.

HF1440 (Mulder) Nurse licensure compact enacted.

HF976 (Abeler) Chiropractors; licensing requirements and grounds for disciplinary action modified.

HF1067 (Boudreau) Social work licensure examination requirement exception provided for certain persons who are refugees or immigrants to the United States and for whom English is a second language.

HF1151 (Mulder) Psychologist disciplinary actions penalty provisions modified.

More bills may be added.

Note: If necessary, this meeting will continue at 4 p.m. in Room 5 of the State Office Building.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF678 (Bishop) Community corrections; sex offender treatment corrections and productive day initiative programs grants provided, and money appropriated.

Others to be announced.

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: HF1007 (Davids) Relating to trade regulations, prohibiting gasoline sales below cost; providing enforcement authority [pending rereferral]

HF748 (Sykora) Attention deficit disorder(ADD), parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with ADD, educational neglect definition clarified; [pending rereferral]

HF1519 (Clark, J.) 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;

HF1427 (Fuller) DWI technical bill: 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;

Note: Additional DWI technical bills and other bills will be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF1306 (Howes) Minnesota Conservation Corps program and decorative forest products provisions modified, sustainable forest resources provisions repeal delayed, study required, civil penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF925 (Bakk) Logging; master logger certification program developed, and money appropriated.

HF529 (Workman) Hennepin County land conveyance to city of Eden Prairie, and money appropriated.

HF1591 (Ozment) Aquatic restoration grants authorized, administrative penalty orders provided for commercial aquatic activity, decoy regulations and turtle licensing modified, conservation law enforcement provided, and penalties prescribed.

HF362 (Westrom) Diesel fuel minimum biodiesel fuel content specified.

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.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF562 (Goodno) Authorizes allocations for certain border city enterprise zones.

HF503 (Pawlenty) Increases the research credit and extends it to individual income tax; allows and investment credit; imposes application fees; provides a sales tax exemption for certain purchases.

HF400 (Pawlenty) Authorizes the establishment of a tax free zone; provides tax exemptions for individuals and business entities in the tax free zone; provides for repayment of tax benefits under certain circumstances.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF694 (Davids) Relating to insurance; no-fault auto; regulating income loss benefits to senior citizens.

HF916 (Erhardt) Relating to commerce; regulating securities; modifying certain fees for securities issued by open-end management companies and unit investment trusts.

HF1493 (Davids) Relating to commerce; regulating the privacy of consumer financial and health information.

HF1428 (Davids) Relating to insurance; credit; regulating rates and coverages; establishing minimum anticipated loss ratios for certain policies.

HF1336 (Mulder) Relating to insurance; creating a stop-loss fund account.

HF1337 (Mulder) Relating to insurance; creating a purchasing alliance stop-loss fund account.

HF1311 (McElroy) Relating to commerce; providing for the licensing of money transmitters; prescribing the powers and duties of the commissioner.

HF933 (Gunther) Relating to commerce; providing buyback requirements related to the sale of farm implements and outdoor power equipment.

HF1283 (Seagren) Relating to commerce; regulating Internet sales and leases; providing for the disclosure of information relating to the ownership of domain names and agents for service of process.

HF1104 (Vandever) Relating to real estate; providing for the electronic filing of real estate documents; implementing the work plan of the task force.

HFXXXX (Paulsen) Contractor license revocation bill.

HF1219 (Gunther) Relating to insurance; removing certain state involvement with the state fund mutual insurance company.

HF1045 (Olson) Relating to insurance; automobile; requiring a premium discount for seatbelt use; eliminating the mandatory seatbelt law for adults.

HF828 (Mullery) Relating to Hennepin County; authorizing disaster volunteer leave.

HF1489 (Hilty) Relating to economic development; creating Northern Technology Initiative, Inc.

Other bills may be added.

2 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF479 (Lipman) - carry over if needed.

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.

2:30 p.m.

REDISTRICTING

500S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

Agenda: To be announced.

3:30 p.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: Office of Legislative Auditor/ Department of Children, Families and Learning. HF1015 (Mares) Family, early childhood, and K-12 education programs administrative and funding provision modifications.

Continuation of morning meeting if necessary.

WEDNESDAY, March 21

8:15 a.m.

8 a.m.

*****NOTE TIME*****

**HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: HF126 (Wenzel) Morrison County nursing home rate increase provided, and money appropriated.

HF426 (Knoblach) Sherburne County nursing home medical assistance rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF576 (Thompson) Hennepin County nursing home rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF1005 (Marquart) Becker County nursing facility rate adjustment provided.

HF1020 (Wagenius) Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase to median provided.

HF1113 (Clark, J.) Brown County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF1227 (Carlson) Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase authorized and money appropriated.

HF1332 (Daggett) Becker County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF1530 (Penas) Roseau County nursing facilities rate increase provided.

HF1545 (Wasiluk) Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF1674 (Paulsen) Hennepin County nursing facility rate increase provided and money appropriated.

HF876 (Jacobson) Ramsey County single ICF/MR funding provided for field audit disallowances, and money appropriated.

HF128 (Nornes) Nursing facility technology room grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF279 (Huntley) MinnesotaCare premium and other provider taxes repealed, pass-through of savings required, tobacco settlement disposition provided, health care access fund contingent repeal provided, and civil penalties imposed.

HF325 (Daggett) Medical assistance funding provided from general fund, hospital surcharge for medical assistance repealed, and money appropriated.

HF380 (Kubly) MinnesotaCare provider tax and health plan premium taxes repealed, health care access fund eliminated, hospital surcharge repealed, and money appropriated.

HF383 (Haas) Health insurance premium tax and premium tax on nonprofit health plan companies repealed.

HF814 (Winter) Medical assistance hospital surcharge repealed and money appropriated.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF525 (McElroy) Public employees prohibited from state board and council compensation except under specified conditions and daily payment standards required.

HF446 (Solberg) Unilateral modification of benefits received by retired employees defined as unfair labor practice.

HF775 (Boudreau) Day training and habilitation service variance request mediation process established, rate structure pilot project provided, county responsibilities defined, task force extended, and money appropriated.

HF1025 (Entenza) State board of investment member disclosure provisions expanded.

HF1272 (Jaros) Administration department directed to decentralize state agencies and departments.

HF1504 (Mahoney) Departments of administration and health directed to adopt current electrical, mechanical, and plumbing standards.

HF1537 (Lipman) State agency rule-making housekeeping and technical changes bill.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF624 (Seagren) Light rail; requiring route to be identified before spending appropriations to study light rail transit and commuter rail.

HF625 (Seagren) Trunk Highway No. 62 in Minneapolis and Richfield construction project restrictions imposed.

HF137 (Erhardt) Light rail; commuter rail corridor plans physical design component local approval required.

HF1060 (Erhardt) Light rail; local approval required for location of commuter rail through residential areas.

HF1054 (Johnson) I-394 "sane lanes" use by single-occupant vehicles study and report required, and money appropriated.

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF667 (Seifert) Administrative rules procedures modified.

HF1466 (Holberg) St. Paul housing and redevelopment authority data regulations

extended to all housing and redevelopment authorities.

HF1638 (Skoglund) Name change affidavits accepted in lieu of court hearings.

HF1283 (Seagren) Internet sales and leases regulated, and domain names and agents for service of process information disclosure provided.

HF699 (Sykora) Domestic abuse criminal and civil penalties and procedures modified, and money appropriated.

HF1245 (Stang) Dishonored check collection charges provisions modified.

Note: Any unfinished business will be conducted in 500S State Office Building at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21.

**ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL
RESOURCES FINANCE**

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Office of Environmental Assistance budget presentation continued.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: Library Day: The Effect of Technological Change on Libraries.

HFXXXX (Bishop) Post-secondary educational institutions instructional services appropriations expansion.

HF1649 (Opatz) Resident tuition rates for certain nonresident students provided and tuition reciprocity program phased out.

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: Presentation of incidence data on HF511 (Svigum), Governor's Tax Bill, by Commissioner Matt Smith, Department of Revenue.

HF1321 (Ruth) Provides for an imposition of a tax on aggregate materials.

HF1316 (Dawkins) Clarifies that publicly owned parking facilities are exempt from tax.

HF1425 (Hilty) Changes the sales ratio study for purposes of certain aid formulas.

HF1511 (Westerberg) Provides income tax credits for telework assessment and telecommuting expenses.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF1529 (Tingelstad) Regulating pesticide application in certain schools.

HF1604 (Peterson) Providing an exemption from certain regulations.

HF1524 (Leppik) Regulating the use of certain fertilizers containing phosphorus.
 HF1604 (Erickson) Recodifying rules and pesticide rules with federal regulations.
 HF1502 (Evans) Extending certain advisory committees and a review board.
 HF1282 (Osskopp) Modifies provisions related to the Rural Finance Authority (RFA).
 HF1547 (Finseth) Eliminating the late fee for renewal of a license to use the Minnesota grown logo or labeling.
 HF1598 (Swenson) Providing for uniformity with certain federal dairy regulations.
 HF1356 (Dorman) Expanding nuisance liability protection for ag operations.
 HFXXXX (Dorman) Modifying provisions relating to feedlots.
 HF1241 (Ness) Requiring delegation of feedlot permitting in certain counties, providing funds.
 HF1243 (Ness) Establishing feedlot specialist program, providing funds.
 HFXXXX (Kuisle) Providing for a level 1 inventory.
 HF495 (Finseth) Transferring authority for the regulation of feedlots from the MPCA to MNDA.
Note: The committee will meet from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. and reconvene in 5 State Office Building from 5 p.m. until business is finished or midnight, whichever comes first.

**Economic Development and Tourism
 Division/COMMERCE, JOBS &
 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Basement Hearing Room
 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: HF969 (Clark, K.) Rental housing pilot program established to encourage landlords to rent to high-risk tenants in specified counties, and money appropriated.
 HF1065 (Walker) Rental application fees prohibited.
 HF1147 (Mullery) Landlord and tenant property covenant clarified.

**FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD
 EDUCATION FINANCE**

5 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: HF1642 (Erickson) Relating to education; funding the on-line computer-based library catalogue system in state agency libraries; appropriating money.
 HF1242 (Nornes) Relating to libraries; appropriating money for library basic support grants.
 HF1234 (Eastlund) Relating to libraries; appropriating money for regional library telecommunications aid.
 HF1378 (McGuire) Relating to education; appropriating money for multicounty, multitype library systems.
 HF1568 (Kelliher) Relating to education; establishing the mighty books grant program; appropriating money.
 HF835 (Walz) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for a library for the city of Crosslake.

HF880 (Solberg) Relating to libraries; authorizing additional levy for Independent School District No. 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
 METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: HF949 (Rifenberg) Local public officer's conflict of interest law exception provided.
 HF1236 (Rhodes) House and Senate confirmation of members of the Metropolitan Airports Commission required.
 HF1424 (Krinkie) Metropolitan Airports Commission capital improvement program legislation required and legislative approval of individual capital projects required.
 HF1507 (Bishop) Treatment of legal nonconforming uses of land clarified.
 HF635 (Opatz) St. Cloud authorized to file notice regarding potential activity at regional airport.

3 p.m.

**HEALTH & HUMAN
 SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: HF1303 (Boudreau) Children's health insurance provisions modified.
 HF1397 (Tingelstad) Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.
 HF1660 (Goodno) Foster care reimbursement provisions modified.
 More bills may be added.

4:30 p.m.

**Land Subcommittee/ENVIRONMENT &
 NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY**

400N State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Howard Swenson
Agenda: HF873 (Howes) Hubbard County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized free of the tax-forfeited trust.
 HF72 (Mares) Washington County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
 HF154 (Ness) Meeker County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
 HF199 (Rukavina) St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
 HF491 (Jacobson) Ramsey County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
 HF613 (Rukavina) Private easements across tax-forfeited land authorized.
 HF688 (Bakk) St. Louis County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
 HF863 (Hilty) Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.
 HF1226 (Sertich) State lands exchange requirements modified.
 HF1401 (Bakk) Cook County tax-forfeited land sale authorized.
 HF1459 (Lipman) Washington County tax-forfeited land conveyances and public and private land sales authorized.
 HF1538 (Evans) Ramsey County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized.

HF1552 (Bakk) Lake County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

5 p.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &
 VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: Carry-over from morning agenda.

6 p.m.

**Service Credit Purchase Subcommittee/
 Legislative Commission on Pensions and
 Retirement**

316 State Capitol
 Chr. Sen. Don Betzold
Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 22

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: To be announced.

**HEALTH & HUMAN
 SERVICES POLICY**

10 State Office Building
 Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: HF560 (Goodno) Patient protections provisions modified.
 HF1053 (Abrams) Private health care coverage regulations revised, specified regulatory controls transferred, and managed care plan requirements established.
 HF905 (Haas) Health insurer and health maintenance organization regulation simplified, small business health insurance task force established, and appointments provided.
 HF926 (Goodno) Uniform health care identification cards content and format modified, prescription drug information required on cards, and issuance requirements established.
 HF1115 (Haas) Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association regulated, contributing member definition modified, writing carrier contract period extensions permitted, subsidies provided, and money appropriated.
 HF1155 (Abeler) Health care provider affirmative consent to participate in a network under a category of coverage and disclosure of provider's contract changes required.
 HF1212 (Bradley) Health maintenance organizations authorized to offer greater flexibility in enrollee cost-sharing.
 HF1291 (Boudreau) Health plan subrogation clause limitation provisions modified.
 HF1580 (Bradley) Health care coverage product regulation simplified and regulatory reform process established.
 HF1144 (Wilkin) Attorney general access to health data limited.
 More bills may be added.

Note: If necessary, this meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building at 6 p.m. or 15 minutes after session.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF319 (Bishop) Trial court judgeships increased in specified judicial districts and money appropriated.

HF764 (Swapinski) Hazardous materials emergency response/chemical assessment teams operation provided and money appropriated.

HF617 (Jacobson) Ramsey County - St. Paul joint domestic abuse prosecution unit continued, and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF1188 (Workman) Design-build method of state transportation project delivery provided.

HFXXXX MnDOT's design build bill.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

Agenda: HF1261 (Bishop) Department of Corrections housekeeping.

Note: Additional Department of Corrections bills and other bills affecting the Department of Corrections will be added.

ENVIRONMENT &

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: To be announced.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: HF1535 (Ruth) Agricultural education property owned by nonprofit entity property tax exemption provided.

HF1518 (Clark, J.) Homestead property classification provided individuals residing in elderly assisted living facilities.

HF1494 (Skoe) Agriculture preservation organizations property tax exemption provided.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda: HF1183 (Nornes) Exempts ambulance service supplies, equipment, and repair and replacement parts for ambulances from sales and use taxes.

HF938 (Boudreau) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing an outdoor swimming pool in Faribault from sales and use taxes.

HF1057 (Seifert) Exempts materials used in

constructing a regional emergency response and fire training center from sales and use taxes.

HF1090 (Smith) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing a public safety center in the city of Independence from sales and use taxes.

HF1495 (Lenczewski) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used on constructing a joint public safety training facility for the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, and Edina, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission from sales and use taxes.

HF1501 (Lenczewski) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and equipment used in constructing or renovating various city facilities for the city of Bloomington from sales and use taxes.

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.

Other sections may be added.

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: To be announced.

COMMERCE, JOBS &

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: MCHA Presentation.

HF1169 (Dorman) Relating to occupational safety and health; modifying safety committee requirements.

HF1543 (Holsten) Fireworks limited personal use authorized, affidavit of safety guidelines required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1513 (Westerberg) Relating to employment; providing for the designation of telecommuting days.

HF514 (Carlson) Relating to retirement; providing continued insurance coverage for spouses of certain retirees.

HF1147 (Mullery) Relating to employment; providing for the designation of telecommuting days.

Other bills may be added.

1 p.m.

Legislative Coordinating Commission

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Sviggum

Agenda: Review/approve resolutions establishing subcommittees: LCC Subcommittee on Administrative Rules, and LCC Subcommittee on Employee Relations. Review/approve resolution appointing members of commissions and subcommittees. Receive report on financial audit. Review/approve resolution on Technology Use Policy. Presentation of compensation evaluation by HayGroup. Ford Foundation Innovations in American Government grant. Other business as approved by the chair.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

After session

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: HF214 (Anderson, B.) National Guard member allowable tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

HF481 (Greiling) Combat wounded veterans day designated as August 7.

HF1023 (Biernat) Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) service plaques authorized on capitol grounds.

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.

HF1468 (Jaros) Veterans' unemployment benefits provided to qualified veterans currently receiving federal military pension.

After session at the call of the chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF1505 (Lenczewski) Pre-1990 tax district five-year rule applied and time limitations provided.

HF1557 (Milbert) Inver Grove Heights tax increment financing district local distribution for designated parcels authorized.

HF1676 (Wasiluk) North St. Paul provided tax increment financing grant.

Other Business.

After session at the call of the chair (after full committee meeting — monitor schedule)

**Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council
and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens
Agenda: To be announced.

7 p.m.

Compensation Council

118 State Capitol
Chr. John Stanoch
Agenda: Continue testimony. Council discussion
regarding salaries.

FRIDAY, March 23

8:15 a.m.

**GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &
VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY**

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: HF977 (Leppik) Minnesota State
Colleges and Universities technical and
community college employee unions merged.
HF1103 (Gleason) Agencies assessed for cost of
administrative hearings not covered by general
fund appropriations.
HF1104 (Vandever) Real estate task force work
plan funded and electronic filing of real estate
documents initiated.
More to be announced.

**JOBS & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: To be announced.

10:15 a.m.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

**Liquor Subcommittee/COMMERCE, JOBS &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Doug Stang
Agenda: HF1205 (Sykora) Relating to alcoholic
beverages; authorizing off-sale wine licenses for
supermarkets.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: HF1120 (Pugh) Dakota County tax
forfeited land conveyance free of trust in favor of
tax district.
HF1176 (Vandever) Modifies electronic filing
requirements.
HF961 (Wagenius) Exempts certain energy
efficient products from the sales tax.
HFXXXX (Abrams) Exempts certain energy
efficient products from the sales tax.
Additional bills may be added.

10:30 a.m.

**Board of Trustees Candidate Advisory
Council**

300N State Office Building
Chr. Ben Vander Kooi
Agenda: Staff updates on council appointments.
MnSCU board member status and recruitment
timeline. Review of council procedures and
report on Regent Candidate Advisory Council
procedures. Appointment of subcommittees.
Election of officers. Program planning.

12:30 p.m.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT &
METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS**

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: HF981 (McElroy) Legislative
commission on metropolitan government
established, oversight of Metropolitan Council
provided, and legislative authorization required
for council budget and programs.
HF829 (Boudreau) Local building department
professional activity funds authorized.
HF192 (Goodno) Emergency medical services
special taxing districts and property tax levies
authorized.
HF1026 (Kielkucki) County boards and
municipalities prohibited from adopting official
controls that conflict with local land use plans.
HF1320 (Lindner) Hassan township economic
development authority authorized.
HF730 (Hausman) St. Paul park roads transit
regulated.
HF1099 (Osthoff) St. Paul technology
infrastructure bonds authorized.
Other business.

**To find out who represents you
at the Capitol . . .**

Call the House Public Information
Office at (651) 296-2146
or 1-800-657-3550

Constitutional Officers

Governor

Jesse Ventura
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Lieutenant Governor

Mae Schunk
130 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-3391

Attorney General

Mike Hatch
102 State Capitol
75 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-6196

Secretary of State

Mary Kiffmeyer
180 State Office Building
100 Constitution Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-2803

State Auditor

Judith H. Dutcher
Suite 400
525 Park St.
St. Paul 55103 (651) 296-2551

State Treasurer

Carol Johnson
303 Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul 55155 (651) 296-7091

Continued from page 18

victims of domestic violence. "When passions occur in those households, the last thing you want is an accessible handgun. We are trying to solve a problem, and we are going the wrong way. This is bad policy."

Committee Chair Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) sought to allay critics' objections.

"I assert that there are some things in this bill that should attract the support of some" opponents of the measure. He cited the bill's requirement that permit holders renew their certification every three years in regulated safety courses and the increase in minimum age. "This is just the beginning of the process," he said.

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) rejected the placation. "Characterizing certain elements of the bill as appealing to gun control interests is disingenuous at best," he responded in a subsequent e-mail interview. "This illogical reasoning does not ameliorate the fact that more handguns will be on the streets with passage of the bill."

Boudreau noted that the bill increases the statutory maximum penalty for felonies involving a handgun that are committed by permit holders. Under the bill, a permit holder who uses a pistol to facilitate the commission of a felony may be sentenced to 125 percent of the maximum sentence otherwise provided in statute.

"I just have a philosophical difference with some opponents," Boudreau explained. "I don't believe that guns cause violence." 🐼

Continued from page 19

nontraditional careers, such as plumbing and motorcycle painting. "The girls were fascinated," she said of a recent experience, and they were also making a career connection, realizing this was something they could make money doing.

Representatives of WomenVenture said their program is working. Of the 95 women who graduated from training programs in 2000, 76 percent were low-income women and 67 percent were women of color. Two-thirds of those graduates entered the trades, and the rest were employed in traditional jobs. Since 1991 WomenVenture has had more than 500 graduates.

With projects such as light-rail transit and University of Minnesota construction projects, "Contractors are hurting for workers," Jordet said.

And programs like those through WomenVenture can provide workers by training women for good-paying careers.

"We understand the particular challenges and obstacles facing women and know ways to overcome them," Jordet said. 🐼

Reflections

Many legislative staff and visitors to the Capitol use public transportation to get to and from the complex. While Monday, March 12, was no exception, an early morning deluge of thick, wet snow disrupted normal activity.

In spite of the excellent job bus drivers perform as they maneuver their large vehicles through traffic, movement from downtown St. Paul was delayed by thick slush. For the first time in a few years, buses had trouble getting up the hill on Constitution Avenue.

By early afternoon, when buses could not move forward after they stopped a block southeast of the State Office Building, some passengers got off and walked two blocks to more level ground at University Avenue. Others boarded buses that took them back downtown or on an alternate route.

While 'getting there' was unusually difficult for bus riders last Monday, mass transportation to the Capitol has been convenient for many years. The extended accordion-type buses don't usually get stuck, and express buses get people to the Capitol from other parts of St. Paul, Minneapolis and the near suburbs in about 30 minutes or less.

Even so, Monday's inconvenience cannot compare to early overland transportation in the state by oxcart. And in the middle-1800s, legislators who lived the farthest away, came by dog sled.

One such lawmaker was Joe Rolette, who traveled from the most northwestern part of the Minnesota Territory to St. Paul. He was the noted legislator who later disappeared with a bill that was to make the city of St. Peter the capital city. According to one story, the most exciting part of his first journey from Pembina township in 1852 was reaching St. Paul.

When Rolette arrived, he drew a crowd.

People came out to see him dressed in furs and leather with his sled and dogs decked out in brightly colored ribbons and tinkling bells.

In the late-1800s, the horse and buggy was replaced by motorized and electric vehicles. Even travel by railroad from distant places west of Minneapolis brought people to the Capitol. And when more direct routes like University Avenue were built between the Twin Cities and outlying areas, streetcars became the popular means of public transportation.

Mass transportation was even popular in northern Minnesota in 1914 when mine



workers on the Iron Range needed a cheap way to get to work in Hibbing. They traveled from the outlying small town of Alice in a seven-passenger "Hupmobile," owned by a Swiss immigrant, Carl Eric Wickman, and a car salesman, Andy Anderson. Their business eventually stretched to Minneapolis and Detroit, then later became the Greyhound Corporation.

Buses that pass through the Capitol complex are an efficient way to get to work. But last Monday's snowfall must have caused some mistrust in one legislative staffer who was seen late Tuesday morning struggling on a bicycle, up the hill and through the snow.

Maybe for some, getting to work is always an adventure and a challenge.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

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

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota Weather

Hottest temperature in state history, (July 29, 1917 at Beardsley and July 6, 1936 at Moorhead), in degrees	114
Coldest (Feb. 2, 1996 at Tower), in degrees	-60
Maximum 24-hour temperature change, (April 3, 1982 at Lambertson), in degrees	71
Maximum 24-hour snowfall in the state (Nov. 1, 1991 at Cook), in inches	29
Maximum number of inches from single storm (Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, 1991 at Duluth)	36.9
Maximum amount of snowfall inches in one season (July 1949 to June 1950 in Cook County)	170.5
Maximum snow depth (March 28, 1950 in Cook County)	75
Maximum 24-hour rain total (July 22, 1972 at Fort Ripley), in inches	10.84
Maximum inches from single storm (July 17-19, 1867 at Sauk Centre)	36
Least annual rainfall (Ortonville, 1976), in inches	6.37
Most annual rainfall (St. Francis, 1991), in inches	53.52
Longest dry period (Beardsley, Canby, Marshall and Dawson from Nov. 9, 1943 to Jan. 26, 1944), in days	79
Maximum wind gust (Aug. 20, 1904 tornado at Minneapolis/St. Paul), in miles per hour	110
Amount of snow on ground as of March 8, 2001 in Park Rapids, in inches	22
On March 9, 2000	1
Amount of snow on ground as of March 8, 2001 in Duluth, in inches	23
On March 9, 2000	0
Average snowfall for the Twin Cities during March, in inches	9.3
Total snowfall March 2000, in inches	1
Average annual snowfall for Twin Cities, in inches	45.4
In Duluth, in inches	79.5
Average temperature in International Falls in January 2001, in degrees	14.1
In 2000	4.9
At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, January 2001, in degrees	20.0
In 2000	15.9
Average March 2000 temperature in International Falls, in degrees	32.2
At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport	41.0
Average July 2000 temperature in International Falls	66.2
At Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport	72.4

Source: Minnesota Climatology Working Group

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

To find out about bill introductions or the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(651) 296-6646

For an up-to-date recorded message giving committee meeting times and agendas, call:
Committee Hotline
(651) 296-9283

The House of Representatives can be reached on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>

Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired. To ask questions or leave messages, call:
TTY Line (651) 296-9896 or
1-800-657-3550

Check your local listings to watch House committee and floor sessions on TV.

This document can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling
(651) 296-2146 voice, (651) 296-9896 TTY, or
(800) 657-3550 toll free voice and TTY.