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In this issue:

AMENDING SEAT BELT LAWS

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS, AND MORE

HF1873-HF2174

Session Weekly

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On the cover: Vince and Larry the "Crash Test Dummies" listen along with Rep. Andy Westerberg (R-Blaine), front, as the House Transportation Policy Committee took testimony March 20 on a bill that would make failure to wear a seat belt a primary offense.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Buckle up

Lawmakers consider a bill that would allow law enforcement to pull drivers over for not wearing a seat belt

By JONAS M. WALKER

Amid a host of initiatives aimed at changing the way Minnesotans move are two whose authors want to capitalize on a simple, yet all-too-often ignored, vehicle safety device: the seat belt.

Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) is sponsoring legislation to designate driving without wearing a seat belt a primary offense, meaning police officers could stop a driver specifically for that infraction.

His bill, HF1314, was amended by the House Transportation Policy Committee March 20 so that only people under age 18 could be ticketed as a primary offense. It was referred to the House Crime Prevention Committee.

Committee Chair Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) proposed the amendment, explaining in a later interview that “our

passengers under age 18 to buckle up. Under existing law, only the driver, front passenger, and children under age 11 in the back seat must use safety belts. Drivers violating the law are subject to a \$25 fine, a figure that Workman said is often less than additional administrative fees added by prosecuting counties.

A complimentary bill sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) would expand the laws requiring the use of child restraint systems.

HF735 would increase the penalty for failing to use a child car seat from \$50 to \$75 and clarifies the type of restraint systems needed. The bill has been referred to the House Transportation Policy Committee, which has yet to discuss the matter.

According to the nonpartisan House Research Department, lawmakers have introduced bills similar to Workman’s seatbelt

had primary enforcement laws as of February 2001.

Mares said HF1314 is designed to accomplish three goals: save lives, reduce injury, and decrease health care spending by reducing the severity of crash-related injuries. He said proper seat belt usage reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent. He added that unbelted crash victims incur medical bills 50 percent higher than those wearing belts, of which “society pays 85 percent.”

State Patrol Sgt. Don Schmalzbauer told the committee police need not intentionally increase enforcement of seat belt laws for the legislation to effectively increase seat belt usage. He said as few as 20 percent of drivers used seat belts in 1985, a figure that has risen to 73 percent today despite a prohibition of police stopping motorists solely for failure to buckle up.

Mares said seat belt usage in Michigan rose 13 percent after that state made driving unbelted a primary offense, although law enforcement did not intentionally target enforcing the change. He calculated the Legislature could prevent 51 deaths, 979 injuries, and save \$88 million annually by increasing seat belt usage by that percentage.

Echoing Workman’s observations about parent-child power struggles over seat belt use, Rural Health Association President Gary Wingrove said the “best way to get kids to use seat belts is to get adults to use seat belts.”

Wingrove endorsed the bill in its original form, explaining his group took interest in the legislation because the costs of car crash deaths are “disproportionately rural.” Because of the severity of crashes at high speeds and the distance to medical facilities, rural crashes comprise 76 percent of all crash deaths.

Proponents emphasized that creating a primary offense would not necessarily increase law enforcement activity, a phenomenon for which legislators expressed concern. Noting that the House Crime Prevention Committee recently approved a statewide policy against racial profiling, some lawmakers were concerned that allowing police to stop unbelted motorists could aggravate existing tension between law enforcement and the public.

In response, the Department of Public Safety released a document addressing that concern. It cited, for example, a National Black Caucus of State Legislators finding in October 1999 that “African-Americans in states



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gary Wingrove, president of the Rural Health Association, along with Vince and Larry the “Crash Test Dummies,” testifies for a bill that would make failure to wear a seat belt a primary offense during a March 20 meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee.

constituents are not begging us to do this to them, but to do this to their children.” He added his own reluctance to create a primary seat belt offense stemmed from a “strong civil libertarian” sensibility.

The bill would also require all backseat

proposal every year since 1988, when failure to wear a safety belt was made a secondary offense subject to a \$10 fine. It was legal to drive without a safety belt in Minnesota prior to 1986. According to the Department of Public Safety, 17 states and the District of Columbia

with primary seat belt laws reported fewer problems” with police harassment.

Additionally, the Minnesota Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) expressed support for HF1314 in its original form, saying its safety benefits far outweigh any potential risks regarding racial profiling.

Proponents also produced a letter from San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, a prominent African-American democrat. While a state representative, Brown sponsored legislation allowing police officers to stop and issue citations to drivers not wearing safety belts.

“The law, now in effect for seven years, has been entirely successful. Seat belt use has increased dramatically,” he wrote. “I have not heard of a single case of police officers using this life-saving law as an excuse to stop motorists to harass them.”

Brown also wrote, “Police officers have issued fewer seat belt citations each year,” a trend proponents claim demonstrates additional police effort need not be appropriated to increase seat belt usage.

State Patrol Chief Anne Beers predicted “people will wear seatbelts just because they want to avoid being pulled over.” She added that she does anticipate the number of police stops increasing.

Opponents complained that the bill would give police another reason to snoop in citizens’ cars and could potentially exacerbate conflict between urban residents and police.

Public Safety Commissioner Charlie Weaver described the seat belt requirement as “the only traffic law we don’t let cops enforce.” While serving as a representative, he said, he was a longtime opponent of the measure, but now said the bill could save “twice as many lives as (lowering the legal blood-alcohol concentration level to) .08.”



Clarification

A story explaining a bill that proposed changes to Election Day registration procedures in the March 9 issue of *Session Weekly* inadvertently suggested that the last four digits of a voter’s Social Security number would be listed on polling place rosters. Testimony at the hearing suggested those numbers would be treated like dates of birth, which are listed on rosters. While no testimony refuted the suggestion, no testimony confirmed it, either. However, a provision in the bill prohibits printing any part of a social security number on a public document, which polling place rosters become after an election.

We apologize for any confusion that may have resulted.

Corrections

A story in the March 16 issue of *Session Weekly* addressing a bill that would help eliminate barriers to dental access for disadvantaged people suggested the bill would also expand the role of dental hygienists. An amendment had removed that provision from the bill.

Also, a story about potential changes to child support law in the March 16 issue of *Session Weekly* suggested that witnesses at a House hearing testified child support payments are tax-deductible. That information was misattributed to Christa Anders from the Department of Human Services; she did not offer such testimony. Some income from child support is exempt from taxes but not deductible.

We regret these errors.

IT’S A FACT



Women in the workforce

Early labor report uncovers dissatisfaction in urban industry

Back in the days when industry in major Minnesota cities was just on the rise, an exhaustive report of labor practices in those cities revealed a series of undesirable choices for women entering the workforce.

The report, the first biennial report of the Minnesota Bureau of Labor Statistics published in 1888, contained a chapter on “Wage Working Women,” explaining the labor market situation for women in the late 19th Century.

In its opening remarks, the report said many women are unable to find wages that will support even the basic necessities of room and board. But the report also expressed concern regarding women’s wages in comparison to men’s, and that women were not making what they were worth.

The report gathered data from women in various sectors of the workforce, their employers and employment counselors. Analysis of the data showed women involved in household duties were dissatisfied with both working conditions and pay. However, there was also a predominant public perception that household “girls,” as they were called, were somehow inferior socially — thereby making the profession even less desirable.

But those who worked in factories were only slightly less satisfied with their working conditions.

“There was much complaint about low wages, and in some establishments quite a bitter feeling seemed to exist between employer and employee,” said the report.

Overall, the analysis spent the most time on household workers, which employed many women at the time, since the work was relatively easy to obtain. However, both workers and their bosses voiced displeasure regarding the state of the industry.

On average, household workers earned between \$2 and \$3 per week in addition to their room and board. Furthermore, an experienced, qualified woman could receive up to \$5 per week.

Other industries paid women as much as

\$40 per month, depending on the skill level of the worker. However, such wages were not the norm and the most basic quarters would cost a woman about \$25 a month.

“This estimate gives an allowance for only the plain clothing, and no provision for luxury or refinements,” the report said.

The report does not elaborate further on the pay disparity between men and women, however.

Hiring household workers frustrated many people because the large immigrant population unable to speak English posed difficulty for them, they questioned the character of many applicants, and they demanded high wages and didn’t deliver.



Women carding wool in the 1890’s

“The majority of girls are incompetent, unreliable, and impertinent. They want to run the house,” said one employer. “Competent help can be obtained by paying high wages — much more than they are worth,” said another.

Workers complained

that household work never allowed them any free time and families would not treat them well, requiring them to eat inferior food, never use the front door, board them in poor quarters, and never allow them free time or space to receive visitors.

“It’s degrading, the way girls are treated,” one worker said. And from another, “I worked for one family who used me like a dog around the house. I will never do that kind of work again.”

The primary conclusion drawn in the report was that a training school for household workers needed to be established. Such an establishment would help overcome cultural boundaries and maintain standards in the workforce.

In addition, the report concluded that workers should be given adequate quarters, allowed to eat the same food as the regular family, and be given a proper place to receive guests. Dealing with these issues would breed goodwill between employer and employee, and prompt workers to be more loyal and productive.

(M. KIBIGER)

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

★ BUDGET

Maximum spending debate

Each odd year of a legislative session, the House Ways and Means Committee is required to adopt a budget resolution setting the maximum amount that can be spent from the state's budget over the next fiscal biennium.

The committee adopted two resolutions March 20 that would establish that amount.

One resolution would set the amount at \$25.8 billion. The other would set the figure at \$27 billion. There was a lengthy debate during the previous day's floor session on whether tax cuts should be counted as expenditures, thereby accounting for two resolutions.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said previous tax cuts have counted in the figure and the proposal to not count the reduced revenue was an attempt by Republicans to make it appear the House is reducing the size of government more than when the DFL was in the majority.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) said most Minnesotans do not consider tax cuts as government spending and the revised method for determining the resolution's amount was an attempt to more accurately reflect the true amount of government spending.

Both approved resolutions would allow for \$714 million in additional spending along with \$1.2 billion for tax cuts.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has proposed the same \$714 million expenditure amount with \$1.1 billion in tax relief.

A change to the House rules would have to be adopted in order to remove the amount of tax cuts to the budget figure.

The committee took testimony from several people speaking both in support and

opposition to the amount in the resolutions.

Former state Sen. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) said government should be expected to operate within a budget with only inflationary increases. She said state agencies and other constituencies have gotten too used to double-digit increases in their budgets.

Bernie Brommer, president of the state AFL-CIO, said the amount of the budget shouldn't be determined by the percentage it will increase but by the amount necessary to adequately address the needs of the state.

"Every one dollar I pay in taxes in the state I consider to be the best investment I make on behalf of myself and my family."

★ CHILDREN

Childcare consolidation

A bill that would create a single consolidated program for childcare assistance was heard by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 19.

"This is the most important thing we'll do this session in how we deal with childcare," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), sponsor of HF1515.

The bill would consolidate the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Childcare, Basic Sliding Fee Childcare, and At-Home Infant Childcare (AHIC). It would also repeal Transition Year childcare.

There would be no change to the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) childcare program.

Under HF1515, maximum income eligibility would be based on federal poverty guidelines instead of state median income, as it is now. According to existing law, the maximum

income for program eligibility is 75 percent of the state median income. Under this bill it would be 250 percent of federal poverty guidelines in 2002, dropping to 225 percent in 2003.

For example, under HF1515 a family of four would be eligible for childcare assistance if the total family income was less than \$44,125. That figure is \$50,355 under present rules.

The new program would have a capped allocation instead of the current forecasted appropriation. This is intended to keep the costs from escalating out of control.

If there is a funding shortfall, the waiting list will be prioritized.

HF1515 is similar to, but not the same as, the governor's proposal for childcare consolidation. Some differences include: keeping HESO childcare, using a capped rather than a forecasted allocation, and using different eligibility guidelines with the governor's proposal establishing the maximum entry level income at 50 percent of state median income, or \$33,570 for a family of four.

HF1515 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Aiding more families

A bill that would increase the number of families eligible for the At-Home Infant Care Program (AHIC) was heard by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee March 19.

Established by the Legislature in 1997, the program allows families eligible for Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance to receive a subsidy in lieu of child care assistance when a parent stays at home with an infant under age one.

HF504, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), would make three changes to current law:

- Increase the lifetime limit for a family from 12 months to 36 months, with a maximum of 12 months per child;
- Change the calculation of income to actual

First committee deadline this week

The first deadline for bills to advance from committee in the House and Senate is March 30.

By that date, bills must have advanced beyond policy committees in their house of origin.

Of course, there are exceptions to the rule. The Taxes committees and Rules committees in both houses may continue to hear bills beyond that deadline.



Members of the House Ways and Means Committee take up a resolution March 20 setting the maximum limit on general fund expenditures for the biennium.

income while the family is participating in the AHIC program, rather than while both parents are working;

- Increase the payment to families from 75 percent to 90 percent of the Basic Sliding Fee rate.

The changes would not have a financial component because the program currently has a capped allocation. Any increase in costs would be absorbed by providing service to fewer families.

HF504 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Childcare provider education grants

The rate of employee turnover in childcare has become a "mass exodus," according to Karen Diver, executive director of the Duluth YWCA.

In hopes of slowing this exodus, Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) is sponsoring a bill that would create a grant program aimed at increasing the education and retention of childcare providers.

HF1449 was heard March 19 by the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee. It will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The bill would appropriate \$8 million a year for the next two years to create a Teacher Education and Compensation Helps, or "TEACH" program, based on a successful program that originated in North Carolina.

The program would provide tuition scholarships and bonuses for specialized training and retention to childcare staff and providers who meet established criteria.

TEACH would be administered by a non-profit organization contracted by the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The McKnight Foundation and the Bush Foundation have each promised financial support of \$1 million for the program contingent on public funding.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for state money to be leveraged," Swapinski said.

Nancy Lattimer from the McKnight Foundation said the organization has been "very concerned" during the last several years with the turnover in childcare of 30 percent to 40 percent annually.

"It's very important for children to have a stable relationship with a caregiver," Lattimer said. "If they are not getting that stability, they are not able to form attachments."

"We see TEACH as an opportunity for a very productive private-public relationship," she said.

★ CRIME

Concealed carry carries on

A bill sponsors say is intended to make the issuing of permits to carry handguns in public more consistent continues to move through the House.

The House Civil Law Committee approved HF1360 March 19 and referred it to the House Judiciary Finance Committee, which some legislators believe will be its final stop before appearing on the House floor.

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

Currently, police chiefs also have that authority.

Boudreau said her bill would help Minnesota "recognize the human right to self-defense" by eliminating the "arbitrary and unfair" discretion held by local law enforcement officials in granting or denying permit applications.

Some members expressed concern about a provision creating an automated database with information collected on a permit application. The database could be used by law enforcement agencies to "verify permit status."

Don Gemborling, director of information policy analysis at the Department of Administration, said all information collected on the application is already considered private and can be disseminated only for what he described as "compelling reasons."

Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth), referring to a backlog now plaguing criminal history record-keeping in Minnesota, asked if sheriffs would have sufficient knowledge of an applicant's true history. Boudreau responded they would through other local law enforcement agencies, but she elaborated no further.

Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) expressed concern about the bill's "very broad" description of the groups that may legitimately certify permit-holders.

HF1360 would include "any national, state, or regional nonprofit organization that certifies firearms safety trainers" as legitimately meeting the bill's requirement that permit holders be certified by an instructor. Boudreau said existing national handgun safety standards exist and reassured the committee her bill was sufficient to uphold them.

Funding community corrections

In 1973, the Legislature passed a law to create a partnership between the state and county governments to give judges more sentencing options and more evenly distribute the costs associated with incarcerating criminals.

But officials say the state isn't holding up its end of the bargain anymore, and they're asking for more money.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) has proposed a bill that would increase subsidies under the 1973 Community Corrections Act, expand a program to reduce sex offender caseloads for probation officers, and fund a statewide program to keep inmates busy while in jail.

Bishop presented his bill (HF678) before the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 20. It will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

County officials say the amount the state Department of Corrections has spent on community corrections has increased several million dollars during the past 20 years. However, during the same time frame, the state subsidy for community corrections has remained relatively stable.

Dave Rooney from Dakota County Corrections testified that the partnership was the right idea 28 years ago and continues to be a workable solution. He said before the act, judges did not have as many options for sentencing offenders.

"Judges had no place except the prisons and the juvenile institutions to send offenders," Rooney said. "We have the right pieces and we're proud of it."

But the system the act created in 1973 is in danger of crumbling, Bishop contends. Many of the 31 counties in the community corrections program are considering opting out because they're not getting the financial help they need from the state, though the state maintains some administrative control.

Fred LaFleur from Hennepin County Corrections said the partnership in 1973 gave the state primary funding responsibility for community corrections.

"That has not occurred, without question," LaFleur said. "We're asking the state to uphold their commitment to fund this partnership."

He said counties want more say in how the system operates if they are maintaining most of the costs.

Bishop said it would take an extra \$60 million in grants for 2002-03 to bring the subsidy up to the appropriate level.

In addition, the bill would provide \$5 million in grants for the biennium to reduce caseloads for officers handling the supervised release of sex offenders. Several people from Dodge, Fillmore, and Olmsted

county community corrections testified that a pilot program there is working.

"We are able to intervene where we are able to save identified victims," said Tom Rime, probation officer. "The first time it happened, we couldn't believe it. Now it happens all the time."

Officials estimate the program, which reduces sex offender caseloads to 35 per agent and 15 per agent for high-risk offenders, would save more than \$50 million statewide in costs associated with each victim.

In addition, the bill would provide \$3.4 million for "productive day" programs, involving education plans to help inmates achieve high school diploma, and work programs. The idea is to give inmates life skills and help them be productive while behind bars.

Strike force funding

A bill that would increase the base funding amount for the Minnesota Gang Strike Force was heard in the House Judiciary Finance Committee March 20.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), the committee chair, will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

The bill would appropriate a total of \$5.7 million from the general fund for grants to local agencies through the strike force, established in 1997 to identify, investigate, arrest, and prosecute gang members involved in criminal activity. The grants are administered by the Department of Public Safety.

Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended reducing base funding amounts for the program from \$2.4 million to about \$1.6 million per year through 2005.

Stanek's bill would provide \$2.78 million in 2002 and \$2.88 million in 2003 for the program. The money would be available in either year of the biennium. Also, those figures would be added to the base funding in subsequent years.

At a March 13 hearing, Ramsey County Sheriff Bob Fletcher, chair of the council that oversees the strike force and its grants, said there are already many more requests for dollars than the board can disburse.

★ EDUCATION

Board of education approved

A bill to reinstate the state board of education was approved March 22 by the House Education Policy Committee. It will next travel to the House Governmental Operations and Veteran Affairs Policy Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), HF770 was introduced to the committee earlier in the session, along with another bill to reinstate the board, which was sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan). The two representatives together revised HF770 to make it possible to pass this year, Buesgens said.

Under the bill, the governor, with the recommendation of the Senate, would appoint 10 members, one from each congressional district and two who would serve as members at-large. Half the members would serve two-year terms and the other half would serve four-year terms to stagger members' terms.

The bill restricts members from holding any public office, representing any other board of education or school district, or holding any other position, public or private, that might be a conflict of interest.

One member at-large must be a full-time student in a public school at the time of the appointment. This would allow the student to still serve after he or she has graduated high school.

Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) asked if student government positions are considered a public office. Buesgens said he would change wording in the bill so as not to restrict student council members, who may likely be candidates for the board.

HF770 instructs the board to select the commissioner of the reinstated Department of Education to serve as the secretary of the state Board of Education. The bill does not establish term limits for the commissioner or board members.

The bill also would change back all references to the Department of Children, Families and Learning to the Department of Education. The department was renamed in 1995.

Balancing school budgets

A bill that would ensure school districts would not promise employee salaries they could not afford was approved March 20 by the House Education Policy Committee.

"The bill asks that school boards do in-depth analysis to make sure contracts are in structural balance," said Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), sponsor of HF1470. The bill, introduced to the committee March 15, was

approved as amended and sent to the House K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Paul Bourgeois, director of business services for Rochester schools, said under the bill districts wouldn't have budget reductions and a constant laying off of teachers.

"The Legislature would be assured money would be accounted for and (school districts would) be fiscally solid," he said.

Currently, schools have to request additional funds every year, Bourgeois says. Salaries are generally the largest expense of any school district budget. The bill, he said, wouldn't take away their collective bargaining rights.

"School boards don't feel like they could stand up to the pressure of the community if there was a strike," he said. "The bill levels the playing field."

The Lakeville School District recently cut 57 full-time employees due to a \$3.5 million deficit because of mistakes in their budget, said school board member Michelle Volk. She spoke in support of the bill and said that fortunately Lakeville passed a levy referendum, but it was only able to restore \$2 million of the \$3.5 million.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls) said the real culprit might not be school boards. The bill is "conceptually all right," he said, as long as the Legislature does its part by providing guidelines far enough in advance.

"You can't expect districts to operate in a fiscally responsible way when we give them their budget one month before school starts," he said.

Buesgens said the issue is "not so dramatic," but that Biernat had a point.

The chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) is responsible for ensuring the House budget proposal is structurally balanced. "We have to have the same level of discipline for such a major expenditure," he said.

Computers for schools

A recycling program that benefits prisons and schools would receive a \$2 million matching grant under a bill introduced by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont).

Computers for Schools refurbishes donated computer systems from corporations by bringing them to prisons, such as the Stillwater facility, where inmates repair and reinstall programs for student use.

HF957 would appropriate \$1 million in each year of the 2002-03 biennium, providing the organization matched the money through private funding. The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee

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heard testimony March 16 from teachers who say they are grateful the program makes it possible to have computers in their classrooms.

"They have allowed greater access to technology," said Gene Berg, technology coordinator for the Lewiston School District. The computers are replacing 10- to 12-year-old machines in Lewiston schools. Throughout the district, he said, about five students use each computer every day.

Jon Scholten, a teacher at Como Park High School in St. Paul, said his school has received 80 computers, and 79 are in use. "We don't have funds to spend on computers," he said.

The program gives computers to schools primarily in the metropolitan area, but has donated to schools throughout the state. Dave Kettering of the Minnesota Computers for Schools program said businesses receive tax credits for donating computers to the program, and the computers go to schools with a one-year warranty.

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), co-sponsor of the bill, asked if language in the bill limits donations to only public and private schools, or if the computers could be given to organizations that support programs such as literacy projects.

Kettering said they currently do not, but want to in the future.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Legislators respond to audit

Members of the House Education Policy Committee voiced specific concerns with the way allegations of misconduct of employees at the state's education department are being handled.

Five workers at the Department of Children, Families and Learning have been accused of depositing money from a grant into a private account and withdrawing the funds for personal use. Barbara Yates, deputy commissioner at the department, apologized for actions of the department at the committee's March 20 meeting.

Three of the workers, Yates reported, are still employed at the department and another is still employed elsewhere with the state. Members asked why they haven't been placed on leave. Yates said the employees aren't working with money, and the investigation is not complete.

Rep. Barbara Goodwin (DFL-Columbia Heights) said when illegal activity is suspected a company or organization has the ability to put employees on leave.

A letter from Bob Wedl, who was commissioner of the department when the alleged actions took place, addressed to House and Senate committee chairs, was distributed to committee members. (Rep. Harry Mares, R-White Bear Lake, chairs the education committee in the House and Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL-St. Paul, chairs the equivalent committee in the Senate.)

In the letter, Wedl stated he had "no knowledge regarding this activity," and that he "accept(s) responsibility" because he was commissioner during that time.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) questioned what "taking responsibility" means. "Is he going to take responsibility for the felony?"

Yates also said the department "takes responsibility" for what the investigation has revealed.

"The letter illustrates a problem that for over two years wasn't caught," said Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr. (DFL-Winona).

Members asked Yates how the \$600 million the department receives annually in grant awards is handled and how this sort of situation could be prevented.

She said they have begun an internal grant review and are working on a better system for

grants. "We're trying to get more eyes on grants and grant processes," Yates said.

Legislative Auditor James Nobles said his office has long considered doing a broader examination of agencies and departments. Later this year, he said, his office will conduct an extensive examination of grant administration. He said they will not only be looking at inappropriate use of funds but other issues as well.

There has not been any legislation to deal with current findings, but Nobles said the Senate has introduced a bill to conduct a study.

Learn and Earn

Before Andryaelle Jackson of Minneapolis started in the Learn and Earn program, she wasn't looking forward to college, or even high school. But since the Washburn High School junior started it, she has participated in educational programs, personal and skill development, and community service, which have given her a better outlook on school.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) is sponsoring a bill to continue funding for the graduation incentive program to give more students like Andryaelle a better chance of completing high school and furthering their education.

HF1351 would allocate \$2.5 million to Learn and Earn to expand existing programs, begin new programs through grants, and evaluate outcomes. The House K-12 Education Finance Committee heard the bill March 19 and will consider including it in the committee's omnibus bill.

Learn and Earn was piloted by the Legislature in 1998 as an after-school, weekend, and/or summer school program for at-risk ninth- through 12th-graders. Schools must meet all requirements to be eligible for the program, which include having a high juvenile crime rate and 80 percent of students with incomes at or below the poverty level.

Students join in their freshman year, remain in the program for four years, and leave with a scholarship for post-secondary education or training. Program Director Polly Harrison told members of the committee the scholarship makes the dream of college more of a reality. For many students, they are the first in their family to attend.

Presently 200 to 250 students are enrolled. Last year a bill to continue funding was not passed, but this year proponents came with more statistics showing progress of the students.

Harrison said there has been a decrease in detentions of students in the program. She admitted she "wasn't proud" of numbers that showed after the program's first two years that

ASTHMA RELIEF



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Taylor Orr, a fifth-grader at Richfield Intermediate School, demonstrates for the House Education Policy Committee what breathing is like during an asthma attack. Orr testified March 22 in support of HF1394, a bill that would authorize asthma inhaler possession and use for public elementary and secondary school students.

59 percent of participants are on track to graduate in 2002. But then she looked at the graduation rate in Minneapolis, which is 44 percent in four years, and 31 percent for African-American students, so she decided Learn and Earn's numbers were pretty good.

Students are getting on the honor roll, attending national conferences, earning awards, and many have emerged as leaders in their communities, Harrison said. "These students would certainly fall through the cracks in their school districts."

★ EMPLOYMENT

Funding in question

Armed with three-foot wide scrolls of 2,400 names of supporters of displaced homemakers programs, executives and participants of the programs testified at the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee March 19 for the program's continued funding.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended discontinuing the program, saying other workforce programs in the state could meet the needs of displaced homemakers.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), and three of its co-sponsors sit on the committee.

Proponents of HF1003, which would allocate \$4 million in the 2002-03 biennium to displaced homemakers programs, say the programs cost much less than government assistance programs.

"The real expense would be to take away funding from displaced homemakers programs and put back costs on taxpayers," said Daniel Swalm, career counselor and trainer for Working Opportunities for Women.

The programs help rebuild the lives and economic underpinnings of homemakers who have been widowed, abandoned, divorced, or their partners have become disabled. Typically, these are homemakers who have been out of the traditional workforce for many years and are forced to re-enter it without certain work skills.

The Minnesota Displaced Homemaker Programs Network estimates a person who is unemployed and living on public assistance could cost taxpayers up to \$30,000 a year.

Forty percent of displaced homemakers turn to welfare, said Tsippi Wray, family law attorney and contract child support magistrate for Ramsey County. Most are more than 45 years old, an age where it's hard to enter the workforce.

Displaced homemaker organizations are the only programs that combine all their needs,

Wray said. Such organizations offer battered women's programs, sexual assault programs, and displaced homemaker programs.

Jack Uldrich, deputy director of Minnesota Planning, spoke on behalf of the governor's administration. He said the economic environment has changed since the program's inception in 1978; today there are more jobs, and Minnesota has one of the lowest unemployment rates.

The governor wants to focus on workers that are underemployed and have no lobbying group, Uldrich said.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) said he was concerned about domestic violence victims, that if displaced homemaker programs were eliminated there may not be others that would address those types of needs. Uldrich said the governor would want to make sure other programs had resources for specific needs of women, but did not know if any other programs currently exist.

HF1003 will be considered for inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

WORKING OUT THE DIFFERENCES



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Dave Walkama of Aurora, a 30-year employee of LTV Mining in Hoyt Lakes, brought his sign of support to the front of the House Chamber March 19, as the House debated a bill that would extend unemployment benefits for laid off employees of the mine. The House and Senate have appointed a conference committee to work out language discrepancies in the bill.

★ ENERGY

Energy bills charge ahead

Two bills that would provide energy security and reliability were approved by the House Regulated Industries Committee March 20.

HF659, said Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), committee chair and sponsor of the bill, combines the best aspects of three energy bills introduced by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, the Department of Commerce, and the POWER (People Organized for Workers, the Environment and Ratepayers) Campaign.

The committee has spent weeks listening to testimony and drafting amendments for the bill. It has now been sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

HF659 would summon public participation in early stages of the infrastructure planning process to help create an "energy security blueprint," a long-term plan of the state's regional needs. A state reliability plan prepared by the commissioner of commerce would give a short-term outlook of energy projects.

Applying for and receiving infrastructure approvals would be simpler, only needing review from one organization. Currently, proposals must be reviewed by three different agencies.

The bill introduces more incentives for conservation and renewable energy. One of several efficiency provisions requires utilities to offer customers the option to request that a certain amount of electricity came from a renewable or high efficiency/low emissions source.

HF1323, which has also been sent to the environment policy committee, introduces legislation to create incentives to put energy generation on the ground. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Loren Geo Jennings (DFL-Harris).

The bill defines an "electric generation park," and would require the Public Utilities Commission to decide whether to approve a certificate of need for a generation park within 120 days.

A Minnesota Reliability Surcharge would be used to encourage new generation facilities to serve Minnesota consumers. Portions of the surcharge would be used to purchase public right of ways; provide incentives for reducing emissions from, and increasing efficiency of, existing power plants; and issue grants for business energy conservation.

Lastly, the bill would exempt all new power plants from the personal property tax.

★ ENVIRONMENT

Master logger certification

Certified wood products are in demand in the retail marketplace, both as lumber and in finished products. Loggers, mills, and manufacturers who cannot supply these products are increasingly at a disadvantage, according to people in the timber industry.

A bill that would create an educational program to certify loggers was heard by the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee March 20.

"We have a lot of small mills that can't afford to go through the process of certification," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook), sponsor of HF925. "This bill would help the small mills to stay in the market."

The bill would appropriate \$302,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2002 for the development and implementation of a master logging certification program.

The commissioner of natural resources would contract with the Associated Contract Loggers of Minnesota to develop the program, under the bill. The commissioner would then appoint a committee to oversee the process.

Under this bill, the certification program must rely on existing logger education programs; its standards for performance and enforcement must be consistent with current state statutes; and it must be consistent with other forest certification programs in Minnesota. The program would be available to all loggers in the state.

"The certification program guarantees wood is harvested correctly and manufactured correctly," said Jerry Bircham, executive director of Associated Contract Loggers. "It would give Minnesota's private timber the ability to be certified."

According to Bircham, master logger certification is a national trend. It has been endorsed by the American Loggers Council and the Forest Resources Association. He said Minnesota is at a disadvantage because there is currently no mechanism for private timber harvesters to be certified.

"We have to go further away to procure our logs," Leah Kuyava, of Hill Wood Products in Cook, told the committee. "Our customer is telling us that by 2002 they will take no products not made of certified wood."

Not everyone in Minnesota's timber industry agrees on the importance of such a program, however.

Ray Killmer, president of the Minnesota Timber Producers Association, said currently existing programs, such as the Minnesota Logger Education Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, are sufficient.

Bakk disagreed. "The sooner we get on board, the better off our economy will be," he said. "And our environment."

HF925 was approved and sent to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

★ GAMBLING

Cutting gambling taxes

The state's lawful gambling tax rates would be reduced for a fourth consecutive year under three bills heard by the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division March 15.

Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson) said each would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

HF832, sponsored by Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), HF841, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), and HF948, sponsored by Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda), would reduce taxes on raffles, paddlewheels, bingo, tipboards and pull-tabs.

In total, each bill would reduce charitable gambling taxes by around 12 percent.

Daggett said the state began taxing charitable gambling organizations back when there was a budget deficit and it makes sense to now reduce the taxes to allow more money to stay within the communities.

King Wilson, executive director of Allied Charities, said that in 1999 charitable gambling organizations such as Lions Clubs, VFWs and church organizations contributed more than \$78 million for charitable purposes. Those groups also paid in excess of \$62 million in gambling taxes.

Maureen Vachuska, gambling chair of the Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia Heights, said that out of the \$3.4 million in revenue raised by the organization last year \$175,000 was paid in taxes. She said the remaining profits went towards the parish's elementary school, public library donations, and programs like Meals on Wheels.

She said money that now goes towards taxes could be spent towards updating the school's computers and other programs.

Dean Keller from the Spring Lake Park Lions Club said his organization contributed \$382,000 last year, much of it spent on building an athletic field at the city's high school. He said the club paid \$495,000 in taxes.

John Vaydich from the Duluth Softball Players Association, said his organization is involved in a project that would consolidate two underused and inadequate fields into a single improved field. He said the organization paid \$96,900 in taxes last year, more than enough to finish the project.

"Every dollar that does not come to St. Paul stays in the community," Vaydich said.

★ GOVERNMENT

Disclosing outside compensation

Many of the state's constitutional officers would be subject to greater disclosure on outside income under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee March 21.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HF1025, sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), would require members of the State Board of Investment to disclose any contract or other arrangement that involves providing outside services for compensation.

The board, which is composed of the governor, state auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general, administers the investment of state funds, primarily retirement funds.

Entenza called the bill a "compromise" proposal to other bills concerning Gov. Jesse Ventura's outside employment. He said the board invests more than \$53 billion annually and the bill would make board members' disclosure of outside incomes similar to what is already required by corporate board members and larger nonprofit organizations.

The bill would require disclosure of the identity for whom the services will be performed, as well as the duration of the arrangement and the amount of compensation involved.

Entenza said he agreed with Ventura's assertion that it is appropriate to let the people of the state decide whether the governor's non-state employment activities is an ethics issue. The bill would give people more information on the state's constitutional officers, he said.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), a cosponsor of the bill, said with the amount of money the board is responsible for, greater disclosure requirements are appropriate.

"In today's multi-national, mega-merger world, it's very difficult for the public to understand investments the state is making," he said.

The committee adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Mark Thompson (DFL-New Hope) eliminating the section of the bill that would have made it retroactive to Jan. 1, 2000. The bill now would be effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) said because "creative attorneys" could find ways to make compensation not look like compensation, the scope of the bill should be broader and should include disclosure not only of compensation but also financial interests such as royalties and the sale of property.

Entenza said he agreed with Gleason and would accept an amendment broadening the scope of the bill on the House floor.

Decentralizing government

Most state agency headquarters are located in St. Paul. The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee approved a bill March 21 that may spread them throughout Greater Minnesota.

HF1272, sponsored by Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth), would establish a legislative policy to "bring government closer to all people of our state in order to serve them better." The bill directs the commissioner of the Department of Administration to decentralize state agencies so the agencies are located in rural as well as metropolitan areas of the state.

The bill would further require the department to explore the possibility of using existing local government buildings to help save money.

The committee adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) requiring the department to study the issue and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2002.

Jaros said currently there are a few agencies, such as the Pollution Control Agency and the Natural Resources and Transportation departments, that have offices throughout the state. But he said he was surprised to learn that the Department of Trade and Economic Development had very few employees from their economic development division or the trade office outside St. Paul.

"It's very important for the department to help people throughout the state," Jaros said. "Non-metropolitan areas need an economic development and trade presence."

Kath Ouska, an assistant commissioner from the Department of Administration, said the bill would require a "large undertaking." She said state agencies are best at determining how to improve and administer services.

Ouska said that when comparing the demographics of the state population with the square foot physical space of agencies including higher education facilities, the various parts of the state are pretty well represented.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said to include the MnSCU colleges "skewed" the demographics because most agencies are located in St. Paul. He said when the Department of Revenue opened an office in Ely, management was opposed to the idea and reluctantly went along "kicking and screaming."

"After they got there they found it worked pretty well," Solberg said.

Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) said when a bill to move the Department of Agriculture campus to Greater Minnesota was debated on the House floor last year, concerns were raised about families in the Twin Cities having to move to other parts of the state and the availability of jobs for spouses. Gleason said those concerns should be part of the report required by Kahn's amendment.

★ HEALTH

Training health professionals

Rural Minnesotans would have access to more medical equipment and better-trained personnel under a bill sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe).

HF1216 seeks nearly \$2.6 million in increased funding for the 2002-03 biennium to help fund the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) Course. The bill further seeks approximately \$2.4 million for the 2004-05 biennium. The program now receives an appropriation of \$100,000 per year and an additional \$8,000 for administration purposes.

The bill was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

"CALS is specifically designed for rural communities that must deal with a broad range of medical emergencies utilizing very limited hospital and equipment resources and without specially-trained personnel," Dr. Darrell Carter, program director for the course in Granite Falls, told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 16.

He said rural doctors must be able to deal with a variety of medical problems or conditions, while in urban hospitals there are often specialists for each area. "CALS provides health care teams with the tools to care for and

stabilize critically ill or injured patients, and thus improves patients' chances of survival in less technical settings."

Sponsored by the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, the primary focus of a CALS Course is a team approach to anticipate, recognize, and treat life and organ threatening emergencies.

As of March 16, 589 providers, including 235 physicians and 287 registered nurses, have been trained in 30 CALS courses.

Jane Curran, a 28-year nursing veteran, including 18 in emergency services at Faribault, took a course. "It is important to have all your staff trained in CALS. It can make a difference," she said.

An Office of Rural Health survey in 1999 showed that approximately 12,000 medical personnel are in rural Minnesota. Assuming 25 percent of those want to take a CALS Course and remain current in methods (recertification every four years), 40 classes would be needed annually.

Mulder said 11 more two-day courses are scheduled throughout the state by May 2002, with five already full. Five communities are on a waiting list to host a class. "Because so many people want to be involved we need more money," he said.

Present fees for the program are \$590 for physicians, \$370 for physician assistants and nurse practitioners, and \$320 for nurses, paramedics, and others. The appropriation would provide the program at no charge.

★ HIGHER EDUCATION

Reciprocity re-evaluation

A plan proponents say will save money and create equal academic opportunities was introduced at the March 21 meeting of the House Higher Education Finance Committee.

PIGSKIN PROPOSAL



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

At a March 22 press conference Mike Kelly, executive vice president of the Minnesota Vikings, stands among architectural drawings of a proposed football stadium for the Vikings and Minnesota Gophers to be constructed on the Twin Cities campus.

Held over for consideration in the committee's omnibus bill, HF1649, sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), would call for reciprocity agreements between Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota to require the payment of Minnesota resident tuition rates. The bill would also prohibit general fund payments for the program.

Under current reciprocity agreements students pay what they would pay at a similar school in their home state. Opatz said, for example, a Wisconsin student attending the University of Minnesota pays approximately \$800 less than a Minnesota student does at the same institution. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Minnesota student pays \$1,100 more than a Wisconsin student does.

Opatz said this agreement costs the University of Minnesota \$3.7 million per year and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities approximately \$500,000 annually.

"We are now a net exporter of students," Opatz said noting 20,485 Minnesota students are now attending college in Wisconsin or North and South Dakota with tuition incentives, but only 16,667 students from those states are at a Minnesota college or university. He added that, "9,451 students from reciprocity states pay lower tuition than Minnesota students at the same institution."

The bill would not affect students now in college or those that will be freshmen in the fall.

Current agreements also have the state forecasted to pay \$10.5 million in the next biennium to North Dakota and Wisconsin using a formula agreed upon by the Higher Education Services Office. According to Minnesota law, "the formula shall recognize differences in tuition rates between the two states and the number of students attending institutions in each state under the agreement."

Opatz said his bill would help the state's workforce situation because "evidence suggests that for a time there is a tendency for students to work in the state where they graduated." He said Minnesota is expected to have a shortfall of 200,000 skilled workers by 2008, with 59 percent of those positions requiring some college.

Peter Zetterberg, director of the University of Minnesota's Office of Institutional Research and Reporting, said he was confident the net migration for employment is not true. "At the Twin Cities campus 50 percent of students from out of state stay here."

He also said the University of Minnesota graduates 1,000 engineers per year and without reciprocity agreements that number would be lower.

Roland Barden, president of Minnesota State University, Moorhead, also spoke against the bill, in part because he is fearful a Minne-

sota student wanting to study a certain area would be forced to pay more if they had to go out of state for that program, such as pharmacy at North Dakota State University.

Opatz said the state would need to develop targeted things to help students in those situations.

Credit transfer troubles

Schools within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system are struggling with the ability for students to freely transfer lower division credits from one institution to another.

A bill, sponsored by Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), addresses the problem by allowing automatic transfer grades for lower division classes typically taken in the first two years of school. HF1661, heard March 19 by the House Higher Education Finance Committee, will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

"If a student takes English 101 at Ely Community College and gets a grade of C or better, it will automatically transfer to another MnSCU institution, such as Minnesota State University, Mankato," Tuma said of the bill's provisions. The bill would require that for the credit to transfer, a student must be in an associate degree program.

Under the present system, officials of the receiving institution review the course description of the attending institution and see where, or if, it fits in their framework.

"If there is a 70 percent overlap we accept it," said Bette Midgarden, vice president of academic affairs at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. She said students completing specified transfer curriculum at one institution, upon transfer to another, will be deemed to have satisfied the general education requirement of the latter.

Much of the debate centers around students transferring from technical schools.

"This is baby steps for what we need for the future," said Larry Shellito, president of Alexandria Technical College. He said some students have 64 or more credits on their transcript, but less than one-third are accepted at other MnSCU institutions.

William Bieber, transfer specialist at Minnesota State University, Mankato, said of the 40 classes he has reviewed from technical colleges, 30 have had no problem being accepted, more information has been requested for a few, and five or six were rejected.

Before enrolling in classes, he said students seeking to transfer need to do homework by talking to transfer advisors, looking at transfer guides, or looking on a state Web site containing that information.

However, Mike Lehn, legislative co-chair for the Minnesota State College Faculty, said there has been a lack of education about transfers and that faculty need skills to determine if a transfer will be accepted and if it applies to a program at another institution.

Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria) wondered why some officials are against this bill if all is going well. "What's the harm if this passes?"

Linda Baer, senior vice chancellor of academic and student affairs for MnSCU, said, "The problem is that the receiving institution grants the degree, and we need to make sure all the parts are there."

Welcome to Minnesota

A bill that would help those transplanted in Minnesota send their children to state colleges and universities will be considered for inclusion in the House Higher Education Finance Committee's omnibus bill.

Sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), HF2001 would expand the capability for state aid to public post-secondary institutions by exempting that group of people from the one-year residency requirement for the funding.

Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester), who is sponsoring the bill in the Senate, told the House committee March 21 that it is aimed at people who have relocated to Minnesota for employment purposes and accepted a full-time job in the state before applying to a college or university.

"This is just a tiny piece of recruiting people to come to Minnesota and work," she said.

HF2001 would allow people in these situations to be charged in-state tuition even though they may not have lived in the state for one year prior to applying for admission to a state school.

"It's not fair for them to pay taxes here, but need to pay out-of-state tuition," Kiscaden said.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) asked what classifies someone as a full-time employee. He said depending on the employer, that could range from 26 hours per week to 40 or more.

"It should be full-time as defined by the applicant's employer," Bishop said.

Kiscaden said the bill has little, if any, fiscal impact. "It just gives us consistent policy."

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★ HUMAN SERVICES

Civil commitment concern

A bill that would modify existing law to make it easier to have a mentally ill person committed for treatment was approved by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 20. The bill was sent to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

"This bill makes it easier for families to get help for a family member who has a mental illness but does not recognize they have it, which is the case with 40 percent of people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), sponsor of HF281.

The bill would modify the definition of "mentally ill person" in the Civil Commitment Act and would include the following as evidence of mental illness:

- The inability or failure of a person to care for him or herself "for reasons other than indigence;"
- The probability a person "will suffer substantial harm, significant psychiatric deterioration or debilitation, or serious illness, unless appropriate treatment and services are provided;" or
- "Recent and intentional conduct involving significant damage to substantial property."

HF281 would also delete the word "imminent" from the phrase "is in imminent danger of causing injury to self or others."

This word has been a "bottleneck for people who would otherwise qualify for civil commitment, but they can't get in to be evaluated," Greiling said.

The bill would allow the maximum duration of hospitalization to be 21 days rather than 10 days.

Finally, the hearing for civil commitment would, whenever possible, be held concurrently with the hearing for medication.

"In Minnesota we would not let an elderly friend with Alzheimer's go out alone into the freezing cold," said John Milton, legislative co-chair of the National Alliance for Mentally Ill of Minnesota. "But we do allow people with serious brain disease to make the decision not to take medication, even though nearly half of them are not competent to make that choice. This is nothing short of inhumane."

Nancy Schumacher, director of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, said the bill has "disturbing" flaws. "It offers no protection against someone being wrongly committed," she said.

"When it's a mental illness, I believe there should be a way to intervene," said Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids). "The person doesn't see that they're ill."

A financial lesson

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee has been engaged in an ongoing struggle to reduce the waiting list for home and community-based waivers for people with mental retardation or related conditions.

On Jan. 1, 1999, there were 3,300 people on the waiting list with many families waiting several years to get a waiver for services.

"We applied in 1990 for a waiver and we're still waiting," said Glen Johnson, parent of a 24-year-old developmentally disabled daughter. "You wouldn't believe the amount of time and effort it takes — and there's no end in sight."

In response to this dilemma, the Legislature passed a law in 1999 with the intent of reducing or eliminating the waiting list by June 30, 2003. To that end, the law specified that money allocated but not expended on those who meet priorities must go back into the program to serve others on the waiting list.

In 2000, the Department of Finance put the unspent portion of the appropriation, approximately \$66 million, into the surplus. Committee members expressed their anger and frustration at the March 15 meeting.

"It's an obscenity what the Department of Finance did with those funds," said Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids).

"The Department of Finance clearly disregarded what this Legislature wrote into statute," added Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan). "They treat what we write into statute as a suggestion box."

Frank Hutchinson, from the Department of Finance, said he "listened to and understood" what the legislators said.

"Let March 15th go on record as the day the Department of Finance acknowledged they must not fool around with our budget," Koskinen said.

A bill that would make legislative intent clear on the matter of waivers was proffered to the committee by its sponsor, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester).

HF1064 states unequivocally "the commissioner of finance shall not reduce the spending forecast for the coming biennium," and specifies that any unspent funds must be used to serve persons with mental retardation or related conditions waiting for home and community-based waivers. The bill was approved and sent to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Among the bill's provisions are an expansion of the availability of services to people with mental retardation or related conditions and permission for conservators to serve as personal care assistants to recipients.

"I want us to celebrate for having unlocked the waiting list," Bradley told the committee. Because of the previous legislation, he said 1,835 new people had been authorized to receive waivers.

ABUSE PENALTIES



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Cyndi Cook, representing the Coalition for Battered Women, testifies before the House Civil Law Committee March 21 in support of HF699, a bill that would modify domestic abuse criminal and civil penalties.

Long-term care reform

A consolidated long-term care bill was presented to the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee March 20.

"I think when we look back this will be seen as a historic moment," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), sponsor of HF1658, and of the three bills that are its components. The bill was approved and referred to the House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Committee.

HF1658 details a "fundamental strategy to allow people to age in place," Bradley said, referring to a shift in focus from nursing home care to community-based care.

Minnesota's system has been biased toward nursing homes, he said. However, given affordable alternatives, people are choosing to stay in their homes as long as possible. HF1658 is an attempt to provide people of Minnesota with what they want in long-term care, he said.

The bill incorporates recommendations from the long-term task force, the long-term care imperative, and the Department of Human Services, including:

- Consumer information and assistance and community-based care;
- Long-term care system reform and reimbursement;
- Workforce recruitment and retention provision;
- Regulation of supplemental nursing services agencies; and
- Long-term care insurance.

"This is a decade-long commitment as we begin to transform the system," Bradley said. "I'm proud to be a part of it."

★ INDUSTRY

Selling gas below cost

Alan Merschman, owner of a Bemidji Amoco gas station that has been in his family since 1954, fears he may soon become a victim of predatory pricing.

"This is big businesses going after small businesses," he told the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee March 15.

Although he might lose money under a bill (HF1007) that would prohibit gasoline retailers from selling gas below cost, Merschman says he would see a base margin and he may not be forced to close his store.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), committee chair, defines "cost" as the average terminal price, plus state and federal taxes, plus six percent. Davids said he is concerned about predatory pricing by large retailers that are putting gas stations in small Minnesota towns.

"This would go a long way to ensure these businesses stay open," Davids said.

Ted Brausen, president of the Minnesota Service Station Association and an independent dealer, said he and other dealers would have a chance to survive if they came in at six percent over the market.

"We are not asking to be profitable; we are asking to be competitive," he said.

Annette Henkel, lobbyist for the Minnesota Retailers Association, said HF1007 is "anti-consumer because it restricts consumer's choices," and that it "affects all independent retailers."

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) pointed out that milk and cigarettes are priced in the same way, and asked Henkel if the association had any interest in repealing those laws. Henkel replied no, noting the laws have been in place for 40 years. McElroy said he was

concerned about the inconsistency on the association's stance.

The committee left questions unanswered regarding predatory pricing enforcement, green stamps, and other discounts, but passed the bill and said the numbers would be worked out at the bill's next stop, the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee. The bill will also likely be heard in the House Crime Prevention and Civil Law committees.

Steel crisis resolution sent

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a resolution March 15 to send an official message to President George W. Bush requesting that his administration immediately investigate illegal dumping of steel products in the United States. The House and Senate overwhelmingly approved the resolution.

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

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

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

The resolution implores Bush "to immediately impose a one-year ban on imports of all steel products that are the products of, or are manufactured in, Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Mexico, or Brazil if the President finds that the governments of those countries are not abiding by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States."

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF219/SF258*/R1

★ TAXES

Cashing in on charitable contributions

It may pay to be more charitable under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee March 16.

HF15, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would allow a 100 percent subtraction of charitable contributions greater than \$500 for people who do not itemize on their federal taxes.

The committee took no action on the bill,

but Committee Chair Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said it would be further considered for inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Taxpayers are now allowed a 50 percent subtraction for contributing to charity. Pawlenty said Minnesota was the first state to allow the subtraction.

The Department of Revenue estimates the bill would cost approximately \$3.8 million in 2002 and \$4 million in 2003. It is estimated around 95,600 Minnesotans took advantage of the subtraction in tax year 1999 saving a total of about \$53.1 million.

Pawlenty said those that took advantage of the subtraction contributed significantly to the nonprofit charitable sector in the state. He said the Minnesota initiative is being adopted by many other states and is part of President George W. Bush's federal tax proposal.

Carol Berde, executive vice president of the McKnight Foundation, said the more diverse a charity's funding base the more likely it is that the foundation's dollars will be leveraged. She said the number of individuals contributing has increased due in part to the tax subtraction.

The committee considered an amendment Pawlenty said would address a "glitch" in current law that exists because state taxes can be itemized on the federal return but must be added back to the state taxable income when figuring out the state tax liability.

According to information provided by the nonpartisan House Research staff, a married couple with \$70,000 in income that itemize their federal return have the same Minnesota tax on any charitable contributions up to \$1,600.

The committee took no action on the amendment that the Department of Revenue estimates would cost around \$30 million a year.

Low income assistance

Lawmakers are used to being under the watchful eye of their constituents. But Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) might have felt a little more added pressure when her mother testified before the House Taxes Committee March 16.

HF1017, sponsored by Walker, would provide \$200,000 for nonprofit organizations to provide volunteer tax preparation service to low income people.

Walker said last year that the Legislature appropriated \$100,000 for the program. Along with the appropriation, the Department of Revenue was directed to study the availability of taxpayer assistance services.

That study indicates that in 2000 more than 96,000 people received free tax assistance. As a result, \$57.1 million in tax refunds was generated and \$1.9 million in balance due payments were made.



Clarissa Walker of Sabathani Community Center tells the House Taxes Committee March 16 how volunteers were able to help low income taxpayers with their income tax preparation. The committee was hearing a bill sponsored by Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), Clarissa's daughter, that would appropriate money for grants to nonprofits to deliver volunteer assistance to low-income taxpayers for income tax preparation.

Clarissa Walker, Rep. Walker's mother, is a program manager for Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis. She said that last year the center's tax preparers helped low-income taxpayers claim more than \$779,000 in federal and state tax refunds. She said without the volunteer service, many people would not have been aware of the credits and refunds that were available.

Deb Schowalter, a benefactor of the volunteer services, described her situation two years ago when she was in the final year of nursing school. A mother of two boys and on welfare, she was told of the free tax services. The tax preparer helped her claim a refund of nearly one-half of her income for the year.

"Without the help I probably wouldn't have had that big of a return. I didn't know what credits were. It is very important to have this kind of help out there," she said.

The committee adopted an amendment that would make the appropriation available for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 but not part of the department's overall base budget.

No further action was taken but the committee chair, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

A parting gift

A Minnesotan may not always be a Minnesotan for tax purposes. The House Taxes Committee heard a bill March 16 that would change one of the factors used in determining residency for income tax purposes.

HF26, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), would prohibit the Department of Revenue from using the location of financial accounts in determining when somebody owes the state income tax.

Pawlenty said people leaving the state to seek more favorable tax treatment in other states often leave assets in Minnesota banks and other financial institutions. He said the bill would allow the state to continue to benefit from assets even after the person has chosen residency elsewhere.

"Even though they may go, keeping their money here is a good thing," he said.

John Haugen from the Department of Revenue, said the department uses 26 factors including whether a person has a house, owns homestead property, and whether they are filing income taxes in another state, in determining if they owe Minnesota income taxes.

He said people generally have a more difficult time explaining to the department why they do not have financial accounts in the state they are claiming residency rather than explain why they do still have a Minnesota savings account.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) said he has heard the opposite side of the issue. He has been told how easy it is to "beat Minnesota taxes" because the department is required to disprove a person's claim of residency in another state.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said perhaps the best way to address the issue is to come up with a clear definition in the statutes of when someone is a Minnesota resident and when they are not.

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.

Apartment breaks

Apartment owners would see their property tax bill decrease under a measure heard by the House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division March 19.

HF1398, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), would reduce the tax rate on residential rental housing to equal that of residential homestead property.

Dorman said the bill addresses an "equity issue," that it is not fair to tax those starting out and those with lower incomes at a higher rate than homeowners.

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

Currently the tax rate on rental property varies. For most properties the rate is 2.4 percent. For property in qualifying small cities the rate is 2.15 percent for buildings with four or more units and 1.65 percent for buildings with less than four units. The rate for qualifying low-income housing is 1 percent.

The class rate for residential homestead property is 1 percent on the first \$76,000 and 1.65 percent on the amount greater than \$76,000.

Under the measure the tax rate would be reduced to 1 percent on all rental housing up to \$76,000. The class rate would remain the same as current law for any value over \$76,000.

Stuart Nolan, a developer with more than 35 years in the industry, said current tax policy discourages builders from building more apartments in the state.

He said the only developments that work now are subsidized units with tax credits, and luxury property where the owner can charge high rents.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) said he could not support the bill unless there could be some guarantee that lowering the tax rate would guarantee the building of apartments in the middle range and that not all the savings would go towards the profits of apartment owners.

McElroy said the high price of building apartments is due not only to taxes, but also to other fees charged by municipalities.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said information provided to him by the nonpartisan House Research department shows that taxes on apartments have remained relatively flat over the past decade. He said that despite rate reductions the supply has remained low while rents have increased.

Cause and effect

Officials from the Department of Revenue provided the House Taxes Committee March 21 with an analysis on how Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax reform and relief program might affect businesses and households in the state.

But committee members expressed concerns with whether the findings of the department staff accurately reflect how the bill (HF511) will change the state's tax system.

Dick Gebhart, a research director from the department, said the analysis was based on the assumption that the state's tax system will remain in a similar position as compared to other states and the rest of the world. It also

assumes the other jurisdictions will change their systems to address changing economic conditions.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said that because people's behavior would change and adapt to the major tax reforms, the static analysis that doesn't factor in those types of changes was not that useful.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, agreed with Milbert and said he was further concerned that it took the department two months to develop the statistical analysis of the possible impact of the governor's proposal and that the nonpartisan House Research staff still doesn't completely understand all the details of the bill.

According to the department's report, the bill would reduce the overall tax burden on Minnesotans by \$1.2 billion in 2003. The governor's proposal would make the state's overall tax system slightly more progressive, Gebhart said.

A progressive tax is considered one in which the more you earn the higher your tax rate. Likewise a regressive tax is defined as one in which less income earned leads to a higher percentage of income being paid in taxes.

Abrams encouraged the governor and the department to work with the Legislature to find a tax plan that can be passed into law. He said that just because lawmakers disagree with portions of the plan doesn't mean they lack "political courage" or are "career politicians."

"It means we have a differing view of the future," he said.

He asked Matt Smith, the commissioner of the department, if the governor would veto an omnibus tax bill that didn't contain the proposed expansion of the sales tax to more services.

"What we heard, commissioner, is a resounding 'no' (about the expansion) from the people of Minnesota," Abrams said.

Smith said Ventura remains committed to reforming the state's tax system to conform to the changing economy that is based more on the purchasing of services.

DAN PATCH LINE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Laurie McNamara, who would live along the proposed Dan Patch commuter rail line, testifies March 21 for a bill that would require local approval of any light-rail physical design plans for a commuter rail corridor during a hearing of the House Transportation Policy Committee. Others testifying who would live along the rail line are; Brien Martin, Jim Welby, Dave Plant and Paul McCullough.

TRANSPORTATION



Riding the rails

Two bills dealing with railroads have chugged through a House committee and are now waiting at the station.

After discussion at a March 19 meeting, the House Transportation Finance Committee will consider both for inclusion in its omnibus bill later this session.

The first, HF1773, sponsored by Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet), would devote \$7 million for 2002 to the rail service improvement account, a fund used to pay the state share of contracts between the state, rail users, and railroads for infrastructure improvements.

The fund was first established in the 1970s, and rarely requires an appropriation because it receives repayment from loans made to in-

dustries which do the construction. Gov. Jesse Ventura's proposed budget included no money for the account.

A second bill, HF672, would give local agencies the ability to enter into partnerships with railroads so public money could be used to lengthen bridges. Sponsored by Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), the plan would prevent local taxpayers from having to purchase an entire bridge simply to expand the roadway beneath it.

Ken Haider, Ramsey County Department of Public Works director and engineer, told a Feb. 22 House Transportation Policy Committee that public funds would still be appropriated by the state and authorized by county regulators.

"This is not free reign to funnel money to railroads," he said.

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Information, House

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

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

TTY, House 296-9896

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Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, House

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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

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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

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130 Capitol 296-3391

Attorney General's Office

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Secretary of State's Office

180 State Office Building 296-2803

Capitol Security

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Emergency 296-2100

Stress relief

Plan would create tax-free zones to stimulate development for economically distressed parts of the state

By DAVID MAEDA

Traditionally the state's economic development strategy has been twofold: either spend dollars to restore older areas in hopes that will attract new businesses or give grants or loans to businesses with the goal of creating new jobs.

But some lawmakers say the conventional ways of doing things aren't proving effective for some struggling areas of the state, particularly rural areas in Greater Minnesota.

Calling it a "bold, provocative, dramatic, and think-out-of-the-box" economic development approach, House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) presented a bill to the House Taxes Committee March 20 that would establish up to 10 tax-free zones in the state.

HF400 would authorize the commissioner of the Department of Trade and Economic Development to designate economically distressed rural areas where qualifying businesses would be exempt from income, sales, and property taxes. Residents also would be exempt from owing any individual income or sales tax within the zones.

"There are parts of the state in dire economic circumstances that have experienced dramatic job loss and dramatic population loss," Pawlenty said. "As we travel to different parts of the state we hear, 'What is the hope for our region?' and we don't always have a good answer."

He said though the bill might seem like a radical idea, it is already successful in two other states.

Michigan and Pennsylvania have adopted similar legislation and Pawlenty said it was worked so well in both states they are considering expanding their legislation. He cited a recent article that showed the Pennsylvania initiative has led to 5,000 new jobs. The magazine cited the program as the nation's number one economic development tool.

Pawlenty said the primary focus of the measure was to attract businesses to distressed areas, but some areas of the state, like west-central Minnesota, would benefit from a population migration.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mike Larson, community development director for the IRRRB, testifies for a bill creating 10 tax-free zones in Greater Minnesota during a March 20 House Taxes Committee hearing.

Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook), one of the bill's co-sponsors, said traditional economic development strategies are not working in many rural areas of the state and the recent LTV steel plant closing in Hoyt Lakes is one indication that something new needs to be attempted.

A \$7 million Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board project in Hoyt Lakes to revitalize the infrastructure to an old industrial park has failed to have the impact that was hoped for, Bakk said. But with a strong workforce in the region, perhaps the tax-free

measure would be an added incentive for businesses to locate there.

He said the Iron Range fits many of the criteria in the bill, an indication of the difficult times that region has faced.

"I wish we didn't fit," Bakk said.

And Bakk noted that in the past the Twin Cities metropolitan area was defined as a seven-county region, but now with the growth around the St. Cloud area, it sometimes includes as many as 13 counties.

He said that as the metropolitan areas of the state thrive, the rest of the state is becoming more and more "a retirement area."

Under the measure, the maximum size of the zone would be 5,000 acres. A zone could be subdivided to allow noncontiguous zones. There could be up to six subdivided zones within the acreage, but the minimum size of the subdivided zones would be 20 acres.

The bill requires that all the tax-free zones be located outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

Pawlenty said in previous committee hearings for the bill that there was discussion about expanding the bill to include distressed metropolitan areas. He said he would consider expanding the scope of the bill to help certain areas of the Twin Cities — pointing to struggling efforts to revitalize the area around the former Lake Street Sears location in the Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis as an example.

Expressing concern with some of the decisions made by the Minneapolis Community Development Agency and St. Paul Port Authority, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the taxes committee, said there would be less chance for the measure to be included in the omnibus tax bill if it were expanded to the Twin Cities area.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said he was intrigued by the bill but had a concern it would create intrastate battles with cities and counties competing against each other while vying to attract businesses.

Abrams also said he was concerned about the approach being "TIF on steroids." He said tax-free zones, like tax increment financing, would allow for the government to pick "winners and losers" between businesses receiving different tax treatments.

Continued on page 35

One session or two?

Debate about number of sessions during a biennium has been going on since the start of statehood

BY BRENDA VAN DYCK

Is one session long enough for the Legislature to get its work done? For most of the state's history, arguably, it was. From 1879 to 1973, the Legislature met only once during biennial sessions, but for the last 28 years sessions have been an annual occurrence.

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, there was a lot of work for legislators, which meant they met every year with no limits on the length of the session. But that did not last long. In 1860 the constitution was amended to limit each session to 60 days.

As the state reached its late teens, some thought the Legislature didn't need to meet every year. In 1877, the Legislature proposed a constitutional amendment that would make legislative sessions biennial and limit them to 60 days. Unlike a similar amendment that was offered in 1873, but was not ratified by voters, this one was approved by a substantial majority.

But it wasn't enough.

A decade later the Legislature proposed another amendment to extend the length of legislative sessions to 90 days; it passed in 1888. This amendment also introduced the term "legislative day." It was 80 years later, in 1962, before the constitution was again amended to lengthen legislative sessions to 120 days.

During those eight decades, the Legislature would use some trickery by "covering the clock" to ignore the constitutional deadline for completing its work.

Someone would actually cover the clock with a piece of cloth or stop it to prevent the arrival of the 90th day of the session — the last day — on which a bill could be passed. With the Legislature covering the clock, it would pass a flurry of bills, often leaving the governor with little time to consider bills. By law, the governor had three days to consider and sign bills after the last day.

In 1961, Gov. Elmer L. Andersen ended the practice by telling the Legislature he wouldn't consider any bills passed after midnight of the last day for passing bills.

While an every-other-year Legislature

worked for many years, the times were changing and so were House and Senate rules.

With issues of modern society growing more complex, by the late 1960s, people began proposing the Legislature go back to meeting annually.

Proponents said the Legislature didn't have enough time to get its work done. They argued that important bills were brought to the floor late in session and legislators didn't have enough time to properly consider them. If those bills didn't pass, they were dead and would have to be reintroduced two years later.

In addition, when new legislators were elected, there was a sharp learning curve during their first session, so with just one session

under their belts, they had to run for re-election before coming back and using that knowledge. Flexible sessions, proponents said, would permit a more efficient use of time.

Other problems cited with biennial sessions included difficulty in budgeting accurately for a two-year time period, the inability for the state to respond to federal initiatives, and difficulty in hiring staff for short sessions. Proponents said a Legislature that met annually would be better able to respond to emerging needs.

Change was on the horizon once again.

In 1968, the Citizen's League released a study which recommended the Legislature meet in annual flexible sessions, spreading its 120-day limit over two years. During recess periods, committees could hold hearings and work on bills, and the legislative bodies could focus on research for future legislation.

A 1970 Minnesota Poll found that 74 percent of Minnesotans supported yearly legislative sessions. In response to that, the 1971 Legislature approved a bill that would



Former Speaker of the House Martin Sabo, who was the first to preside over annual sessions, convenes a session

put a constitutional amendment for annual sessions on the 1972 ballot. The amendment kept the number of meeting days at 120 during the biennium, and it stipulated the Legislature would not be able to meet after the first Monday after the third Saturday in May.

Also in 1971, a legislative study group, the Joint Committee on Flexible Sessions, released a set of recommendations on how the Legislature should operate if the amendment was approved.

The committee said that not having enough time to do its work was the Legislature's greatest problem. "The constitutional constriction on the session time frame automatically lays a foundation supporting the inefficient use of time in the first six to 10 weeks and fails to provide enough time for the last 10 to 12 weeks of session."

The committee proposed that the major sessions should occur in odd-numbered years and use 90-100 legislative days. In these sessions, the Legislature would make major spending decisions. The second year of the biennium would consist of reviewing budgets, acting on the results of interim studies, and finishing any leftover business.

Furthermore, annual sessions were supposed to reduce the need to meet in special session to finish business. From 1955 to 1971, the Legislature met in special session after each of its regular sessions, including a record 53 days in 1971.

Several legislators traveled around the state lobbying for the meeting yearly amendment. "We feel very strongly that this amendment must pass to give us flexibility," said Sen. Harmon T. Ogdahl (Conservative-Minneapolis), who co-chaired the joint committee on flexible sessions.

Former Senate Majority Leader Stanley W. Holmquist (Conservative-Grove City) said, "There is no question that the enormous workload of the Legislature requires yearly sessions. But by going to flexible sessions, instead of annual sessions, we can still do the bulk of our work in the odd-numbered year and use the second year for unfinished business."

Their lobbying worked as voters approved the amend-



House staff point to a cloth covering the chamber clock, extending the legislative day in the 1930's.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

ment, and the Legislature began meeting annually in 1973.

When the Legislature started its annual sessions, it started a pattern that has been largely followed since.

Instead of using most of the legislative days in the first year as recommended by the joint committee, the 1973 Legislature met for 66 legislative days and the 1974 Legislature met for 50 days. Since then, the Legislature has stuck to the original proposal of doing its major budgeting in the first year of a biennium.

Still, the 1974 Legislature heard some of the same complaints about the length of the sessions and not having enough time to complete its work.

A news report from the final week of that session said lawmakers were in the same scramble to get work done before adjournment as they had been in 1973. "The main problem seems to be the compulsion of lawmakers to introduce bills, the compulsion of committee chairmen to hold hearings on them, and general unwillingness of all lawmakers to say 'no' to their colleagues."

One lawmaker, Sen. C. R. "Baldy" Hansen (DFL-Austin) said the Legislature left too much over from the 1973 session. "There was just no pressure to finish up," he said.

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

What is a legislative day?

Even before proposing a constitutional amendment to change when the Legislature could meet, lawmakers explored whether they could recess indefinitely.

One problem with this was the lack of a statutory definition of "legislative day." In fact, the term wasn't even in the original constitution before being incorporated in an 1888 amendment extending the length of sessions to 60 legislative days.

Before the constitution was amended to allow for annual sessions in 1972, it stipulated that the Legislature meet biennially for no more than 120 legislative days.

For most of the state's history, "legislative day" had been construed to mean any day the Legislature could meet, excluding Sundays and holidays. In 1959, this was changed to include holidays. But this understanding of legislative day meant time ticked off the clock, regardless of whether either body of the Legislature actually met.

In a routine notice to the Legislature in January 1969, Attorney General Douglas Head said a provision in the constitution allowed the Legislature to extend the session indefinitely beyond its May 26 end date, if both the Senate and House "lawfully agreed" to do so. Legislators thought this could possibly open the door to allow for flexible sessions without changing the constitution.

As the 1969 session wore on, Sen. Nicholas D. Coleman (DFL-St. Paul) proposed that lawmakers recess for most of April and later reconvene to finish business. Senate Majority Leader Stanley W. Holmquist (Conservative-Grove City) requested the attorney general's opinion on the matter. In March, Head said the Legislature must interpret "legislative day" as it had for the previous 80 years, thereby strengthening the need for a constitutional amendment to allow for flexible sessions.

That same year the Legislature enacted a law that said "legislative day" meant any day either body of the Legislature met in session, from Jan. 1 to June 1. To test the law, the Legislature passed a bill on the 120th legislative day, which, under the new definition, was the 102nd day the Legislature met in session. A separate provision in the constitution prohibited the Legislature to pass bills on the last day of session.

The issue went to court, with lawmakers arguing the bill was constitutional because it was not passed on the last day of session. The court rejected that argument, stating the Legislature couldn't reinterpret the meaning of legislative day by statute in order to lengthen legislative sessions.

The session could only be lengthened by amending the constitution.

When the Joint Committee on Flexible Sessions made its recommendations to the Legislature in 1972, it recommended that the Legislature enact legislation defining "legislative day." The Legislature defined it in statute in 1973 to mean any day when either body was actually called to order. The statute also defined the length of a legislative day to mean 7 a.m. to 7 a.m. the following calendar day.

(B. VAN DYCK)



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

of the House.

Monday, March 19

HF1873—Howes (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Upper Mississippi comprehensive plan implementation grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1874—Abrams (R)

Civil Law

Tax data classification and access provided, and seized property and civil and criminal penalty provisions modified.

HF1875—Wilkin (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Minneapolis and St. Paul mayors removed from Metropolitan Airports Commission.

HF1876—Wilkin (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Council professional services contracting reports required.

HF1877—Wilkin (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

University of Minnesota prohibited from receiving AIDS prevention grants.

HF1878—McGuire (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Local correctional fees definition modified to include post-prison supervision.

HF1879—Paymar (DFL)

Transportation Policy

Advertising adjacent to highways and political advertisement regulated.

HF1880—Gunther (R)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Travel information franchise program authority transferred to the Department of Trade and Economic Development and money appropriated.

HF1881—Ness (R)

Agriculture Policy

Agriculture best management practices loan program provisions modified.

HF1882—Swenson (R)

Agriculture Policy

Shared savings loan program and sustainable agriculture demonstration grant program provisions modified.

HF1883—Ness (R)

K-12 Education Finance

Telecommunication access revenue program expanded to intermediate school districts, improved technology and curriculum development grant program established, and money appropriated.

HF1884—Workman (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Solid waste collectors provided notice or reasonable compensation for displacement of collector's business.

HF1885—Workman (R)

Transportation Policy

Licensed motor vehicle dealer bonding requirements clarified.

HF1886—Kahn (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Genetic testing prohibited as condition for employment and civil remedies provided.

HF1887—Abeler (R)

Education Policy

Autism-related disorders regional centers established.

HF1888—Ozment (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Annexation decision moratorium established.

HF1889—Lipman (R)

Civil Law

Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.

HF1890—Seagren (R)

K-12 Education Finance

Collaborative urban educator training program grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1891—Workman (R)

Transportation Policy

I-494 construction project advanced, I-35W/Trunk Highway 62 improvement project temporarily suspended, available funds redirected, and permit and ordinance moratorium imposed.

HF1892—Clark, K. (DFL)

Civil Law

Creditor discriminatory practices definition extended to include discrimination based on receipt of public assistance including medical assistance or housing assistance.

HF1893—Sertich (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Employers prohibited from requiring employees or applicants to pay for background checks or training.

HF1894—Thompson (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Nonprofit lawful gambling expenditures expanded to include support of honor guard or marching units in contiguous states.

HF1895—Dibble (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Airports Commission membership restructured.

HF1896—Skoglund (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Legislators' retirement plan second social security referendum provided, coordinated program created, and money appropriated.

HF1897—Wasiluk (DFL)

Environment &

Natural Resources Policy

Solid waste council and prevention, reduction, and recycling advisory council expiration dates extended.

HF1898—Dibble (DFL)

Civil Law

Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic.

HF1899—Workman (R)

Transportation Policy

Design-build contracts provided for transportation projects.

HF1900—Dibble (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Council transfer or disposal of sewage interceptor facilities provided.

HF1901—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

MFIP auto lease program established and money appropriated.

HF1902—McGuire (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Challenge incarceration program placement eligibility determined by the courts.

HF1903—Tingelstad (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Relative custody assistance payment and adoption assistance provisions modified, and difficulty-of-care rates equalized.

HF1904—Mahoney (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul sales tax neighborhood investments citizen review panel membership and appointment process modified.

HF1905—Davnie (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Legislative commission on the metropolitan airports established, oversight provided, and budget authorization required.

HF1906—Mullery (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

North and northeast Minneapolis industrial emissions cumulative impact study provided and money appropriated.

HF1907—Biernat (DFL)

K-12 Education Finance

General education levy provided as a state-determined, state-collected levy.

HF1908—McGuire (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Gunshot wound reporting requirements modified.

HF1909—Stanek (R)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

State patrol retirement plan coverage extended to officers employed by the Office of Special Investigations of the department of corrections, and transfer of prior service credit authorized.

HF1910—Tuma (R)

Crime Prevention

Corrections obsolete provisions repealed relating to reports, food products, and parole agent residency requirements.

HF1911—Tuma (R)

Crime Prevention

Minimum custody correctional facility values-based prerelease program proposal requests established and money appropriated.

HF1912—Pugh (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Pension fund members authorized to designate a new beneficiary at the time of marriage dissolution.

HF1913—Wenzel (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
General education formula allowance increased and levy for districts in statutory operating debt authorized.

HF1914—Erickson (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Technology enterprise fund and board created and money appropriated.

HF1915—Jaros (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Office of Technology advertising revenue solicitation permitted.

HF1916—Jennings (DFL)
Taxes
Nonprofit historical society-owned property tax exemption provided.

HF1917—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Brownfield assessment for potential redevelopment by community nonprofits grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1918—Tuma (R)
Crime Prevention
State public defender salary provided.

HF1919—Penas (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Career and technical education programs ongoing funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1920—Rhodes (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days.

HF1921—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Bus transit study authorized and bus transit way within part of the southwest light rail transit corridor prohibited.

HF1922—Mulder (R)
Education Policy
School districts authorized to determine school year start date.

HF1923—Mulder (R)
Education Policy
Small school districts located on state border authorized to employ teachers licensed in a contiguous state under a short-term contract.

HF1924—Mares (R)
Education Policy
Technology for improving learning grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1925—Walker (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Crime victim services center director authorized to adopt rules to administer the battered women's shelter per diem program.

HF1926—Biernat (DFL)
Education Policy
School technology standards required, staff development grant technology established, statewide audit of technology required, and money appropriated.

HF1927—Koskinen (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
MFIP family child support percentage excluded from income determination.

HF1928—Walker (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Health care access programs provisions modified.

HF1929—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
MFIP; county agency requirement to count part of rental or housing subsidies as unearned income deleted and provisions related to the September Alien Verification for Entitlements federal program repealed.

HF1930—Rukavina (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Northeast Minnesota economic protection trust expenditures limited.

HF1931—Davnie (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Occupational safety and health investigations data practices requirements provided.

HF1932—Goodwin (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Multimodal transportation fund established, portion of metropolitan area sales tax dedicated, and money appropriated.

HF1933—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Life-cycle costing required in state contracts.

HF1934—Stanek (R)
Crime Prevention
National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact ratified providing for an electronic information sharing system between state and federal government to access criminal history data.

HF1935—Clark, K. (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Self-sufficiency family income standard established.

HF1936—Seagren (R)
Education Policy
Charter school contract, board membership, evaluation, and building lease aid provisions modified.

HF1937—Mulder (R)
Civil Law
Voluntary environmental cleanup by person not responsible for release provided liability protections under the state superfund statute.

HF1938—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Administration department provisions modified.

HF1939—Carlson (DFL)
Education Policy
Charter school sponsor fiduciary responsibility imposed and legislative auditor requested to study and report on charter school operations.

HF1940—Sertich (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Capital access economic development program provisions modified.

HF1941—Gunther (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Job Skills Partnership program provisions clarified.

HF1942—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Wastewater infrastructure funding program provisions modified.

HF1943—Stang (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Civil service pilot project extended.

HF1944—Holberg (R)
Transportation Policy
Light rail; special taxing districts created to finance operating costs of light rail transit.

HF1945—Mulder (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Health care nonprofessionals defined as essential employees.

HF1946—Cassell (R)
Agriculture Policy
Value-added agricultural product processing and marketing grant program provisions modified.

HF1947—Mulder (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Vital statistics act modified, access to adoption records modified, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1948—Molnau (R)
Transportation Policy
Highway construction bids authorized electronically or over the Internet.

HF1949—Westerberg (R)
Transportation Policy
Trunk highway bond proceeds and highway bond-financed property governing provisions modified.

HF1950—Gunther (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Employment agencies law references to search firms removed.

HF1951—Goodno (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
HIV and bloodborne pathogen test use regulated.

HF1952—Rhodes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Affordable housing requirements authorized in subdivision regulations, regulatory relief required to housing developers who voluntarily meet affordability thresholds, and money appropriated.

HF1953—Rhodes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
State building code final interpretation provided, construction codes advisory council technical group authorized, building standard for state provided, and affordable housing requirements authorized.

HF1954—Kuisle (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Volunteer firefighters relief association general fund municipal contributions authorized.

HF1955—Davids (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Insurance producer licensure procedures and qualifications provided and criminal penalty prescribed.

HF1956—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Program options for certain persons with developmental disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

HF1957—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Medicare payment rate established as rate for all nursing facility residents for the first 100 days, and money appropriated.

HF1958—Goodno (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Resolution memorializing the president and Congress to take action to reduce or eliminate disparities between the states in Medicare+Choice benefits.

HF1959—Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic, computer data definitions provided, reporting redundancy eliminated, and administrative remedies abolished.

HF1960—Stanek (R)**Crime Prevention**

Sex offender and other offender registration law provisions clarified, DNA offender testing requirement expanded, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1961—Davnie (DFL)**Education Policy**

Non-licensed community experts encouraged to obtain licensure, and school districts required to notify parents of instruction from non-licensed community experts.

HF1962—Marquart (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Wilkin County nursing facility bed moratorium exception provided.

HF1963—Abrams (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Local government referenda on bonding and levies authorized only at the general election, information about ballot questions regulated, and spending reports required.

HF1964—Haas (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Small employer alternative benefit plan clarified and authorized to exclude maternity benefits.

HF1965—Vandever (R)**Transportation Finance**

Greater Minnesota interregional corridor improvements, metropolitan area bottlenecks, and transit advantages funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1966—Mulder (R)**Family & Early Childhood****Education Finance**

Head Start program modified, and money appropriated.

HF1967—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Social worker regulation transferred to health department, and licensure system replaced with a registration system.

HF1968—Marquart (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Red River of the North designated a canoe and boating route and money appropriated.

HF1969—Westrom (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Nonresidential child care programs and services that are provided by unrelated individuals to children from two or three unrelated families exempted from licensure.

HF1970—Solberg (DFL)**Civil Law**

Supreme Court requested to establish a task force to develop a state-funded central office for court-appointed civil counsel for specified sex offense and juvenile protection matters.

HF1971—Abeler (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Victims of torture center funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1972—Koskinen (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Mississippi riverbank stabilization project grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1973—Workman (R)**Transportation Policy**

State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming changes provided.

HF1974—Gray (DFL)**Taxes**

Education income tax credit and deduction modified, specified credits assigned, and commissioner's powers and duties provided.

HF1975—Stang (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Pooled collateral method authorized for protecting deposits of public funds, and collateral percentage required modified.

HF1976—Knoblach (R)**Taxes**

Waite Park water treatment facility construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF1977—Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

Commissioner of administration opinions language clarified, and statutory remedies abolished.

HF1978—Erhardt (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Voters required to provide picture identification.

HF1979—Erhardt (R)**Taxes**

Property tax class rates reduced for commercial and industrial, utility, and apartment property, and education homestead credit increased.

HF1980—Peterson (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Individuals providing services under contract at nursing facilities provided eligibility for compensation-related increases.

HF1981—Schumacher (DFL)**Taxes**

Sunset on limited market value eliminated.

HF1982—Peterson (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Nursing facility wage increases for employees providing certain services under contract provided.

HF1983—Davids (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Financial Information Privacy Model Act adopted.

HF1984—Olson (R)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Wright County Indian Lake aeration treatment grant provided and money appropriated.

HF1985—Pelowski (DFL)**Taxes**

General sales and use tax allocation to cities for transportation purposes provided and money appropriated.

HF1986—Rukavina (DFL)**Transportation Policy**

Pilot project to study application of anticorrosion substances to trunk highways and bridges established.

HF1987—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislature authorized to call special sessions and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1988—Davids (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Motor vehicle sales and distribution regulated.

HF1989—Davids (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Flood mitigation and prevention grants provided to southeastern Minnesota counties and money appropriated.

HF1990—Stang (R)**Environment &****Natural Resources Policy**

Watershed district borrowing restrictions modified.

HF1991—Stang (R)**Commerce, Jobs &****Economic Development**

Motor vehicle sales and distribution unfair and illegal manufacturer, distributor, and factory practices specified.

HF1992—Bernardy (DFL)**Environment &****Natural Resources Finance**

Clean water partnership grants provided and money appropriated.

HF1993—Johnson, S. (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Second Judicial District criminal offender mental health court pilot program established, corrections and detention data sharing authorized, and money appropriated.

HF1994—Stang (R)**Commerce, Jobs &****Economic Development**

Use of machines to premix and dispense intoxicating liquor authorized.

HF1995—Bernardy (DFL)**Taxes**

Full deductibility of health insurance premiums allowed.

HF1996—Sertich (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs &****Economic Development**

Claims against the recovery portion of the real estate education, research, and discovery fund regulated; and accelerated claims payment required.

HF1997—Hilstrom (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Weapons training requirements listed in rules of the board of private detective and protective agent services modified.

HF1998—Goodwin (DFL)**Taxes**

Long-term care individual income tax credit expanded and money appropriated.

HF1999—Johnson, S. (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Public post-secondary system funding reallocation provided.

HF2000—Goodwin (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Correctional employees plan service credit provided for a specified former corrections employee.

HF2001—Bishop (R)
Higher Education Finance
Higher education enrollment appropriations expanded.

HF2002—Howes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Mercury reduction provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF2003—Evans (DFL)
State Government Finance
Subregional comprehensive planning funding for the N.M. I-35 Corridor Coalition provided, and money appropriated.

HF2004—Kahn (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Bioengineered-free food optional labeling protocol advisory task force established and money appropriated.

HF2005—Anderson, B. (R)
Taxes
Buffalo Civic Center addition construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2006—Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
State employee protection against genetic discrimination provided.

HF2007—Wagenius (DFL)
Education Policy
English language learner education review required.

HF2008—Dawkins (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Eritrean Community Center of Minnesota language services and job training grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2009—Tuma (R)
Crime Prevention
Legislative approval of sentencing guideline modifications required.

HF2010—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Home ownership assistance and home buyer education funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2011—Dawkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Urban Indian housing program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2012—Bernardy (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
State commitment to the debt service equalization aid program increased, initial local levy reduced, equalizing factor to the average statewide tax base adjusted, and money appropriated.

HF2013—McElroy (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Good cause for failure to renew a franchise and notice of action to be taken by a franchiser required.

HF2014—Smith (R)
Crime Prevention
Permits for retired peace officers to carry pistols authorized.

HF2015—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Organic farmer cost-share payments provided and money appropriated.

HF2016—Winter (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Soybean oilseed processing facility funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2017—Clark, K. (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Deaf and hard of hearing employment center grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2018—Krinkie (R)
Transportation Policy
Counties authorized to contract with commissioner of transportation to maintain trunk highways.

HF2019—Sykora (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Elementary classroom web site grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2020—Kubly (DFL)
Taxes
Agricultural parcel homestead classification allowed.

HF2021—Workman (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Vehicle insurance policy discrimination and collection and use of personal information prohibited.

HF2022—Paulsen (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Notification to customers required of residential building contractor licensees against whom enforcement actions are taken.

HF2023—Kuisle (R)
Taxes
Telecommunications machinery and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2024—Osskopp (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Community-based planning provisions modified.

HF2025—Kuisle (R)
Transportation Policy
Projection of hand-held light from moving vehicles prohibited.

HF2026—Otremba (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Hearing instrument dispenser fee and reimbursement provisions modified and certain rule amendments required.

HF2027—Jacobson (R)
Taxes
Obsolete cigarette and tobacco products tax rules repealed.

HF2028—Nornes (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Environmental audit provisions modified and Pollution Control Agency annual performance reporting date changed.

HF2029—Haas (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public employee post-retirement health care account administration authorized.

HF2030—Krinkie (R)
Civil Law
Business data submitted to and collected by government entities uniform treatment provided.

Wednesday, March 21

HF2031—Johnson, J. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Contracts between school boards and exclusive representative of teachers allowed to be up to five years.

HF2032—Seifert (R)
Education Policy
School districts allowed to expend reasonable funds concerning ballot measures and initiatives, and policy on expenditures and voter notification required.

HF2033—Workman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Radio communication operators defined as essential employees and radio communications operators unit established.

HF2034—Fuller (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Beltrami trust fund land bordering public waters acquisition by transportation department by eminent domain authorized.

HF2035—Westerberg (R)
Transportation Policy
Sales tax on motor vehicles allocated to highway user tax distribution fund and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2036—Dempsey (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment authorized.

HF2037—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Public finance provisions technical modifications specified.

HF2038—Milbert (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Metropolitan area waste disposal fee increase authorized.

HF2039—Gunther (R)
Agriculture Policy
Obsolete and unnecessary agriculture provisions repealed.

HF2040—Penas (R)
Crime Prevention
Malt liquor brand registration prohibition relating to American Indians repealed, and other specified public safety provisions relating to emergency management and fire alarms eliminated.

HF2041—Cassell (R)
K-12 Education Finance
National and community service commission funding provided for the service learning program and money appropriated.

HF2042—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Insurance premiums tax rate reduced.

HF2043—Hausman (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Transportation commissioner directed to study feasibility of assuming or sharing jurisdiction of major river crossings.

HF2044—Krinkie (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Administration commissioner authorized to enter into agreements with cooling utility services.

HF2045—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Biomass electrical generating facility machinery and property exempted from property taxes.

HF2046—Walker (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Family and adult self-sufficiency provisions modified.

HF2047—Ozment (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Recycled materials promotion provided for public entity bid specifications and commodity and services procurement.

HF2048—Ness (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Feedlot upgrade environmental compliance grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2049—Davids (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Insurance producer licensing qualifications and procedures provided and criminal penalty prescribed.

HF2050—Molnau (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Carver County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF2051—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Cannon Falls water treatment facility construction and utility facility improvement construction materials and equipment sales tax exemption provided.

HF2052—Ness (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Agricultural trade specialist position funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2053—Ness (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Ethanol market development fund established.

HF2054—Holberg (R)
Crime Prevention
Sexual assault response teams grant program established and money appropriated.

HF2055—Mares (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Junior Achievement programs expanded and money appropriated.

HF2056—Larson (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Orthopedic physician assistant practice requirements established, title protected, and disciplinary action grounds provided.

HF2057—Kielkucki (R)
Education Policy
Profile of Learning repealed, local academic achievement testing established, local testing revenue provided, and money appropriated.

HF2058—Bernardy (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Campaign finance and public disclosure board lobbyist reports published electronically, and data privacy provided.

HF2059—Bernardy (DFL)
Crime Prevention
DWI; schools notified of student driving while impaired violations.

HF2060—McGuire (DFL)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Child care improvement grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2061—Abrams (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
County capital improvement bonding authority sunset repealed.

HF2062—Tuma (R)
Crime Prevention
Parole board established; membership, duties, and powers specified; parole eligibility prescribed; and money appropriated.

HF2063—Osskopp (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Managed grazing systems assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF2064—Buesgens (R)
Education Policy
Profile of Learning revision task force established to develop statewide testing consistent with revised profile and money appropriated.

HF2065—Finseth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Red River north of East Grand Forks hydraulic study grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2066—Finseth (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Northwest Minnesota open learning network for agriculture and natural resources education established and money appropriated.

HF2067—McGuire (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Firearm safety requirements provided and criminal penalties imposed.

HF2068—Kelliher (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Pharmacist scope of practice expanded to include emergency contraception.

HF2069—Dawkins (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Section 8 home ownership program grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2070—Gunther (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.

HF2071—Murphy (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minneapolis and St. Paul Teachers Retirement Association normal retirement age established, and annuity fund modified by allowing a partial post-retirement adjustment.

HF2072—Biernat (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Absentee ballot eligibility expanded.

HF2073—Evans (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Resolution memorializing the president and Congress to promptly provide aid to the victims of the Jan. 26 earthquake in India.

HF2074—Clark, J. (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public works contracts regulated.

HF2075—Kelliher (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Phosphorous lawn fertilizer sale and use limitations provided and money appropriated.

HF2076—Larson (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Metropolitan Airports Commission membership expanded to include mayors of specified cities.

HF2077—Lenczewski (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Hennepin County design-build contracts provided.

HF2078—Lieder (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 593, Crookston, fund transfer authorized.

HF2079—Lieder (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 600, Fisher, renovation grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2080—Mariani (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
St. Paul; Great American History Theater and Flanagan's Wake at the Palace Theatre on-sale wine and malt liquor licenses authorized.

HF2081—Biernat (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Debt redemption fund excess calculations specified and fund transfers authorized.

HF2082—Mulder (R)
Taxes
Independent School District No. 2689, Pipestone-Jasper, school construction materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.

HF2083—Mulder (R)
Education Policy
School districts allowed to employ licensed teachers in fields other than the ones in which they are licensed.

HF2084—Kubly (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Single license plate for a registered motor vehicle required.

HF2085—Knoblach (R)
Taxes
Sales tax rebate provided, automatic sales tax rebate triggered, unclaimed rebates transferred to fund education, and money appropriated.

HF2086—Abrams (R)
Taxes
Energy-efficient products sales tax exemption provided.

HF2087—Pelowski (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
MnSCU central office restructuring feasibility study authorized.

HF2088—Kubly (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Rural hospital or nursing home health professionals loan forgiveness program established and money appropriated.

HF2089—Dibble (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Minneapolis board and care facility rate increase provided.

HF2090—Howes (R)
Transportation Finance
Highway maintenance and program delivery personnel, equipment, and supplies funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2091—Olson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
All-terrain vehicle registration procedures modified.

HF2092—Olson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
State park fees modified, camping facilities required to remain open as scheduled, and report required.

HF2093—Wenzel (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Religious organization buses authorized to be painted yellow and equipped with stop arms and flashing lights.

HF2094—Dorman (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Albert Lea Port Authority grant to remodel a building for use as a business incubator authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2095—Dorman (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Albert Lea Port Authority grant provided to remodel a building for use as a business development center, and money appropriated.

HF2096—Mariani (DFL)
State Government Finance
St. Paul soccer exhibition center pre-design grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2097—Slawik (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Pesticide application on golf courses regulated.

HF2098—Murphy (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Group residential housing supplementary service rate modified for facilities serving persons with mental illnesses or chemical dependencies modified.

HF2099—Kelliher (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Minneapolis; Brave New Institute on-sale wine and malt liquor license authorized.

HF2100—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
I-494 construction project advanced, construction of I-35W/Trunk Highway 62 improvements suspended, redesign of projects required, funds redirected, and money appropriated.

HF2101—Workman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Regular legislative sessions in even-numbered years prohibited, constitutional amendment proposed.

HF2102—Workman (R)
Transportation Policy
Speeding violations less than 18 percent greater than the lawful speed not recorded on the violator's driving record.

HF2103—Hilty (DFL)
Regulated Industries
Cold weather protection for consumers of delivered fuels established.

HF2104—Finseth (R)
Agriculture Policy
Ethanol; second-generation ethanol development program provided, research and demonstration project grants provided, and money appropriated.

HF2105—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public disclosure of economic interests of independent campaign consultants and total costs of lobbying provided.

HF2106—McElroy (R)
Taxes
Legal incidence of mortgage registry tax transferred.

HF2107—Johnson, J. (R)
Education Policy
Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified.

HF2108—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of their own candidates limited as a condition of receiving public subsidies.

HF2109—Johnson, J. (R)
Family & Early Childhood Education Finance
Child care assistance payments authorized for all day kindergarten tuition payments.

HF2110—Howes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided to attendees at a national or international conference or event.

HF2111—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislative open meeting law expanded to include caucuses and conference committee negotiations.

HF2112—Smith (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Hennepin County Medical Center protection officer local government correctional service retirement plan coverage provided.

HF2113—Gunther (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2752, Fairmont, interactive television grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2114—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Election and campaign finance spending and reporting provisions regulated, public subsidies increased, political contribution refund increased, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

Thursday, March 22

HF2115—McElroy (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Biomedical innovation and commercialization initiative established between University of Minnesota and the medical technology industry, and money appropriated.

HF2116—McElroy (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Obsolete trade and economic development department programs and duties repealed.

HF2117—Rhodes (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Raw food cost adjustment excluded from nursing facility rate computations.

HF2118—Haas (R)
Transportation Finance
Interregional trunk highway corridor coalitions grants provided and money appropriated.

HF2119—Erickson (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.

HF2120—Dehler (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public safety police dispatchers at the University of Minnesota defined as essential employees.

HF2121—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Minnesota environmental preservation property tax law enacted.

HF2122—Leppik (R)
Crime Prevention
Counterfeit driver's license and identification production and possession of materials provided criminal penalties.

HF2123—Sykora (R)
Judiciary Finance
Battered women shelters and safe homes funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2124—Stang (R)
Taxes
Classroom materials sales tax exemption expanded.

HF2125—Dawkins (DFL)
Taxes
Education expense income tax credit and deduction applied to pre-kindergarten expenses and membership at institutions providing educational programs for children.

HF2126—Leppik (R)
Taxes
Taxpayers authorized to request revenue department notices and correspondence be given to holders of powers of attorney.

HF2127—Pawlenty (R)
Taxes
Biomedical innovation and commercialization initiative established between the University of Minnesota and the state's medical technology industry and money appropriated.

HF2128—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Northern counties land use coordinating board grant provided for land use project and money appropriated.

HF2129—Westerberg (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Blaine additional on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

HF2130—Larson (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Life and health guaranty association regulation of coverages, assessments, rights, and duties provided.

HF2131—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Public employees insurance program health coverage enrollment during open enrollment period permitted for retired employees.

HF2132—Harder (R)
Civil Law
Marriage license fee reduced for couples who obtain premarital education, funding for MN ENABL program and parenting time centers modified, and money appropriated.

HF2133—Gunther (R)
Taxes
Waste tire-fueled electric generation facility tax exemptions provided.

HF2134—Johnson, J. (R)
Education Policy
Statewide elementary and secondary test requirements prescribed.

HF2135—Anderson, B. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Sale of property acquired by eminent domain to a private person restricted.

HF2136—Anderson, B. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Private property rights protected from state agency action, guidelines assisting agencies in evaluating proposed actions established, and consideration of effects of a taking for tax evaluation purposes required.

HF2137—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Minnesota grown food project expanded and money appropriated.

HF2138—Mahoney (DFL)
Transportation Finance
St. Paul Phalen Boulevard construction grant provided and money appropriated.

HF2139—Winter (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Travel information center operation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2140—Jaros (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Incarcerative sanctions to be imposed only for defined crimes of violence or when public safety is served, sentencing hearing provided, sentencing

guidelines modified to conform, and money appropriated.

HF2141—Kielkucki (R)
Judiciary Finance
County retention of probation fees provided, county probation reimbursements provided, and money appropriated.

HF2142—Gleason (DFL)
Taxes
Low-income rental housing class rate established.

HF2143—Holsten (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Survivor benefits under Public Employees Retirement Association provided to spouse of a firefighter.

HF2144—Holsten (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Annexation of urban towns limited.

HF2145—Bernardy (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Older adult services grant program established, moratorium exception process funded, and money appropriated.

HF2146—Milbert (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
South St. Paul nursing home bed moratorium exception provided and money appropriated.

HF2147—Milbert (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
South St. Paul transfer of a certain parcel of real estate to a private entity for construction of single-family housing declared a public purpose.

HF2148—Holberg (R)
Transportation Policy
Drug and alcohol testing by motor carriers and for commercial motor vehicle operators federal conformity provided.

HF2149—Evans (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Mounds View Trunk Highway 10 noise barrier construction provided and money appropriated.

HF2150—Thompson (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Homeowner's insurance non-renewals regulated and various discriminatory practices in homeowner's and automobile insurance prohibited.

HF2151—Hilstrom (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
Camp Ripley program for at-risk youth continued, and money appropriated.

HF2152—Folliard (DFL)
Taxes
Hopkins food and beverage tax authorized.

HF2153—Seifert (R)
Education Policy
Profile of Learning repealed.

HF2154—Kahn (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Scalping of tickets prohibition repealed.

HF2155—Swenson (R)
Civil Law
Liability of certain investment officials clarified.

HF2156—Howes (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislators entitled to their own legislative assistant.

HF2157—Swenson (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Gaylord tax increment financing law approval time extended.

HF2158—Abrams (R)
Transportation Policy
Metropolitan area transit and para-transit annual funding capital expenditures provided.

HF2159—Gerlach (R)
Civil Law
Health maintenance organization contract data classified as nonpublic.

HF2160—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Property tax public hearings requirements modified, and reverse referendum required for property tax increases in counties and certain cities.

HF2161—Stanek (R)
Transportation Policy
State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona County.

HF2162—Gray (DFL)
Civil Law
Physicians required to disclose all information regarding errors in diagnosis and treatment of patients, and civil penalties and remedies provided.

HF2163—Kalis (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Compulsive gambling prevention and treatment comprehensive approach provided, and money appropriated.

HF2164—Kahn (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Marijuana; Compassionate Use Act adopted protecting seriously ill patients from prosecution for physician-supervised medicinal use of marijuana, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF2165—Evans (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Mounds View pathway system grant provided to connect to Rice Creek, and money appropriated.

HF2166—Jennings (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Pine City; North West Company Fur Post operation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2167—McElroy (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipality land use plan and transportation plan standards provided.

HF2168—Vandever (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
City charters authorized to prohibit members of governing body from serving on the charter commission.

HF2169—Lieder (DFL)
Taxes
Payments in lieu of taxation provided for certain wetlands acquired by the department of transportation.

HF2170—Davids (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Nonpublic personal information disclosure by insurance companies prohibited.

HF2171—Skoe (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Northwest Technical College programs in Indian reservations funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2172—Clark, J. (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Nursing facility separate therapy billing requirement exemption provisions modified and money appropriated.

HF2173—Howes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Park Rapids tax increment financing district requirement extension provided.

HF2174—Osskopp (R)
Transportation Policy
Gambling control board authorized to use unmarked vehicles and registration tax exemption provided.

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call House Calls at **(651) 296-9283**.

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MONDAY, March 26

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

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

Agenda: HF1280 (Seagren) Education; providing for an elementary reading specialist licensure, rulemaking.

HF1310 (Abrams) Construction; giving the state building official final authority for interpreting the state building code and prescribing its enforcement.

HF1764 (Gleason) Historical preservation; ensuring protection for the historic Camp Coldwater Springs area.

HF910 (Dempsey) Education; establishing a board for educational administrators; rulemaking.

HF1742 (Mares) Local Government; modifying the compensation limit for political subdivision employees.

HF1869 (Anderson, B.) State Government; changing the expiration dates of certain advisory councils and committees.

HF2074 (Clark) Contracts; regulating public works contracts.

HF1219 (Gunther) Insurance; removing certain state involvement with the state fund mutual insurance company.

HF1778 (Walz) Providing for placement in the Capitol of a plaque commemorating the soldiers who participated in the Bataan Death March.

HF1826 (Erickson) Veterans; certain educational assistance provisions.

HF1302 (Hackbarth) Natural Resources; extending certain advisory committees.

Note: The committee will reconvene after session in 5 State Office Building to complete the morning agenda.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF282 (Knobloch) Truancy prevention pilot program provided and money appropriated.
HF1292 (Goodno) Family and adult self-sufficiency program provisions modified.

HF1832 (Goodno) MFIP sanctions and program eligibility requirements for noncompliant recipients modified, and hardship extensions established.

HF917 (Rhodes) Council of health boards established.

HF924 (Nornes) Residential mental health grant program for facility upgrades established and money appropriated.

HF1043 (Bishop) Health care provider tax research credit increased.

More bills may be added.

Note: If necessary, this meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Administration discussion concerning the Department of Economic Security and the Department of Trade and Economic Development Reorganization Proposal.

Note: Public testimony will be taken. If interested in testifying, please contact Ann Matuella, Committee Legislative Assistant, at (651) 296-5999.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau

Agenda: HF1795 (Eastlund) Transportation revolving loan funds transferred from the general fund.

HF1717 (Workman) Trunk highway turnbacks rehabilitation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1774 (Clark, J.) Trunk highway right-of-way advance acquisition and construction provided and money appropriated.

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

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF245 (Juhnke) Licensed peace officers authorized to determine necessity of patient restraints.

HF1629 (Tingelstad) Uniform parentage act

study and report required.

HF1857 (Smith) Uniform Arbitration Act adopted providing for arbitration of disputes.

HF1291 (Boudreau) Health plan subrogation clause limitation provisions modified.

HF177 (Molnau) Recreational motor vehicle tort immunity provided for use on a highway right-of-way.

HF1889 (Lipman) Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.

HF1898 (Holberg) Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic.

HF1959 (Dibble) Edvest, human rights intake, and automobile insurance financial data classified as nonpublic, computer data definitions provided, reporting redundancy eliminated, and administrative remedies abolished.

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

HF1270 (Entenza) Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers, residential contractors, and collection agencies continuing education, fees, costs, duties, rights and recovery fund amounts regulated.

HF1634 (Mahoney) Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form and participate in professional firms.

HF1104 (Vandever) Real estate task force work plan funded and electronic filing of real estate documents initiated.

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.

Note: The Civil Law Committee will reconvene in room 500S at 4 p.m. to conclude any unfinished business.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF1177 (Gunther) Blue Earth County board grant provided for study of Rapidan Dam, and money appropriated.

HF1127 (Mulder) Lewis and Clark Joint Powers Board rural water system funded, and money appropriated.

HF1011 (Walker) Powderhorn Lake in Minneapolis restoration and aeration provided and money appropriated.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: HF2087 (Pelowski) MnSCU central office restructuring feasibility study authorized.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren

Agenda: HF422 (Seagren) Relating to education; improving recruitment of excellent teachers in science, math, industrial technology, and special education and in rural areas; establishing a loan repayment program.

HF82 (Seagren) A bill for an act relating to education finance; concentrating a portion of the reserved revenue for staff development on induction and mentorship activities for new teachers.

HF1558 (Abeler) Relating to education; employing multiple strategies to recruit qualified school administrators; appropriating money.

HF1852 (Abeler) Relating to education finance; continuing the referendum offset adjustment until a district's referendum is renewed.

HF1377 (Abeler) Relating to education finance; increasing and indexing the general education basic formula allowance.

HF1341 (Davnie) Relating to education finance; increasing special education revenue; broadening funding for the first grade preparedness program; increasing funding for English language learners; fully funding transportation services for nonpublic and charter school pupils; modifying a hearing request; making permanent the 5 percent reallocation of compensatory revenue; authorizing the sale of bonds by the St. Paul school district; appropriating money.

HF93 (Entenza) A bill for an act relating to education; establishing a school guidance counselor to student ratio.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt

Agenda: Presentation on limited market value by House Research.

HF1981 (Schumacher) Sunset on limited market value eliminated.

HF1331 (Skoe) Designated housing projects within Native American Indian reservations exempted from property taxes.

HF1916 (Jennings) Nonprofit historical society-owned property tax exemption provided.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

500N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda: HF1200 (Tingelstad) Provides an individual income tax credit for expenses incurred in the process of adopting a child.

HF1199 (Tingelstad) Allows a subtraction from individual income taxes for adoption expenses.

HF1523 (Tingelstad) Exempts the purchase of certain property used in constructing a fire department facility in the city of Ham Lake from sales and use taxes.

HF1621 (Dehler) Exempts the purchase of materials and supplies used in constructing public facilities in the city of Sartell.

HF1673 (Stang) Exempts purchases by fire departments from the sales and use taxes.

HF1758 (Kubly) Exempts the purchase of construction materials and supplies used in a street reconstruction project in the city of Raymond.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: HF835 (Walz) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing state bonds; appropriating money for a library for the city of Crosslake.

Department of Children Families and Learning Initiatives (found in HF1088), Karen Carlson, Assistant Commissioner, Children, Families and Learning.

HF1476 (Nornes) Relating to family services; appropriating money for Minnesota economic opportunity grants.

HF1542 (Eastlund) Relating to children; appropriating money for the lead hazard reduction project.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF192 (Goodno) Emergency medical services special taxing districts and property tax levies authorized.

HF1218 (Rhodes) Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extended to 2005.

HF1298 (Jennings) Joint powers wastewater treatment boards authorized to issue bonds (continued hearing).

HF1637 (Buesgens) County licensure of hawkers and peddlers repealed.

HF1954 (Kuisle) Volunteer firefighters relief association general fund municipal contributions authorized.

HF2077 (Lenczewski) Hennepin County design-build contracts provided.

HF266 (Swapinski) Lake Superior center authority enabling law modified, contract and agreements made conditional, and status as a political subdivision clarified.

HF2036 (Dempsey) Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment authorized.

HF2110 (Howes) Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided to attendees at a national or international conference or event.

Note: Some of these bills, plus other bills to be announced, will be heard when the committee reconvenes at the call of the chair, after session, in 200 State Office Building. Watch for updated notices.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf

Agenda: HF429 (Bakk) State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property.

HF1817 (Workman) Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.

2:30 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

After session at the call of the chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: Continuation of hearings from earlier session, and hearings on additional bills to be announced. Watch for revised notices.

After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair (monitor schedule)

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

Agenda: To be announced.

6 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: Committee will meet only if the agenda from March 22 is not completed.

Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement

316 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Dean Johnson

Agenda: Report of the prior service credit purchase subcommittee.

S.F. 313 (Larson); H.F. 303 (Cassell): PERA-P&F; Service credit purchase for prior police or paid fire employment.

S.F. 370 (Wiger); H.F. 465 (Marko): PERA-P&F; Prior military service credit purchase. S.F. 409 (Solon); H.F. 619 (Swapinski): Various plans; Prior military service credit purchase.

S.F. 517 (Betzold); H.F. 122 (Skoglund): Various plans; Parental or family leave service credit purchase.

S.F. 611 (Betzold); H.F. 1240 (Bernardy): Various plans; Prior military service credit purchase restriction elimination.

S.F. 1321 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1462 (Mares): TRA & MnSCU IRAP; Prior service credit purchase provisions.

S.F. 1676 (Tomassoni); H.F. 1656 (Rukavina): TRA; Day activity center teaching service purchase.

S.F. 1362 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1646 (Wenzel): TRA; Membership modifications for employees of labor organizations.

S.F. 849 (Vickerman); H.F. 1410 (Gunther): MSRS; Rural policy center employees program participation eligibility.

S.F. 641 (Pogemiller); H.F. 695 (Osskopp): MSRS; Health care reimbursement plan.

S.F. 1322 (Stumpf); H.F. 1294 (Mares): MSRS; Postretirement health care savings plan.

S.F. 1484 (Pogemiller); H.F. 1768 (Mullery): MPRA; Minneapolis Police Relief Association voluntary employee benefit organization.

S.F. XXX; H.F. 2029 (Haas): Department of employee relations health care account establishment.

12:30 p.m.

S.F. 1755 (Stumpf); H.F. 1868 (Davids): School employee health care accounts.

7 p.m.

Subcommittee on Employee Relations/ Legislative Coordinating Commission

300S State Office Building

Chr. to be elected

Agenda: Elect officers. Adopt Subcommittee rules. Review/approve Subcommittee budget. Review/approve ratification bill (HF1739/SF1438). Review/approve 95% salary cap bill (HF1742/SF1437). Receive report by HayGroup on agency head salary range evaluation. Other items as approved by the chair.

TUESDAY, March 27

7 a.m.

NOTE TIME

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF1830 (Workman) Public access to specified motor vehicle accident data granted. HF625 (Seagren) Trunk Highway No. 62 in Minneapolis and Richfield construction project restrictions imposed. HF797 (Erhardt) Minneapolis and Richfield Trunk Highway No. 62 reconstruction project restrictions imposed. HF1498 (Larson) Minneapolis and Richfield Highway No. 62 construction and reconstruction delayed and report required.

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: HF2032 (Seifert) School districts allowed to expend reasonable funds concerning ballot measures and initiatives, and policy on expenditures and voter notification required. HF2107 (Johnson, J.) Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified. Additional items to be determined.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF262 (Boudreau) Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided. HF1304 (Nornes) Lead poisoning prevention provisions modified, property sellers required to provide well water test results, and obsolete laws repealed. HF1622 (Goodno) Health care safety net preservation program established and voluntary agreements to expand intergovernmental transfers allowed. HF1531 (Bradley) Young adult transitional services provided and community-based mental health services increased.

More bills will be added.

Note: This meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building at 3 p.m.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF528 (Murphy) Carlton County criminal prosecution and investigations extraordinary expenses reimbursed, and money appropriated. HF912 (Murphy) Arson strike force sunset extended. HF1055 (Mares) Peace officers' overtime grants provided for St. Paul, Minneapolis, and statewide departments, and money appropriated. HF1735 (Johnson, S.) St. Paul victim intervention project grant provided and money appropriated. HF136 (Fuller) Fire protection industry licensing fees deposited in State Fire Marshal account, and money appropriated.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

Agenda: HF812 (Bradley) Suicide prevention goals, mental illness transition plans, mental health services, etc. (criminal penalty provisions) [Re-referral from H&FS]. HF1021 (Buesgens) Casino licensee authorized to detain alleged cheaters [Re-referral from Gov Ops]. HF1874 (Abrams) Department of Revenue tax data classification and access provided, seized property and civil and criminal penalty provisions [Re-referral from Civil Law]. HF1499 (Osskopp) Auto theft prevention program repeal. HF1911 (Tuma) Faith-based programming in prison facilities. HF1835 (Tuma) Local financial crimes investigation units authorized and money appropriated. HF1353 (Stanek) Interstate compact for adult offenders. HF1373 (Stanek) Authorizing the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to charge a fee for Internet access to criminal histories. HF1228 (Paymar) Ramsey County All Children Excel program and Hennepin County Delinquents under age 10 program appropriations. **Note:** Additional re-referrals and other bills may be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF1091 (Johnson) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Advisory Committee sunset repealed and task force created. HF873 (Howes) Hubbard County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized free of the tax-

forfeited trust.

HF1497 (Nornes) Lake County state land sales authorized, lakeshore land exchange terms modified to include wild rice lands, Hill Lake wildlife management area established in Aitkin County, state forest addition provided, and certain charges exempted.

HF1481 (Cassell) Landowner definition modified for participation in the RIM program. HF659 (Wolf) State energy plan established, energy conservation promoted, and conforming, technical and clarifying changes provided. HF1323 (Jennings) Minnesota Energy Security and Reliability Act enacted.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill Section 15, proposed budget for Department of Finance.

Section 27, proposed budget for Contingent Accounts.

Section 28, proposed budget for Tort Claims.

Additional bills may be added.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: HF1000 (Erickson) Provides for imposition of the production tax on aggregate materials.

HF1613 (Wagenius) Exempts low-income housing owned by a qualified nonprofit agency from property tax; exempts construction and rehabilitation of low income housing owned by a qualified nonprofit agency from sales tax; provides for payment in-lieu of taxes.

HF1841 (Kelliher) Increases the maximum sum of the rates of certain sales tax imposed by the City of Minneapolis.

HF1293 (Davids) Public service commissioner remaining duties transferred to the commissioner of commerce; light capacity scales inspection provided; unfair cigarette sales act administration transferred to commerce.

HF2042 (Abrams) Reduces the rate of the insurance premiums tax.

HF2106 (McElroy) Transfers the legal incidence of the mortgage registry tax from the mortgagee to the mortgagor.

Note: Bills not heard on this day will be heard on Wednesday, March 28, 2001, if needed.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: HF1855 (Knoblach) Design-Build contracts and exempt rules provided.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF1955 (Davids) Relating to insurance; providing qualifications and procedures for the licensing of insurance producers; prescribing a criminal penalty.

HF175 (Ozment) Relating to fire safety; requiring the state fire marshal to adopt rules for fire retardant standards for cigarettes.

HF1988 (Davids) Relating to commerce; regulating motor vehicle sales and distribution; specifying legislative purpose and intent.

HF1940 (Gunther) Relating to economic development; modifying the capital access program.

HF1941 (Sertich) Relating to economic development; clarifying provisions in the job skills partnership program.

HF1152 (Mulder) Relating to appropriations; appropriating money for construction of local public service facilities.

HF1615 (Entenza) Relating to insurance; regulating liquidations and investments of insurer.

HF1409 (Jacobson) Relating to employment; adding an alternative form for minor age certification.

HF1392 (Gunther) Relating to economic development; modifying provisions of the Minnesota investment fund.

Other bills may be added.

1:30 p.m.

Revisor's Subcommittee/Legislative Coordinating Commission

300N State Office Building
Chr. to be elected

Agenda: Election of chair.

Presentation of the proposed budget for the Office of the Revisor of Statutes.

2:30 p.m.

REDISTRICTING

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen

Agenda: To be announced.

WEDNESDAY, March 28

7 a.m.

*****NOTE TIME*****

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF1944 (Holberg) Light rail; special taxing districts created to finance operating costs of light rail transit.

HF1730 (Molnau) Metropolitan Council required to contract for bus maintenance.

HF1949 (Westerberg) Trunk highway bond proceeds and highway bond-financed property governing provisions modified.

HF1973 (Workman) State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming

changes provided.

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley

Agenda: HF1446 (Smith) Family law recodification provided for marriage dissolution child custody, support, and maintenance provisions, and conforming changes provided.

HF1517 (Wilkin) Swimming pool requirements established for family day care homes and municipalities provided immunity from claims based on provider's failure to comply.

HF1833 (Goodno) Multiple Sclerosis services nursing facility reimbursement pilot project authorized and money appropriated.

HF1956 (Goodno) Program options for certain persons with developmental disabilities provided, and money appropriated.

More bills will be added.

Note: This meeting will continue in Room 10 in the State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF1619 (Dawkins) New and existing housing program funding provided, programs created, and money appropriated.

HF1368 (Westerberg) Manufactured home park redevelopment program established and money appropriated.

HF969 (Clark, K.) Rental housing pilot program established to encourage landlords to rent to high-risk tenants in specified counties, and money appropriated.

HF1164 (Gray) Homeless prevention school stability project funding provided and money appropriated.

HF1380 (Dibble) Section 8 home ownership assistance provided and money appropriated.

HF1788 (Lindner) Rental housing assistance program for persons with mental illness program funded and money appropriated.

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Steve Smith

Agenda: HF1397 (Tingelstad) Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.

HF1471 (Boudreau) Alternative response programs for child protection or assessments data privacy provided.

HF1051 (Smith) Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated.

HF1276 (Mullery) Crane operator certification and regulation provided, rulemaking required and civil penalties imposed.

HF1283 (Seagren) Internet sales and leases regulated, and domain names and agents for service of process information disclosure provided.

HF1837 (Clark, K.) Voluntary landlord and tenant mediation programs authorized.

HF464 (Wilkin) Specified litigation and settlements by state officials prohibited, and funds recovered through litigation and settlements deposited in the general fund.

Note: The Civil Law Committee will reconvene in room 500S at 5 p.m. to conclude any unfinished business.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF86 (Jennings) Taylors Falls fire and rescue operations grant provided in support of Interstate park, and money appropriated.

HF723 (Finseth) Big Bog and Red River state recreation area operating costs funded, and money appropriated.

HF725 (Tingelstad) Metropolitan regional parks system operation and maintenance provided and money appropriated.

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 by the Office of the State Auditor on Local Government Lobbying Expenditures.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: HF551 (Finseth) Providing a second-generation, targeted ethanol development program for wheat or barley.

HF1396 (Wenzel) Extending date of the sunset of the dairy producers board.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF932 (Swenson) Relating to appropriations; appropriating money for a regional sludge management demonstration project.

HF986 (Holsten) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for stage II of the reconstruction of the state-owned storm sewer

system from the prison pond in Bayport to the St. Croix river.

HF675 (Swenson) Relating to environment; providing funding for the St. George community wastewater treatment system in Nicollet County; appropriating money.

HF1157 (Dehler) Relating to capital improvements; authorizing the issuance of state bonds; appropriating money for municipal water and wastewater systems in St. Stephen.

HF1994 (Stang) Relating to liquor; authorizing the use of machines to premix and dispense intoxicating liquor (Omnibus Liquor Bill).

HF1309 (Dibble) Relating to liquor; allowing licensed brewers to make retail and wholesale sales of the brewer's own products under certain circumstances.

HFXXXX (Nornes) Workers' Compensation Advisory Council Bill.

HF1943 (Stang) Relating to state employment; extending a civil service pilot project.

HF1354 (Holsten) Relating to the environment; modifying provisions relating to petroleum tank release cleanup.

Other bills may be added.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: HF1162 (Swapinski) Relating to early childhood and family education; authorizing a grant to the City of Duluth for a community recreation, service, and learning center; appropriating money.

HF1691 (Sykora) Relating to early childhood; expanding services and eligibility for state Head Start funds.

HF1966 (Mulder) Relating to family and early childhood education finance; modifying Head Start; appropriating money.

HF2109 (Johnson, J.) Relating to children; child care assistance; allowing child care assistance payments to be used for all day kindergarten tuition payments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: HF1806 (Knoblach) 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.

HF2061 (Abrams) County capital improvement bonding authority sunset repealed.

HF1904 (Mahoney) St. Paul sales tax neighborhood investments citizen review panel membership and appointment process modified.

HF1841 (Kelliher) Minneapolis maximum total sales tax increased.

HF1368 (Westerberg) Manufactured home park redevelopment program established and money appropriated.

Note: Additional bills to be announced will be heard when the committee reconvenes after session at the call of the chair in 200 State Office

Building. Watch for updated notices.

2:30 p.m.

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

118 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty

Agenda: Calendar for the Day for Thursday, March 29, 2001.

HF643 (Paulsen) A bill for an act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution; adding a section to article IV to provide for initiative and referendum.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

After session at the call of the chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: Continuation of hearings from earlier session, and hearings on additional bills to be announced. Watch for revised notices.

After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair (monitor schedule)

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 29

7 a.m.

*****NOTE TIME*****

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: HF1817 (Workman) Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.

HF429 (Bakk) State agencies authorized to allow commercial wireless equipment on state-owned property.

HF595 (Ozment) Railroads; local governments authorized to establish quiet zones regulating or prohibiting locomotive warning devices.

More to be added later.

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

HF1376 (Abeler) Human services licensing background studies provisions modified.

HF1381 (Wilkin) Human services licensure background studies requirements modified.

HF1406 (Mulder) Maternal death review and study provided.

HF787 (Abeler) Nursing home moratorium exception priority for Anoka area extended, and money appropriated for moratorium exceptions.

HF1319 (Huntley) Nursing home pass-through reimbursement extended.

HF1747 (Solberg) Itasca county chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.

More bills may be added.

Note: This meeting will continue in Room 10 of the State Office Building after session at the call of the chair.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek

Agenda: HF505 (Stanek) Racial profiling study; statewide model policy and local agency policies required, peace officer training objectives developed, and money appropriated.

HF1490 (Tuma) Center for reducing rural violence program continued and money appropriated.

Others to be announced.

9 a.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Election of Legislative Audit Commission Officers.

Remarks by the Legislative Auditor.

Report on Program Evaluation Topic Selection.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

Agenda: HF1918 (Tuma) State Public Defender salary.

HF696 (Stanek) Correctional officers disciplinary procedures established.

HF2054 (Holberg) Sexual assault response teams grant program established.

HF1411 (Stanek) Predatory offender provision rewritten.

Note: Additional bills will be added.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: HF819 (Kielkucki) Wright County board authorized to rename a body of water.
HF1591 (Ozment) Omnibus Game & Fish bill
HF1146 (Ozment) Salt distribution stockpiles design, construction, and use requirements established.
Other bills may be added.

Sales and Income Tax Division/TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder

Agenda: HF1624 (Pawlenty) Creates a credit for land donated for conservation purposes.
HF839 (Milbert) Exempts sales and use taxes for construction materials used for the Dakota County Northern Service Center.
HF960 (Milbert) Exempts admissions to high school league tournaments from the sales tax.
HF1686 (Kuisle) Exempts admissions to events sponsored by the state high school league from the sales tax.
HF2023 (Kuisle) Exempts certain machinery and equipment used to provide telecommunications services.
HF1357 (McElroy) Authorizes the commissioner of revenue to reissue checks or warrants for refunds and requires certain uncashed tax refunds to be listed as unclaimed property.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.
Section 12 Subd. 7, proposed budget for Public Radio.
Section 12 Subd. 6, proposed Fiscal Agent budget.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: HF1205 (Sykora) Relating to alcoholic beverages; authorizing off-sale wine licenses for supermarkets.
HF1155 (Abeler) Relating to insurance; requiring an affirmative provider consent to participate in a network under a category of coverage; requiring disclosure of changes in a provider's contract.
HF404 (Wagenius) Relating to nonprofit corporations; specifying voting rights and meeting notice requirements for nonprofit

corporations that are neighborhood organizations.

HF608 (Harder) Relating to economic development; providing money to promote wireless Internet access in rural southwestern Minnesota.
HF1147 (Mullery) Relating to landlord and tenant; clarifying the applicability of a covenant involving certain kinds of property.
HF888 (Olson) Relating to insurance; prohibiting certain discriminatory charges.
HF1886 (Kahn) Relating to employment; regulating the use of genetic testing in employment; providing penalties.
HF1338 (Haas) Relating to insurance; regulating insurers, agents, coverages and benefits, costs, claims, investments, and notifications and disclosures; prescribing powers and duties of the commissioner; eliminating the regulation of nonprofit legal services plans.
Other bills may be added.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

After session at the call of the chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: To be announced.

After Local Government meeting, at the call of the chair (monitor schedule)

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens
Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, March 30

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: To be announced.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: HF686 (Jaros) Duluth technology village grant provided, and money appropriated.
HF258 (Swapinski) Additional unemployment insurance benefits provided specified employees on layoff from M. E. International.
HF259 (Swapinski) Duluth aerial lift bridge repair and restoration authorized, and money appropriated.
HF1756 (Sertich) Natural resources research institute grants provided and money appropriated.
HF483 (Solberg) Floodwood business and industrial park grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.
HF1658 (Bradley) Long-term care provisions modified, senior services pilot project established, long-term care revolving fund and loan forgiveness program created, nursing agency registration required, and money appropriated.
HF963 (Sykora) Microenterprise grants provided and money appropriated.

10:15 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: HF517 (Osthoff) St. Paul grant provided to restore East Como Lake Trail and lakeshore, and money appropriated.
HF859 (Bakk) Knife River harbor of refuge and marina improvements provided and money appropriated.
HF145 (Abrams) Lake Minnetonka multiuse water access site preparation and construction appropriation provided.
HF146 (Abrams) Lake Minnetonka multiuse water access site preparation and construction bonds issued, and money appropriated.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m., at the call of the chair

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: To be announced.

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Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
	Room*				Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	359	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Swiggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of January 24, 2001

*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted,
St. Paul, MN 55155

Name Pronunciation Guide

2001 Minnesota House of Representatives

Abeler, Jim ABE-ler	Holberg, Mary Liz	Osthoff, Tom AHST-hoff
Abrams, Ron	Holsten, Mark William	Otremba, Mary Ellen oh-TREM-ba
Anderson, Bruce	Howes, Larry	Ozment, Dennis AHZ-ment
Anderson, Irv	Huntley, Thomas	Paulsen, Erik
Bakk, Thomas (Tom) BOCK	Jacobson, Carl	Pawlenty, Tim paw-LENTY
Bernardy, Connie	Jaros, Mike YAHR-ohs	Paymar, Michael
Biernat, Len BE-AIR-nat	Jennings, Loren Geo	Pelowski Jr., Gene
Bishop, Dave	Johnson, Jeff	Penas, Maxine PEN-nas
Boudreau, Lynda boo-DROH	Johnson, Ruth	Peterson, Doug
Bradley, Fran	Johnson, Sheldon	Pugh, Thomas W. PEW
Buesgens, Mark BISK-ens	Juhnke, Al JUNK-ee	Rhodes, Jim
Carlson, Lyndon R.	Kahn, Phyllis	Rifenberg, Michelle RIFF-en-berg
Cassell, George CASTLE	Kalis, Henry J. KAH-liss	Rukavina, Tom roo-ka-VEEN-a
Clark, James T.	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson KELL-a-her	Ruth, Connie
Clark, Karen	Kielkucki, Tony keel-COO-ski	Schumacher, Leslie J. SHOE-mocker
Daggett, Roxann DAG-et	Knoblach, Jim NOB-lock	Seagren, Alice
Dauids, Gregory M.	Koskinen, Luanne	Seifert, Marty SY-fert
Davnie, Jim DAV-nee	Krinkie, Philip	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" SIR-tich
Dawkins, Andy	Kubly, Gary W. KOO-blee	Skoe, Rod SKOY
Dehler, Steve DAY-ler	Kuisle, William KWEEZ-lee	Skoglund, Wes SKOHG-lund
Dempsey, Jerry	Larson, Dan	Slawik, Nora SLAH-wick
Dibble, Scott	Leighton, Rob LAY-ton	Smith, Steve
Dorman, Dan	Lenczewski, Ann len-CHESS-key	Solberg, Loren A.
Dorn, John	Leppik, Peggy	Stanek, Rich
Eastlund, Rob	Lieder, Bernie L. LEED-er	Stang, Doug
Entenza, Matt	Lindner, Arlon	Sviggum, Steve SWIG-um
Erhardt, Ron AIR-hart	Lipman, Eric	Swapinski, Dale
Erickson, Sondra	Luther, Darlene	Swenson, Howard
Evans, Geri	Mahoney, Tim	Sykora, Barb sick-OR-ah
Finseth, Tim	Mares, Harry MAIRS	Thompson, Mark
Folliard, Betty FOLLY-ard	Mariani, Carlos ma-ree-AH-nee	Tingelstad, Kathy
Fuller, Doug	Marko, Sharon	Tuma, John TOO-ma
Gerlach, Chris GER-lock	Marquart, Paul MAR-qwort	Vandever, Ray
Gleason, Mark S.	McElroy, Dan MACK-el-roy	Wagenius, Jean wa-GHEEN-yus
Goodno, Kevin	McGuire, Mary Jo	Walker, Neva
Goodwin, Barbara	Milbert, Bob	Walz, Dale WALLZ
Gray, Gregory	Molnau, Carol L. MOLE-now	Wasiluk, Scott WAH-si-luck
Greiling, Mindy GRY-ling	Mulder, Richard	Wenzel, Stephen G. WEN-zel
Gunther, Bob	Mullery, Joe	Westerberg, Andrew
Haas, Bill HAHZ	Murphy, Mary	Westrom, Torrey
Hackbarth, Tom	Ness, Robert "Bob"	Wilkin, Tim
Harder, Elaine	Nornes, Bud NOR-ness	Winter, Ted
Hausman, Alice	Olson, Mark	Wolf, Ken
Hilstrom, Debra HILL-strum	Opatz, Joe OH-patz	Workman, Tom
Hilty, Bill	Osskopp, Mike AHZ-cop	

He also said those who complain loudest about high state taxes are often those that benefit from being in a TIF district and such tax policy means higher taxes for other property owners to make up.

Pawlenty said the bill would require all local units of government in the tax-free zone to give approval before it could be established. It also includes a requirement that qualified businesses operating within the zone either increase employment by 20 percent in the first full year of operations, or make a capital investment equal to 10 percent of gross revenues from the prior year.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said the bill could offer hope to pockets of the state that have suffered large population losses. He said the incentives in the bill would mean more people returning to areas they left because of a lack of economic opportunity.

"You wouldn't have to convince people to come home," he said.

The committee took no action on the bill, but Abrams said it would be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill. 🐼

Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

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

Reflections

An architectural marvel in any city is a building with a dome on top. Fabric covered sports stadiums are innovative, but domes made from tons of metal and granite or marble are man-made wonders. St. Paul has two right down the street from each other.

On one of the capital city's seven hills sits the copper-domed Cathedral of St. Paul, home to the Catholic Archdiocese for the Twin Cities and a 12-county area. The State Capitol and its dome of white marble rests on another hill four blocks to the northeast. Both command a major view of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Capitol dome is the highest point of the building at 223 feet. It was built in 1905 to stand alone above the businesses of downtown St. Paul.

But when the cathedral and its dome were built later in 1915, it was made taller on purpose and closer to the heavens — 83 feet higher.

Architect Cass Gilbert designed the Capitol dome based on Michelangelo's plan for St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Like many domes, it sits on a drum from which stone ribs arch up to join at the top, with some ornament usually placed above.

The Capitol dome's highest point is a gold sphere, with 12 carved American Eagles perched atop double columns around the drum. The St. Paul Cathedral dome is adorned with a sculptured angel, while a cross completes St. Peter's Basilica.

Other domes of note are found at America's most famous landmark, the U.S. Capitol building in Washington; the Taj Mahal mausoleum in India; Jerusalem's golden Dome of the Rock; The onion-shaped domes of Russia; Le Pantheon in Paris; and the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis.

Domes mostly lend themselves aesthetically to governmental and religious structures. Many are functional, while others serve a more ornamental purpose. Most tend to portray a place of authority or power. And those who are responsible for the upkeep of such architectural phenomena make major efforts to preserve their exterior and interior for posterity.

The U.S. Capitol dome and its Statue of Freedom high above have both undergone rehabilitation. The Dome of the Rock had

its original gold patina replaced. Funds are now being raised to preserve the Taj Mahal. Rome's Basilica, Le Pantheon in Paris, and the Basilica of St. Mary have also been restored.

Now it is the St. Paul Cathedral's turn. A two-year replacement of its dome, turned green by oxidation over the years began recently. Its identifying color will not be seen again for at least 25 years as the new copper oxidizes.

And while the state of Washington just completed a restoration phase of its State Capitol in Olympia, it needs new repair to mend the crack made in its dome during a recent earthquake.

Minnesota's Capitol dome has also been restored. It thereby maintains what art theorists call "a time-honored standard of beauty" making it one of the most magnificent structures in the nation.

Different art forms so represented by the presence of the two domes of the capital city are likened to a quote by poet John Keats, "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Minnesota State Capitol dome built in 1905.

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

Tournament time

Year the nonprofit Minnesota State High School League was formed to promote amateur sports for boys	1916
Year its scope was broadened to include speech and debate	1929
Music	1965
Girls' athletics	1969
Approximate number of schools that are league members	500
Number of actual high schools	435
Approximate number of students taking part in league-sponsored activities	200,000
Number of athletic and fine arts activities the league sponsored in 1999-2000 for member schools	34
Approximate number of contest officials and judges of speech, music, drama and debate trained by the league	4,500
Number of schools in the Good Sports program that challenges schools to implement year-round sportsmanship programs	160
Average grade point average of a Minnesota high school student on a 4.0 scale	2.68
Of a student athlete	2.84
Of a student involved in fine arts	2.98
Average amount of days a high school student is absent	8.76
An athlete	7.44
A fine arts participant	6.94
Percent of Minnesota high school students who believe "how you treat others" is more important than winning	95
Percent who believe participants of school activities tend to be school leaders	91
Percent who think sportsmanship is more important than winning	86
Percent who believe their school places the right amount of emphasis on sports	73
Percent of high school dropouts who were not involved in extracurricular activities	95
Days of high school athletic tournament events in St. Paul between Feb. 22 and March 24	13
Amount the St. Paul Convention and Visitors Bureau estimates each high school student spends at the state tournament per game or session, in dollars	23
Adults, in dollars	39
Percent of attendees who are students	65
Estimated total dollars spent by people attending the high school tournaments in St. Paul, in millions	8.3
Average amount between 1989 and 2000 the league returned to its membership to offset tournament expenses	\$600,000

Source: Minnesota State High School League Web site (www.mshsl.org) and news accounts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
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(651) 296-2314

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House Index Office
(651) 296-6646

For an up-to-date recorded message giving committee meeting times and agendas, call:
Committee Hotline
(651) 296-9283

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