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THE 2001 LEGISLATURE CONVENES

STATE OF THE STATE, STATE FAIR POLL, AND MORE

HF1-HF43

Session Weekly

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On the cover: Rep. Steve Sviggum is sworn in as Speaker of the House on the first day of the 82nd Session of the Minnesota Legislature, Jan. 3.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

A ceremonial start

House members re-elect Sviggum as speaker and conduct routine business on the first day of the 82nd Session

BY DAVID MAEDA

With another large budget surplus to look forward to, the House launched its 2001 session Jan. 3.

With a Republican majority in the House, a DFL majority in the Senate and an Independence Party governor, the ability to work in a tripartisan manner will once again play a large part in determining what gets accomplished.

The first day of session was devoted to ceremonial and administrative procedures. After Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer banged the gavel calling the body to order shortly after noon, members were sworn in by Justice Edward C. Stringer of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"Congratulations and good wishes on a full productive session," Stringer said after administering the oath to 133 of the 134 lawmakers. Rep. Dale Swapinski (DFL-Duluth) was absent during day one activities.

Family and friends surrounded many of the

members proudly taking in the prestigious ceremony — many with cameras to snap a keepsake photo. At times the sounds of young children rang above the buzz of the chamber.

Members then proceeded to elect Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) as the Speaker of the House, the position Sviggum has held since the Republicans regained control of the House following the 1998 election.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-Inver Grove Heights) nominated Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) for the same position, but the present members voted party line to give Sviggum the top spot 69-64.

After thanking members for the honor "and humbling experience" of being chosen speaker once again, Sviggum urged members to "seize the opportunity in front of us."

Sviggum said he would work with members from both sides of the aisle for the good of the state.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Jim Davnie, center, Mpls., holds his daughter Rose Letofsky as members are sworn in to begin the 2001 legislative session, Jan. 3 in the House Chamber. Other pictured members are, from left, Paul Marquart, Henry Kalis, Nora Slawik, next to Davnie, Rod Skoe, and Bernie Liedler, far right.

To our readers:

Welcome to the 82nd Legislative Session of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The award-winning Session Weekly begins its 18th year of publication with this issue. During the 2000 publication year, we built upon past accomplishments, winning one national and three local awards for content and photography.

Also, we are pleased to recognize three individuals who took on important roles with our permanent staff. Michelle Kibiger, who came on board in late-1999 as assistant editor, is now the assistant director/editor.

Our new assistant editor is Mike Cook, a former staffer at Channel 4000.

And Andrew Von Bank, our session-only photographer for almost 10 years, completes the full-time photography staff.

Rounding out the new staff are five session-only personnel: writers Theresa Stahl, Jonas Walker, and Mary Kay Watson, photographer Sara Kirk, and information assistant Michelle Sorvari.

While they and the rest of the permanent staff are already hard at work on our plans to provide you with more in-depth coverage of the legislative session, we wish good luck to two dedicated individuals who have moved on to other pursuits. We greatly appreciate the hard work and commitment former staff editor Nick Healy and photographer Laura Phillips gave us for many years.

Although you may notice a few minor changes to the publication, we will continue to provide you with non-partisan, in-depth coverage of legislative actions — from initial reporting on committee hearings, to the more important issues that reach the House floor.

You will be able to use the publication for ready comprehension of all issues. The magazine will always be easy to read, informative, and educational. For example, we encourage you to read the Highlights section each week to acquire a quick understanding of topics being debated by lawmakers. Also, take the time to peruse the in-depth At Issue subjects as well.

We have improved our Contents section so that you may have quick access to other sections such as Bill Introductions, Committee Schedules, Reflections, state government statistics (Minnesota Index), historical features, and other topics to hone your legislative interests.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please call us at 651-296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 if you need answers to general questions or assistance in following the legislative session.

-LeClair Grier Lambert



Even in Minnesota

1984 state primary plagued by punch card problems

Believe it or not, the punch card voting system that stirred so much controversy in the recent presidential election began as a technologically advanced method of tabulating census results.

But about 100 years after it began, the punch card caused enough controversy in a Minnesota election to prompt officials to develop other advanced technology to overcome the punch card system flaws.

The next generation of voting systems, based on optical scanning devices, moved into the forefront in Minnesota during the 1980s.

Unlike the 2000 presidential election, the 1984 Minnesota state primary and general election problems didn't have much to do with pregnant or dimpled chads (the now famous term for the punched out piece of paper) but rather with the computer programming aspects and human errors related to the system.

Those problems prompted officials to commission a study of the system the following year.

Herman Hollerith, a U.S. Census Bureau statistician, created the first punch card tabulating system in the 1880s in an effort to find a better way to collect, sort and analyze census data than the hand-counting methods provided.

Later that decade, Hollerith developed the technology to store data on cards while a mechanical engineering teacher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The ideas came to him while examining how a weaving loom worked using a distinctly designed paper card that mapped out its maneuvers. Then he coupled that knowledge with his observation of a train ticket collector punching tickets.

Hollerith's invention, a tabulating system of collecting information via "punch cards" was first used to collect mortality statistics in New Jersey and New York. It was implemented in time for the 1890 census saving the country an estimated \$5 million.

In 1896, Hollerith formed a company to sell his tabulating system. That company eventually became International Business Machines Corporation (IBM).

In the 1960s, a variation of Hollerith's system was introduced for use in tabulat-

ing votes in elections. That system is still the most commonly used voting system in the United States. In 1998, 31 percent of voters cast their ballots via a punch card.

But problems in several Minnesota precincts during the 1984 primary prompted officials to re-examine punch card use.

Several precincts around the state encountered problems during both the primary and the general election. In Fridley, candidates were listed in a different order than the tabulation program was set for. In Maple Grove, programming problems required manual recounts.

These and similar problems with punch card voting systems in Washington and Watonwan counties convinced former Secretary of State Joan Grove to convene a task force to "determine how the (punch card voting) system could be improved for the benefit of the voters of Minnesota." The task force contained members of the Legislature, as well as county and city election officials, including current U.S. Rep. Bill Luther and State Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

The task force recommended better testing of the equipment and programming prior to the election, more thorough training of election judges and voters in using the equipment, and more specific rules on how the design of punch card ballots could decrease confusion and voter error. Many of the recommendations eventually were adopted and became part of the state's election rules and laws.

Although not specifically mentioned among the recommendations, the movement toward the next generation of voting equipment soon began in Minnesota. With the ability to allow the voter to correct mistakes on the ballot before leaving the polling place, optical scan systems soon became the technology of choice in the state.

In the 1994 state general election, the city of Babbitt became the last jurisdiction in the state to use a punch card system. The laws authorizing the use of punch card systems (and lever voting machines) were repealed by the Legislature in 1997.

(D. MAEDA)

He extended welcoming wishes to the 18 new members who are serving their first term in the House.

"We are more alike than unlike," he said. "Republicans, Democrats, and yes, independents, Gov. Ventura, what lies within us is the opportunity to succeed for all Minnesotans."

The first year of the session is devoted in large part to setting the state budget.

The state's November forecast projected an optimistic picture of the economy. The \$924 million surplus is the amount leftover from the 2000-2001 session. The Department of Finance is further forecasting that the state is likely to accumulate a \$2.1 billion surplus for the 2002-2003 biennium.

Under current law, the \$924 million figure is the amount available for the rebate, as required by law, after the books have been balanced. Whether there will be a rebate, and what type and size it will be, is one of the issues facing the Legislature this year.

House Republican leaders have said their top priority, as it has been for the past few sessions, is to reduce taxes. They plan to focus on those taxes where the state ranks among the 10 highest in the nation.

Although the last two sessions have produced reductions in all three income tax brackets, Minnesota still ranks sixth highest in income taxes.

Pugh said House DFLers will strive for a balanced approach, focusing on tax relief with possible increases in spending for education, health care, and transportation.

Things between the two House caucuses got off to a tense start, even before the gavel summoned members to the chamber. In a press briefing early in the day, Pugh expressed displeasure with the way committee assignments were distributed to DFL members. He said many of the members were not assigned to the committees of their choice.

Traditionally, the House speaker takes into consideration requests from the minority leader about the committee preferences expressed by members of the minority party. However, the speaker has the final say in determining the makeup of the committees, usually trying to balance members' preferences with gender, philosophical, and geographic considerations so that each committee has a mixed representation.

Pugh said that because Sviggum did not have direct contact with DFL members on their preferences, in many cases committee assignments were therefore made without knowledge of those preferences.

He said that because of the close split between the parties in the House, 69 Republicans to 65 DFLers, bipartisan support will be

Continued on page 24

Editor's Note: As of Jan. 4, no House committees from the 2001 Legislature had held any meetings. However, several committees and working groups continued to meet throughout the months following the Legislature's adjournment in May 2000. Several ongoing issues popped up during the interim, and although the Legislature could take no action on these items, the hearings provided valuable background. Those issues will likely reappear during 2001.

★ CRIME

Felony DWI issue explored

Punishment alone will not stop multiple drunken driving offenses, according to a draft report of a working group commissioned to study instituting a felony driving while intoxicated penalty.

The group, established by the 2000 Legislature, spent last summer and fall studying the legal impact of a felony DWI penalty and exploring the effects of and alternatives to jail and prison sentences.

One theme that emerged from the meetings was the need for long-term supervision and treatment for DWI offenders — not incarceration alone.

"The working group found that a get-tough, punitive effort wasn't going to work," said Paul Scoggins, assistant county attorney for Hennepin County, at an Oct. 3 meeting. "It has to be treatment, coupled with long-term supervision."

Scoggins helped the group draft the report.

During the 2000 session, legislators debated a plan that would have made a fourth drunken driving offense within a 10-year period a felony. That plan was amended during the session to make the fifth offense within 10 years a felony.

However, before the end of the 2000 session, members determined that they did not have enough information regarding the cost impact that felony penalties would have on local jails and probationary systems. As a result, the House and Senate voted to study the issue further and have the Corrections Department report back to the Legislature. Officials expect the report to be presented this month.

During its meetings, the group discussed several key aspects of the issue, including:

- determining the number of offenses within a 10-year period before a felony-level penalty is appropriate;

- what circumstances make a stayed sentence for felony-level offenses appropriate;
- establishing how felony drunken driving offenses should factor into state sentencing guidelines;
- deciding if mandatory prison sentences for felony drunken driving offenses are ever appropriate, and if so, what the sentence lengths should be; and
- what the effect on jails, prisons and community corrections agencies would be for each alternative.

Much of the discussion involved evaluating many of the existing proposals, and what effects they would have in the long term.

According to the draft report, estimates accompanying the initial felony DWI proposal suggested an impact between 260 and 1,200 beds the first year, based on 1998 statistics. In addition, fiscal impacts ranged into the tens of millions of dollars.

Though subsequent amendments to the plan virtually eliminated local costs, local corrections officials were concerned not only about direct incarceration costs, but also the fact that felons require closer supervision and different conditions for probation.

Making the fifth DWI in 10 years a felony, rather than a fourth, cuts the number of offenders in half, based on 1998 statistics. How-

ever, the draft report does say it is difficult to measure exactly how many offenders will actually end up serving prison time.

One proposal providing for early, supervised release of offenders who complete a state treatment program also reduced the numbers who would be sent to jails and prisons, the report said.

Along those lines, the group agreed there must be a sufficient balance in determining sentence length, circumstances for mandatory penalties and factoring a felony DWI into the state's sentencing guidelines. Officials should consider the felony DWI option carefully, since felonies weigh more heavily on the guidelines, the draft says.

Furthermore, sentence length must be flexible enough to provide an incentive for offenders to choose treatment, while still providing adequate punishment for the offense, according to the group's draft.

★ EDUCATION

Test scoring error explained

Had it not been for the resolve of one parent, thousands of Minnesota students would have gone through life thinking they failed a test they had actually passed.

Marty Swaden told the House Education

First day rally



PHOTO BY JENNY DEAN

During a demonstration by the Minnesota Welfare Rights Coalition on Jan. 3, protesters drop 5,000 cut-outs of children from the second floor of the rotunda. According to the group, the cut-outs are representative of one-third of the children that will become homeless in 18 months if the five-year limit on welfare for families in poverty is not changed.

Policy Committee Aug. 15 that after his daughter, Sydney, a sophomore at Henry Sibley High School, received a failing score on the state's Basic Standards math test, he decided one way he could help was to go over the test with his daughter.

The Mendota Heights man said he contacted the Department of Children, Families and Learning to get a copy of the test with the correct answers, but became frustrated when the department was slow to respond to his request. Current state law does not allow students and parents to receive their corrected tests back, but people are allowed to look at a blank exam and its answers.

Once Swaden began to go over the test with a member of the department, it became apparent something was amiss. The scoring of the test by National Computer Systems (NCS) was faulty as six questions on the test key contained the wrong "right" answer.

Those errors meant more than 45,000 tests were incorrectly scored. As a result, 7,935 students were told they had failed, even though they had passed the test. On top of that, officials told the committee that 48 high school seniors were kept from participating in their graduation ceremonies during the spring of 2000.

Members of the committee wondered if there were that many students who passed when they thought they had failed, did the same number of students think they passed when they actually failed.

Christine Jax, commissioner of the department, said that could not be possible statistically. She explained that the staff of the department had checked the results and determined that it didn't work both ways.

Jax also said she was "outraged" by the mistakes made by NCS. As a result, she met with NCS President David Smith and required the company to cover all costs resulting from the error, including reimbursement to all Minnesota school districts for their additional costs, such as additional staff time and notifying students of the mistake.

Furthermore, NCS agreed to cover the costs of an Oct. 11 graduation ceremony held at the State Capitol for those seniors unable to participate in regular commencement exercises with other members of the Class of 2000. Sixteen students participated in that ceremony.

Jax said that the state would withhold further payment of the \$2.9 million contract until the matter was sufficiently resolved.

NCS agreed to Jax's requirements. "It is an incredibly embarrassing mistake for people in our business," Smith said.

ETHICS



Governor's job status questioned

When Gov. Jesse Ventura gets behind the microphone for Xtreme Football League games beginning in February, legislators wonder if he will be violating the state employee code of ethics.

The House State Government Finance Committee met Dec. 20 to hear testimony on whether or not the governor qualifies as a state employee and is therefore subject to state ethics laws.

During the 2000 session, the House approved a bill (HF2699) that clearly defined the state's constitutional officers, including Ventura, as employees of the state. But the chair of the State Government Finance Committee, Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview), said the House provision was not included in the final conference committee version of that bill.

Krinkie said the issue wasn't only about Ventura, but about the office of governor.

In a Nov. 28 response to an inquiry by Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), Alan Gilbert, chief deputy and solicitor general from the Attorney General's Office, said that Attorney General Mike Hatch determined the governor is an employee of the state and thus is bound by the state code of ethics.

The code of ethics includes a provision that prohibits state employees from using their position for personal gain.



Former State Ethics Officer Sandra Hyllengren testifies before the State Government Finance Committee Dec. 20, 2000.

Sandra Hyllengren, a former state ethics officer in the Department of Employee Relations, agreed with Gilbert. She said that while serving in the position she issued a memo to the governor's staff informing them of that opinion.

As state ethics officer Hyllengren said she often had to respond to questions about the code of ethics. As an example, a state trooper once asked her whether he could teach a driver's safety class for reimbursement while wearing his uniform. She told him that would be a violation of the code because it was a privilege not available to the general public.

"State employees have the privilege of being keepers of the public trust," she said. "Every citizen signs your paycheck."

Julien Carter, the Ventura-appointed commissioner of the Department of Employee Relations, ruled Dec. 11 that the governor's new job is not a conflict of interest with his state duties.

Carter said the statute is confusing because it contains ambiguous language. He said portions of the statute clearly differentiate between constitutional officers and employees. However, the formal definition of employee should not use the word employee because it's not clear enough. Furthermore, it leaves the governor's status in question. Carter said he would support legislation clarifying the statute.

Krinkie said he plans to introduce such legislation this session in hopes of stating that the position of governor is subject to the same rules and regulations of other state employees.



NOTES

The opening day of the 2001 legislative session was again a monumental one for Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).

When the session began Jan. 3, Abeler stood to remind members he actually missed his swearing in ceremony on Jan. 5, 1999 because his wife was giving birth to their son Judson, the youngest of the Abelers' six boys.

And this year, Abeler announced that he and his wife Barb were celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary on Jan. 3.

Economic ABCs

Reporter and editor alerts legislators that education is key to future economic success in Minnesota

By DAVID MAEDA

The states that focus their attention on developing a well-trained workforce will be the most successful in the upcoming decade, a notable economics reporter told Minnesota legislators.

"Education and economic development in the new economy are two sides of the same coin," said Chris Farrell, Minnesota Public Radio's chief economics correspondent.

Speaking as part of the Jan. 4 Minnesota Political Leadership program, sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute, Farrell said the state might have an edge because of its traditionally strong education system.

"Minnesota is well positioned to take advantage of the new economy," he said.

Farrell, who is also a contributing economics editor at *Business Week* magazine and hosts a public television personal finance show, said increasingly that government's most important role will be to ensure a good education system is in place.

But he warned that as the new economy shifts more towards a global economy, the state will need to find ways not only to provide a good education system, but to develop a system that produces a better-trained workforce and find ways to retain those skilled workers.

Farrell said that throughout history technological advances have changed the nature of the economy. The transition from the telegraph and railroad age in the late 1800s to the development of electric power and mass production in the 20th Century is one example of a major change in the economy. Now, as we shift into an information-based society, Farrell said, traditional ways of business are no longer effective.

Unlike the past, Farrell said companies with the most capital aren't necessarily the ones that will succeed long term in the new economy.

"Capital is no longer a scarce commodity," he said. "Companies are finding out their size and past success is no guarantee of future success."

More and more, finding and retaining



PHOTOS BY ANDREW VON BANK
Chris Farrell, chief economics correspondent for Minnesota Public Radio, speaks at the Minnesota Horizons 2001 Forum at the Science Museum of Minnesota Jan. 4.

skilled workers is key to a company's success, he said. Three-fourths of all businesses now provide performance bonuses, one-half have a profit sharing system in place, and one-third provide employee stock options.

Farrell said government needs to re-focus its past economic development strategies to conform with the changing economy. He said

the days of an economy based on industry and service is shifting to one based on knowledge and information.

He said that since the 1930s economic development has been focused on programs that create employment opportunities. "It used to be about 'jobs, jobs, jobs' but we have moved to a world where there is a labor shortage."

Now with a global pool of workers, he said the problem is no longer high unemployment, but rather finding qualified workers to fill jobs. Yet finding educated workers is not necessarily the same thing as producing a well-trained workforce.

"The percentage of the adult population with their high school diploma is 83 percent, the highest ever," Farrell said. "One in four have their bachelor's degree, and two-thirds immediately went to college after high school."

Because of the historic rate of educated people, Minnesota is no longer as far ahead when compared to other states.

Farrell said in order to succeed in the new economy the state will need to foster policies that trust people to create new ideas because entrepreneurship and risk taking are at the heart of the new economy.

But it's not just government that will determine how states do in the upcoming years. Minnesota's strong non-profit sector

gives it a competitive advantage, he said. That sector is taking on more responsibilities that the government used to provide. He cited the growth of church groups dealing with social related issues as an example.

"Risk taking goes hand-in-hand with risk sharing," he said. 🐼

The 'Big Plan' unveiled

State of the State reveals tax relief, education funding and government reform among Ventura's top legislative priorities

BY JONAS M. WALKER

In his second state-of-the-state address, Gov. Jesse Ventura laid out an aggressive agenda for the coming year.

And he was adamant that with the help of the Legislature it could be done in one year.

The speech, delivered in the House chamber Jan. 4, was heavy with reforms to the state's property, income and sales taxes. But Ventura also emphasized the need to bring the state up to speed with regard to the changing economy.

one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation."

During his 70-minute speech, Ventura discussed tax structure, education, and concluded by discussing campaign finance reform.

"Let us begin with bold, responsible tax reform," said the governor. "We are poised to provide Minnesota citizens with a reformed tax system that not only lightens their load, but also makes the tax system more fair, simple, and accountable to taxpayers."



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Senate President Don Samuelson, *left*, and House Speaker Steve Sviggum, *right*, listen as Gov. Jesse Ventura gives his State of the State address Jan. 4.

And before concluding his remarks, he revisited his favored proposals for a unicameral legislature that meets once every other year.

Ventura said the people of Minnesota inspired his plan.

He referred to his travels from the past year and the observations he made.

"In Becker, Belgrade, Big Lake and Bemidji, I saw hard-working young people chipping in as part of the best workforce in the world. A workforce that for the last two years has had

The governor cited ongoing shifts in the tenuous balance of agricultural economics, the expansion of e-commerce, and projected property tax increases from Apple Valley to Morris.

"Today I am bringing you the Ventura Administration's agenda for that change," he said.

He first discussed property tax, which he described as "a complicated shell game that frustrates citizen involvement, and lets both

state and local governments evade responsibility for their spending and taxing decisions."

He then emphasized the originally local nature of property tax, endorsing efforts to make it "smaller, simpler, fairer."

Ventura sought to demonstrate the unfairness of property taxes, rhetorically asking those assembled, "How much does the value of a property really have to do with how much it costs government to serve it, or the ability of the owner to pay the tax?"

Ventura went on to suggest that "businesses and cabins that have no local vote [on voter-approved levies] will pay tax at a uniform statewide rate."

He specifically said that he would advocate a double-digit tax break for businesses, homes, apartments, farms, and cabins.

Although the two party caucuses received his proposals with differing degrees of approval, the audience seemed to be unified in support of Ventura's proposal to shift funding of juvenile protection costs back on the state and away from the counties and property tax rolls.

The governor garnered a chuckle when he said that the income tax has "given our state more notoriety than our 10,000 lakes." He went on to propose an across-the-board reduction in state income tax rates of 0.5 percent in all three brackets.

As to the third of the "big three" taxes, the governor proposed expanding the sales tax so that some services, in addition to goods, would be taxable.

Hoping to support Minnesota's burgeoning e-commerce sector while still updating the tax code, Ventura promised to work with other governors to have a more unified sales tax system among states.

The governor said that about 60 percent of Minnesota purchases are for services — for things such as haircuts, piano tuning, boat docking and car washes. These items are not currently taxable, but would be under the plan he intends to propose.

Ventura enjoyed the bipartisan applause in response to his telecommunications reform plan. "Our goal is simple: Minnesota will make the transition from a non-competitive regulatory environment to a consumer-oriented telecommunications marketplace, he said."

As an example he cited phone companies competing on a level playing field. "New competitors will bring choice and improved

service to consumers currently served by a monopoly.”

Like a teacher, Ventura gave the elected officials a lesson in recent educational spending, and offered lawmakers a challenge.

“This last biennium, with tripartisan support, we increased K-12 spending by \$1.3 billion,” he said. Ventura expressed his disapproval for additional spending in this session, saying he believes that most districts have not shown taxpayers the benefit of the last budget increase.

The governor then endorsed changes in teacher-pay schemes, proposing that “when a teacher is a superior performer that teacher [should] be paid accordingly.”

Ventura also signaled his approval of programs which improve education while not requiring additional funds.

Looking to the future, Ventura offered a new plan that would aid in the “future workforce being prepared and our current workforce being re-educated.”

One way he proposed to accomplish this is by potentially reorganizing the Departments of Economic Security and Trade and Economic Development. Ventura explained that “the primary purpose of a reorganization is to integrate economic and workforce development policy decision-making.”

Ventura had three additional challenges for legislators.

First, he was greeted with applause when he challenged lawmakers to “spend time reviewing and repealing obsolete laws and rules in the first weeks of session before” taking up new proposals.

Even more applause greeted his proposal to “give each legislator the opportunity to introduce a priority bill that will be guaranteed committee consideration and floor vote.”

He saved the most popular challenge for last. “I challenge you to open up the process by ensuring that committees do not meet after 10 p.m. and that meetings are announced at least one week in advance.”

Ventura then revisited the unicameral issue, saying it is the only solution to open, accountable government.

He also said that holding legislative sessions every year merely increases the number of bills and political wrangling and doesn’t force legislators to conduct meaningful debate.

“I see no reason why we can’t complete the people’s business with one legislative session every other year,” Ventura said.

He also said that he will attempt to meet that goal this session by providing both budget and bonding requests in 2001.

Finally, Ventura made a point of campaign finance reform. For example, he insisted that candidates receive state funds sooner than they do now and that so-called “soft-money” donations be restricted.

Ventura dedicated the address to his Aunt Betty, who recently passed away. After the dedication, he wiped sweat from his brow, and confidently strode toward the back exit amidst the standing ovation of all assembled. 🙏

House leaders voice approval, concern after governor’s speech

BY THERESA STAHL AND MARY KAY WATSON

Applause during Gov. Jesse Ventura’s State of the State speech was decidedly one-sided, characterizing the reaction of House members to the governor’s address.

When House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) was asked why DFL members didn’t seem to be clapping much, he said he thought the applause was adequate from where he sat.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) joked that the amount of hand-clapping on the DFL side was “almost deafening.”

But either way it’s clear the governor’s plan is a challenging one to both caucuses.

Pugh said the governor’s plan, which he characterized as “bold,” was heavy on tax reform but offered little in terms of balancing needs.

“There were no references to the elderly or health care and very little on education,” Pugh said. “For a speech that was more than an hour long, he spent less than two minutes on education.”

From the other side of the aisle, Sviggum said he was more than pleased with the Ventura’s message.

“(He) brought forward a very balanced proposal,” he said.

Historically, Sviggum said, legislatures have

approved most of what a governor proposes, and he doesn’t expect this biennium to be any different. “Almost everything the governor proposed has a shot in the legislative session.”

He admitted, however, that the Legislature might not be prepared to make big changes in taxes this year. “We’re going to give it an effort,” he added.

Pugh said the DFL is willing to work on reforming the property tax, but tax relief has to be balanced with meeting the needs of people.

Ventura’s proposal to reduce the state sales tax rate to 6 percent was well-received by the

Continued on page 27



Offering the Republican caucus response to the governor’s speech are House Speaker Steve Sviggum and Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty, left.



Minority Leader Tom Pugh responds to the governor’s State of the State address Jan. 4.

2001 House Profile

Party split narrows by one, first African American woman is elected to the House, and three former members return

By MIKE COOK

Many familiar faces again called the House home when the gavel fell at noon Jan. 3.

About 84 percent (113) of the 134 legislators from last session are back, leaving 21 new members. By comparison, the 1999 Legislature featured 20 new faces, 1997 saw 22, 1995 had 26, and 1993 had 33 freshman legislators.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Voters cast their ballots at the Denmark Town Hall in Washington County during the Nov. 7, 2000 general election.

Of the 21 new members in 2001, three are returning to their old stomping grounds — Rep. Geri Evans (DFL–New Brighton), Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL–St. Peter) and Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL–Maplewood). This will be the third term for Evans, who was also elected in 1992 and 1996, and the second for Johnson and Slawik, both of whom were originally elected in 1996.

Evans was defeated in 1998 by former Rep. Barb Haake (R–Mounds View). Haake decided not to seek re-election in 2000. Slawik was defeated in 1998 by former Rep. Jim Seifert (R–Woodbury), whom she defeated by 79 votes in November.

Johnson left her seat in 1998 after being asked by DFL gubernatorial candidate Mike Freeman to be his running mate for lieutenant governor. Freeman lost the primary bid to Hubert H. “Skip” Humphrey III. Johnson defeated incumbent Julie Storm (R–St. Peter) in November 2000.

When legislators left St. Paul last May, there were 70 Republican members, 63 DFLers, and one independent. But Minnesota voters reduced that gap between Republicans and Democrats to four, 69-65, during the November election. No independent candidates were elected to the House in 2000.

Three Republicans lost their seat to DFLers

(Johnson in 24B, Rep. Paul Marquart in 9B and Slawik in 57A) while Republican Reps. Maxine Penas (1A) and Dale Walz (12A) won seats from DFLers. There were 16 open seats and 14 uncontested House races.

Of the new members, 12 are men and nine are women, keeping men in the majority by a 99-35 count, the same number as the previous session. Women held a record 40 seats in 1998.

The number of African-Americans in the House has doubled for 2001. Joining second term Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL–Mpls) is Neva Walker (DFL–Mpls) who was elected in District 61B. She is the first African-American woman ever elected to the House.

In terms of age, the House is getting younger — by a trimester. The average age dropped from a 10-year high of 48.7 years in 1999 to 48.4 years today. One decade ago the average age was 47, while it was 40.8 in 1975.

Three legislators are past the age of 70 — Irv Anderson (DFL–Int’l Falls), Dave Bishop (R–Rochester) and Bernie Lieder (DFL–Crookston). Five members are in their 20s, with Tony Sertich (DFL–Chisholm) being the youngest of the group at age 25.

Representatives Irv Anderson, Lyndon R. Carlson (DFL–Crystal), Phyllis Kahn (DFL–Mpls) and Steve Wenzel (DFL–Little Falls) share seniority as each begins a 15th term, while 18 “rookies” have seats in the House and 20 begin their sophomore term.

As for leadership, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R–Kenyon) has retained his position as Speaker of the House, and Rep. Tim Pawlenty (R–Eagan) remains majority leader. The minority leader is Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL–South St. Paul).

Being a legislator is a part-time job for many of the 134 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

When away from St. Paul, more members (23) work in the business profession than any other field. This is the second straight biennium in which that is the case.

As for schooling, House members have more education than ever, as 118 of 134 have graduated from a post-secondary institution, including a record 50 with a graduate degree. Thirteen members are working on a graduate degree, and another 13 have taken some college classes. 🐼

2001 House Profile

Membership					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
DFL	65	63	70	71	86
R	69	71	64	63	47
Men	99	99	95	102	101
Women	35	35	39	32	32

Age					
	2001 [†]	1999	1997	1995	1993*
21-30	5	6	5	6	5
31-40	27	23	27	24	28
41-50	42	51	45	51	50
51-60	41	38	43	34	34
61-70	12	13	11	16	15
over 71	3	3	3	3	1
Average age	48.4	48.7	48.3	47.9	47.7
† Ages not available for 4 members					

Education					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
High School	3	4	5	5	6
Some College	13	17	19	24	20
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	44	39	40	41	47
Some Graduate Work	13	13	16	14	16
Graduate Degree	50	49	43	37	32
Technical College	5	6	10	11	6
2-yr. Undergraduate Degree	6	6	1	—	—
No listing	—	—	—	2	6

Current Term					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
1	18	20	22	26	33
2	20	24	29	29	16
3	22	25	25	16	11
4	22	20	14	11	25
5	17	10	7	20	8
6	8	5	14	7	13
7	4	10	6	4	3
8	7	4	3	2	6
9	3	3	1	3	6
10	2	1	3	5	3
11	1	2	3	3	7
12	1	3	2	6	1
13	3	2	4	1	—
14	2	4	—	—	—
Other	4 (15)	1 (22)	1 (21)	1 (20)	1 (19)

Occupation					
	2001	1999	1997	1995	1993*
Business	23	24	21	20	14
Educator	20	19	22	20	20
Attorney	15	17	17	18	16
Legislator	15	14	18	19	17
Farming	8	9	11	14	16
Consultant	6	6	6	6	8
Homemaker	4	5	5	3	3
Communications	3	4	4	3	—
Insurance	2	4	3	3	3
Retired	4	4	3	3	3
Real Estate	3	3	2	2	2
Trades	3	3	2	4	3
Government	2	2	3	3	—
Other	26	20	17	16	29

* the 1993 session began with 133 members due to one resignation.

A fresh start

21 new House members get hands-on training about the legislative process at freshman orientation retreat

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

Preparing for the Legislature can be a daunting task, especially when you only have a few weeks to do it.

But a biennial orientation program for new members aims to make the transition from private citizen to public official as smooth as possible.

The primary focus of the retreat is to give new members the basic tools they need to be effective legislators. Much of that involves connecting them to the key staff members who will be integral to performing their jobs successfully.

But another key aspect of the retreat was to cross party lines and make connections.

"Why is freshman orientation a good idea?" asked Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), who hosted the event with Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover). "We get to meet people on the other side of the aisle."

This year's version of the retreat focused specifically on the legislative process. Tingelstad, a freshman in 1996, and Kelliher, now in her second term as a representative, took a look at their own experiences as first-term legislators and wanted to make the 2000 retreat more hands-on.

"I just remember there was this big fog," said Tingelstad of her own orientation. "We wanted

to provide some real world scenarios by bringing in legislators and having them share."

But before the new legislators could start brainstorming about ways to make an idea become a law, they had to know where to go for help in drafting legislation and making sure it is heard.

Presentations were given by Michelle Timmons, chief revisor from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes; Tom Todd, director of House Research; Bill Marx, House chief fiscal analyst and Fiscal Analyst Gary Karger; Tom Hanson, legislative director for House Speaker Steve Sviggum; and Al Mathiowetz and Gail Romanowski from the Chief Clerk's Office.

Members also broke up into small groups to discuss several ways to generate ideas for new laws. They also heard tips from other legislators regarding time management, being an effective legislator and other items.

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PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

New members of the House moved from room to room during round table discussions on a variety of topics during the New Member Orientation at the Riverwood Convention Center near Monticello Nov. 27-29, 2000.

Meet the newly elected 2001 House members



Bernardy, Connie (DFL) 48B
329 State Office Building (651) 296-5510
E-mail: rep.connie.bernardy@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Fridley
*6840 Siverts Lane N.E. 55432-4625 (763) 571-0015
Business: same
Born: 2/2/63. **Married:** spouse Dan, 3 children. **Occupation:** Community Volunteer/Consultant. **Education:** BA, speech communications, University of Minnesota; certification, government acquisitions and contract management, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Davnie, Jim (DFL) 62A
*335 State Office Building (651) 296-0173
E-mail: rep.jim.davnie@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Minneapolis
2517 30th Ave. S. 55406 (612) 724-5163
Business: Buffalo
1300 N. Highway 25 55313 (763) 682-8313
Married: spouse Cara Letofsky, 1 child. **Occupation:** Teacher. **Education:** BS, psychology/social work, University of Minnesota; MEd, Education, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.

*prefers interim mail at this address



Dibble, Scott (DFL) 60B
 *369 State Office Building (651) 296-9281
E-mail: rep.scott.dibble@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Minneapolis
 4207 Blaisdell Ave. 55409 (612) 824-3823
Business: Minneapolis
 430 Oak Grove St., Suite 117 55403 (612) 874-9002
Born: 8/27/65. **Partner:** David Maier. **Occupation:** Community Organizer. **Education:** German/political science, University of Minnesota and University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Jacobson, Carl (R) 53B
 429 State Office Building (651) 296-7153
E-mail: rep.carl.jacobson@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Vadnais Heights
 *3300 Belmar Drive 55127 (651) 787-0775
Business: Shoreview
Born: 7/27/69. **Married:** spouse Joyce. **Occupation:** Public Accountant. **Education:** BS, accounting, Minnesota State University, Mankato. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Eastlund, Rob (R) 18A
 449 State Office Building (651) 296-5364
E-mail: rep.rob.eastlund@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Isanti
 *2123-305th Ave. N.E. 55040 (763) 689-1746
Business: Cambridge
 355 S. Garfield St. 55008 (763) 689-0349
Born: 6/19/49. **Married:** spouse Janis, 3 children. **Occupation:** Property Manager. **Education:** BS, math, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Johnson, Jeff (R) 34B
 487 State Office Building (651) 296-5511
E-mail: rep.jeff.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Plymouth
 *4620 Minnesota Lane 55446 (763) 550-7904
Business: Minneapolis
 Cargill Inc., Law Department
 MS 9, P.O. Box 5624 55440 (952) 742-2848
Born: 11/11/66. **Married:** spouse Sonni, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, economics, Concordia College, Moorhead; JD, Law, Georgetown University Law School. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Evans, Geri (DFL) 52B
 211 State Office Building (651) 296-0141
E-mail: rep.geri.evans@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: New Brighton
 *52 Windsor Ct. 55112 (651) 633-6542
Family: 2 children. **Occupation:** Educator/Teacher. **Education:** BA, education, Gustavus Adolphus College; graduate work, education administration, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 1992. **Term:** 3rd (non-consecutive).



Johnson, Ruth (DFL) 24B
 241 State Office Building (651) 296-7065
E-mail: rep.ruth.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: St. Peter
 *417 N. 7th St. 56082 (507) 931-2075
Business: same
Born: 5/23/47. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, religion, Gustavus Adolphus College; MSED, college student personnel administration, Indiana University-Bloomington. **Elected:** 1996. **Term:** 2nd (non-consecutive).



Goodwin, Barbara (DFL) 52A
 353 State Office Building (651) 296-4331
E-mail: rep.barbara.goodwin@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Columbia Heights
 *650 Sullivan Lane N.E. 55421 (763) 574-1716
Business: Minneapolis
 301-4th Avenue S. 55415 (612) 348-0297
Born: 1/25/49. **Married:** spouse David, 2 children. **Occupation:** Principal Planner specializing in communications. **Education:** AA, Liberal Arts, North Hennepin Community College; BA, Political Science, Sociology, Hamline University. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Johnson, Sheldon (DFL) 67B
 229 State Office Building (651) 296-4201
E-mail: rep.sheldon.johnson@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: St. Paul
 *2031 Howard St. S. 55119 (651) 730-4917
Business: Maplewood
 297 S. Century Ave. 55119 (651) 298-5571
Born: 3/25/54. **Married:** spouse Elaine, 2 children. **Occupation:** Corrections. **Education:** BA, social work, Bethel College, St. Paul; MA, psychology, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Hilstrom, Debra (DFL) 47B
 *227 State Office Building (651) 296-3709
E-mail: rep.debra.hilstrom@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Brooklyn Center
 3509-66th Ave. N. 55429 (763) 561-6487
Business: same
Born: 6/21/68. **Married:** spouse Joel, 2 children. **Occupation:** Small Business Owner. **Education:** BA, sociology, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Lipman, Eric (R) 56B
 567 State Office Building (651) 296-4244
E-mail: rep.eric.lipman@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Lake Elmo
 *8249 Deer Pond Court N. 55042 (651) 773-1985
Business: Lake Elmo
 P.O. Box 82 55402 (651) 773-1985
Born: 6/27/64. **Married:** spouse Kimberly, 1 child. **Occupation:** Attorney. **Education:** BA, political science, Union College; JD, law, George Washington University. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Marquart, Paul (DFL) **9B**
 311 State Office Building (651) 296-6829
E-mail: rep.paul.marquart@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Dilworth
 *605 First St. N.E. 56529 (218) 233-9200
Business: Glyndon
 DGF School 513 Parke Ave. 56547 (218) 498-2263
Born: 1/9/57. **Married:** spouse Colleen, 2 children.
Occupation: Educator/Teacher. **Education:** BS, education-social studies, University of North Dakota; MS, education administration, Tri-College University.
Elected: 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Thompson, Mark (DFL) **46A**
 223 State Office Building (651) 296-4176
E-mail: rep.mark.thompson@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: New Hope
 *3749 Hillsboro Ave. N. 55427 (763) 593-0871
Business: Excelsior
 Minnetonka Middle School-West
 6421 Hazeltine Boulevard 55331 (952) 401-5300
Born: 2/4/60. **Married:** spouse Patricia. **Occupation:** Educator. **Education:** BA, political science, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Penas, Maxine (R) **1A**
 553 State Office Building (651) 296-9635
E-mail: rep.maxine.penas@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Badger
 *23588-310th Ave. 56714 (218) 528-3278
Born: 10/6/46. **Married:** spouse Albert, 3 children.
Occupation: Retired Teacher/Farmer. **Education:** BA, biology/chemistry, College of St. Benedict. **Elected:** 2000.
Term: 1st.



Walker, Neva (DFL) **61B**
 213 State Office Building (651) 296-7152
E-mail: rep.neva.walker@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Minneapolis
 *P.O. Box 80224 55408 (612) 824-4262
Born: 12/71. **Single,** 1 child. **Occupation:** Community Organizer. **Education:** sociology, University of Minnesota. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Ruth, Connie (R) **28A**
 415 State Office Building (651) 296-5368
E-mail: rep.connie.ruth@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Owatonna
 *689 Woodhill Place 55060 (507) 451-1144
Married: spouse Douglas, 3 children. **Occupation:** Business. **Education:** BA, organization management/communications, Concordia University; MA, organizational management, Concordia University. **Elected:** 2000.
Term: 1st.



Walz, Dale (R) **12A**
 527 State Office Building (651) 296-4333
E-mail: rep.dale.walz@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Brainerd
 *1901 Oakridge Road S.E. 56401 (218) 828-4187
Born: 9/16/64. **Single,** 3 children. **Occupation:** Police Officer. **Education:** AAS, criminal justice, Central Lakes College. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st



Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL) **5B**
 *233 State Office Building (651) 296-0172
E-mail: rep.tony.sertich@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Chisholm
 P.O. Box 3 55719 (218) 254-1936
Born: 1/2/76. **Single.** **Occupation:** Legislator. **Education:** BA, theatre arts/political science, Hamline University. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Wasiluk, Scott (DFL) **55B**
 225 State Office Building (651) 296-1188
E-mail: rep.scott.wasiluk@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Maplewood
 *1747 Frank St. 55109 (651) 776-2633
Business: Maple Grove
 2 Scimed Place 55311
Born: 5/1/58. **Married:** spouse Julie, 2 children. **Occupation:** Microbiologist. **Education:** BA, chemistry, University of St. Thomas. **Elected:** 2000. **Term:** 1st.



Slawik, Nora (DFL) **57A**
 356 State Office Building (651) 296-7807
E-mail: rep.nora.slawik@house.leg.state.mn.us
Home: Maplewood
 *1142 Marnie Court 55119 (651) 738-7099
Business: same
Born: 11/23/62. **Married:** spouse Brien, 2 children.
Occupation: Consultant. **Education:** BS, recreation administration, Arizona State University. **Elected:** 1996.
Term: 2nd (non-consecutive).

*prefers interim mail at this addresss

Citizen lobbyist takes her seat

Education, health care and tax relief top list of concerns for District 48B's newest addition to the Legislature

By MIKE COOK

During her campaign, one of Connie Bernardy's campaign slogans was "One of us...Working for us!"



Rep. Connie Bernardy

Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) has lived and been involved in District 48B for her entire life. "I grew up in the community, I've lived here for 37 years. I know a lot of people and I'm one of us."

Now she also represents them.

"The people of the district encouraged me to run," she said.

That familiarity with her community was one pleasing part of the campaign because of her connections throughout the area, be they through former classmates, her former babysitters, parents she volunteers with at her children's school, fellow church-goers, and others.

Bernardy replaces fellow DFLer Alice Johnson, who spent seven terms in St. Paul.

"When I talked to Alice about running she told me 'Connie, if you get endorsed you will win because you are one of us,'" Bernardy said.

It was Christmas 1999 when Bernardy said she began to seriously think about pursuing a seat.

"I did some research on how it would fit with my family, and thought it would be a great fit," she said. "Plus, I get to work on issues that are important to myself, my family and my community."

Her husband, Dan, and daughters Lisa, 18, Brielle, 10, and Kyla, 7, see mom's new adventure as a team effort. "They've all been involved from the beginning in any way they wanted, and they just had a lot of fun with it," Bernardy said.

Now that she has been elected to serve constituents in Fridley, Blaine, Coon Rapids, and Spring Lake Park, Bernardy says she is ready for business.

"I look forward to getting work done," she

said shortly before Christmas 2000. "I've been getting oriented at the Capitol and talking to constituents about things I'll be working on."

Her top priority is education.

As a classroom volunteer, Bernardy has seen firsthand the problems faced by many schools.

"We have very good schools in our district and a strong tradition of supporting those schools," she said. But, like many other dis-

people in our district, as is access to quality, affordable health care," Bernardy said. Others have expressed worry about how people can get coverage to pay for mental and chemical health services. "Hopefully we can find a solution to prevent some of those problems up front, so we're not paying for it the long run," she said.

She further supports making prescription drugs more affordable for seniors and ensuring privacy of medical records.

Tax relief is also a concern for those in District 48B. "When we have the opportunity for tax relief I want to see that it benefits all people of our district." Like many people in her district, she advocates rebate checks for constitu-

"When we have the opportunity for tax relief I want to see that it benefits all people of our district."

—Rep. Connie Bernardy

tricts, the schools have been forced to make unwanted program cuts for a number of years.

She supports lowering class sizes, ensuring all schools are smoke- and drug-free, reforming the property tax system, and ensuring schools receive stable and adequate funding.

She says she doesn't believe more money is the only answer, but that it does play a role.

"We just need to make sure we have the systems in place and financial backing that is needed for those services for our young people," Bernardy said, "but we must also think outside-the-box for solutions."

Although she has never held an elected office, Bernardy has experience in education funding at the Capitol.

Two years ago she was part of a grassroots, non-partisan task force of parents, teachers and school administrators that helped attain more state funding than was originally planned. "The governor proposed \$88 per pupil unit for our district, but we needed \$400 to break even after several years of drastic cuts," she said. "We ended up getting about \$300 per pupil unit."

She advocates fully funding special education, be it at the state or federal level.

Health care is Bernardy's second major issue.

"Prescription drug prices is a concern of

ents, but at the same time wants to make sure necessary education funding is in place.

Bernardy is a strong advocate of intergenerational dialogue. In addition to promoting a program at her church where youngsters and seniors get together, her campaign featured folks of all ages, including one door-knocking volunteer who just turned 74.

"Our youngest door knocker was 3 years old," Bernardy said. "She had to pedal her bicycle with training wheels on it up to the doorstep, get off and ring the doorbell. I couldn't do it because that was her job."

DISTRICT 48B

1998 population (estimate): 34,382

Largest city: Fridley

County: Anoka

Location: Northern Twin Cities suburbs

Top concern: "We need to make sure our school districts are not in crisis and that they can provide the programs students need."

—Rep. Connie Bernardy

Lesson plans

Davnie turns teaching career and role as community activist into pursuit of improved education policies

BY DAVID MAEDA

When Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls) told his eighth-grade students that he was running for a seat in the Legislature they told him that they thought it was "cool."



Rep. Jim Davnie

"They asked me if I was going to meet the governor and 'Are you going to be on TV?'" Davnie recalls.

Davnie, a middle school teacher in the Buffalo School District, said that after years of encouraging his colleagues and students to be active in the legislative process, he decided to take the ultimate action to back his own words — to run for office.

"I tried to show what happens (at the Capitol) has an impact on what is going on in the classroom," he said. "People are as powerful as they choose to be. It doesn't take a whole lot of people to get an issue on the radar screen."

Having both started his life and spent the past 20 years living in Minneapolis, Davnie has called the city's Seward neighborhood — just south of the University of Minnesota's west bank campus — home for the past seven years. He has been an active member of the Seward Neighborhood Group, a citizen participation group that addresses community needs such as crime, housing, and other community-building activities.

Davnie received his bachelor's degree in psychology and social work from the University of Minnesota. Early in his studies, he took some occupational tests to determine which jobs his skills and interests might best be suited. When one of the results indicated a social studies teacher was a good fit, Davnie disagreed and decided to continue his studies.

But he would find that a second look at those test scores made him think that a social

studies teacher was exactly what he should be.

As a result, he found himself returning to the 'U' to get his master's degree in education. Among the topics he has taught during the past 10 years is social studies.

Rather than teaching civics lessons via a textbook last year, Davnie taught the basics of lobbying techniques in order to help engage his class in the lawmaking process. He said it

"Everybody cares about kids and the environment. I'm sure we'll find some common ground."

—Rep. Jim Davnie

was a rewarding exercise for not only his students, who wrote a petition about the Profile of Learning, but also for himself.

"It was a great way to meld my community activism with my teaching," he said.

One of the main reasons Davnie decided to run for a House seat was to give teachers a voice in shaping the state's education policies.

He said that many times well-intentioned education laws are passed with unrealistic deadlines. He points to last year's modification of the state's Profile of Learning which required, among other things, teachers to complete detailed reports just as the summer was beginning.

Davnie succeeds Rep. Lee Greenfield, who decided not to seek another term after having served 22 years in the House. Davnie said that Greenfield encouraged him in his campaign in the district, which also includes the Longfellow and Cooper neighborhoods, and part of the U of M west bank campus.

"Everybody who knows Lee has the utmost respect for him. His knowledge and experience are unmatched," Davnie said.

Along with education issues, Davnie said he hopes to help address local government, environment, and transportation issues. He said

being an effective legislator not only means trying to put forth his own idea but also, "letting the Legislature act on me — See what issues come up, and see what I can learn from them."

Being a freshman member of the minority party, he said he is anxious to experience how the bipartisan process works.

"Everybody cares about kids and the environment. I'm sure we'll find some common ground," he said.

Being a legislator isn't the only new role Davnie recently assumed. Last summer his wife, Cara Leftofsky, gave birth to the couple's first child. Davnie spent the last five months at home taking care of the baby.

DISTRICT 62A

1998 population (estimate): 31,780

Largest city: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

Location: south Minneapolis

Top concern: "Our quality of life overall is good but clearly we have to keep working. I'm interested in the role the state plays in public education."

— Rep. Jim Davnie

From the farm to the city

Eastlund brings agrarian heritage from rapidly developing greater Minnesota district to the Capitol

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

For more than a century, Rep. Rob Eastlund's (R-Isanti) family has worked and lived on the land where he now lives in Isanti County.



Rep. Rob Eastlund

But today it is a different community than it was when his great-grandfather made his original land purchase. Now it struggles to balance the forces of development with its traditional agrarian roots.

And as a newly elected representative to the area, Eastlund says he will be mindful of those issues.

"The area is growing. ... That's just dramatic compared to the feelings of attachment to the way things were," Eastlund said. "Everybody was in town and all the farmers were there.

His goal is to stay connected to that community despite making daily trips from home to the State Capitol.

"I want to introduce programs so that it makes life better for future generations," he said.

The 2000 election was not Eastlund's first taste of politics. He was a member of the Cambridge/Isanti School Board for 12 years — beginning with his oldest daughter's year in kindergarten. In addition, Eastlund ran for the House of Representatives two previous times, in 1988 and 1990.

When former Rep. Jim Rostberg decided that he wouldn't run again, Eastlund decided it was time to try another House run. It seemed to be the right time for the father of three, whose youngest child is now a senior in high school.

"My whole family is looking forward to it and they're all at a place where they can appreciate it," Eastlund said.

"I think this is just a great opportunity. I think it's a great challenge to be a part, to learn how the system works."

—Rep. Rob Eastlund

You knew everybody. You waved at everybody. You knew their dog's name. And that's gone."

Eastlund, 51, a former center on the University of Minnesota football team, stayed in the area and ran a dairy and corn farm on his father's land for 15 years. He currently manages commercial property in the area, so the nature of the rapidly growing and developing community greet him every day.

Eastlund expects his job as a legislator to be challenging, but he's pretty sure nothing can compare to the difficulties of running a successful campaign. He says that listening to the concerns of his community during the campaign has prepared him for that job.

"I think this is just a great opportunity," Eastlund said. "I think it's a great challenge to be a part, to learn how the system works."

Eastlund plans to make the 52-mile trek to the Capitol every day during the session, even though he qualifies as an outstate legislator and can receive a housing allowance. He says that will help him have more regular contact with his constituents.

"I want to go to basketball games (his son plays), and I want to be visible in the community," he said.

Eastlund believes several issues will be big during the 2000 session, many of which have a direct effect on his community. Among them are K-12 funding issues, health care issues, such as funding for long-term and senior care, and tax issues, including the changing nature of property taxes and other ways communities can fund development.

Lingering amid all these issues are the rural/urban struggles, such as longer commutes, sprawl, and evolving education needs from K-12 to higher education. Eastlund said he plans to keep a watchful eye on how those issues develop during the session.

"It's a city meets country kind of thing," Eastlund said. "It creates tensions."

DISTRICT 18A

1998 population (estimate): 36,449

Largest city: Cambridge

Counties: Isanti, Kanabec

Location: About 50 miles north of St. Paul

Top concern: "I think my top priority is to learn. What I want to do is understand how the process works before (I) jump in and make a big splash. I want to be sensitive to the issues the people in my community bring."

— Rep. Rob Eastlund

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-2343
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-5560

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

TTY, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Pronto pups and politicians

Legislators connect with constituents, concerns and cheese curds at the annual Great Minnesota Get-Together

By DAVID MAEDA

Attending the 141-year-old Minnesota State Fair has become an annual tradition for many folks in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

From sampling a tasty bag of cheese curds to trying to win a prize on the Midway, each year Minnesotans circle the 360-acre site making sure to stop by their favorite places.

The hot, humid, end of summer air in the Education Building can be a tad stifling. Built in 1963, air conditioning in the facility only comes from Mother Nature. Still, it hardly prevents throngs of people from visiting the House of Representatives exhibit.

Adjacent to its Senate counterpart, both booths provide information designed to help

And before venturing off, dressed in their spiffy Capitol dome hats (as featured in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*), and on to other booths, more than 7,000 guests took an unofficial opinion poll tabulated on state-of-the-art voting equipment supplied by Hennepin County.

Poll participants cast their ballots on the brand new optical scan tabulation system that is much more modern than the punch card voting system that made the news during the fall. The results of the poll were available minutes, not months, after the voting was finished. (See results on the adjacent page).

In addition to taking a quiz about Minnesota history, visitors could talk about their

"It's loads of fun," former Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Mpls) said. "It's a great way to meet people with different views from all around the state."

Wejcman worked at the booth every year she served as a member. She said the booth provides important information to people who generally don't know, or don't understand how the lawmaking process works.

"I was surprised how little people know about the process," she said. Wejcman said a lot of fairgoers seemed a bit apprehensive about actually talking to legislators thinking that they might be unapproachable.

She said that many people told her this year that they appreciated being able to watch the Legislature in action live on television.

Former Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Mpls) agreed with Wejcman that one of the enjoyable parts of being a legislator was the opportunity to talk to people from throughout the state at the booth. He chose to work at the fair this past year for nostalgic reasons and that

he had enjoyed the experience for many years.

"There's great interaction," Greenfield said. "I think it's very important for elected members to work at the booth."

Greenfield heard no driving issue from people that stopped to talk. He said most people had general questions about the process and issues.

"That might be an indication that the population is pretty happy with the way things are going," he said.

Current members of the House also enjoyed their experience at the fair.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) said that the opportunity gives members and their constituents a chance for a "limited but meaningful give and take."

Buesgens said his time working at the booth reminded him of an old American adage.

"Whether it's the state fair or a county fair, fairs and politicians go together like peanut butter and jelly. They belong together." 🐘



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Thousands of fairgoers stopped by the House of Representatives Booth during the 2000 Minnesota State Fair to pick up informational materials, sign up for *Session Weekly* and talk with House members.

make the processes of state government a bit more understandable.

Many of the thousands of booth visitors during the 12 days of the fair picked up publications and educational materials about the House and the legislative process, and signed up for *Session Weekly*.

concerns with the 49 representatives who volunteered to spend some time at the exhibit.

As if to emphasize the nonpartisan nature of the booth, three representatives who had already announced that they were not going to run for another term, volunteered their time.

More than 7,000 people 'vote' at House booth



1. Should cities be allowed to install "photocop" cameras to snap photographs of vehicles that pass through an intersection after the stoplight has turned red? (Citations would be issued automatically to the owner of the vehicle.)

Yes	56.9%	(3,989)
No	35.8%	(2,509)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.7%	(471)

2. Would you support a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives and replace them with a unicameral (one-house) legislature?

Yes	27.5%	(1,926)
No	59.3%	(4,158)
Undecided/ No Opinion	12.9%	(905)

3. Should minors be restricted from purchasing video games that portray violence, specifically those with adults only (AO) or mature (M) ratings from the Entertainment Software Rating Board?

Yes	74.3%	(5,209)
No	18.8%	(1,317)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.4%	(447)

4. Should repeat DWI offenders face felony charges?

Yes	88.6%	(6,216)
No	6.4%	(446)
Undecided/No opinion	4.4%	(309)

5. Do you support state law requiring public school students to pass basic skills tests in reading, math, and writing before they can be eligible for a high school diploma?

Yes	76.3%	(5,353)
No	16.6%	(1,167)
Undecided/No Opinion	6.4%	(447)

6. Should judicial candidates such as those running for seats on the Minnesota Supreme Court be endorsed by political parties and have a party affiliation listed on the ballot?

Yes	23.9%	(1,679)
No	61.6%	(4,318)
Undecided/No Opinion	13.8%	(967)



Some of the more than 7,000 people who cast a ballot at the Minnesota State Fair received help from future voters.

7. Should the state lower the legal voting age from 18 to 16?

Yes	9.3%	(654)
No	88.3%	(6,195)
Undecided/ No Opinion	1.9%	(131)

8. Should police officers be able to pull over a vehicle if one or more of its occupants is not wearing a seat belt (making seat belt violations a primary offense)?

Yes	40.9%	(2,870)
No	51.5%	(3,612)
Undecided/ No Opinion	7.2%	(502)

9. Should the state offer a discount on the cost of a marriage license for couples who fulfill certain requirements for premarital education?

Yes	48.4%	(3,397)
No	41.1%	(2,879)
Undecided/ No Opinion	10.0%	(699)

10. Should state agencies be barred from selling data about individuals (such as fishing license information) to companies that use the data for marketing purposes?

Yes	90.1%	(6,322)
No	7.0%	(489)
Undecided/ No Opinion	2.3%	(161)

(All percentages are rounded off to the nearest one-tenth.)

Note: The Minnesota House of Representatives' survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those who took the time to complete the poll while visiting our booth at the fair.

House members who appeared at the fair

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka)
 Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township)
 Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault)
 Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester)
 Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan)
 Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson (DFL-Crystal)
 Rep. Phil Carruthers (DFL-Brooklyn Center)
 Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria)
 Rep. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley)
 Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph)
 Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato)
 Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton)
 Rep. Chris Gerlach (R-Apple Valley)
 Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Minneapolis)
 Rep. Lee Greenfield (DFL-Minneapolis)
 Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)
 Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont)
 Rep. Elaine Harder (R-Jackson)
 Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville)
 Rep. Loren Geo Jennings (DFL-Harris)
 Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)
 Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Minneapolis)
 Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Walters)
 Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids)
 Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls)
 Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley)
 Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights)
 Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Minneapolis)
 Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake)
 Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)
 Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount)
 Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie)
 Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul)
 Rep. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope)
 Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park)
 Rep. Jim Rostberg (R-Isanti)
 Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton)
 Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington)
 Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall)
 Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Minneapolis)
 Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey)
 Rep. Doug Stang (R-Cold Spring)
 Rep. Julie Storm (R-St. Peter)
 Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet)
 Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior)
 Rep. Linda Wejcman (DFL-Minneapolis)
 Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine)
 Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda)
 Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen)

Minnesota House of Representatives 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	47A	Luther, Darlene (DFL)	349	3751
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	356	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	51B	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	529	4124
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316	12B	Wenzel, Stephen G. (DFL)	389	4247
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

List as of January 2, 2001

*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted,
St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota Senate 2001 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
District/Member/Party	Room*			District/Member/Party	Room*		
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537		54 Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645	
56 Bachman, Michele M. (R)	125 SOB	4351		39 Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370	
41 Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975		2 Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577	
13 Berg, Charles A. (R)	G-25 SOB	5094		29 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264	
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261		25 Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279	
48 Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	2556		43 Oliver, Edward C. (R)	117 SOB	4837	
52 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	325 Cap.	4334		34 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282	
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931		60 Orfield, Myron (DFL)	227 Cap.	4191	
28 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457		19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981	
20 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131		65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802	
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	G-15 SOB	2084		37 Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252	
49 Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154		59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809	
26 Fowler, Chuck (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5713		57 Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060	
23 Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138		63 Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061	
58 Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246		53 Reiter, Mady (Madelyn) E. (R)	155 SOB	1253	
24 Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	205 Cap.	6153		46 Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2889	
40 Johnson, David H. (DFL)	124 Cap.	9261		18 Ring, Twyla (DFL)	306 Cap.	5419	
15 Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124B Cap.	3826		45 Robertson, Martha R. (R)	141 SOB	4314	
50 Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	149 SOB	3219		35 Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123	
6 Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881		62 Sabo, Julie A. (DFL)	317 Cap.	4274	
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065		11 Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063	
67 Kelly, Randy C. (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285		12 Samuelson, Don (DFL)	120 Cap.	4875	
32 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649		31 Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903	
4 Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4913		47 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869	
30 Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848		27 Schwab, Grace (R)	151 SOB	9248	
16 Kleis, Dave (R)	107 SOB	6455		7 Solon, Sam G. (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188	
36 Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120		17 Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075	
51 Krentz, Jane (DFL)	111 Cap.	7061		1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660	
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205		42 Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238	
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655		5 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	111 Cap.	8017	
21 Lesewski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125		22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650	
3 Lessard, Bob (IND)	G-51 SOB	4136		38 Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073	
33 Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159		55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	6820	
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293					

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

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)
2 A • Rep. Bernie L. Lieder-(DFL) B • Rep. Rod Skoe-(DFL) Sen. Roger D. Moe-(DFL)	16 A • Rep. Joe Opatz-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Knoblach-(R) Sen. Dave Kleis-(R)	30 A • Rep. Fran Bradley-(R) B • Rep. Dave Bishop-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(R)	44 A • Rep. Betty Foliard-(DFL) B • Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	58 A • Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B • Rep. Gregory Gray-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3 A • Rep. Irv Anderson-(DFL) B • Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Bob Lessard-(IND)	17 A • Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B • Rep. Leslie J. Schumacher-(DFL) Sen. Dan Stevens-(R)	31 A • Rep. William Kuisle-(R) B • Rep. Gregory M. Davids-(R) Sen. Kenric J. Scheevel-(R)	45 A • Rep. Ron Abrams-(R) B • Rep. Peggy Leppik-(R) Sen. Martha R. Robertson-(R)	59 A • Rep. Len Biernat-(DFL) B • Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A • Rep. Doug Fuller-(R) B • Rep. Howard-(R) Sen. Anthony G. "Tony" Kinkel-(DFL)	18 A • Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B • Rep. Loren Geo Jennings-(DFL) Sen. Twyla Ring-(DFL)	32 A • Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B • Rep. Michelle Rifenberg-(R) Sen. Bob Kierlin-(R)	46 A • Rep. Mark Thompson-(DFL) B • Rep. Lyndon R. Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	60 A • Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B • Rep. Scott Dibble-(DFL) Sen. Myron Orfield-(DFL)
5 A • Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B • Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A • Rep. Mark Olson-(R) B • Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	33 A • Rep. Arlon Lindner-(R) B • Rep. Rich Stanek-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	47 A • Rep. Darlene Luther-(DFL) B • Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	61 A • Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B • Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A • Rep. Thomas (Tom) Bak-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielucki-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	34 A • Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B • Rep. Jeff Johnson-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	48 A • Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B • Rep. Connie Bernady-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	62 A • Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B • Rep. Wes Skoglund-(DFL) Sen. Julie A. Sabo-(DFL)
7 A • Rep. Dale Swapinski-(DFL) B • Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Sam G. Solon-(DFL)	21 A • Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B • Rep. Richard Mulder-(R) Sen. Arlene J. Lesewski-(R)	35 A • Rep. Carol L. Molnau-(R) B • Rep. Mark Bugens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	49 A • Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) B • Rep. Luanne Koskinen-(DFL) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	63 A • Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark S. Gleason-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
8 A • Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) B • Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	22 A • Rep. Ted Winter-(DFL) B • Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	36 A • Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B • Rep. Dan McElroy-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	50 A • Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B • Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	64 A • Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B • Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
9 A • Rep. Kevin Goodno-(R) B • Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	23 A • Rep. James T. Clark-(R) B • Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	37 A • Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) B • Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	51 A • Rep. Andrew Westberg-(R) B • Rep. Ray Vandever-(R) Sen. Jane Krentz-(DFL)	65 A • Rep. Andy Dawkins-(DFL) B • Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
10 A • Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B • Rep. George Cassell-(R) Sen. Cal Larson-(R)	24 A • Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) B • Rep. Ruth Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	38 A • Rep. Tim Wilkin-(R) B • Rep. Tim Pawlenty-(R) Sen. Deanna L. Wiener-(DFL)	52 A • Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B • Rep. Geri Evans-(DFL) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	66 A • Rep. Tom Osthoff-(DFL) B • Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
11 A • Rep. Roxann Daggett-(R) B • Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas C. Sams-(DFL)	25 A • Rep. John Tuma-(R) B • Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	39 A • Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B • Rep. Mark Wilbert-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	53 A • Rep. Phillip Krinkie-(R) B • Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	67 A • Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B • Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Randy C. Kelly-(DFL)
12 A • Rep. Dale Walz-(R) B • Rep. Stephen G. Wenzel-(DFL) Sen. Don Samuelson-(DFL)	26 A • Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B • Rep. Henry J. Kalis-(DFL) Sen. Chuck Fowler-(DFL)	40 A • Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL) B • Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. David H. Johnson-(DFL)	54 A • Rep. Mary Jo McGuire-(DFL) B • Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
13 A • Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B • Rep. Doug Peterson-(DFL) Sen. Charles A. Berg-(R)	27 A • Rep. Dan Dorman-(R) B • Rep. Rob Leighton-(DFL) Sen. Grace S. Schwab-(R)	41 A • Rep. Alice Seagren-(R) B • Rep. Ken Wolf-(R) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	55 A • Rep. Harry Mares-(R) B • Rep. Scott Wasiluk-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)	
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 Bachman-(R)	

2001 House Standing Committee Schedule

Committee

Chair Phone
 Meeting Day Room Time
 (All Rooms are in the State Office Building)

Agriculture Policy

Finseth 296-9918
 Wed. 10 12:30 p.m.

Agriculture & Rural Development Finance

Ness 296-4344
 Tues., Thurs. 10 12:30 p.m.

Capital Investment

Knobloch 296-6316
 Tues., Thurs. 5 12:30 p.m.

Civil Law

Smith 296-9188
 Mon., Wed. 10 10:15 a.m.

Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development Policy

Davids 296-9278
 Tues., Thurs. 200 12:30 p.m.
 Wed. B 12:30 p.m.

Economic Development & Tourism Division

Lindner 296-7806
 To be announced

Crime Prevention

Tuma 296-4229
 Tues., Thurs., Fri. B 10:15 a.m.

Education Policy

Mares 296-5363
 Tues., Thurs. 200 8:15 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Holsten 296-3018
 Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 10:15 a.m.

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Ozment 296-4306
 Tues., Thurs. 10 10:15 a.m.

Ethics

Daggett 296-4293
 Call of the Chair

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Sykora 296-4315
 Mon., Wed. 5 12:30 p.m.

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Rhodes 296-9889
 Mon., Wed., Fri. B 8:15 a.m.

Health &

Human Services Finance

Goodno 296-5515
 Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 8:15 a.m.

Health & Human Services Policy

Bradley 296-9249
 Tues., Thurs. 10 8:15 a.m.

Higher Education Finance

Leppik 296-7026
 Mon., Wed., Fri. 300S 10:15 a.m.

Jobs &

Economic Development Finance

McElroy 296-4212
 Mon., Wed., Fri. 200 8:15 a.m.

Judiciary Finance

Stanek 296-5502
 Tues., Thurs. B 8:15 a.m.

K-12 Education Finance

Seagren 296-7803
 Mon., Wed., Fri. 5 10:15 a.m.

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Dempsey 296-8635
 Mon., Wed. 200 12:30 p.m.

Redistricting

Paulsen 296-7449
 Call of the Chair

Regulated Industries

Wolf 296-5185
 Mon. 10 12:30 p.m.

Rules &

Legislative Administration

Pawlenty 296-4128
 Call of the Chair

State Government Finance

Krinkie 296-2907
 Tues., Thurs. 300N 10:15 a.m.
 Fri. B 8:15 a.m.

Taxes

Abrams 296-9934
 Mon. - Fri. 200 10:15 a.m.

Property Tax Division

Erhardt 296-4363
 To be announced 200 10:15 a.m.

Sales Tax Division

Harder 296-5373
 To be announced 200 10:15 a.m.

Transportation Finance

Molnau 296-8872
 Mon., Wed. 5 8:15 a.m.

Transportation Policy

Workman 296-5066
 Tues., Thurs. 5 8:15 a.m.

Ways & Means

Bishop 296-0573
 Call of the Chair

*All rooms are in the state Office Building.

Thursday, Jan. 4

HF1—Jacobson (R)

Taxes

Individual income tax and alternative minimum tax rates reduced, and conforming changes provided.

HF2—Walz (R)

Taxes

Automatic tax rebate provisions modified, sales tax rebate provided, and money appropriated.

HF3—Penas (R)

K-12 Education Finance

School district equity revenue requirements modified and money appropriated.

HF4—Abrams (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare premium and provider taxes repealed, pass-through consumer savings required, tobacco settlement proceeds allocated, and contingent penalties provided.

HF5—Penas (R)

Taxes

Education agricultural tax credit increased.

HF6—Howes (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.

HF7—Eastlund (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation and related conditions (ICF/MR), and direct care provider rate adjustments provided.

HF8—Ruth (R)

K-12 Education Policy

School district career and technical aid restored and money appropriated.

HF9—Ruth (R)

Transportation Policy

Motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated to Highway User Tax Distribution Fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF10—Johnson, J. (R)

Taxes

Capital gains income tax exclusion provided.

HF11—Westerberg (R)

Transportation Policy

Portion of motor vehicle sales tax dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF12—Lipman (R)

Taxes

Constitutional amendment proposed requiring three-fifths vote to enact laws imposing or increasing taxes, fees, or surcharges.

HF13—Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Prescription drug program income limit raised, enrollees required to satisfy monthly deductibles, and money appropriated.

HF14—Bradley (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Tobacco settlement revenues credited to health care access fund, MinnesotaCare provider taxes eliminated on contingent basis, and pass-through of savings required.

HF15—Pawlenty (R)

Taxes

Charitable contributions income tax subtraction modified.

HF16—Pelowski, Jr. (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Local governments authorized to transfer personal property to nonprofit corporations.

HF17—Pelowski, Jr. (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Chemical dependency funds allocated to counties.

HF18—Mares (R)

State Government Finance

Amateur Sports Commission new soccer field grants authorized, criteria established, and money appropriated.

HF19—Mullery (DFL)

Transportation Policy

Limited driver's licenses authorized without waiting period under specific conditions, and limited driver's license waiting provisions modified and reorganized.

HF20—Mullery (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Youth intervention program grants authorized and money appropriated.

HF21—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Intrastate long distance telephone toll charges prohibited.

HF22—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Youth programs in community education revenue defined, levy authorized, aid provided, and money appropriated.

HF23—Mullery (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Work first; nontraditional career assistance training programs TANF block grant funding authorized, and programs required to make available information about nontraditional women's opportunities.

HF24—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

MinnesotaCare eligibility requirements modified for persons with continuation coverage.

HF25—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Ways & Means

Fiscal biennium modified to begin with even-numbered years, and legislative approval required of state agency federal fund expenditures.

HF26—Pawlenty (R)

Taxes

Income tax; financial account location not to be used in determining residency.

HF27—Haas (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Outdoor noise standards task force created.

HF28—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Health maintenance organizations medical director designated, liability established for treatment decisions and policies, utilization review requirements and disclosure established, and practice of medicine definition modified.

HF29—Mullery (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Lifeline checking accounts fees and charges regulated.

HF30—Mullery (DFL)

Crime Prevention

Contributing to delinquency of a minor felony penalty provided, city attorneys authorized to prosecute delinquency of a minor, and minors' involvement in a crime designated an aggravating sentencing factor.

HF31—Mullery (DFL)

Health & Human Services Policy

Medically necessary care definition established for health plans.

HF32—Wenzel (DFL)

Taxes

Sales tax rate reduction provided.

HF33—Gleason (DFL)

Transportation Policy

Use of public funds prohibited for airline tickets for flights landing or taking off during nighttime hours.

HF34—Seifert (R)**Education Policy**

Currently enrolled teacher candidates allowed to obtain licensure under current rules.

HF35—Wasiluk (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minimum wage increase provided for large and small employers.

HF36—Mullery (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Parenting leave of absence requirement extended.

HF37—McElroy (R)**Transportation Policy**

Traffic regulations; abolishing statutes defining trackless trolley car, regulating driving through rough country, and prohibiting carrier employment by persons addicted to liquor.

HF38—Haas (R)**Transportation Finance**

Osseo municipal state-aid street funding appropriated.

HF39—Haas (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Retired state employees authorized to purchase long-term care insurance.

HF40—Mullery (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Financial intermediary's service charge on overdrawn checks limited in certain circumstances.

HF41—Mullery (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Nonprofit organization grants provided to encourage women to enter nontraditional careers, and money appropriated.

HF42—Wenzel (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Partial-birth abortion prohibited, and criminal and civil penalties provided.

HF43—Abrams (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

School district operating referendum revenue inflationary increase granted.

Continued from page 4

necessary for the success of many pending issues.


"It's a bad start to a session that can be divisive," Pugh said.

Svigum did not address the committee assignments on the first day.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ventura is proposing an overhaul of the state's tax system, focusing on reform of the property tax. The governor's proposal is expected to involve separating state-mandated education expenditures from local property taxes, meaning the state would take on nearly the entire responsibility for funding K-12 education. That amount comes to nearly \$900 million.

Currently, that funding comes in large part from the state, requiring counties to collect a certain amount in property taxes. Much of that funding supports state-mandated activities.

The governor has proposed shifting the funding from the property tax to another tax source such as the sales tax. His proposal is expected to lower the state's current 6.5 percent rate, but broaden the tax to include services as well as goods.

Both House and Senate leaders have said they will carefully consider the governor's proposal once it is formally proposed during the next few months. 

Continued from page 12

Members agreed the retreat was a helpful introduction to the tasks that they will face for at least the next two years.

"It's a process," said Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti). "Over time it makes more sense."

Other members said it's important to know that as new members, all freshmen are in the same situation.

"Everyone's in the dark," said Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls). "It'll be a learning curve for all of us. But I know I'm not alone."

For those who are not new to the Legislature, the seminar was still a good learning experience.

"The most important theme is really that you build relationships," said Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), who was previously a session-only employee with the House. "That connection of (us) coming in together ... we'll stay with them throughout (our) entire career."

In addition, three new members for 2001 previously served in the Legislature — Rep. Geri Evans (DFL-New Brighton), Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) and Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood). They also said the retreat was a good way to be reacquainted with the legislative process.

House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) also addressed the freshman representatives about how to be successful legislators.


Pawlenty encouraged the new members to

set attainable goals for themselves and communicate them clearly to the members on both sides of the aisle.

He reminded them that every other member will be doing the same thing and not to be discouraged by that.

"When you first get here, we're all like the class president. And you've got the idea that you're going to change the world," Pawlenty said. "The other 200 class presidents don't think it's such a great idea or want to change it. It can be disheartening."

Above all, the hosts wanted to make sure the new members made those connections with their fellow 2001 classmates.

"We're helping people feel welcomed to the institution and helping them connect," said Kelliher. "It's a special thing to be in the same class." 

Where to find information

House Index Department

211 State Capitol (651) 296-6646

The House Index Department, a part of the Chief Clerk's Office, has a computerized index available for public use. House Index lists bills by committee, topic, author, file number, and other categories. The office can also give you the current status of legislation.

MONDAY, January 8

8:15 a.m.

Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Orientation to House staff and Minnesota Department of Health.

JOBS & ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: Overview presentations by the Department of Labor and Industry and Minnesota Technology, Inc.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: Department of Transportation Commissioner Elwyn Tinklenberg.

9 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: Introduction of committee members. Overview of governmental operations, Mark Shepard, House Research. Review of elections, Deb McKnight, House Research.

10:15 a.m.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: University of Minnesota overview.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: K-12 education basics. Tim Strom, Legislative Analyst, House Research. Greg Crowe, Fiscal Analyst, House Fiscal Analysis Department.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: Introduction of members and staff. Overview of committee history, purpose, and jurisdiction.

Overview by Assistant Commissioner Karen Carlson of the Department of Children, Families and Learning's history, structure, and oversight of committee accounts.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf
Agenda: Department of Commerce presentation on telecommunications issues and organization and structure of the department relating to telecommunications/energy issues.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

Immediately following session

RULES & LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Pawlenty
Agenda: Approval of Nov. 16, 2000 minutes. Calendar for Jan. 11. House resolutions. Policy on service award program. Miscellaneous personnel report. Harassment and discrimination policy.

TUESDAY, January 9

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: Discussion with the Department of Children, Families and Learning regarding Title I and accountability.

Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Orientation to the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Tuma
Agenda: Presentation by Millie Webb, national president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Overview of DWI Work Group report to the Legislature. Preliminary discussion of correctional plan for felony DWI offenders. Overview of House Research updated Minnesota DWI Laws and Practices.

Joint House ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY/ Senate ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Dennis Ozment, Sen. Jane Krentz
Agenda: Overview of children's environmental health issues. Department of Health.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: Committee organization. Introductions. Overview of accounts.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Minnesota tax system overview by House Research.

2:30 p.m.

REDISTRICTING

500S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen
Agenda: Overview and introduction of committee members.

4 p.m.

Rules Reform Task Force

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr.
Agenda: To be announced.

WEDNESDAY, January 10

7:30 a.m.

NOTE TIME

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

Tour departing from south entrance of State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: Tour of Midway Driver License Exam Station at 1472 University Ave., St. Paul. Tour of Driver and Vehicle Services at 445 Minnesota St., St. Paul.

8:15 a.m.

Joint HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Orientation to health care costs and related topics.

JOBS & ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Overview presentations by:
Council on Black Minnesotans;
Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;
Indian Affairs Council; and
Council on Chicano-Latino Affairs.
Presentation on the Department of Economic
Security Report - Changes in Low-Income
Heating & Energy Assistance Program.

8:30 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS &

VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes

Agenda: Informal discussion on HFXXXX
(Seifert) Allowing certain candidates to complete
their teacher preparation program under current
licensure rules.

10:15 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT &

NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten

Agenda: Introduction of committee members.
Introduction of committee staff.
Committee operation and organizational details.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik

Agenda: Minnesota State Colleges and
Universities overview.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Department of Revenue bills.
Details to be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth

Agenda: Overview of and current issues facing
the Department of Agriculture, Commissioner
Gene Hugoson.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: Libraries - Joyce Swonger, Manager,
Library Development and Services, Department
of Children, Families and Learning.
Adult Basic Education - Barry Shaffer, Director,
Department of Children, Families and Learning.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT &

METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey

Agenda: Introduction of members and staff.
Committee rules and procedures.

THURSDAY, January 11

8 a.m.

NOTE TIME

Joint HEALTH & HUMAN

SERVICES POLICY/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Orientation to public assistance
programs.

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Harry Mares

Agenda: To be announced.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Tom Workman

Agenda: Minnesota's lock and dam system.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chr. Rep. John Tuma

Agenda: Overview of Department of Corrections
issues:
Boot Camp - Challenge Incarceration Program;
Proposed standards for Minnesota probation
cases; and Bed space statistics and inmate profiles.

ENVIRONMENT &

NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment

Agenda: Overview by the Department of Natural
Resources.
HFXXXX (Haas) Gross overlimits (game and
fish).

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie

Agenda: Department of Administration: Update
on status of Connect Minnesota.
Update on Capitol Complex projects.

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE &

RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Bob Ness

Agenda: Overview of the current dairy industry.
Testimony from the Department of Agriculture,
producers, city officials, and others.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach

Agenda: To be announced.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Greg Davids

Agenda: House Research presentations.
Department of Commerce overview.

3 p.m.

The House meets in session.

FRIDAY, January 12

8:15 a.m.

Joint HEALTH & HUMAN

SERVICES POLICY/

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Fran Bradley, Rep. Kevin Goodno

Agenda: Orientation to Long Term Care
programs.

JOBS & ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Overview presentation by the
Department of Commerce.

12 noon

Legislative Audit Commission

316 State Capitol

Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy

Agenda: Release and review of program
evaluation report on Early Childhood Education.

Where to find information

House Public Information Office

175 State Office Building

(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office
is a nonpartisan office that provides com-
mittee meeting schedules; legislator in-
formation; and publications, including
the *Session Weekly* news magazine, edu-
cational brochures for all ages, and mem-
ber directories. All information is
available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can
be viewed on the Legislature's World
Wide Web page. To connect, point your
web browser at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

Continued from page 9

DFL, but Pugh expressed concern that broadening the sales tax to cover services may have the result of making the tax "less progressive."

Ventura said in his speech that school districts could make better use of current funding to improve student learning. Pugh replied that the governor's emphasis on school districts making do with what they have over-looks real shortages and problems.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), House Majority Whip, said Ventura addressed issues important to his district in southwestern Min-

nesota. He was pleased to hear a proposal for "taking farmland off of excess levies and school referendums because they are really nailed in rural districts right now."


Pugh said the governor outlined some good ideas in his challenge to lawmakers to continue their work to reform the legislative process. Ventura's tongue-in-cheek threat that the unicameral proposal would return "may have rankled some people," said Pugh, but it didn't bother him.

The House and Senate do work together, he said, but they could do so more frequently.

Overall, Pugh said Ventura's speech focused on what is going well in Minnesota but gave little attention to what is not going so well. He added that the speech was directed at those who are succeeding in this economy.

"People who are doing best do the best under his plan," Pugh said.

Seifert said the address gave a fairly positive message. Sviggum said he thought the message was taken well, and presented solid goals for the Legislature.

"I think he was challenging us," Sviggum said. 



'Holiday' shopping

Sales tax holidays give consumers targeted breaks

It's not a holiday that will have people trading greeting cards — at least not for a while. But several states have adopted what's known as a "sales tax holiday," a period of time where shoppers don't have to pay the states' every day sales taxes.

New York was the first to adopt the idea — exempting all clothing and footwear priced under \$500 from the state's sales tax for the first week in 1997. Local governments were given the choice of whether to opt in or out of the holiday. Most municipalities opted in.

Eventually the state chose to permanently exempt clothing and footwear priced under \$110.

In 1998, Florida became the second state to approve a sales tax holiday. Aimed at

back-to-school shoppers, that holiday exempted clothing under \$50 for one week in August. The state followed up the next two years with similar holidays but raised the threshold to \$100.

Texas also approved legislation exempting clothing and shoes under \$100 for the first weekend in August. That state's holiday is an annual event.

Last year, Pennsylvania and South Carolina were among five states to adopt sales tax holidays. Both those states however, took slightly different approaches.

Two separate holidays in the Keystone State, one in August 2000 and one in February 2001, exempt consumers from paying sales tax on the purchase of personal computers. The idea in targeting PCs was

to enhance the state's technological reputation. For those holidays consumers are also allowed to purchase their computers via the Internet.

South Carolina's sales tax holiday exempts all back-to-school items including supplies, computers and clothing for the first weekend in August. There is no price limit on the exemptions. That holiday is scheduled to be an annual occurrence.

Opponents of sales tax holidays argue that they favor those with higher disposable incomes and that people with less income cannot afford to go on a buying spree to get much benefit from the targeted tax relief.

(D. MAEDA)

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota House of Representatives: Election 2000

Republican Members	69
DFL members	65
Number of men	99
DFL men	43
Republican men	56
Number of women	35
DFL women	22
Republican women	13
Women serving at the end of the 1998 session (record high)	40
Percent of current first-termers who are women	42.9
Percent of all members who are women	26.1
Percent of House members who did not serve last session	15.7
Number of newly elected members	21
Newly elected DFL members	14
Newly elected Republican members	7
Percent of incumbents re-elected	95.8
Number of incumbents who lost	5
Number of those who were Republican	3
Open seats	16
Open seats previously held by a DFLer, now held by a Republican	0
Open seats previously held by a Republican, now held by a DFLer	1
Uncontested House races, 2000	14
Number of those in DFL-held districts	2
Republican Caucus' cumulative loss of legislative experience since the end of the 2000 session, in years	40
DFL Caucus' loss, in years	150
Votes cast in Minnesota for the 2000 general election	2,458,303
As a percent of all eligible voters	69.4
Districts with a Reform Party candidate, 1998	14
Districts with an Independence Party candidate*, 2000	24
Greatest percentage of votes garnered by an Independence Party candidate, District 65A	23.1
By a Constitutional Party candidate, 20A	20.4
By a Green Party candidate, 62B	16.5
By a Reform Party candidate, 60B	9.2
By a Libertarian Party candidate, 18A	3.6

* Gov. Jesse Ventura formed the Independence Party upon breaking with the Reform Party in 2000.

Sources: Office of the Secretary of State and the House Public Information Office.

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