

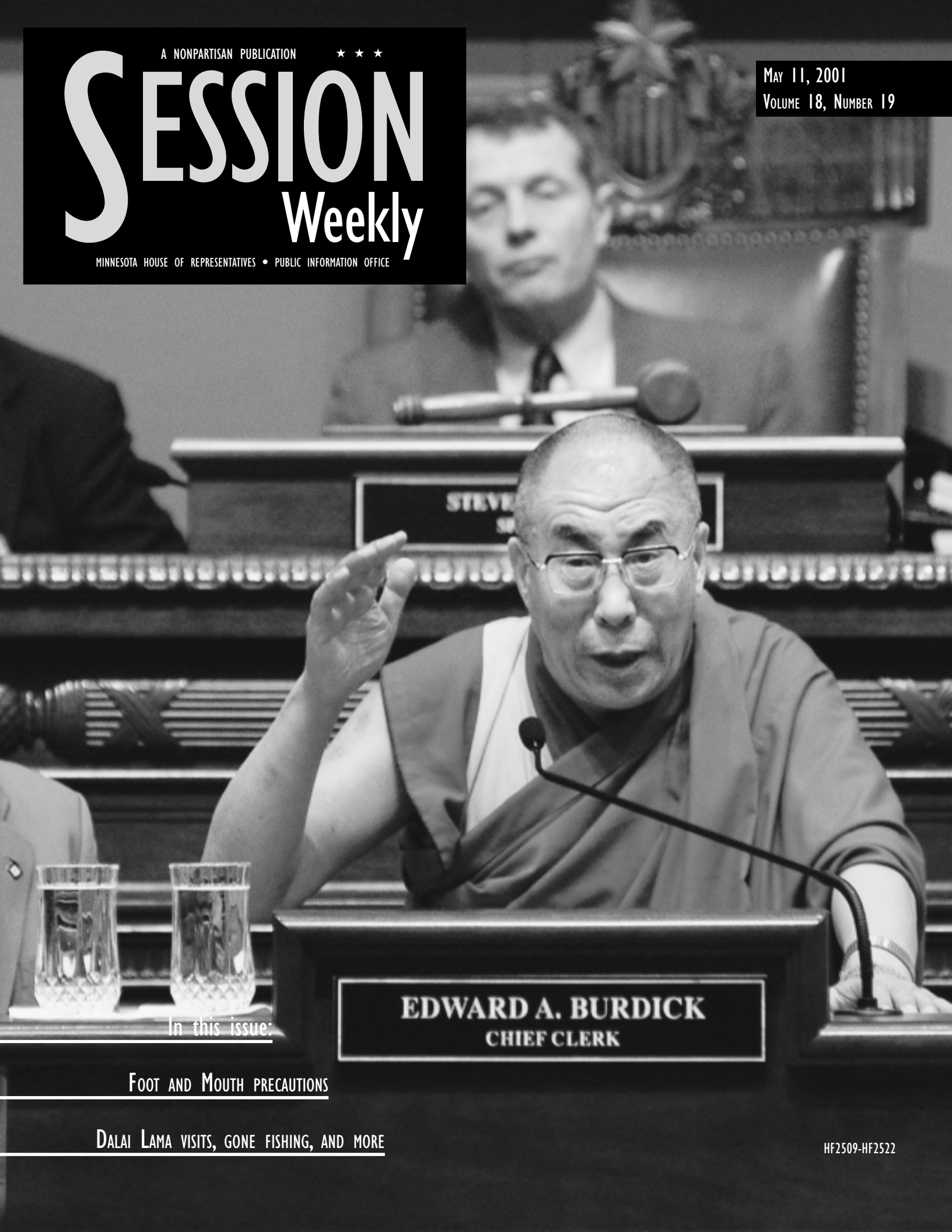
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SESSION Weekly

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In this issue:

FOOT AND MOUTH PRECAUTIONS

DALAI LAMA VISITS, GONE FISHING, AND MORE

HF2509-HF2522

SESSION Weekly

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On the cover: The Dalai Lama addresses a joint convention of the Legislature May 9 in the House Chamber. House Speaker Steve Sviggum looks on in the background.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Preparing for the worst

State officials begin making provisions should the devastating Foot and Mouth Disease come to Minnesota

BY JONAS M. WALKER

Executive orders to slaughter entire herds issued by scientists endowed with judge, jury, and executioner powers. National Guard soldiers closing off rural highways. Schoolchildren dipping shoes in disinfectant before being allowed to pass roadblocks manned by sheriff’s deputies.

State officials are taking seriously the threat that such scenes, though intimidating and even frightening to the average Minnesotan, could be manifest if the state falls prey to a tiny but potent invader.

Microscopic in size, though unlikely to kill or permanently injure people, the long-term effects of the Foot and Mouth Disease virus on humans are anything but miniscule. The highly contagious viral infection has all but brought the rural United Kingdom to a standstill. The government delayed national elections, community life was severely disrupted, and millions of British pounds will likely be lost by industries ranging from agriculture to tourism — all this since the first signs of outbreak Feb. 19 prompted the annihilation of livestock on more than 1,300 farms.

Noticeably concerned, state legislators first gathered publicly April 18 to discuss the outbreaks and begin discussing how the state might effectively respond to an outbreak here.

In the meantime, Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) worked with state officials to draft a plan that supporters hope will provide a legal framework for state agencies to efficiently respond to an outbreak of the virus. He introduced the resulting bill May 8 to the House Agriculture Policy Committee, where it was approved. The bill now moves to the House Civil Law Committee.

The bill would authorize the governor to declare an emergency for the purpose of controlling dangerous domestic animal diseases. In such a state of emergency, the Board of Animal Health may establish and enforce quarantine zones to prevent the spread of disease. Board jurisdiction would extend to people, property, and livestock, and would include the authority to order the condemnation of livestock and carcass disposal.

Under existing law, the board has the au-

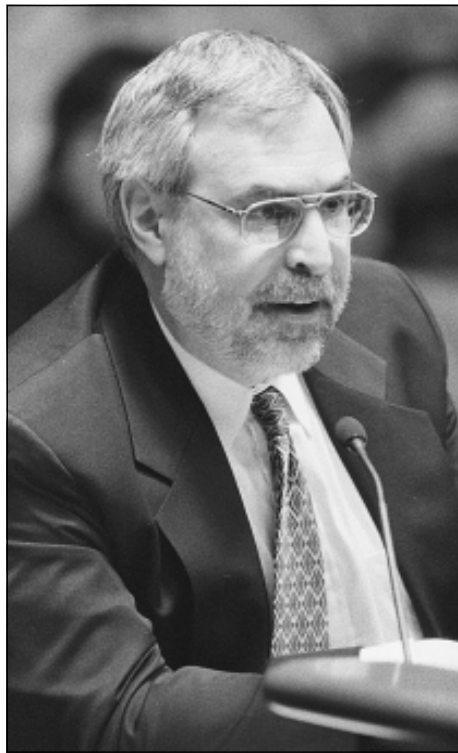


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Minnesota Deputy Attorney General Corey Gordon testifies before the House Agriculture Policy Committee May 8 regarding a proposal that would create new mechanisms for the state Board of Animal Health to respond to a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

thority to destroy diseased animals. The bill would permit the board to petition the governor to declare an emergency, and in doing so, the state’s chief executive would make available all resources normally reserved for natural disasters.

The board could establish quarantine zones of no larger than a three-mile radius from animals believed to be infected and for no

longer than 72 hours. Within the zone, the board could establish rules governing the movement of people, vehicles, or animals. Department of Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson said the 72-hour limit should be sufficient because all affected animals should be slaughtered and burned or buried within one day of a positive diagnosis.

“Our hope is that the provisions in this bill will never be used,” Hugoson said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), the only House Agriculture Policy Committee member to vote against the measure, agreed but said he wanted to ensure farmers had some mechanism by which to appeal a decision to destroy livestock. The bill explicitly allows farmers to telephone district courts to seek immediate relief from orders affecting property or personal movements.

The restrictions and slaughter would undoubtedly be traumatic, but Hugoson stressed the bill’s provisions would be the “least onerous” to farmers with infected herds.

Rep. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook) expressed the hopes of state leaders, saying although a farmer suffering an infected herd might not appreciate the necessity of robust slaughter, “his neighbor down the road would.”

Minnesota Board of Animal Health Executive Director Tom Hagerty said in a May 9 interview that the state recently suffered a pseudorabies outbreak among hogs. He said the board authorized the slaughter or culling of more than 300,000 pigs between March 1999 and October 2000.

Hagerty said the federal government reimbursed farmers for the cost of their animals, and similar arrangements would likely be made for farmers caught in a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak.

Although some European farmers’ unions opposed the culling there, Hugoson said farm industries themselves accepted the necessity. Asked whether American livestock stakeholders would approve of a mass cull here, he said, “Sure they would. The decision to (cull) has already been made and they would expect us to carry that out.”

The disease afflicts hooved animals such as cows, pigs, sheep, goats, and deer. Humans can carry the virus but rarely been found to suffer infection. The disease should not be confused with BSE, bacterial “Mad Cow” disease, or with human hand, foot, and mouth disease.

Infected animals transmit the virus in every form of bodily excretion. The virus can also be spread in people's shoes or on other clothing, in human nostrils, in animal products, and even for several miles by wind. It is believed one outbreak in France was caused by wind-borne pathogens from the United Kingdom lifted over the English Channel.

In an average diseased farm, 95 percent of hooved animals will catch the virus. Although less than 1 percent of adult animals will die as a result of the disease, it proves fatal for about 50 percent of the young animals.

Foot and Mouth Disease is tremendously destructive because it prompts a decline in agricultural production as it slows animal growth, making adult animals unproductive and stunting or killing young animals. Infected animals exhibit swollen lesions on hooves and udders and in their mouths. Suffering from oral pain, animals stop eating and therefore slow their own growth and milk production. That decline in animal productivity can prove devastating for a rural economy.

The British Medical Journal wrote March 10 that the disease is rampant in much of Asia, Africa, and South America. "As international trade barriers become increasingly subject to scrutiny, foot and mouth disease remains one of the few remaining constraints to international trade in live animals and animal products. The occurrence of even a single case of Foot and Mouth Disease in a previously disease-free country results in an immediate ban on an economically valuable export trade."

Hugoson told the House Agriculture Policy Committee April 18 that the federal government has banned imported animal products, livestock, and used farm equipment from countries affected by the recent outbreaks. Additionally, the United States Department of Agriculture has stepped up preventive efforts at airports and seaports and has sent American scientists to assist Europeans in containing the outbreak.

Minnesota has taken the additional step of recommending farmers forbid visitors from Europe to enter their farms. South Dakota took the extraordinary step of forbidding any person returning or visiting from Europe from entering any farm for five days. The ban includes families returning to their own farms.

Foot and Mouth Disease cannot be successfully prevented by vaccination because of the many strains of the virus. Scientists have concluded that the only effective treatment is to aggressively eradicate any known cases. Said Hugoson, "Cut hard, cut deep, and cut fast."



Protecting the air, water

Nearly 35-year-old PCA charged with environmental stewardship

In 1967, increased public concern about threats to Minnesota's environment prompted the Legislature to seek new solutions to air pollution and solid waste management. The result was the new Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA), one of the first agencies of its type in the country.

In fact, it would be three years before the U.S. government mandated the PCA's federal counterpart, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and three years before the first Earth Day. That same year the Minnesota Legislature created the nation's first department of human rights, further making 1967 a year of bold lawmaking.

The authority granted to the PCA extended well beyond the reach of the Water Pollution Control Commission, which it replaced, according to a report titled *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 1967-1987: Twenty Years of Protecting the Environment*.

The purpose of the Pollution Control Agency, then and now, is "to protect Minnesota's environment through monitoring environmental quality and enforcing environmental regulations." It was given authority to enforce laws relating to water, air, and noise pollution, as well as the responsibility for regulating the disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

Unlike most state agencies, it was conceived of with authority given to a citizens' board, which was to be supported by an agency staff. Composed of a commissioner and seven members, all appointed by the governor, the agency was intended to be "broadly representative of the skills and experience necessary to effectuate the policy" legislated to it, according to state statute.

In October 1967, Gov. Harold LeVander appointed the first commissioner, John Badalich, who had been South St. Paul's city engineer since 1955. In that role, he had dealt with pollution problems from the city's stockyards for more than 12 years, and he often lobbied at the State Capitol for pollution control legislation.

Although a frequent critic of the now-

defunct Water Pollution Control Commission, Badalich lauded its progress toward cleaning up the Mississippi River and other waterways. In an interview with the *St. Paul Dispatch* then, he emphasized the importance of attacking air pollution immediately.

"It's a new setup, and I'm the first director," Badalich told the newspaper. "I expect people to take some potshots."

And people have been "taking potshots" at the agency ever since. As a regulatory agency, the PCA sits in the hot seat between environ-

mentalists and industrialists — the proverbial "rock and a hard place" — and controversy has always attended its decisions.

"The sensitivity or awareness of Minnesotans to the environment increased rapidly in the first years of the agency's existence," said Bob Tuveson, one of the first PCA board members, in the agency report. "During the first few years, we lived in a goldfish bowl because of all the interest in what we were doing."

The agency began its work in 1967 with an appropriation of \$260,000 and a staff of 35. In 2001, its budget exceeds \$139 million and it has a staff of almost 800, although the current Legislature is considering cutting both its budget and staff.

The Pollution Control Agency has never operated entirely on its own. Since its inception, the agency has formed alliances with the federal Environmental Protection Agency, local governments, industry, business, environmentalists, and educators, in addition to its partnership with the Legislature.

"The nature of the business is such that we cost certain people money they would rather keep, and we never satisfy the blue-sky idealists," said Lovel Richie, a staff member since 1967, in the PCA report. "If we are performing our task responsibly we are probably making everyone equally mad at us. What a way to be a success."

"However, if we ever get to the point where we were being praised by any one segment, it's time to inventory the program, because the balance is gone," Richie added.

(M.K. WATSON)



John Badalich, the first Commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

★ **AGRICULTURE**

Changing nuisance liability

The House voted May 7 to adopt a bill clarifying an existing liability waiver on nuisance claims made against farms.

HF1356, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), is intended to assist farmers by redefining two key terms in current law. The measure passed by a 74-55 vote.

Current law specifies that a farm cannot be judged to be a nuisance if it has been operating for at least two years and does not "expand" or "significantly alter" its production activities. Currently, "expanded" means an increase by 25 percent in the amount of a particular crop grown or in the number of livestock kept.

The bill would delete any reference to the size or scope of a crop, essentially granting immunity from nuisance liability to farmers who quickly increase plant production.

Furthermore, the bill would remove existing "significantly altered" language referring to a change from one kind of crop or animal production to another. In its place, the bill would define "significantly altered" only negatively; it would not include a transfer of ownership among family members, a temporary cessation or interruption of cropping activities, the adoption of new technologies or a change in the crop product produced.

Responding to concern that the bill would favor rapidly growing farms on the fringes of growing suburban regions, Dorman reminded the House of the process of granting permits currently in place to regulate farm activity. He said his bill "in no way impacts the permitting process" and it "doesn't take away local control" of permitting or nuisance litigation.

According to the nonpartisan House Research Department, nuisance complaints against farms commonly arise due to odor, dust, or noise affecting non-farming neighbors. However, actual nuisance lawsuits are rare.

The bill awaits action in the Senate.

FYI

House Index in the Chief Clerk's Office has an area at its front desk, Room 211 Capitol, for anyone in an electric or standard wheel chair to access the legislative Web site. The desk can be raised or lowered by pushbuttons for users to search for the status of bills.

★ **BUSINESS**

Biodiesel bill altered

The House Taxes Committee amended a bill that would have created a biodiesel fuel mandate for all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota.

In place of a mandate on the private sector, the amended bill would require that all state-owned or operated diesel vehicles use at least 5 percent biodiesel fuel by volume by July 1, 2002. Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) proposed the amendment to HF362 during a May 9 committee meeting. The bill is sponsored by

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake).

The bill now calls for commissioners from the Administration, Agriculture, and Transportation Departments, and the Pollution Control Agency to report to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2004 on the operating costs, operational performance, and environmental impact of the mandate. A second study would assess the growth in biodiesel production capacity.

The state transportation commissioner would also be required to consult with businesses using diesel "to develop protocols for biodiesel fuel demonstration projects" and report findings to the Legislature.

In its amended form, the bill would make no requirement of private sector industries.

Westrom characterized the tax committee's changes as "major surgery," but predicted the bill would "come back a healthier person." In a May 10 interview he said he is "negotiating with interested parties" but that the bill still faced significant opposition. He predicted the original bill, or "at least something closer to the original language," would be presented in the House Ways and Means Committee, where the bill travels next, or on the House floor.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), who supported the bill as it moved through the agriculture and transportation committees, said May 10 that the tax committee acted inappropriately by adopting sweeping policy changes. "It's not right, not our process," he said.

In the bill approved by the House Transportation Finance Committee April 23, the state agriculture commissioner would have determined when the state's capacity to produce one-half of the biological component of the fuel, the rest of which would be imported. No sooner than 180 days after that determination, all diesel fuel sold in Minnesota would have had to be composed of at least 2 percent biological component, a proportion that would have had to increase to 5 percent once the state's production could meet one-half the supply needed to meet increased demand.

Additionally, the bill would have required the Department of Agriculture to study the "feasibility and desirability" of providing a tax credit benefiting biodiesel producers.

Proponents say a mandate would trigger the development of home-grown, ecologically friendly fuels and would bolster the state's sagging rural economy. Opponents say biodiesels are insufficiently tested, and they decry the measure as "good farm politics but bad public policy."

Biodiesel fuel is normal diesel fuel

REMEMBERING HEROES



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard present colors during a ceremony at the beginning of the May 10 floor session to honor fallen peace officers. The House passed a bill May 10 that would designate a portion of Interstate 90 in southeastern Minnesota as Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway in honor of the state trooper killed in an accident while on duty in August 2000.

combined with a biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from organic oils for use in internal combustion engines. According to the National Biodiesel Board, soybeans provide 90 percent of the biological component of biodiesel fuels. Other sources include recycled oils from restaurants and even animal fats, although those are less commonly used.

Equipment buyback changes

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 4 that changes requirements regarding the relationship between farm implement dealers and manufacturers.

Specifically, outdoor power equipment will be added to a list of equipment that manufacturers and wholesalers must re-purchase from dealers with whom they have cancelled a sales agreement. The law limits the definition of outdoor power equipment to specifically exclude motorcycles, boats, and other vehicles.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), the House originally passed the measure April 18. It passed the law again with Senate-initiated amendments April 30.

Among other changes, the new law shortens by one-third the existing 90-day period during which the re-purchase must occur. Additionally, the percentage of the current price that the manufacturer is required to pay the dealer for returned equipment is increased from 85 percent to 95 percent.

The law also extends the buyback requirement to data processing and communications software and hardware, specialized repair tools and signage purchased to meet requirements set by wholesalers or manufacturers.

The Senate measure was sponsored by Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples).

HF933*/SF983/CH72

★ CHILDREN

Child welfare study sought

The House passed a bill May 8 relating to child welfare that, as amended, would authorize a task force to study the Uniform Parentage Act of 2000.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), the House sponsor of HF1397/SF1394*, said the elements of the bill are mostly technical corrections from the Department of Human Services that would make state law conform to federal regulations.

The House voted to incorporate the House language in the Senate file, which was sponsored by Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester). It then approved an amendment offered by Tingelstad to establish a task force that would meet during the summer.

The task force would include representatives of 20 different groups including, the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, adoption agencies, lawyers, judges, children's advocates, and parent organizations.

The proposed task force would review the Uniform Parentage Act of 2000 and make recommendations to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2002, as to whether it should adopt all or part of the act.

The Uniform Parentage Act of 2000 was drafted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to update the 1973 act of the same name. It is a document intended to be a model for states.

The original act addressed the special needs of children born outside of marriage, declaring "equality for parents and children without regard to marital status of the parents." According to the prefatory note to the new act, it "contributed much to bringing about a more enlightened approach to some sensitive issues that can divide people of goodwill."

The new act would integrate the 1973 act, update provisions regarding divorce and parentage, acknowledge children of "assisted conception," and include language regarding genetic testing.

The proposal passed the House on a 129-0 vote and the Senate 59-0 on May 1. It now goes to a House-Senate conference committee.

★ CRIME

Reclaiming gas money

The House passed a bill originally intended to help gas station owners recover payment from drivers who depart pumps without paying.

HF205/SF103*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), passed by a 103-28 vote May 8 after a major amendment sponsored by Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring).

The Nornes bill would impose a \$20 service charge or actual cost of collection, not to exceed \$30, as a civil penalty on owners whose vehicles receive gasoline and fail to pay. The gas station owner could sue for \$100, or the price of the original gas plus the service charge, if payment is not received 30 days after mailing a notice to the owner of the vehicle.

Stang's amendment would also allow persons in receipt of bounced checks to immediately impose a fee of up to \$30 on the check writer and issue a notice that the fee and original amount of money must be paid within 30 days. If the money is not paid within 10 days of mailing a second notice, the holder of a bad check may impose an additional \$75 fee. It was adopted by an 85-47 vote.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) offered an amendment to Stang's amendment that would hold employers who issue bad paychecks liable for service fees incurred by their employees whose own checks bounce after depositing a paycheck. "I'm trying to protect people who innocently write bad checks," he said. The amendment was adopted by a 113-19 vote.

The Senate passed SF103, sponsored by Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls) April 23 by a 64-1 vote. The Senate refused May 9 to concur with the House amendments and a conference committee has been appointed.

Sentenced to work

Indigent criminal defendants may be sentenced to community service instead of a fine, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 4.

The House first passed the law, sponsored by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji), April 17. A version incorporating the Senate's amendments passed April 30.

Existing law provides for certain minimum fines for any offense. Generally that amount is 30 percent of the maximum fine. The maximum fine for a misdemeanor is \$1,000, and \$3,000 for a gross misdemeanor. Maximum fines for felonious acts vary.

Any fine may be reduced to \$50 if a defendant qualifies for the services of a public defender, is otherwise indigent, or if the fine creates an undue hardship for the defendant or their family.

Under the new law, effective Aug. 1, 2001, that policy is amended to allow judges to impose community service. The law states that community service work in lieu of a fine may be worked off at a rate of \$5 per hour. Exceptions are permitted in cases of disabled or ill defendants.

Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the Senate measure. It passed the Senate April 26.

HF865*/SF1266/CH71

Additional protection for children

Children living with people who have committed child abuse in other states will be considered in need of protection, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 4.

State law dictates that children need protection if they reside, or will reside, with someone guilty of child abuse.

Prior to the measure, courts defined "child abuse" only by violations of existing Minnesota law.

Beginning on Aug. 1, 2001, when the law goes

into effect, the definition will be expanded to include similar acts committed in other jurisdictions, including other states, the District of Columbia and tribal lands. Violations of federal law will also be included in this law.

Under the new law, a violation in another jurisdiction will be considered grounds for a child's need for protection if the perpetrator's act would have been a crime if it had been committed in Minnesota.

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) sponsored the measure, which originally passed the House April 18 and then again with the Senate's amendments April 30.

Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure in the Senate, where it passed April 25.

HF953*/SF1265/CH73

★ DEVELOPMENT

Disaster grants approved

A one-time appropriation of \$11 million would be granted to assist local communities that have suffered a natural disaster under a measure passed by the House May 9.

HF402, sponsored by House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan), received unanimous approval with a 132-0 vote. The Senate version of the bill, SF383, sponsored by Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan), awaits action in that body.

In 2000, the city of Eagan, a suburb of St. Paul, suffered substantial flood damage.

Under the bill, the Department of Trade and Economic Development would make grants during the 2002-03 biennium to communities that experienced heavy rains, flooding, tornadoes, or other natural disasters from May 2000 to July 2000 as declared by the Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster.

The funds would be allocated to assist with public costs that are not covered by federal disaster programs, including damage assessment, repair, replacement, or improvement of publicly owned infrastructure, municipal utilities, parks, storm sewers, and wastewater treatment facilities, according to the bill.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said he appreciates the legislation by Pawlenty. Mower County and his hometown were "hit with huge floods" last summer, he said.

Job program changes

The House unanimously passed a measure May 8 that modifies language pertaining to the Job Skills Partnership Program and the Pathways Program.

No MANDATE



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Greg Langford, of Langford Trucking from the St. Cloud/Sauk Rapids area, holds one end of a "No Mandate" sign in opposition to a biodiesel bill outside the House Chamber along with other members of the Minnesota Trucking Association May 9. The House Taxes Committee later that day voted to only mandate biodiesel fuels in state vehicles.

The bill (HF1941) is sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont). The bill passed 131-0.

The Senate companion (SF1899), sponsored by Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington), is awaiting floor action in that body.

Language in current law for the Job Skills Partnership Program refers to serving "displaced workers." HF1941 removes the word "displaced" so state law only references "workers."

In law, the Pathways Program presently assists in the "transition of persons from welfare to work." The bill would change the law to also assist "individuals who are at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines."

Also under the Pathways Program, the bill would delete specifications that programs receiving aid must "serve public assistance recipients transitioning from welfare to work," and adds that aid recipients may be "services supporting education and training programs that serve eligible recipients."

Current language requires employers who receive funding through the HIRE Education Loan Program to use it to obtain the most "cost-effective" training. This section changes this statement to refer to the most "effective" training.

Investment fund repayments

Recipients of grants from the Minnesota Investment Fund might have more control over the money they receive, under a bill passed unanimously in both the House and Senate.

HF1392/SF1258* now awaits the governor's signature.

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm), the bill would give more latitude to cities or counties that receive repayment of funds awarded as loans or grants from the investment fund.

Under the bill, the entities would be able to contribute the money to larger projects, community capital funds, or a statewide revolving loan fund. The bill adds new language to allow the projects to be statewide, and not only regional.

The bill has no fiscal impact. The Senate passed the measure 50-0 May 4 and the House 132-0 May 9.

★ EDUCATION

House passes omnibus bill

Showing their disapproval of the K-12 Education finance omnibus bill (HF82), House DFL members wore buttons claiming the grade they said it deserved: a D-.

"We are dismantling the quality programs we have in Minnesota schools," said Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley).

But supporters, including bill sponsor Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), explained to members on the House floor May 3 that the bill reflects the governor's priorities and those of House Republicans: accountability and conservative spending.

The bill also includes measures to repeal the Profile of Learning as part of the state's graduation standards and to reinstate the state Board of Education. Total spending in the bill for the 2002-03 biennium would be \$8.7 billion, up nearly \$1 billion from the previous biennium. The bill passed the body by a 72-61 vote.

The Senate passed its K-12 education bill the same day. The Senate bill would provide \$8.8 billion over the biennium. Appointees of the two bodies will soon meet in a conference committee to work out differences between the bills.

DFL members each took a turn offering comments to the bill before its final vote, many of them saying the Legislature should give more money toward education in a time of a good economy.

"I don't know how anyone could justify budget cuts in a time of a budget surplus," said Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

However, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said the economy could get worse and they don't want to set themselves up to make big cuts in coming years. "We have to be prudent in our planning," he said.

The House adopted several amendments on the floor but only those that did not exceed established spending targets.

Among them was Rep. Bob Ness's (R-Dassel) amendment that would require school districts to reserve the amount of transportation costs they spent in the previous year, as well as reserve a specific amount for school bus purchases.

The body also approved an amendment by a 132-0 vote that would order the Department of Children, Families and Learning to return funds to the Pew Charitable Trusts. The funds that had been given to the department as a gift were unspent and should have been returned. However, the funds were spent on personal items by five department workers to avoid returning the funds. The amount to be returned would total \$113,423 plus interest.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), is the first legislation to deal with the discovery of the actions; the Senate has passed the same measure.

DFL House members introduced several amendments that were not adopted, including two that would have allocated funds to Gifted and Talented programs across the state.

Another amendment, sponsored by Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) would have fully funded the cost of special education. Money for the bill would have been taken from outlying years 2004-05. Seagren said taking funds from those years and not knowing what revenues will be is "a little bit risky."

Asthma inhalers

Legislation that would allow students with asthma to carry their inhalers in school has moved one step further to becoming law.

The House passed HF1394/SF1706*, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), by a 132-0 vote on May 7. The Senate passed the bill, sponsored there by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul), 64-0 April 18.

Calling asthma inhalers "a rescue medication," Tinglestad explained on the House floor that students sometimes need them before they can reach the nurse's office, where some schools require they be kept — about 43 percent in Minnesota.

In order to carry and use the inhalers in school, students would need to have written parental permission that would be renewed each year. The bill would also require the school nurse or other authorized party to "assess the student's knowledge and skills to safely possess and use an asthma inhaler in a school setting."

Noting that asthma is the number one cause for missed school days, Tinglestad said the legislation would help students control asthma better.

The bill now awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature.

Department of Natural Resources for park or open space.

Osthoff said he supported that measure but now was faced with a decision on whether the land's best use was as a park or as an historic site.

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), the sponsor of the park measure (HF2187) in the omnibus bill, said the two provisions could work together.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls), passed the Senate 55-0 on May 4. It now goes to the governor for his signature.

GAMBLING



Cheaters beware

The House passed a bill May 8 by a 112-20 vote that would allow card club employees at Canterbury Park to detain a person suspected of cheating.

HF1021/SF1008*, sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), allows card club security personnel to detain a person if there is reasonable cause to believe the person has cheated at gambling.

The bill would allow the security personnel to require the suspect to provide or verify identification. Security could also inquire as to whether the person possesses any illegal contraband.

The detained person would have to be promptly informed of the purpose of the detention and may not be subjected to unnecessary or an unreasonable amounts of force. The person could not be detained for more than one hour or until a peace officer who requests detention has accepted custody.

Upon being detained, a person may request at any time that a peace officer be summoned.

Buesgens said the bill would create no new criminal penalties.

The measure, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), passed the Senate April 18 by a 63-0 vote.

The bill now goes to Gov. Jesse Ventura for approval or veto.

Clear your cards

Noon hour bingo would become legal, under a measure passed by the House May 7.

HF1069/SF986*, sponsored by Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), contains several provisions that would change laws governing charitable gambling in the state. The bill passed by an 86-43 vote.

Under current law, establishments that conduct bingo games are restricted to having no

ENVIRONMENT



Preserving history

The state would recognize the historical importance of Camp Coldwater Springs in Minneapolis under a bill passed by the House May 9. The vote was 110-20.

HF1764/SF2049*, sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield), would restrict the state or any of its political subdivisions from using or taking any action that affects the land in a way that diminishes the flow of water to or from the spring located near Fort Snelling.

Gleason said the land is currently owned by the Bureau of Mines of the United States Department of Interior.

The bill would entitle the land around the springs to the protection of the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, as well as the Minnesota Field and Archaeology Act.

"This would heighten the awareness of the importance of this property," Gleason said.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) questioned how the bill would work in conjunction with a measure included in the House environment and natural resources finance omnibus bill (HF766), sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) that would allow the property to be acquired by the Metropolitan Airports Commission and conveyed to the

more than 10 bingo occasions each week. At least 15 bingo games must be held at each occasion and the occasion must continue for at least 90 minutes, but not more than four hours.

The bill would allow an organization to conduct bingo between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to avoid the 15-game and time limit requirements.

Much of the floor debate centered on a successful amendment offered by Osskopp that would allow the card club at Canterbury Park to hold one tournament per year lasting no longer than 14 days. It would allow for more than 50 tables to be in use during tournament play.

The amendment would also raise the maximum wager amount on card games from \$30 to \$60.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) said he was concerned the amendment would expand gambling in the state.

Osskopp said the amendment, already approved by the Senate, was not an expansion of gambling but would allow the card club to hold a tournament without having to shut down day-to-day operations as is now required.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), chair of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee that heard the bill earlier this session, agreed with Osskopp. He said success of the card club helps the horse track and thereby helps the agricultural and horse industries of the state.

Other provisions in the bill increase the threshold amount for annual audits and financial reviews of gambling funds. The bill would also allow gambling organizations to accept checks in the sale of raffle tickets.

The bill was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy). It now goes to the governor for approval.

★ GOVERNMENT

Redistricting plan proposed

The House Redistricting Committee heard the first proposal May 10 to redraw the state's eight congressional districts. The committee took no action during the initial hearing of the bill.

HF2505, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), would create a district that would encompass most of the northern part of the state, and would also combine Minneapolis and St. Paul into one congressional district.

Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), the committee chair, said further hearings would be held on the proposal.

Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud), the sponsor

of the companion Senate bill (SF2355), said the plan meets the redistricting principles put forth by the House and Senate. Seven of the districts would have identical population figures of 614,935, with the eighth district having a population of 614,934. The numbers are based on the 2000 census.

Seifert said the bill recognizes the demographic shifts that have occurred in the past decade in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

"This is a new and exciting opportunity to enhance minority strength in Congress," he said pointing to the newly proposed fifth district combining the two core cities. Minorities would compose 38 percent of the district.

Rick Aguilar, president of the St. Paul-based Aguilar Productions, spoke in support of the bill. He said with the growing Hispanic population in the state, that community will have to become more politically involved.

"Combining Minneapolis and St. Paul would allow the community to be represented here in Minnesota. It's an opportunity we should take," he said.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) said he prefers the two cities remain in separate districts. He said numbers that he had been shown indicate the fifth district currently has a 6 percent Hispanic population and under HF2505 that number would become 7 percent. The fourth district currently has an 8 percent Hispanic population and that would decrease to 7 percent.

Mariani said he agreed with Aguilar that the

Hispanic community in the state would continue to rapidly grow but it was important for that community to have the potential for two representatives in the state.

State employee benefits

An amendment that would prohibit the state from entering into collective bargaining agreements to grant health care benefits to same-sex domestic partners of state employees drew controversy on the House floor May 3.

The House adopted the amendment offered to the state government omnibus finance bill (HF218/SF2360*) by a 78-54 vote. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), passed the House on a 69-62. Overall, the bill provides \$707 million in funding for state government over the 2002-03 biennium.

Largely unchanged from the version approved by committee, the bill now goes to a conference committee to work out the details between the House and Senate language.

Existing law does not define who may receive benefits, but leaves it open to the bargaining process. The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), says that only an employee, a spouse, dependent child, or dependent grandchild may receive state-paid benefits.

Gov. Jesse Ventura has said he may use his

STATEHOOD WEEK



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

As part of Minnesota Statehood Week, historic site interpreter Elizabeth Karel dresses in an 1850s period costume to play a Minnesota territory schoolteacher. She displays a map of the territory to fourth graders from St. Michael Catholic School in Prior Lake May 10 at the State Capitol.

authority to extend benefits to same-sex couples. Under this legislation, the governor would no longer have this ability, and any further changes would require legislative approval.

This is "an anti-GLBT (Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender) amendment," said Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), who argued the provision should have been introduced in a committee earlier in the session when the bill could have received public testimony.

"It is very disrespectful to employees that will be drastically affected by this," she added.

Kielkucki pointed out that the state currently does not offer such benefits. "I do not think we can afford to go in that direction as a state," he said.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said a change in the language to allow homosexual couples to receive benefits could possibly extend to heterosexual couples as well. "We don't know the cost," he said, but that he would support the measure if there were a clearer definition.

"This is about workers' rights, not the definition of marriage," Clark said.

Members of the House also passed an amendment to increase employer and employee contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) by 0.35 percent of compensation as of Jan. 1, 2002.

Council growth

The membership of the Urban Indian Affairs Advisory Council would increase by one under a measure passed by the House May 7. The vote was 119-13.

HF1687/SF1206*, sponsored in the House by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls), would increase the advisory council from five members to six by adding a member from Bemidji. Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids), sponsors the bill in the Senate.

Clark said concerns from American Indians in the Bemidji area are similar to the other council members that are from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

Established in 1963, the Indian Affairs Council is the official liaison between state and tribal governments. This council is governed by the elected tribal chair of the 11 reservations in the state, and two at-large members representing American Indians who live in Minnesota, but are enrolled in other states.

The urban advisory council's role is to advise Indian Affairs Council board members on the unique problems and concerns of American Indians who live in urban areas of the state.

The measure passed the Senate by a 62-0 vote and was presented to Gov. Jesse Ventura on May 8.

★ HEALTH

Well provision out, toilets in

The House passed a health policy bill (HF1304/SF1464*) May 8, but the provisions regarding prevention of lead poisoning were one-upped in discussion by the proposed repeal of a law restricting pay toilets in public places.

"I'm real leery about eliminating the statute for pay toilets," said Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown).

Current law states that any public facility with pay toilets or urinals must have at least as many free toilets or urinals, and they must all be maintained at the same standards of upkeep.

The law has been on the books since 1975, and Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), sponsor of the bill, said it was obsolete.

"Will firms be able to go back to pay toilets because the law is silent?" asked Murphy. "I sure don't think that's a good idea."

A provision for testing of wells at the time of a property sale also prompted discussion because it had been deleted from the bill in committee. According to Nornes, the requirement that wells be tested was opposed by realtors who said it was an unnecessary mandate.

"Why would we take out the well provision?" asked Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), who is a real estate appraiser. "If you take out that requirement, who is responsible for cleaning up a bad well?"

The well provision stayed out of the bill, and the repeal of the pay toilets stayed in.

The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick), passed the House on a 76-54 vote. It has already passed the Senate 66-0 April 25, but due to the addition of House amendments will now require a conference committee.

Maternal mortality review

Minnesota has conducted studies into maternal deaths for several decades, but the legal authorization for these studies expired July 1, 2000.

The House passed a bill 126-2 May 8 that would permit the commissioner of health to continue these studies, while repealing language that also authorized fetal and infant death studies.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), sponsor of HF1406, said the studies tracking maternal deaths are very important from a public health perspective. The findings are used to develop policies and improve systems for women's health care.

"The data is disturbing," Mulder said. "The number one cause of pregnancy-related death in this state is homicide."

In the last year records were kept in the state

(1999), 18 women died either while pregnant or within 12 months after the end of a pregnancy. Of those deaths, seven were unrelated to the pregnancy; causes of death included homicide, suicide, and car accidents.

The death rate for African-American women is 400 percent higher than for white women, according to Mulder.

Minnesota participates in a national study of maternal mortality led by the Centers for Disease Control. The Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists would also receive reports on the study's findings.

The bill is explicit as to how data would be handled to protect the privacy of women and their families. After summaries are made, Mulder said all data that identifies individuals would be destroyed.

The bill awaits action in the Senate.

Down for the count

The House passed a smorgasbord health bill May 8 that, in part, would repeal a law giving the commissioner of health regulatory powers over professional boxing matches.

Other measures in HF1407, sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), include changing the requirements for health maintenance plans' reporting schedules and modifying rural hospitals' program eligibility.

Mulder said there has been only one professional boxing match in Minnesota in the last year.

The bill would eliminate the seven-member Minnesota Board of Boxing, transferring authority for overseeing boxing contests to the Iowa Athletic Commission. Federal law requires oversight of professional boxing matches to protect the health and safety of boxers.

Beginning Oct. 31, 2004, the bill would also allow health maintenance organizations to file plans every four years instead of every two years.

The current law makes for "lots of paperwork and reporting, but nothing happens," said Mulder. He said the bill would substitute a progress report every two years.

The bill would also expand the eligibility for

Editor's Note: The House was debating the omnibus health and human services finance bill May 10 as this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press. The bill would provide \$6.5 billion in funding for health and human services departments and programs over the 2002-03 biennium. The version that was approved by House committees also contained an abortion consent measure. Look for a full story detailing the provisions in the bill in next week's issue.

rural hospital capital improvement grants from hospitals in communities with less than 5,000 people to those in communities with less than 10,000 people.

The bill would expand the definition of “critical access hospital” to include hospitals in counties with, or counties contiguous to, areas designated as medically underserved or with shortages of health professionals.

The vote on HF1407 was 131-0. The bill is awaiting Senate action.

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Position change

The House passed a bill May 9 that would allow two counties to change some elected positions to appointed positions.

HF1290/SF510*, was defeated by the House on a 104-27 vote April 18. The original bill would allow all county boards the ability to change certain elected positions to appointed positions by an 80 percent vote of the board. It passed the Senate 45-19 March 5.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), the House sponsor, offered a successful amendment May 9 that limited the scope of the bill to just Cass and Hubbard counties.

The amended bill would allow the Hubbard County board to change the auditor, treasurer, and the recorder positions to appointed positions. Cass County would do the same with its auditor-treasurer and recorder positions.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) said current law allows those elected positions to become appointed by having the county board put a referendum question before the voters. He said he opposed the measure because it allowed the changes to occur without the approval of voters.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) spoke against the original bill, but said he supported the amended version because in the past the House has supported the local requests as they have come before the body.

The amended bill passed by a 93-38 vote. It was sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul), and now advances to the governor’s desk.

★ RECREATION

Twins up to bat again

A procedural move on the House floor May 8 has revived a plan intended to help the Minnesota Twins construct a new baseball stadium. Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake) introduced a new bill regarding the issue and

successfully moved that it be referred to the House Taxes Committee.

The bill (HF2513) that would provide a \$140 million interest-free loan to the Minnesota Twins for construction of a new baseball stadium is scheduled to be heard by the taxes committee May 11.

The new measure is similar to another bill (HF2214) sponsored by Mares that was tabled April 11 in the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) made an unsuccessful motion on the House floor May 7 to re-refer HF2513 to the local government committee. Krinkie said the bill was only being referred to the taxes committee to circumvent the committee process.

The motion failed by a 76-52 vote.

Mares said the bill had been changed since its previous hearing, increasing the amount of the loan from \$100 million originally proposed to \$140 million, and removing a \$40 million bonding provision.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Rep. Sharon Marko (DFL-Cottage Grove), both of whom serve on the local government committee, said they were disappointed the committee didn’t have full hearings on the bill and that they weren’t given a chance to try and improve the bill.

The committee chair disagreed. Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing) said the bill received five hours of hearings and that its merits were thoroughly discussed.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) said she was concerned the vote to re-refer HF2513 was not merely a procedural vote but rather that it would be used in campaigns as a stadium vote.

She said in 1997 she served on a committee that sent a stadium bill to another committee without recommendation and later her vote was used against her in an election campaign as a pro-stadium vote.

Mares said it was a procedural vote only, and that if approved by the taxes committee, members would have an opportunity to discuss the merits of the proposal.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), chair of the House Taxes Committee, said he promised Mares a hearing of the stadium bill if it was ever referred to his committee. Abrams told Krinkie the committee would not merely approve the bill and send it to the House floor but rather would take a thorough look at it. Abrams said he could not support HF2513 as it is currently written.

TAXES



House passes plan

The House passed an omnibus tax bill May 4 that would eliminate the state determined general education levy and reduce class rates across property classes. The vote was 107-26.

HF2498, sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), also would provide an \$856 million sales tax rebate based on the projected surplus for 2001, repeal the health care provider tax, and would create a dedicated fund for transit financing.

“This is a historic bill. It is balanced and bold and is bound to bring hope (to taxpayers),” said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon).

The bill does not include Gov. Jesse Ventura’s proposal to pay for the property tax changes with an expansion of sales tax to services.

Abrams said he considered the governor’s proposal with an open mind but after hearing testimony from people around the state, he came to the conclusion the sales tax expansion was not in the best long-term economic interests of the state.

He said he also studied the other states that do tax services such as South Dakota, New Mexico, and Hawaii, and again came to the conclusion that it was not a direction Minnesota should take.

“If you want to be a cold Albuquerque, you will adopt the governor’s plan,” Abrams said.

DFL members offered eight unsuccessful amendments that would have shifted some of the relief in the bill. Among the amendments were proposals to increase the amount available for the state’s property tax refund program and increase the amount allowed for personal and dependent exemptions.

Rep. Rob Leighton (DFL-Austin) said that although he appreciated the property tax reform and provider tax repeal, he could not vote for the bill because of the priorities it establishes.

“The education of our children and the health care of our people ought to be our top priority,” Leighton said. “This super-sized tax bill doesn’t allow us to do a lot of the things a lot of members want to do.”

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) was the only Republican to vote against the bill. He said he was concerned about local control issues with the state taking over basic K-12 expenses currently funded by local property taxes.

The Senate tax bill still awaits action on the Senate floor.

A positive message

Dalai Lama shares thoughts of common ground, kindness, and hope for the future with Minnesota legislators

By DAVID MAEDA

Speaking not only about, but also with much, measurable compassion, the Dalai Lama addressed a joint House and Senate session May 9 in the House Chamber.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) introduced the Tibetan religious and political leader with gracious words. He called the Dalai Lama “the most honorable person in this entire world from the standpoint of peace, compassion, and justice.”

“We are gathered today for a truly historic occasion,” Sviggum said. “We are gathered today to welcome one of the most honorable and distinguished people of our generation. There is probably no one alive today who better embodies the struggle for human freedom and the spirit of nonviolence than our honorable guest His Holiness, the Dalai Lama.”

“His coming to Minnesota to share his message is a blessing,” Sviggum continued. “To share his blessing, to share his hope for Tibet is a tribute to our people and the strength of the Tibetan American community here in Minnesota.”

Presenting his message mostly with a low but self-assured voice and sometimes through

the help of an interpreter, the Dalai Lama gave his second address to a state legislature. He addressed the Wisconsin Assembly in 1998.

“As most of you might be aware Minnesota is a state which is the home to a very large Tibetan community in the United States. Over 800 Tibetans have found a second home here in this Minnesota state,” he said.

“Not only have they found a second home but also a home where they can feel relaxed, calm and at peace. Therefore I’d like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all the citizens of this Minnesota state for granting this opportunity to the Tibetans.”

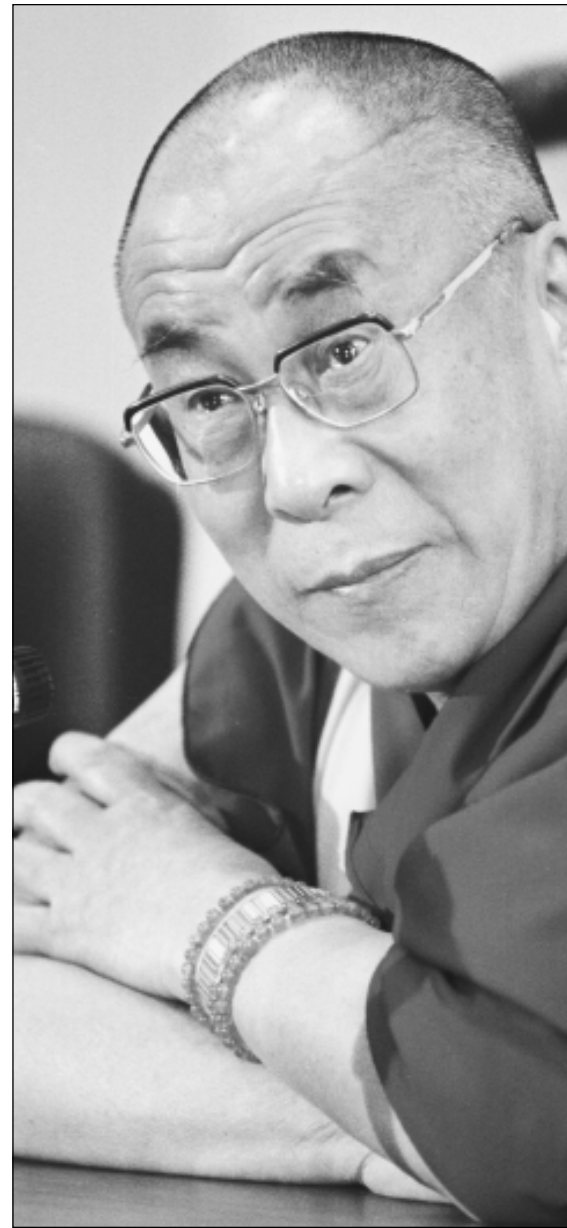
His message emphasized of the importance of community and finding common ground.

“I always consider human affection as a very, very precious thing. Even though (we) may be from different countries, different faith, different culture, or different language, human affection is something over all these differences,” he said.

He acknowledged his immediate connection with the audience of legislators and their guests, and a room further filled with the public including several from the Tibetan community.

“Even without knowing each other before, as soon as we met face to face to smile or to exchange simple expression, we can immediately come closer. I think that’s very precious. I always believe if we carry this spirit in all our activities, every human activity, every human action can be constructive. I think suddenly humanity can be a more happier one,” he said.

He also stressed the importance of taking



The Dalai Lama listens to a question during a news conference.



The Dalai Lama enters the House Chambers escorted by Rep. Geri Evans, left, and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, right, to address a joint meeting of the Legislature May 9.

care of the environment to ensure the happiness of following generations.

“We are the same human beings,” he said. “The future of humanity is a concern for everybody. The Earth is our own home. Every human being has the responsibility to take care of our home, our world, our planet, and the future of humanity.”

His speech at times was halted by a searching for the correct words but always with an ever-present smile upon his open, blissful face.

“Not only do we have sort of an innate desire to have a happy life but also we have every right to have a happy, meaningful life. Now for that I think it is not complete if we just expect all our wishes can be fulfilled by external means. I think that’s a mistake,” he said. “Of course the material government is very helpful, very necessary. But I think many of



PHOTOS BY TOM OLMSCHEDT
nce, May 9.

our problems are not religious with physical level but as a human being we have a very brilliant mind. Therefore many of our problems are essentially created by our human intelligence.

“The only counter force is to balance our problems created mainly by human intelligence so this brings the importance to basic human values, such as caring for one another, a sense of community, self discipline, contentment, tolerance, and forgiveness,” he said.

His message also contained a reaching out to those with differing opinions and beliefs both politically and philosophically.

“As a religious person, as a Buddhist, as a believer, obviously on this planet there are many different religious traditions. Each tradition has great potential to serve humanity. In the past millions of people have gotten benefits from these traditions,” he said. “We can work together and develop genuine harmony.”

He said he felt a “moral responsibility” to Tibetans because of their trust in him. And he said the solution to the conflicts that exist with China would best be resolved by establishing relationships with the Chinese government.

When thinking of current affairs between the two states he said, “Sometimes I feel almost hopeless.” But he said he

still believes the best way to solve differences is to keep in mind that the “people of China want to join in one community.”

He encouraged the United States to develop further understandings with the Chinese government.

“People (from the) outside world like the United States and this state, you should have closer relations with People’s Republic of China. And make friends. And to that end you can help reduce their suspicions.”

But he said it was important to preserve values such as cultural heritage and religious freedoms when dealing with China.

Ultimately he said he is hopeful because “the Tibetan spirit inside Tibet is very high, especially among the younger generation.”

House members were appreciative of the morning’s events.

Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls) said he was impressed with the message delivered of focusing on people’s similarities rather than differences. Kubly said he thought the Dalai Lama appeared to be a “gentle man.”

Sviggum expressed admiration for the man and his message.

decisions and actions on values and principles rather than on money. “That’s not something we always remember around here,” she said.

Greiling said she especially appreciated that the Dalai Lama’s message contained concern over ecology and environment issues.

After his speech the Dalai Lama patiently


“As a religious person, as a Buddhist, as a believer, obviously on this planet there are many different religious traditions. Each tradition has great potential to serve humanity. In the past millions of people have gotten benefits from these traditions. We can work together and develop genuine harmony.”

—The Dalai Lama

“No matter what your faith, no matter what your religion, this is a man deserving of our praise for his commitment to peace, his perseverance in fighting for the people’s freedom and the example of compassion, hope, and brotherhood that he provides to all.”

Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville) said she appreciated the emphasis of basing

shook hands, posed for pictures, and accepted gifts from legislative leadership. Among the gifts was a gold watch, an acknowledgement of the Dalai Lama’s hobby of collecting timepieces.

After a brief press conference he met with Gov. Jesse Ventura whom he said he was going to see, “Just to say hello.” 

Capitol visitors also hear Dalai Lama’s words

Crowding behind red velvet ropes, spectators filled the halls of the Capitol, hoping to catch a glimpse of His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his visit. Some of the on-lookers even had the chance to shake his hand.

Terese Pritschet and her daughter, both of Minneapolis, were of the few who received access to watch the Dalai Lama speak from the floor of the House Chamber. The two were guests of Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls).

Pritschet said the Dalai Lama’s most important points were that all people share a basic human nature and his encouragement to others to see issues from different perspectives, keeping in mind there are a variety of cultures and traditions.

She noted “his commitment to helping cultures maintain a sense of identity,” and that he said we make a lot of our problems for ourselves. Also, Pritschet said government officials should remember the Dalai Lama’s words on the relationship between countries: that it should be the same as with any friendship — “to create trust, but speak honestly and point out wrongdoing.”

Pritschet’s daughter, Ellie Wiener, has been studying the occupation of Tibetans in

school. The eighth-grader from Windom Open School in Minneapolis worked with two other students on the research project and presentation that included one of them acting out the part of the Dalai Lama. From what she saw of the Tibetan leader in person, she said their portrayal was pretty close to the real man himself.

Taking what she learned from her research, Ellie said the United States “needs to support Tibet and China, and not cut off the relationship with China.”

Pasang Norbu, a teaching aid for special education at Randolph Heights Elementary School in St. Paul, also had a seat on the House floor. Formerly a teacher in India, Norbu came to the United States in 1996.

Having the Dalai Lama come to the state is a great learning experience for Minnesotans to know about Tibetans, Norbu said. The visit should have some effect, he said, especially for human rights.

Norbu said he thought the Dalai Lama spoke well when he said that America is one of the biggest countries that supports Tibetans, but they still need our support, and that the Legislature can do much to help as a whole.

(T. STAHL)

A bad reputation

Communicable diseases prompted health officials and the Legislature to enact preventative and educational measures

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

Tuberculosis. Diphtheria. Typhoid Fever. Polio. Scarlet Fever. These diseases come to mind when we think about public health issues that required swift and decisive action by the government in order to protect the citizenry.

But another group of communicable diseases hovered beneath the public's sensibility for more than 50 years, all the while troubling public health officials.

It wasn't until World War I when soldiers began contracting and spreading venereal diseases that the public became aware the problem was reaching epidemic proportions.

Public health officials pointed to one main carrier of the diseases — prostitutes. But law enforcement officials had turned a blind eye to madames and houses of ill repute, so public health officials tried to motivate legislators and city officials to stop the problem in other ways.

But officials did not focus solely on the moral issues surrounding the diseases. They appealed to leaders on the ground that the diseases had caused a serious public health problem and something needed to be done on several fronts.

Ultimately, they relied on the aid of state and federal funds to educate the public about the dangers of venereal disease. As a result, they nearly eliminated them throughout the state.

In 1919, there were thousands of cases of both syphilis and gonorrhea in the state. And the problem had existed statewide since the middle of the 19th Century.

In his book, *The People's Health: a History of Public Health in Minnesota to 1948*, Philip D. Jordan attributed the high number of cases to an influx of prostitutes, who migrated to the Twin Cities from Chicago after a fire there in the 1870s.

Jordan wrote that about 500 prostitutes made the move from one of the "worst and vilest" districts in Chicago. Local press at the time confirmed his assessment of the situation.

"The Chicago fire of 1874, it was estimated, doubled the number of prostitutes in Minneapolis," the *St. Paul Daily Press* reported.

Adding further aggravation to the problem, police were not enforcing laws that banned prostitution. Only a fraction of the women arrested for prostitution were actually charged with the crime in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"The customary procedure — one that was rather general throughout the United States — was for police to raid houses periodically, bring the madames into court to pay a fine, and then release them to continue their activities," Jordan wrote in his book. "Jail sentences were rarely imposed."

Though both state and local officials supported methods to make it easier to curb prostitution, it flourished well into the early years of the 20th Century.

"So great was the influence of vice in Minneapolis that no legislative methods could terminate prostitution," Jordan wrote. "After several years of attempting to eradicate the

evil, Minneapolis began licensing its brothels."

But the problem wasn't confined to major cities of the state. In fact, 11 cities in Minnesota and the Wisconsin communities of Eau Claire and Hudson both reported serious problems with tuberculosis and venereal disease as early as 1874.

In 1902, Dr. Henry M. Bracken, head of the state board of health, said venereal disease ought to be placed under the jurisdiction of public health officers. He also said the state should provide free Wassermann tests, used to detect such diseases, and subsequently provide free treatments of salvarsan for those afflicted.

Bracken and other prominent health professionals were particularly outspoken about the problems associated with the spread of venereal disease. But what they were most critical of was a perceived lack of leadership from legislators and other state officials.

They said that until Minnesota doctors were required to report cases of syphilis and gonorrhea and provide afflicted persons with treatment, the problem would only get worse. Furthermore, they said the fact that officials were not willing to publicly address the problem merely allowed it to progress uncontrolled throughout the population.

Wrote Jordan, "The Minnesota Legislature ... had passed a series of acts calculated to reduce prostitution, but neither the state nor municipalities had attempted to legislate on the venereal disease problem. The state health department had no such regulation and neither had any local health boards. Nevertheless, the trend was in that direction."



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society
Venereal disease prevention project, Minneapolis Lymanhurst Clinic in 1940.

“We may expect to reduce venereal disease by gaining the recognition of the medical profession and the public, to the fact that these diseases must be removed from the plane of ‘secret’ or ‘shameful’ diseases, to the plane of other contagious infections, which properly belong under the control of public health authorities.”

—Dr. H. G. Irvine

Officials began to take notice of the problem as soldiers were falling ill and being diagnosed with the diseases. Prostitutes were deemed the source of the problem and officials began asking for help.

According to Jordan, “Colonel H.S. Greenleaf, ranking surgeon at Fort Snelling, repeatedly requested departmental help and had said that he was ‘unable to handle conditions satisfactorily without outside assistance.’”

In 1918, the state Department of Health created a division specifically for the prevention of venereal diseases. Dr. H.G. Irvine, who was head of the division, urged officials to educate the public to no longer view venereal diseases with the stigma that had followed them throughout history.

“We may expect to reduce venereal disease by gaining the recognition of the medical profession and the public, to the fact that these diseases must be removed from the plane of ‘secret’ or ‘shameful’ diseases, to the plane of other contagious infections, which properly belong under the control of public health authorities,” Irvine said.

With the creation of the venereal disease division, the state also created regulatory policy that required doctors to report all cases of venereal disease. In addition, patients were to be treated until the disease was no longer a threat to others.

In 1918, there were more than 8,000 cases of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chancroid reported throughout Minnesota. The numbers would increase to more than 11,000 by 1921. By the early 1940s, tests of soldiers showed that the

disease was present in less than 1 percent of the nearly 200,000 men tested. (In 1999, about 2,800 cases of syphilis and gonorrhea were reported in men and women.)

However, during that same period of time, doctors and public health officials blanketed the state with as many as 400,000 pamphlets regarding the dangers of venereal disease. Those same officials showed a film, called

“So great was the influence of vice in Minneapolis that no legislative methods could terminate prostitution,” Jordan wrote. “After several years of attempting to eradicate the evil, Minneapolis began licensing its brothels.”

—Philip D. Jordan

“End of the Road” to school teachers and others in 37 counties during 1919.

Between exhibits, lectures and film showings, nearly 330,000 people were educated about the diseases.

Local health officers also declared a sort of war on prostitution, posting public notices on homes and buildings known to house such activities.

According to Jordan, signs declared the following: “Warning! Venereal Disease exists on these premises.” They were printed in black, bold-face type on red cards with the words “venereal disease” appearing in letters not less than three inches high.

The Legislature made regular appropriations to the venereal disease division for these purposes. Between 1914 and 1947, nearly \$600,000 was budgeted for these purposes to the state Department of Health.

However, public attention toward the diseases would wane after World War I and into the late 1920s as economic concerns surrounding the stock market crash and subsequent depression won out. The division of venereal diseases would ultimately become part of the department’s division of preventable diseases, but the issue would again gain public attention with the passage of the federal Venereal Disease Control Act of 1938. The act provided grants-in-aid to states through the U.S. Public Health Service.

Minnesota used the funds to continue education efforts and to attempt to control prostitution on the local level.

By 1948, Minnesota had one of the lowest

venereal disease rates in the country.

Today, the state’s Department of Health still crusades, with the funding and help of the Legislature, to reduce the effects of communicable illnesses like HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Several million dollars is available annually in the form of grants for the purposes of education and prevention.

State law requires that school districts to involve parents and community agencies to develop a comprehensive approach to the prevention of the disease, particularly targeting at-risk youth.

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

Unofficial start of summer

More than 10,000 lakes and a lot of fish in and out of water:
Pack your coolers, it's time to go fishing

BY MARY KAY WATSON

The opening of fishing season is not just for the fisherfolk among us. It is, in fact, the gateway to summer in Minnesota, initiating a weekly ritual of northward migration that will clog highways and byways for the next four months.

Whether you're a seasoned angler or a novice with the rod and reel, you will need certain things for your journey. You will, of course, need a fishing license.

License fees are slightly higher this year, due to an increase passed by the 2000 Legislature. A license will cost \$18 if you're a Minnesota resident, unless you're 65 or older, then the price is \$6.50. One-day licenses are also available. Children 15 and younger do not need a license.

In addition, a new provision in 2001 allows residents to purchase lifetime licenses, which are priced according to the age of the person for whom the license is purchased.

Licenses and information are available from the Department of Natural Resources. Check out their Web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Also, lighted fishing lures are now allowed in Minnesota waters, as long as the lights in the lures do not violate size limits.

Next year you may have the option of buying a conservation license, a less expensive fishing license that would establish one-half catch and possession limits at two-thirds the price of a regular license. The Legislature is considering that and several other fishing proposals this year in its Environment and Natural Resources omnibus bill (HF766/SF2351*). The elimination of the senior fishing discount and a reduction in the limit of yellow perch are also being considered.

A bill (HF94) currently before the House would establish harsher penalties for those who take more fish than the law allows, including license revocation, confiscation of equipment, and restitution of resources. This

bill would target "gross offenders," people who intentionally violate legal limits. But it's always a good idea to count your fish.

Of course, a fishing trip is about more than just the catch: some may even say that for many Minnesotans the fishing opener qualifies as a religious holiday. And as with many



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

A giant cod sits outside the lutefisk capital of the world Madison, Minnesota.

religions, fishing has its shrines. As you wend your way to your favorite fishing hole, slow down and pay homage to the roadside renditions of walleye, muskie, sunfish, northern pike, trout, bass, eelpout, and even codfish (a non-Minnesota source of that great Minnesota delicacy: lutefisk) that the people of this state have erected in honor of the wily Pisces.

According to the Minnesota Historical Society, the following places offer photo opportunities for your 2001 fish story: Alexandria, Baudette, Bemidji, Bena, Clarks Grove, Deer River, Erskine, Forest Lake, Garrison, Isle, Kabetogama, Madison, Medina, Minneapolis, Minneiska, Nevis, Orr, Park Rapids, Preston, Ray,

Rush City, and Walker. Since part of the adventure is finding these trophy fish, the historical society declines to give addresses, but pictures of some are available online at www.mnhs.org.

Minnesota's roadside architecture isn't limited to fish. If you happen upon Frazee, look for the turkey; in Fergus Falls, there's an otter; and in Jenkins you'll find a pelican. And of course, Moose Lake has — well, you know.

Once you get to your destination, there's more to fishing than catching fish. Part of the fun is getting equipped to outsmart them.


If you already own all the fishing tackle you need to entice a hungry walleye, perhaps a northwoods fashion update would be in order. Of course, your wardrobe preference might center on an ancient, but lucky, hat and duds handed down from grandpa. Anything goes: just don't forget the sunscreen.

Paraphernalia for the piscally inclined are available at a multitude of fishing emporiums, many of which are listed in the *Explore Minnesota* Web site (www.exploreminnesota.com), sponsored by the Minnesota Office of Tourism. From that site you can link to local chamber of commerce sites for more specific information, including bait shops, boat rentals, lodging, restaurants, and shopping.

If you are interested in the history of fishing in Minnesota, you may someday have the opportunity to learn about it in Little Falls, which seems to be the most likely candidate for a fishing museum. In 1997 the Legislature appropriated money for a feasibility study for a museum that would house fishing-related artifacts, equipment, and memorabilia.

The ensuing study calculated that such a museum would cost about \$4 million, with operating expenses of about \$285,000. It concluded the feasibility for such a facility was "questionable at this time."

The museum has not been funded by the Legislature, but advocates are still working toward that end. Meanwhile, the Minnesota Historical Society has about 1,000 items in its sport and commercial fishing collection.

In the meantime, don't forget to examine those architectural wonders: the roadside fish of Minnesota. 

A Minnesota innovation

Act allows state to help fund local correctional services, keeping services local and helping offenders be more productive

BY JONAS M. WALKER

Until the Legislature formed the Department of Corrections in 1959, local jurisdictions meted out criminal justice inconsistently and often with little room for distinction between adult and juvenile offenders. Lawmakers hoped that creating the department would improve and homogenize correctional activities throughout the state.

Fourteen years later, the Legislature acted in response to the social movements of the day by emphasizing localized corrections as opposed to distant, institutionalized punishment. It created a blue-ribbon panel of legislators, judges, police, representatives of state and local agencies, local elected officials, and department leaders to look into the matter.

According to Dan Cain, executive director of the correctional initiative Eden Programs, lawmakers were motivated by a sense of the changing times. “Even prior to Attica (site of a major prison riot in 1971), prison reform efforts were quietly moving forward in Minnesota,” he wrote.

Cain’s was one of several articles within *Corrections Retrospective 1959-1999*, published in 2000 by the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

Acting on the panel’s recommendations, the Legislature passed the Community Corrections Act (CCA) of 1973, authorizing the commissioner of corrections to award subsidy grants to counties for the funding of local correctional services.

“The purpose of the CCA is to promote efficiency and economy in the use of correctional dollars and to develop and maintain community programs and resources while effectively protecting society,” according to corrections department documents.

In the retrospective, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who served under President Jimmy Carter, characterized community corrections as a mechanism for restoring damage done to communities by crime. “From the very beginning, the direction of the correctional process must be back toward the

community,” he said. “It is in the community that crime will be committed or a useful life lived.”

At the time of the act’s passage, Minnesota state prison populations were rapidly declining, thereby decreasing the relative efficiency of communal incarceration. Typically, the fewer inmates a prison has, the higher per diem costs are. The CCA promised both the economic savings of smaller, localized programs emphasizing treatment, and the social benefits of a shrinking criminal element made even less threatening by the hope of reduced recidivism born of conscientious counseling.

According to the Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota was the first state to enact innovative legislation like the act.

“From the very beginning, the direction of the correctional process must be back toward the community. It is in the community that crime will be committed or a useful life lived.”

—Former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark

Cain writes in the retrospective that the CCA presumed most property offenders would not be sent to prison, and instead community sanctions would be imposed. Scarce prison resources would be reserved for violent offenders.

To participate, counties had to establish a local Corrections Advisory Board to identify local needs and develop plans for addressing those needs.

Once under the plan, counties would be charged for the use of state institutions for all

adults imprisoned for fewer than five years and for all juveniles.

The first year, the Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million to CCA initiatives. By 1983, a total of 27 counties, accounting for about 60 percent of the state’s population, were participating in the project, which had a budget of nearly \$13 million.

That year, the Legislature commissioned a review of the program. It concluded that the act “seems to be having its desired effect.” That is, participating counties had reduced their reliance on state prisons.

Now, nearly 30 years after the act’s inception, 31 counties participate, including the state’s two largest and most urban counties — Hennepin and Ramsey

Jan Smaby, director of Hennepin County Community Corrections, explains that the CCA still contributes to Minnesota’s low incarceration rate by ensuring local involvement in correctional programs. “The judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys all live here,” she said. “We feel the dynamics and politics of our neighborhoods. The effect of that can be pretty profound.”

Smaby says the CCA has not only continued to be a popular mechanism for local officials to maintain relatively low incarceration rates, but has served as a model for reducing probation officer caseload.

On any given day, Smaby said, there are

twice as many people in the Hennepin County facilities — including the jail, workhouses, halfway houses, etc. — as are incarcerated in state facilities. According to Smaby, the county spends \$75 per day to house a criminal, a sum covered mostly by county property taxes. To house the same person in a state facility, Minnesota taxpayers would spend as much as \$100 per day.

(The Corrections Department is implementing a per diem cost reduction plan that could cut that figure by as much as 30 percent

in the next few years. The plan has received the support of Gov. Jesse Ventura and the House.)


Smaby added that convicts assigned to local correctional activities are somewhat less likely to offend again. "When you have locally-available services, which cost less and are slightly more effective, why wouldn't you use it?" she said. "It would be silly not to."

Dodge/Fillmore/Olmsted Community Corrections Director Andy Erickson explained that CCA grant funding permits those three counties to offer services unavailable at the state level. For example, he cited offender risk assessment, which can help determine the likelihood an offender will commit a similar crime.

The three counties also offer psychiatric and chemical dependency treatment and a variety of probation oversight services, including electronic in-home monitoring. Erickson said such programs allow offenders to repay their debt to society while still living with their families and holding jobs, thus providing corrective action while minimizing costs to the community.

He added that community involvement is both easier and more effective with CCA-corrected offenders than in situations involving state incarceration.

The CCA continues to play a central role in Minnesota's criminal justice funding, though it is currently facing some troubling times. The program relies on legislative appropriations, which officials say have fallen behind in recent years, creating a shortfall and prompting some of the CCA counties involved to consider opting out.

A proposal sponsored by Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), some of which was incorporated in the House version of omnibus judiciary finance bill, would have dedicated \$60 million in the 2002-03 biennium to buffer the shortfall. 



Attacking asthma

Michigan, other states allow students to carry inhalers

When a child has an asthma attack, some schools require they leave class, go to the nurses office, and, if they're fortunate, the nurse can immediately unlock the cabinet holding their inhaler and they can get the medication to relieve the attack. In schools across the country, children have passed out before reaching the nurse's office. Or sometimes the nurse isn't immediately available with keys in hand.

Recognizing the urgency for an inhaler in the event of an asthma attack, several states have passed laws and others are considering legislation to allow students to carry asthma inhalers with them in school.

Some schools allow students to carry their medication, but in those that don't, inhalers are generally locked in the school nurse's office for supervision when the drugs are administered.

Michigan is one of 10 states that allow pupils to possess and use inhalers to relieve asthmatic symptoms during school, school activities, or school-sponsored events, with written approval from the child's physician and parent or legal guardian.

Passed in 2000, Michigan's law includes language similar to a Minnesota bill presently awaiting the governor's signature. The bill (HF1394/SF1706*), sponsored in the House by Rep. Kathy Tinglestad (R-Andover), was passed in the House and the Senate without a dissenting vote.

A bill currently making its way through the Illinois legislature that would grant students the same permission to carry inhalers lists reasons for the importance of the bill:

- An estimated 5.3 million American children have asthma;
- Asthma accounts for 10 million lost school days each year in the United States and is the leading cause of school absenteeism attributed to chronic conditions;
- There are more than 5,400 deaths from asthma in this country each year;
- Resulting asthma attacks in children can be severe;
- Children with asthma are taught by their physician to take medication to prevent an attack or to help them if an attack occurs;
- A child's asthma can be managed by both treatment and medication; and
- Elementary and secondary school students with asthma should have unobstructed access to their asthma medication.

Differences between the bills are minor, but notable. Minnesota and Illinois would require parental permission to be renewed each year. In addition, the Illinois bill reads that parents would be required to sign a statement that ensures the school would not incur liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of the medication by the student.

(T. STAHL)

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146
 Toll free 1-800-657-3550
TTY, House 296-9896
 Toll free 1-800-657-3550
Chief Clerk of the House
 211 Capitol 296-2314
Index, House
 211 Capitol 296-6646
Sergeant at Arms, House
 45 State Office Building 296-4860
Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504
 Toll free 1-888-234-1112
TTY, Senate 296-0250
 Toll free 1-888-234-1112
Secretary of the Senate
 231 Capitol 296-2343
 Voice mail/order bills 296-2343
Index, Senate
 110 Capitol 296-5560
Sergeant at Arms, Senate
 Senate Chamber 296-7514/296-1119

Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088

Legislative Reference Library
 645 State Office Building 296-3398
Governor's Office
 130 Capitol 296-3391
Attorney General's Office
 102 Capitol 296-6196
Secretary of State's Office
 180 State Office Building 296-2803
Capitol Security
 B-5 Capitol 296-6741
Emergency 296-2100

Tracking new laws, vetoes

Once a bill has passed both the House and Senate in identical form, it's ready to be sent to the governor for consideration. The governor, who has several options when considering a bill, can:

- sign the bill and it will become law;
- veto the bill;
- line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill;
- or do nothing, which can have two different effects. The timing of these actions is as important as the actions themselves.

In the first year of the biennium, the important thing to remember is that the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill. If the governor

doesn't sign the bill within this time frame, it will become law with or without his signature. (Sundays are not counted in the three-day time limit, but holidays are.)

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is within three days after the governor receives the bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of

the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

The governor's veto authority is outlined in the Minnesota Constitution (Article IV, Section 23).

This information is also available on the governor's Web site (www.governor.state.mn.us). Select the "Policy" link, then click on "2001 Bill Tracking."

Key:

CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
Res.1	219	258*	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	3/15/01	
Res.2	670	647*	Resolution memorializing the President and Congress to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	4/6/01	
Res.3	1391*	1318	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	4/26/01	
1	34	28*	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1/16/01	
2	421*	460	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2/2/01	
3	213	201*	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	2/15/01	
4	181	43*	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	2/28/01	
5	817	376*	City contract limit increases.	3/2/01	
6	106*	47	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	3/8/01	
7	656*	231	Revisor's Bill.	3/15/01	
8	80*	79	Coon Lake water level control.	3/16/01	
9	393*	155	Ramsey County and City of St. Paul employees allowed equal competition for county jobs in city-county departments.	3/16/01	
10	357	289*	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	3/16/01	
11	487	433	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	3/21/01	
12	320*	399	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	3/29/01	
13	1016	509*	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	4/6/01	
14	368	63*	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	4/6/01	
15	243	346*	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	4/6/01	
16	556*	756	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise arrest powers in MN under specified circumstances.	4/9/01	
17	416	400*	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	4/9/01	
18	1046	991*	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	4/11/01	
19	172	9*	Authorizes cities to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	4/11/01	
20	64	971*	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	4/11/01	
21	394	327*	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	4/11/01	
22	466	972*	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	4/11/01	
23	252	570*	Repeals obsolete rules.	4/11/01	
24	37	480*	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	4/13/01	

*The legislative bill marked with an asterisk denotes the file submitted to the governor.

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
25	57*	27	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	4/13/01	
26	245	225*	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	4/13/01	
27	790	702*	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland trail system.	4/13/01	
28	1951	1204*	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	4/13/01	
29	994	883*	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	4/13/01	
30	47*	39	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	4/11/01	
31	116	274*	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed; athletic trainer registration cancelled for nonrenewal.	4/24/01	
32	501	283*	Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.	4/24/01	
33	1455	1435*	Designer selection board provisions modified.	4/24/01	
34	453	319*	Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	4/24/01	
35	424	456*	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	4/24/01	
36	275*	210	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	4/24/01	
37	125*	104	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	4/24/01	
38	949*	771	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	4/24/01	
39	387	142*	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	4/24/01	
40	828	741*	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	4/24/01	
41	1747	1780*	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	4/24/01	
42	1634	1460*	Duty to warn law applied to social workers, and social workers allowed to form professional firms.	4/24/01	
43	1404	1709*	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	4/24/01	
44	867*	646	Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District provisions modification and clarification.	4/24/01	
45	2119*	1915	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.	4/24/01	
46	253	249*	Repeals obsolete health and human rules.	4/26/01	
47	274*	70	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	4/26/01	
48	323*	914	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	4/26/01	
49	1160*	1127	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	4/26/01	
50	239*	170	Real estate provisions modifications.	4/26/01	
51	1260*	1332	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	4/26/01	
52	1467	1419*	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	4/26/01	
53	1637*	1790	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license.	4/30/01	
54	149*	505	Regulates sale and labeling of Halaal food, meat or poultry products.	4/30/01	
55	1159*	857	Local bridge replacement and rehabilitation and Gillette Children's Hospital addition prior funding modifications.	4/30/01	
56	1084*	1066	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill.	4/30/01	
57	285*	339	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation.	4/30/01	
58	550*	954	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended.		4/30/01
59	995*	1214	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications.	4/30/01	
60	1383*	1598	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.	4/30/01	
61	525*	1604	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications.	4/30/01	
62	779*	823	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification.	4/30/01	
63	1219*	1617	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement elimination.	4/30/01	
64	1889*	1831	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.	4/30/01	
65	967*	876	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events.	5/2/01	
66	1151*	1187	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists.	5/2/01	
67	1188*	1045	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.	5/2/01	
68	1192*	1979	Teachers temporary limited licenses and personnel variances application acceptance and issuance timelines.	5/2/01	
69	1522*	1421	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.	5/2/01	
70	1681*	1622	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension.	5/2/01	
71	865*	1266	Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.	5/4/01	
72	933*	983	Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements.	5/4/01	

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
73	953*	1265	Child abuse definition expansion.	5/4/01	
74	1748*	2097	Rural ambulance services staff requirements temporary variances.	5/4/01	
75	1247*	1506	Veterans Home Board administration of planned giving donations provided.	5/4/01	
76	489*	311	Provides for the procurement of surety bonds.	5/7/01	
77	1872	1611*	Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.	5/10/01	
78	2396	1999*	Judicial system obsolete references updated and repealed.	5/10/01	
79	2070	1932*	Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.	5/10/01	
80	782	773*	DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study required.	5/10/01	
81	390	110*	PrairieLand exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized.	5/10/01	
82	1409	1090*	Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.	5/10/01	
83	1085	1155*	Motor home and other defined recreational equipment width limitations modified.	5/10/01	
84	1394	1706*	Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public elementary and secondary school students.	5/10/01	
85	406	511*	Minnesota State Fair foundation established by the State Agricultural Society.	5/10/01	
86	1410	849*	Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in state insurance, retirement, and other plans.	5/10/01	
87	1465	1432*	Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.	5/10/01	
88	1687	1206*	Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.	5/10/01	
89	254	930*	Transportation obsolete rules repealed.	5/10/01	
90	1067	923*	Social work licensure examination requirement exceptions provided.	5/10/01	
91	1830	2006*	Motor vehicle accident data public availability.	5/10/01	

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

1 A • Rep. Maxine Penas-(R) B • Rep. Tim Finseth-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A • Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) B • Rep. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL) Sen. Dean E. Johnson-(DFL)	29 A • Rep. Jerry Dempsey-(R) B • Rep. Mike Osskopp-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	43 A • Rep. Tom Workman-(R) B • Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Edward C. Oliver-(R)	57 A • Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) B • Rep. Sharon Marko-(DFL) Sen. Leonard R. Price-(DFL)
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14 A • Rep. Steve Dehler-(R) B • Rep. Doug Stang-(R) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	28 A • Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B • Rep. Steve Sviggum-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	42 A • Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B • Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. Roy Terwilliger-(R)	56 A • Rep. Mark William Holsten-(R) B • Rep. Eric Lipman-(R) Sen. Michele Bachmann-(R)	

Friday, May 4**HF2509—Mulder (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance**

Pipestone Regional Museum improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF2510—Johnson, J. (R)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs**

Saint Paul competitive promotional examinations technical correction provided.

Monday, May 7**HF2511—Mulder (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance**

Luverne; Carnegie Regional Cultural Center capital improvements grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2512—Davids (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Abortion services public funding eliminated.

HF2513—Mares (R)**Taxes**

Stadium; Major League Baseball park financing provided, private funding required, interest-free loan provided, sales tax-free zone established, Metrodome disposition provided, and major league revenue sharing required.

HF2514—Finseth (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Animal Health Board emergency authority to eradicate diseases affecting domestic animals in the state expanded.

Tuesday, May 8**HF2515—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy**

Notice of death of unidentified homeless persons provided on Department of Health Web site.

**HF2516—Paulsen (R)
Redistricting**

Legislative redistricting plan for use beginning in 2002 adopted.

**HF2517—Clark, K. (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development**

Ovarian cancer screening insurance coverage provided.

**HF2518—Paulsen (R)
Redistricting**

Congressional redistricting plan adopted for use beginning in 2002.

**HF2519—Paulsen (R)
Redistricting**

Legislative and congressional redistricting plans adopted for use beginning in 2002.

Wednesday, May 9**HF2520—Juhnke (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy**

Debt Collection Act; commissioner of revenue powers expanded to include cancellation of collection entity costs in the interest of fairness.

**HF2521—Jaros (DFL)
Education Policy**

School board membership composition modified.

Thursday, May 10**HF2522—Dawkins (DFL)
Agriculture Policy**

Ethanol producer payments stopped if plant is found to be a nuisance by city ordinance.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MAY 14 - 18, 2001

MONDAY, May 14

8 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

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

Agenda: HF2514 (Finseth) Animal Health Board emergency authority to eradicate diseases affecting domestic animals in the state expanded.

8:15 a.m.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: To be announced.

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**TUESDAY, May 15**

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**WEDNESDAY, May 16**

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**THURSDAY, May 17**

8 a.m.

Legislative Audit Commission

118 State Capitol

Chr. Sen. Ann H. Rest

Agenda: Select topics for program evaluations

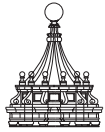
and one best practices review for study by the Program Evaluation Division.

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.**FRIDAY, May 18**

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.



NOTES

John Ainley, a former Republican member of the House from Park Rapids, died May 1 of complications from surgery to remove a tumor in his lung. He was 61.

Ainley served district 4A from 1979 to 1983. He challenged Gov. Al Quie in 1982 for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, but was unsuccessful. He was known by his colleagues as a fiscal conservative.

After leaving the House, Ainley returned to work for the minority Republican caucus in the Minnesota Senate during the mid-1990s. In addition to serving the Legislature, Ainley was known for operating and expanding newspapers in northern Minnesota. His father, John Ainley, Sr., edited the *Bemidji Pioneer*.

Ainley is the second former member of the House to die in the past year. In October 2000, Fred C. Norton, former speaker of the House who served district 65A in St. Paul for 20 years, died after battling bone cancer. He was 72.

Norton, known for strong bi-partisanship, later served as a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) offered an amendment to delete a provision in the state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360*) that would allow the sale of beer and wine in the Capitol Café. The amendment, which was approved, came late in the evening May 3 when legislators had spent a long day on the House floor.

“If there’s any time for a beer, it’s now,” quipped Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), sponsor of the state government bill, in response to the amendment.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) wondered if the bill had provisions for an LUI, or “legislating under the influence.”

A few days later on May 7, Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) successfully amended the original legislation onto another bill. This time, however, the sale of alcohol would only be allowed at special events, such as private parties and receptions held in the Capitol Café.

Reflections

The word is compassion. Being compassionate is a synonym for being humane. Compassion, love, and kindness is the message Tibet’s spiritual and political leader-in-exile, The Dalai Lama, brought to Minnesota and the state Legislature May 9.

The Dalai Lama’s presentation to lawmakers comes at an opportune time as ideas, opinions, and decisions are being fiercely deliberated in the House and Senate chambers before session ends in less than two weeks.

His visit to Minnesota is one of worldwide importance. Its timeline is concurrent with another world spiritual leader’s pilgrimage of compassion — Pope John Paul II’s visit to Greece, Syria, and Malta, in part to mend 947 years of differences between the Roman Catholic Church and other religions in the East.

In Syria, the Pope met with Islamic and Eastern Orthodox leaders, and also pleaded for compassion in the Middle East conflicts. In particular, the Pope addressed ongoing disputes between Syria and Israel, troubled relations among Orthodox Christians and Muslims, as well as the skirmishes between Palestinians and Israelis.

Much of the Dalai Lama’s visit centered on spiritual teaching to some 1,000 Tibetan Buddhists who reside in Minnesota, the second largest Tibetan population in the United States, as well as an effort to develop a Tibetan cultural center in the Twin Cities. However, at its core, his message was more universal to everyone — to take the time to seriously develop or to begin to learn that one’s being is his or her conscious perception of themselves and their surroundings.

His rationale for universal compassion is based on “the fact that every living being has

an equal right to and desire for happiness.” And through this principle of democracy, “we think and act in terms of the common good.”

Speculatively, compassion may be at the veritable core of survival for humanity. It is noteworthy that many well-known figures throughout history — St. Francis of Assisi, Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Schweitzer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Albert Einstein, have expounded on the whys and wherefores of compassion.

Collectively, their statements on compassion, like those of the Dalai Lama’s, include peace, hope, and concern for all living creatures.

On issues that lawmakers are now deliberating, a consideration for compassion may mean maintaining some basic respect and understanding as they pass laws that improve the good of their constituents.

In simple terms:

- Compassion is respect for the beliefs of others while not imposing one’s own.
- Compassion is doing some good for others when one doesn’t have to.
- Compassion is not a single issue; it recognizes and embraces differences.
- Compassion is building consensus for recognizing all the needs of others.
- Compassion is the Dalai Lama’s visit to Minnesota and the Legislature to share his teachings with Tibetan Buddhists and others, while sharing his spirit and beliefs.

According to the Dalai Lama, “We must recognize that all beings want the same things we want. This is the way to achieve true understanding.”

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The Dalai Lama greets legislators May 9.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM
 MAJORITY LEADER: TIM PAWLENTY
 MINORITY LEADER: THOMAS W. PUGH

MINNESOTA INDEX

Child Support in Minnesota

Approximate number of child support cases in fiscal year 2000	227,000
Increase since 1996, as percent	13
Approximate amount of child support cases not receiving public assistance	168,000
As percent of all cases	74
Percent of these cases that received public aid at some point in the past	75
Amount of child support collected and distributed in state fiscal year 2000,	
in millions of dollars	492
Percent increase from 1996	52
Average collection per open case with a court order, in dollars	2,917
Dollars collected through income withholding, in millions	349
As percent of all collections	71
Dollars collected via interception of federal and state tax refunds and rebates,	
in millions	36.8
Percent of all collections	7
Approximate number of parents, as of June 30, 2000, that had their driver's licenses	
suspended for failing to pay support	7,500
Approximate number of paternities established statewide	
through Sept. 30, 2000	15,000
Percent by signing Recognition of Parentage form	78
Percent through court order	22
Percent of state child support cases that have a child support order in place	74
Percent of Minnesota children with a child support order from a court that	
received the full amount of the order, 1997	51
National rate, as percent	44
Percent that received part of the order	26
Percent that received nothing	23
Percent of Minnesota children without a child support order that received any	
financial support	26
Approximate cumulative back child support owed in Minnesota as of	
June 30, 2000, in millions of dollars	980
Percent increase since 1996	63
Approximate millions of dollars paid on child support debt in 2000	137
Average dollars owed per case with a debt	6,589
Millions of dollars in payments processed monthly by The Child Support Payment	
Center, a centralized collection and disbursement office	42
Dollars collected to support Minnesota children for every dollar spent on	
Minnesota's child support program	4.14

Sources: Minnesota Department of Human Services and *Minnesota Kids Count Fall 2000 Report from the Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information, call:
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1-800-657-3550

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