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In this issue:

THE 2001 LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

LATEST ACTION AND NEW LAWS, AND MORE

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Session Weekly

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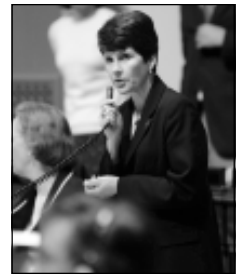
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On the cover: Sixth grade students from Sebeka Public School admire the ceiling of the Rotunda May 23 during a tour of the State Capitol. Tourists and school groups account for much of the activity at the Capitol since session ended May 21.

—Photo by Sara Kirk



Racing to the 'finish' line

Lawmakers leave much work unfinished as the regularly scheduled 2001 session comes to a close

By DAVID MAEDA

The term "special session" is a bit of a misnomer since every session of the Legislature has its own distinct flavor, given the personalities, politics, and issues involved.

But the current configuration, with a Republican-controlled House, a DFL-controlled Senate, and an Independent Party governor, ensures the likelihood that history will look at

this period in the state as being wholly different than anything that has come before.

During the final weeks of the 2000 session, things seemed at a deadlock until an arrangement was agreed upon, allowing each house of the Legislature and Gov. Jesse Ventura to decide how to use one-third of the state surplus.

This year, as required by the Minnesota Constitution, the House adjourned at midnight May 21. But only one of the major omnibus finance bills was passed and the differences that exist between the two bodies of the Legislature brought things to a screeching halt the last few weeks of the session. Normally the last few days are bursting with activity in setting the state's \$27 billion budget for the next two years.

With merely a minute left of the 2001 session, House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) made the motion to adjourn until Jan. 29, 2002 with a message to state residents.

"Hoping that the good people of Minnesota judge us on our final work after a special session and not on this process, I move that the House do now adjourn," Pawlenty said.

The Legislature and all divisions of state government now rely on the governor to call a special session. Without operating budgets, the state departments, boards, and agencies will shut down July 1.

Even the one omnibus bill that passed showed the division that exists in the Legislature and with the executive branch of the state.

The House had taken up the family and early childhood education finance bill with literally minutes left on the clock. DFL members criticized not having a paper copy of the bill in front of them (it was available via their laptop computers) and then when reading the conference committee report, they were critical of the contents.

As members of the minority party spoke against its passage, the clock ticked towards the end. Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) and Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) spoke against a provision that would allow counties to increase the property tax levy to increase funding for community education.

"We're going to usher in a new period. Tax and spend is over, tax and cut is in," Mariani said.

Pugh meanwhile commented not only about the bill but also of the way the process was wrapping up.

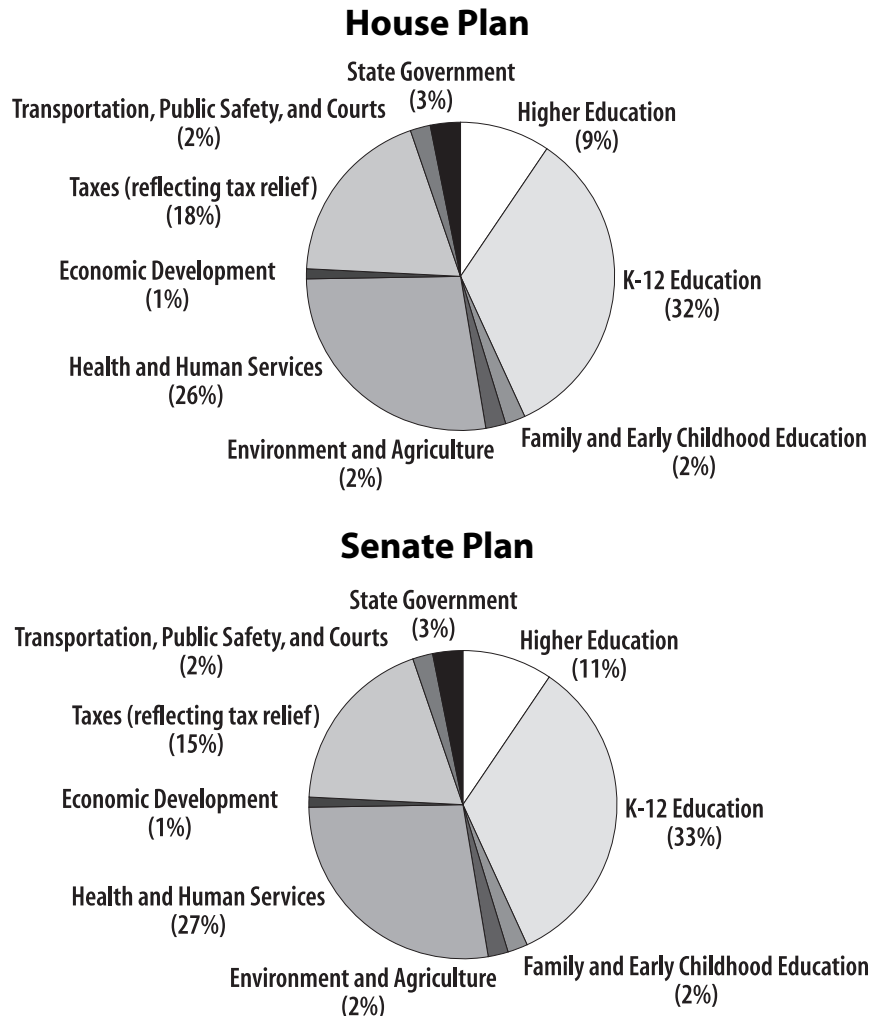
"At a time we talked about significant, historic property tax relief, the bill we end with will have property tax increases with no property tax relief passed on today. We should be ashamed of ourselves for not being able to complete our work," he said.

The usual exhilaration that comes from concluding the session in the wee hours of the morning was absent as members realized there still is plenty of work to get done.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), in her seventh term, said this session was "the most bizarre I have ever experienced."

"We work on deadlines. Without those deadlines, I don't understand what will drive the need for compromise," she said. "Where

Percentage of General Fund spending by account



Notes: Each figure is rounded to the nearest percent. Numbers may not add up to 100 percent due to other spending provisions not included in the omnibus bills. General fund spending is not the main source of funding for all areas of state government spending.

will the motivation come from to provide the will to resolution?"

The differences that exist between the House and Senate are rooted in whether the state should use its projected budget surplus for long term tax reform or whether there are other more pressing needs such as funding education, transportation, affordable housing, and health care initiatives. Those differences are reflected in all the remaining eight omnibus tax and finance bills.

Though some of the bills may not be that far apart in the amount of funding proposed, there are significant policy differences to resolve.

- The House version of the state government finance bill (HF218/SF2360*) would spend \$707 million over the next two

years funding various government operations. The Senate has proposed \$710 million.

- The Senate has proposed \$758 million in transportation and public safety initiatives while the House proposal is funded at \$643 million in their respective omnibus bills (HF2189/SF2340*).
- Likewise the budget amounts for the environment, natural resources, and agriculture omnibus measure (HF766/SF2351*) are fairly similar. The House has proposed \$548 million while the Senate would provide \$577 million in funding.
- Economic development would receive \$758 million over the biennium from the Senate and \$643 million from the House (HF2486).

Continued on page 26

★ AGRICULTURE

Biodiesel plan drained

A plan that proponents hoped would jump-start the fledgling biodiesel industry was rejected by the House just hours before the close of the legislative session May 21.

The House voted to return the overall agriculture policy bill (HF1547/SF1495*) back to conference committee by a 76-55 margin. The Senate passed the report 42-24.

The bill sponsors are Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing).

Conferees assembled to forge a unified bill chose to include both a state-vehicle mandate and the more extensive statewide 2 percent mandate, despite indications there might have been more support following the House's previous rejection of the proposal.

Commonly used in Europe, biodiesel is normal diesel fuel combined with some quantity of biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from organic oils for use in combustion engines. According to the National Biodiesel Board, soybeans provide 90 percent of the biological component of biodiesel fuel. Other sources include recycled oils from animal fats or recycled cooking grease.

The first proposal would have required that only vehicles owned or operated by state use biodiesel fuel by 2002 while a second offer would have required that all diesel fuel sold in the state be constituted by at least 2 percent biological material by volume by July 2003.

House floor debate mirrored the previous five months of conflict between biodiesel proponents, which are mostly farmers, and opponents, predominantly comprised of truckers. Supporters argued that a statewide mandate would improve the state's rural economy and overall air quality, while the latter warned that truckers and other diesel consumers would simply bypass Minnesota retailers for less expensive alternatives in neighboring states.

The fatal blow to the mandate was dealt as House DFL members did not support the conference committee bill in part over the inclusion of a plan to allow counties to offer bounties on coyotes. Some counties in western Minnesota say they have recurring problems with coyotes and sought a way to reduce the numbers. Other representatives previously spoke against the plan because of their opposition to mandates.



Truckers park big-rig trucks and other large vehicles in front of the Capitol April 25 in protest of a proposal for a state mandate that would require 2 percent biodiesel content in diesel fuel. The proposal failed on the House floor.

The initial biodiesel mandate was sponsored by Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy).

★ CHILDREN

Omnibus finance bill passed

Legislators in the House and Senate were able to pass one omnibus bill before calling it a session May 21.

The family and early childhood education funding bill passed in the House by a party line 69-65 vote. The vote was taken at 11:58 p.m., two minutes before the Legislature had to constitutionally adjourn. No more than 45 seconds later, it also passed in the Senate 47-18. The bill awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's approval.

HF1515*/SF1851, which was finalized after more than six hours of discussion, proposals, and counter-proposals in a conference committee, contains the same \$544 million general fund target as was in the original House proposal. The conference committee agreed to a deal at about 10:15 p.m.

Much of the discussion centered on \$9 million of the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. Early in their discussion conferees looked to spend the money in a range of areas, including after-school enrichment programs. However, late in the debate conferees learned the governor wanted no supplanting of TANF funds, and that they could only be used for things like Head Start, childcare and transitional housing. Ultimately all TANF monies went to childcare via the basic sliding fee.

Among other highlights of the bill are a \$5 million increase in the community education levy, a continued \$4 increase per child in state funding to school districts for ECFE, and after-school enrichment grants are in the bill. Head Start and childcare assistance remains at current law in the bill.

"If we lose the after-school enrichment grants we'll lose the bill because the governor wants them," Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) said during the debate.

Excluded from the bill was a guaranteed subsidy for child care workers whose wage fall below a certain income level.

Also missing is money for the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH) program that would provide tuition scholarships, education incentive bonuses, and retention bonuses to childcare and education providers and staff. The Senate's final offer funded this at \$500,000 per year. The House had no such funds.

The bill contains no additional money for more libraries, and there was none in the governor's base. "Our hope for libraries is that the K-12 bill is not done yet," Lourey said.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) raised the points that no DFL members were on the conference committee, and that paper copies of the bill and a spreadsheet to help understand where the money was going were not available prior to voting.

Other House DFL members were concerned the bill would raise taxes because of the provision allowing school districts the ability to levy additional dollars in local property taxes across the state for community education.

"Here it is 11:52 p.m. the night we're to adjourn and we're taking up the early childhood bill under the cover of darkness when nobody is watching, and you want to push through a bill that affects thousands of young children" said Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood). "This bill keeps childcare right where it is, it



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Barb Sykora presents the Omnibus Family and Early Childhood Education bill May 21, minutes prior to the House adjournment.

doesn't move us forward. And on top of that there is a tax increase."

"Members, we've done this before many times," Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) countered. "We've done it when the DFL was in control of the House and Senate. Under time pressures we get it done. If you want to stop it you can keep on talking it to death, but we've got a bill that's been worked on and compromised."

★ EDUCATION

Allowing religious content

The House passed a measure May 19 that would assure students the opportunity to read and study historical documents that contain religious references without penalty.

However, the vote of 100-28 was the last attention the bill would receive before the Legislature adjourned this session: HF1028 has no Senate companion.

The bill is "to make sure we don't establish any bias in our curriculum," said Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake).

Earlier in the session, the House Education Policy Committee heard testimony about consequences for having prayer in schools or reciting a "pledge to the earth" instead of the pledge of allegiance in classes that have made teachers wary of using any material that is

religious in nature.

"I don't see that there is a problem in our classrooms relative to teaching American history," said Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul). Olson replied that textbooks "do not teach the whole story," and noted the bill does not require that subjects be taught in any particular way.

★ ENERGY

Plan clears both houses

Both the House and Senate have passed energy legislation that would not mandate, but rather encourage renewable energy in the state and would focus on building power plants.

Both bodies approved the bill May 21 — the House with a 98-35 vote and the Senate with a 64-0 vote. The bill (HF659/SF722*) now awaits the governor's signature.

The majority of deliberations during a conference committee were spent on a provision that would have required a certain percentage of energy to come from renewables such as solar, wind, hydroelectric, or biomass.

"Let's give them a chance to prove this ... then (in a later year) come back and slap their hands," said Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), the House sponsor of the bill. The legislation, which sets objectives for renewables, orders the Public Utilities Commission to report to the Legislature about utilities' progress for renewables, then they can decide if further legislation is needed.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) said the bill promotes economic development in rural Minnesota by creating financial incentives for agricultural renewable products.

Noting a farm that helps the environment and also brings in income by transforming manure into renewable energy, Gunther said the measure is "truly a way that we can help the rural economy."

But on the floor several DFL members strongly opposed the legislation.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) said the legislation contains no significant measures for emissions, conservation, and renewables, and that he was not voting for the bill "because of what's not in it."

"This bill refuses to address the issue of clean air in Minnesota," said Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul). "This is a time when plants can come on line and should be time to leverage for clean air. We are holding people hostage to ancient pollution standards."

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said she was concerned about low-income families being able to afford air conditioning for a potentially hot summer ahead of us. The bill, said Rep.

Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul), is "not going to help elderly on fixed income pay for their heating bills."

On the other hand, Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris) called the bill "a good, large step forward. We are not going to go down the path that California went down."

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul) in the Senate.

★ ENVIRONMENT

State park boundary changes

A plan that will redraw the boundaries of several state parks and recreation areas for a net gain of 6,358 acres awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura's signature.

Under HF1071/SF1082*, the following state parks will gain land: Bear Head Lake near Ely, Cascade River near Lutsen, Fort Ridgely near Fairfax, Forestville/Mystery Cave near Preston, Lake Bronson, Lake Shetek near Currie, Nerstrand Big Woods, and Split Rock Lighthouse near Two Harbors.

Two state recreation areas — Big Bog near Waskish and Garden Island on Lake of the Woods — will each gain acreage, while Big Bog will also lose some land north of the Tamarac River and west of Highway 72. Crow Wing State Park near Brainerd will lose some land.

The bill would also affect boathouse lot leases in the Soudan Underground Mine State Park. With certain specific limitations, an owner of a boathouse lease at Stuntz Bay will be allowed to receive a lifetime lease when the present lease expires.

Sponsored by Rep. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) and Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-New Ulm) the measure passed the House May 19 by a 112-18 vote and 59-0 in the Senate May 16.

★ ETHICS

No probable cause

The House Ethics Committee announced May 18 that they failed to find probable cause in the case against Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka).

"Therefore, the complaint is dismissed," said Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee), the committee chair.

After the ruling, Abeler expressed his relief and gratification with the outcome.

"Today's strong ruling by the ethics committee, based on the historical facts, puts to rest any notion that I tried to use my position as a legislator for financial gain," he said.

Committee rules state that if the majority

of the full committee of four members, two representing each of the parties, fails to find probable cause the case is dismissed.

Daggett said the committee met in “several” executive sessions following the May 10 public hearing. “Historical information, analysis, and legal support were provided by counsel from (nonpartisan) House Research,” Daggett said. “The committee carefully and thoroughly considered the complaint, the testimony and evidence presented by both the complainant and by the respondent, as well as applicable House and committee rules.”

Abeler, who leases two buildings to a charter school, had been accused by four House DFL members of voting five times on issues that directly affect charter school funding. Those members are House Minority Leader Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) and Reps. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int’l Falls), Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls), and Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls).

The complaint says Abeler “betrayed the public trust” and violated “accepted norms of House behavior” for failing to disclose he had “an immediate interest in a question before the body.”

During the public hearing Abeler said he benefited no more than teachers voting on education funding issues or farmers voting on agriculture funding issues.

“The committee proceedings made clear what I said all along: I followed the law,” he said following the decision. “None of my votes caused me to benefit differently from other charter school landlords in Minnesota. In short, no conflict of interest ever existed.”

When asked his reaction to the decision after the meeting, Skoglund said, “You learn to count.”

★ GOVERNMENT

Redistricting plans passed

The House passed its congressional redistricting bill May 19 on a straight party line vote. The vote was 69-62, with three DFL members excused.

The bill, which is significantly different from the Senate plan, requires a conference committee.

HF2519, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would create a single congressional district across the entire northern part of the state and would place Minneapolis and St. Paul into a single district.

Paulsen said the population shifts that have occurred in the past decade are addressed in the bill.

“With nearly half of the state’s population now



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

House members debated and passed a congressional redistricting plan May 19 that would combine Minneapolis and St. Paul into one district.

living in the suburbs it just makes sense to give fair representation to those residents,” he said.

Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St. Paul) spoke against the bill saying the two cities have their own unique histories and identities. Mariani said each has closer ties with its surrounding suburbs than with one another. He pointed out that each city has its own chamber of commerce, and that Minneapolis is primarily a banking and finance business, based city while St. Paul is primarily a government-based city.

He also criticized the bill’s placement of current U.S. Reps. Betty McCollum and Bill Luther into the same congressional district, saying that McCollum, the state’s second female member of Congress, should not be targeted. Both are Democrats, Luther is in his fourth term. McCollum is serving her first.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the congressional lines were not drawn with gender in mind.

“We don’t draw lines for politicians. We draw lines for communities,” he said.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) said the process used was “far better” than the process used 10 years ago. He said the information and technology available not only to lawmakers, but also to the general public, is far superior. But he said for any plan to become law there would need to be cooperation from all sides.

“This will not work with only one or two caucuses having buy in,” Abrams said. “The only way it will work will be to have a four caucus agreement.”

A separate bill (HF2516) also sponsored by Paulsen that encompasses only the legislative redistricting plan was also passed by a 69-61 vote.

★ HEALTH

Patient protection modifications

A bill that will change certain patient protection provisions for health plan enrollees awaits Gov. Jesse Ventura’s signature.

HF560/SF491* includes several changes.

Civil penalties collected by the Department of Commerce for violations of laws or rules on the part of health carriers must, in most cases, be shared 50-50 with policyholders affected by the violation, under the plan. The same would be true for administrative penalties levied by the Department of Health.

Health plans would not be allowed to exclude or reduce coverage for a person covered by the plan whose health care needs arise from a suicide attempt.

Health plans would have to cover drugs used to treat mental illness or emotional disturbance, even if not listed in the company’s drug formulary, if the prescribing physician certifies the drug is the best treatment for the condition. It would also allow more continuity in other drugs for mental or emotional illness. This section would take effect Jan. 1, 2002.

Medical directors of health plan companies with more than 50,000 enrollees must be licensed as physicians in Minnesota. Currently, most medical directors of the state’s health plans are not licensed to practice medicine in the state.

Under the plan, continuity of care must be provided in specified circumstances for up to 120 days for people changing health plans.

Health plans would be given more latitude in setting co-payments and deductibles.

The measure was sponsored in the House by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and in the Senate by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). It passed the House 132-2 May 21 and the Senate 62-0 the same day.

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Creating new counties

The House re-passed a conference committee report May 21 for a bill that would clarify and update the law governing the creation of new counties. The vote was 128-6.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) the sponsor of HF1544/SF1367* said the bill came as a result of an unsuccessful attempt last year by some Pine County residents to split the county and create a new Pioneer County.

Hilty said the issues involved in the potential new county have been resolved and the bill addresses gaps in law that were identified in the process.

Under current law a new county must have a market value of at least \$17 million and the remaining county must have a market value of at least \$17 million. For a county with more than 3,500 population and less than 6,000 square miles the threshold amount is \$10 million.

The bill would require that a proposed new county have total taxable market value of at least 35 percent of the total taxable market value of the existing county or the average total market value of the existing counties.

The bill requires that a petition to establish a new county be signed by at least a number of registered voters equal to one-fourth of those voting in each portion of both the proposed new county and the remaining portion of the existing county in the previous general election.

A majority vote is needed in both the area forming the new county and in the remaining portion of the existing county.

The Senate also approved the conference committee May 21 by a 62-0 vote. The Senate sponsor is Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick).

The bill now goes to the governor.

Housing, transit bonds OK'd

The omnibus public finance bill was one of the last bills to pass the House before adjournment May 21.

HF2037/SF2208* contains several provisions relating to the authority of local governments to issue bonds or incur debt.

The bill would allow the Metropolitan Council to issue certificates of indebtedness, bonds, or other obligations up to \$45 million for capital expenditures for the council's regional transit master and transit capital improvement plans.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the House sponsor, said one important provision of the bill is a \$122 million allocation to the state housing pool. He said along with the bond funds the state will be able to access a federal tax credit to help with the affordable housing shortage.

The bill would allocate \$84.9 million to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, \$33.1 million to the city of Minneapolis, \$24.8 million to the city of St. Paul, and \$16.6 million to the Dakota County Community Development Agency for housing needs.

The Senate sponsor is Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls).

The bill now goes to the governor's desk.

SAFETY



No new exemptions allowed

The House defeated a bill May 17 that would have provided further exemptions to the state bleacher safety standards to certain organizations. The vote was 106-26.

Under current law bleachers more than 55 inches tall may not have open spaces wider than four inches. Bleachers already in place as of Jan. 1, 2001 are granted exemptions to allow open spaces no wider than nine inches.

HF427/SF453*, carried by Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine) and Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls), would have exempted the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission from the four-inch requirement.

The bill would have also provided an exemption to the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, the Defeat of Jesse James Days committee in Northfield, and all outdoor bleachers erected prior to Jan. 1, 2001 from certain provisions of the state building code.

Westerberg said the bill sought to address the "unfunded mandate" imposed under the original bleacher safety legislation while still establishing that all existing bleachers comply with the nine-inch standard. He said estimates have shown that it will cost tens of millions of dollars to replace or upgrade existing bleachers throughout the state.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) who carried the bleacher safety bill in 1999 on behalf of a constituent whose son was killed when he fell through a 13-inch gap, said the bill would lead to other groups coming forward asking for exemptions.

Smith said the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recently adopted the Minnesota standard of 4-inch gap restrictions. He questioned why the state should therefore now pass legislation that would allow more bleachers to have a wider standard.

"I'm shocked and ashamed to see this bill on the floor," Smith said.



Extra innings

Special session requirements differ across the country

When legislators don't get their work done in the time allotted by law, it's time to call a special session. But states differ in how the extra session can be called and which legislation can be taken up during that time.

Like Minnesota, the Nevada Legislature meets in regular session for 120 days; however, it only comes together every other year.

The session time limit is new to the state: before a 1998 election there was no restriction to how long legislators could meet. They still held special sessions, though, for issues that came up during the 18 months of adjournment. Today, 11 states do not place a limit on the length of regular session.

Special sessions are limited in scope and time in the Silver State. (They are also rare — the most recent special session in Nevada was in 1989 and lasted one day.) The governor may convene a special session through a proclamation that must state the start date of the additional meeting time and the specific purpose. The Legislature cannot conduct any business other than what is stated.

The Minnesota constitution's only mention of a special session is that it may be called by the governor on "extraordinary occasions."

However, some states require a bigger majority to agree on the need of the extra session.

The Maine Legislature, for instance, may convene at the call of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, plus a majority vote of legislators from each political party.

Missouri requires a larger consensus: three-fourths of the members of the Senate and three-fourths of the members of the House, and the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House must agree by joint proclamation to convene.

Similar to Nevada, the proclamation must be subject-specific as to the business of the special session. In addition, the constitution states that appropriations bills cannot be considered until operating budgets have been approved.

(T. STAHL)

Editor's note; This section includes summaries or many key laws passed during the 2001 Legislative Session. For a full listing of all bills passed this year, see the Governor's Desk section, beginning on page 28.

★ AGRICULTURE

Lien clarifications

A new law clarifying agricultural liens will take effect July 1, 2001.

Officials have called existing law concerning agricultural liens confusing and contradictory. Liens against crops and livestock can be of several types — the most important of which are liens to ferriers, livestock breeders, threshers, veterinarians, agricultural production inputs, landlords, and planting crop owners.

However, a problem with existing lien law is that a number of these liens each make the claim of having a higher priority than all others have. The bill, which adopts recommendations made by the Agricultural Lien Task Force of the Business Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, ranks the order priority of liens against crops and livestock to eliminate such confusion.

The new law will also repeal a large portion of agricultural lien law and proposes coding for new language removing ambiguities and providing more uniform procedures recording liens.

Rep. Bob Ness (R-Dassel) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the measure.

HF285*/SF339/CH57

Fair foundation established

The state agricultural society may establish a nonprofit Minnesota State Fair Foundation under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Federal nonprofit status is defined by U.S. Internal Revenue Code, which specifies that the new foundation must benefit and carry out the purposes of the agriculture society.

Under the new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), the foundation may "solicit, receive, hold, invest, and contribute funds and property ... in a manner consistent with the public good." The law says that funds received must be primarily used for capital expenditures and other needs not funded by other means.

Jennings explained in a May 14 interview

that most other major public institutions in Minnesota enjoy the support of affiliated nonprofit foundations.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF406/SF511*/CH85

★ ARTS

'Grace' stamp sought

A resolution signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura will urge the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing a famous photograph produced by a Minnesotan early in the 20th Century.

In the photograph, an elderly man sits pensively with bowed head and folded hands at a table containing a pair of spectacles on top of a Bible, a bowl of gruel, a loaf of bread, and a knife.

Eric Enstrom shot the famous image in his studio in Bovey in 1918. As the black and white photograph entitled "Grace" became more popular, Enstrom's daughter Rhoda Nyberg began hand painting the prints in oil.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey), House sponsor of the measure, said the print became so popular that Enstrom eventually sold the copyright to the Augsburg Publishing House.

The resolution was carried on behalf of a group of citizens in Grand Rapids and Bovey.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Bob Lessard (Ind-Int'l Falls).

HF1391*/SF1318/R3

★ BANKING

New financial institution provisions

A new law makes technical changes to laws regulating financial institutions.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville) sponsored the measure, which was suggested by the state Department of Commerce.

Under previous law, financial institutions could invest in property and buildings for its own use if the total value is less than 50 percent of its existing capital stock and surplus, without approval of the commissioner. The institution may increase that to 75 percent with approval of the commissioner. The new law changes the 75 percent variance limit to 100 percent, effective May 1, 2001.

Unstaffed after-hours drop boxes will no

longer be treated as separate branch offices of a bank, even if they are not located within 1,500 feet of the main office or branch, under the new law. This section is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The new law also includes two provisions for state-chartered banks. The first, effective Aug. 1, 2001, will no longer require these banks to file stockholder lists annually with the commissioner of commerce. The second removes the requirement that banks that do not have federal deposit insurance must file stockholder lists annually with the county recorder, as of May 1, 2001.

Prior to the approval of the commissioner, banks or trust companies may now invest 50 percent, instead of 25 percent as was formerly in law, of a bank's or trust company's stock or surplus in a subsidiary. The new law also changes the definition of a subsidiary from 50 percent ownership to 20 percent ownership. This section is effective May 1, 2001.

As of Aug. 1, 2001, mortgage originators will now be required to keep copies of advertisements they use for 26 months. In addition, the time frame for a disclosure to a mortgage loan customer changes from 72 hours to three business days, effective May 1, 2001.

The Senate version of the law was sponsored by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

HF1084*/SF1066/CH56

★ BUSINESS

Halal provisions signed

A new law creates the same protection for food prepared according to Islamic law as currently exists for kosher foods.

After the new law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001, it will be illegal to serve, sell, or expose for sale food falsely represented as Halal, or prepared in accordance with Islamic law, known as sharia. The law's prohibitions are identical to the provisions protecting the Jewish community from food falsely labeled or improperly prepared as kosher.

According to Islamic authorities, Halal is basically a word that means lawful, or legal. Islamic law requires Muslims to humanely treat animals intended for human consumption.

For example, animals are not to be kept in a place where they can observe other livestock being slaughtered, butchers must ensure animals not see the knife with which they are to

be slain, and animal caretakers are required to provide water and other comforts for animals before slaughter.

Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) and House Majority Leader Tim Pawlenty (R-Eagan) sponsored the measure.

HF149*/SF505/CH54

Motor vehicle information

A new law will permit the Department of Public Safety to release a modified copy of its accident records database to the public upon request.

Effective Aug. 1, 2001, the commissioner may release the information to companies who meet requirements established in the new law only if that company furnishes at least the cost of preparing the information "on a bulk basis." The commissioner may not release the following information: names, driver's license numbers, license plate numbers, addresses, and other identifying data.

However, under the new law, the department may release a vehicle license number if a business that collects accident and damage information for the purposes of buying a vehicle certifies it will use the information only to establish vehicle history regarding its involvement in an accident. If the purpose is to identify individuals, then the department is barred from releasing the information.

The new law specifies that illegal use of the information constitutes a misdemeanor, a conviction that carries a sentence of imprisonment up to 90 days and a \$1,000 fine.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea).

HF1830/SF2006*/CH91

Auto dealer franchises

A new law will define unfair trade practices by automobile manufacturers, distributors, or factories.

Effective Aug. 1, 2001, the law will define as unfair the practice of refusing to allow a dealer to transfer a dealership to a qualified transferee of the dealer's own choosing.

According to Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), the House sponsor, "Under current law, manufacturers can exercise a first right of refusal and essentially take away a transaction from a willing buyer and a willing seller."

The new law will allow manufacturers to prohibit the sale of a dealership if the transferee is not a person of good moral character or doesn't meet the franchisor's existing stan-

BACK TO WORK



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The House and Senate tax study group meet May 22 to work on an agreement on their omnibus tax bills.

dards. Dealers could not exercise their right to refuse a deal if the ownership transfer were proposed among family members or involved a dealership manager with at least four years experience.

Under the new law, denials of requests to transfer ownership must be delivered to the dealer within 60 days after the manufacturer receives an application requesting an ownership transfer. Existing law gives 60 days after the manufacturer receives all information it needs to evaluate the transferee.

Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF779*/SF823/CH62

Equipment buyback changes

A new law that changes requirements regarding the relationship between farm implement dealers and manufacturers takes effect Aug. 1, 2001. The law will specifically add outdoor power equipment to a list of equipment that manufacturers and wholesalers must repurchase from dealers with whom they have cancelled a sales agreement. The law limits the definition of outdoor power equipment to specifically exclude motorcycles, boats, and other vehicles.

Among other changes, the new law shortens the existing 90-day period during which the re-purchase must occur to 60 days. Additionally, the percentage of the current price that the manufacturer is required to pay the dealer for returned equipment is increased from 85 percent to 95 percent.

The new law will also extend the buyback requirement to data processing and communications software and hardware, specialized

repair tools, and signage purchased to meet requirements set by wholesalers or manufacturers.

Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) were the sponsors.

HF933*/SF983/CH72

★ CRIME

Shelter program oversight

A new law, signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21, officially transfers administration of the battered women's shelter programs reimbursement to the Department of Public Safety.

The new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), will require that the director of the Minnesota Center for Crime Victim Services, housed within the Department of Public Safety, develop rules to administer the per diem program for shelters around the state.

Shelters are reimbursed for the costs to house women and their children on a per-person, per-day basis. The cost reimbursements were previously disbursed by the Department of Human Services based on a formula, but upon transfer to the Department of Public Safety in the late 1990s, program reimbursements were capped.

As a result, the programs are anticipating a shortfall beginning in 2003. Funding to help prevent the shortfall was included in the House omnibus judiciary finance bill. Provisions of that bill are still being discussed in conference committee.

The Center for Crime Victim Services disburses grants to various agencies statewide

that provide services for victims of crime. Many of those agencies provide services to victims of domestic assault and abuse.

Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls) sponsored the measure in the Senate. The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1925/SF1369*/CH152

Electronic monitoring study

A new law will require the commissioner of corrections to conduct a study on electronic alcohol monitoring.

Specifically, the study will compare recidivism and pre-trial, conditional release violation rates among drunken driving offenders who are subject to electronic testing and those offenders who are not. The analysis must be completed and reported to the chairs of the House and Senate committees having jurisdiction in this area by Feb. 15, 2002.

The study must compare several control variables, including: the offense level as determined by the number of prior drunken driving convictions, date of offense, length of incarceration, and length of time an offender is subjected to electronic alcohol monitoring. The commissioner has discretion to include additional variables in conducting the study.

"The study must also determine whether the impaired driving recidivism, if any,



A device that electronically monitors alcohol levels was displayed before a House committee during the 2001 session. Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law that will fund a study of electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates.

occurred during or following the period of electronic alcohol monitoring, and whether it occurred pretrial or following conviction," the new law states.

Electronic monitoring tools consist of a blood-alcohol measuring device and a telephone. Law enforcement officials are able to determine if offenders are violating conditions of parole or pre-trial release by electronically observing the results of on-the-spot blood-alcohol concentration checks.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley) sponsored the law. It takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF782/SF773*/CH80

Additional protection for children

Children living with people who have committed child abuse in other states will be considered in need of protection, under a new law.

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

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

Beginning on Aug. 1, 2001, the definition will be expanded to include similar acts committed in other jurisdictions, including other states, the District of Columbia and tribal lands. Violations of federal law will also be included in this law.

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

Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji) and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure.

HF953*/SF1265/CH73

Sentenced to work

Indigent criminal defendants may be sentenced to community service instead of a fine, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Doug Fuller (R-Bemidji).

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

Any fine may be reduced to \$50 if a defendant qualifies for the services of a public defender, is otherwise indigent, or if the fine

creates an undue hardship for the defendant or their family.

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

Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF865*/SF1266/CH71

DEVELOPMENT



Investment fund latitude

Recipients of grants from the Minnesota Investment Fund will have more control over the money they receive, under a law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

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

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

The law has no direct fiscal impact to the state.

HF1392/SF1258*/CH102

EDUCATION



Asthma inhalers allowed

Elementary and secondary school students with asthma will be allowed to carry their inhalers in school, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Kathy Tinglestad (R-Andover).

Tinglestad explained that students sometimes need inhalers before they can reach the nurse's office, where some schools require they be kept. About 43 percent of schools in Minnesota have this requirement, she said.

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

Noting that asthma is the number one cause



Taylor Orr, a fifth-grader at Richfield Intermediate School, demonstrates what breathing is like during an asthma attack. Orr testified in a House committee during 2001 in support of a measure that will authorize asthma inhaler possession and use for public elementary and secondary school students.

for missed school days, Tinglestad said the legislation would help students control asthma better.

Tinglestad said she was contacted by the American Lung Association about the legislation. The association worked with the Minnesota Nurses Association and the School Nurses Association to draft legislation similar to what had passed in several other states. In her past career, Tinglestad has also written a medical book about asthma.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul), who personally has asthma.

HF1394/SF1706*/CH84

License deadline moved up

The deadline for submitting applications for temporary teaching licenses has been bumped up from Aug. 1 to July 1, under a new law.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) sponsored the law in the House.

The law is effective for the 2001-02 school year and later.

The earlier date will give the state Board of Teaching, which reviews the applications,

additional time to complete its work before the school year begins. It will also provide additional time for the Department of Children, Families and Learning to process the licenses.

The new date in law also applies to accepting applications for personnel variances. Furthermore, the law instructs the Board of Teaching to amend its rules to conform with the July 1 date.

Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the law in the Senate.

HF1192*/SF1979/CH68

Teacher certification variance

Teacher candidates who enrolled in course work by Jan. 1, 2000 will be able to graduate under old teacher certification rules, as provided in a new law effective Jan. 17, 2001.

It was the first new law of the 2001 Legislative session.

The new law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), allows students who are close to completing their degrees to save time and money in additional courses. According to the law, qualifying students must be enrolled in an accredited teacher preparation program.

Seifert said the Legislature had directed the Minnesota Board of Teaching to revise teacher licensure requirements in Minnesota, but the new requirements did not include permission for certain students to be grandfathered in under old rules.

Students who now qualify to graduate with the old requirements have attended school part-time or have taken time off, Seifert said. The new law allows students to apply for licensure under the old rules by Sept. 1, 2003.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) sponsored the bill in the Senate.

HF34/SF28*/CH1

Congress' special education promise

Members of the Legislature and Gov. Jesse Ventura have forwarded a resolution urging Congress to fulfill its promise to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education.

The resolution will now officially be sent to both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

Rep. Andrew Westerberg (R-Blaine), sponsor of the measure in the House, said the lack of funding is "hurting our education system," and explained that Minnesota has to subsidize education funds to afford special education expenses.

Federal allocations for special education

funding have averaged 13 percent annually for the past few years.

The resolution reads: "Over 25 years ago, the federal government required states to provide children with disabilities an appropriate education, and for 25 years, the government has failed to meet its promise to pay 40 percent of the cost."

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the Senate measure.

HF456/SF647*/R2

ELECTIONS



Advertisement font size matters

Paid political advertisements must not only contain a disclaimer stating who produced the material, but the disclaimer must be legible under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21.

As it was originally introduced, the law would have required political disclaimers be at least 10-point type. But during a Feb. 5 House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee hearing of the bill, members pointed out that even specific type size can be difficult to read if a certain font style is used.

The new law requires that the disclaimers "must be in a legible text size and font."

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said many people in his community were upset with an advertisement that appeared in the local newspaper, the *Marshall Independent*, near election time. Because the disclaimer was difficult to read, it was nearly impossible for voters to know who was responsible for producing the advertisement.

Seifert said it was "common sense" that since the state requires the disclaimers, that people be able to read them.

Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) was the Senate sponsor.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF466*/SF682/CH143

EMPLOYMENT



Genetic testing prohibited

A new law will prohibit employers from requesting, requiring, or administering genetic testing from its workers.

Signed May 21 by Gov. Jesse Ventura, the legislation is aimed at preventing employers from terminating or demoting, hiring or promoting workers based on genetic testing that may reveal abnormalities or deficiencies in a

person's genes. Employers would also be restricted from affecting terms of employment by using genetic information that a worker has voluntarily submitted.

Prompted by a case against the Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad, the legislation will allow employees to sue employers who violate the law. The court may award "up to three times the actual damages suffered due to the violation; (and) punitive damages," the law reads.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ellen Anderson (DFL-St. Paul), becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1886/SF1721*/CH154

Workers' compensation changes

Laws pertaining to workers' compensation will receive minor changes, under legislation signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 18.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall).

Among several technical changes, a registered nurse will be added to the Medical Services Review Board, and in order for employers to be reimbursed from the special compensation fund, they must have current records with their workers' compensation reporting and payment obligations.

In addition, independent contractors would no longer need an employer identification number from the Internal Revenue Service to qualify for workers' compensation. Instead, these contractors can qualify by having filed business or self-employment tax returns in the previous year.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF2225/SF2046*/CH123

Termination requests

Employees and employers dealing with termination will have a longer period of time to request and provide the reason for the termination, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Prior to the measure, state law stated that employees who have been involuntarily terminated had five working days beyond the date of termination to request in writing the reason for the termination. Upon receipt of the request, the employer then had five working days to provide a written response.

The time for employees to submit the request will now be extended to 15 working days, and employers will now have 10 working days to fulfill the request.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), House sponsor of the law, said a constituent of his

approached him about extending the time. When someone is terminated, he said, they were sometimes "in such shock" that by time they wanted a letter, the time had already expired.

"This is to make it easier for the person that was terminated," he said.

Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1920/SF1835*/CH95

ENERGY



Loan program expanded

An existing energy loan program law that only served rental housing will include owner-occupied residential housing, under a new law signed May 21 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

The law was sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) and Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul).

The program is funded with Exxon Oil overcharge money. In the 1980s, Exxon was overcharging customers for the cost of the company's product and had to reimburse the state for the cost of overcharges. In 1993 some of the money was put into a revolving loan account for conservation for renters.

The new law also lifts a restriction that persons eligible for the loan must live in the Twin Cities metropolitan area; now, loans may be provided in any area of the state.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1367*/SF1306/CH147

Heating help provided

A new law allowed low-income families to receive heating assistance funds two weeks early during 2001.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), released \$12.2 million in federal money on Feb. 3, 2001 that would have otherwise not been granted until Feb. 13.

The Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides services that help income-eligible households keep their homes heated through the winter. Households meeting the income limits can receive a one-time grant, which is usually paid to their heating vendor.

Grant size is based on the number of people in the household, gross household income, fuel type, and fuel consumption from the previous winter. The households with the lowest

incomes and highest bills receive the largest grants.

The program also provides emergency heating system repair for households in a no-heat situation or have had their service discontinued or interrupted.

McElroy said the program received many more applications during late 2000 and early 2001 than in the past due to high energy costs from the winter. He said the average grant is \$400 to \$500 per family.

HF421*/SF460/CH2

ENVIRONMENT



Mercury thermometers restricted

The sale or free distribution of mercury thermometers manufactured after June 1, 2001 will be banned beginning in 2002, under a new law effective Jan 1, 2002.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), says exceptions will be made for a few situations in which the U.S. Department of Agriculture requires the use of mercury thermometers, in specified climate control systems, and in cases where mercury thermometers are used to calibrate other thermometers.

For most uses, accurate alternatives to mercury thermometers are readily available.

Mercury is very toxic, and widespread environmental contamination can occur from a miniscule amount of the substance. According to experts, the amount of mercury in a household medical thermometer, about .75 to 1 gram, is enough to prompt officials to call a fish advisory on a lake.

Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF274*/SF70/CH47

Expediting permits

A new law, effective Aug. 1, 2001, authorizes the state Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to expedite permits for new or expanded facilities.

The new law will allow people who want to construct or expand a facility regulated by the agency to pay for additional expenses incurred in expediting a permit.

This payment will be in addition to regular permit fees and must reflect the costs of staff overtime or consultant services that are needed to expedite a permit review.

The agency may agree to an expedited permit process as long as it does not interfere with its permitting program priorities.

An applicant's reimbursement must be paid in advance and is not contingent upon the actual issuing of a permit.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet) and in the Senate by Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville).
HF1827/SF1613*/CH116

Trail access for ATVs

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a law May 24 that will permit all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) to be operated on certain recreational land trails and would require continuation of snowmobile access in specified situations.

The new law, sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), will allow people to operate the vehicles on multi-purpose trails crossing the Kettle and Rum rivers in Pine and Mille Lacs counties. The crossings are restricted by current rules regarding wild and scenic rivers.

"This is really part of a broader issue that needs to be resolved," said Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) during debate on the House floor. She asked why an exception was being made in this case.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) said trail crossings on railroad trestles are being used by ATV riders but in violation of current law. "It is clear the law wasn't intended to prevent this," he said.

A trail study has been authorized. In anticipation of the study's outcome, this ruling on ATVs will expire four years from its effective date.

The law will also require the commissioner of natural resources to continue grant-in-aid snowmobile trail access when land is acquired that has easements for trails.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora). It is effective May 25, 2001.

HF870/SF795*/CH165

Water protection

A new law effective May 16, 2001 entitles the land around the Camp Coldwater Springs in Minneapolis to the protection of the Minnesota Historic Sites Act, as well as the Minnesota Field and Archaeology Act.

Under the new law, there is a restriction on the state or any of its political subdivisions from using or taking any action that affects the land in a way that diminishes the flow of water to or from the spring located near Fort Snelling.

The land is currently owned by the Bureau of Mines, part of the U.S. Department of the

Interior. Researchers are conducting studies in the area to determine how the construction on Highways 55 and 62 in the area might affect the spring's flow.

The historic sites act states the sites are "significant state resources that the Minnesota Historical Society is preserving, developing, interpreting, and maintaining for public use, benefit, and access during open hours."

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Gleason (DFL-Richfield) and Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls).

HF1764/SF2049*/CH101

FAMILY



Family law terminology changes

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will make terminology changes to existing marriage dissolution law statutes.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul), the measure will replace "custodial parent" with the terms "parent," "obligee," or "parent with whom the child resides." It will also replace "noncustodial parent" with either the first two terms or "parent with whom the child does not reside."

Part of an overall effort to streamline and simplify certain civil portions of law, the changes are intended to make the process easier to understand, officials say.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester).

HF1260*/SF1332/CH51

GAMBLING



Detaining suspected cheaters

A new law will give operators of the card club at Canterbury Park another weapon to fight cheating.

Effective Aug. 1, 2001, the law will allow card club employees to detain a person suspected of cheating. The club's security personnel will be allowed to detain a person if there is reasonable cause to believe the person has cheated at gambling.

The new law will also allow the security personnel to require that the suspect provide or verify identification. Security can also inquire as to whether the person possesses any illegal contraband.

Under the law, the detained person has the right to be promptly informed of the purpose of the detention and may not be subjected to unnecessary or an unreasonable amount of force. The person cannot be detained for more than one hour except when a peace officer or

guardian of a minor cannot accept custody within that hour.

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

Popularity of the club, which opened in 2000, and increased attendance prompted the new law, sponsors said.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley).

HF1021/SF1008*/CH92

Rule changes

A new law will make several changes to rules governing lawful gambling in Minnesota. The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

Under the new law, the level at which an organization that conducts charitable gambling is required to submit an annual financial audit to the Department of Revenue will increase from \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The threshold level for organizations required to have an annual financial review of gambling funds will also climb from \$50,000 to \$150,000.

Noontime bingo also will be allowed under the new law. Currently, establishments that conduct bingo games are restricted to having no more than 10 bingo occasions each week. At least 15 bingo games must be held at each occasion, and each bingo event must continue for at least 90 minutes, but not more than four hours.

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

The new law will also permit the card club at Canterbury Park to hold one tournament per year lasting no longer than 14 days. It would allow for more than 50 tables to be in use during tournament play.

The maximum wager limit on card games will also increase from \$30 to \$60.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors.

HF1069/SF986*/CH96

Charitable deadline difference

Charitable organizations can file reports with the state later in the calendar year, under a new law effective April 25, 2001.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), the new law changes the deadline for charitable organizations to file an annual report with the state Attorney General's Office from June 30 to July 15 if the

organization keeps records on a calendar year basis. For those that operate on a fiscal year basis, the law changes the deadline from six months after the close of the fiscal year to the 15th day of the seventh month after the end of the fiscal year.

Annual reports are required from charitable organizations that solicit contributions. The standard report filed with the attorney general includes the legal name of the organization; its form of organization; the address of its principal office; the names of officers, directors, trustees; and the name of the chief executive officer.

The annual report also includes a financial statement and a copy of tax returns.

Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF2119*/SF1915/CH45

★ GOVERNMENT

Administration modifications

A new law modifying provisions for the state Department of Administration was signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 24.

The law will extend the authority for several advisory groups:

- Technology for People with Disabilities will be extended until June 30, 2003;
- Small Business Procurement now sunsets June 30, 2005;
- the construction codes council, which will substitute the commissioner of commerce for the commissioner of public safety as a member of the group, will sunset June 30, 2003; and
- the Governor's Residence Council will become permanent.

In addition, the shared savings program for energy conservation in state-owned buildings will now end Jan. 1, 2006. This provision is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2001.

Hinging on a provision already in statute, the new law clarifies that data on an individual needed for a report for the Management Analysis division would be kept private if the division reasonably believes that person would not have provided the information otherwise.

Also, the state information infrastructure will be permitted to serve American Indian tribal governments.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Martha Robertson (R-Minnetonka) sponsored the legislation. With the exception of the shared energy savings program, the law's provisions take effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1938/SF1680*/CH162

Police civil service exams

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will make it easier for qualified applicants for openings on police departments to become eligible for hire.

Under existing law, police civil service commissions administer periodic examinations for candidates. Notice must be published stating the time, place, and scope of each examination.

The commissions grade and classify all the employees and maintain a register of the names, classes, age, compensation, period of past employment and other facts and data.

The commissions also keep a second register of those who have applied for positions.

The new law will allow police civil service commissions to administer additional examinations from time to time during the life of the eligible register without further publication requirements or 10-day notice to applicants meeting threshold requirements.

Applicants who pass the later examination will then be added to the eligible register.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove) and Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) were the sponsors.

HF1465/SF1432*/CH87

Indian affairs council membership

The Urban Indian Affairs Advisory Council will have one additional member, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

Established in 1963, the Indian Affairs

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

The new law will add a member from Bemidji, increasing the advisory council from five members to six. Existing law requires members from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth.

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

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) was the House sponsor, and Sen. Tony Kinkel (DFL-Park Rapids) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1687/SF1206*/CH88

★ GREATER MINNESOTA

Worthington program management

The Southwest Regional Development Commission will be allowed to establish a nonprofit corporation to operate programs and manage facilities at the Prairieland Exposition Center in Worthington, under a new law.

Prairieland is an interactive discovery center exploring the 6,000 square miles of southwestern Minnesota attractions.

HITTING THE BOOKS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

House and Senate conferees listen to statements from representatives of the Department of Children, Families and Learning during the May 23 meeting of the omnibus K-12 education finance bill working group.

Representatives from the commission testified in committee hearings that management of the center will be more efficient and effectively run by the new entity than it would under the commission.

The commission's mission is to address the economic, social, and governmental needs of the region.

The new law will require the corporation be governed by a board of nine directors to be named by the commission. No more than five of the directors can be currently serving on the commission. Board members will not be compensated for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred as part of their duties.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) and Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) were the sponsors.

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF390/SF110*/CH81

★ HEALTH

Health care ID cards

Health care identification cards will soon be required to include certain prescription drug information needed to process prescription drug claims, under a new law.

The new law, signed May 17 by Gov. Jesse Ventura, will make it easier for pharmacists to process claims.

The uniform prescription drug information for Minnesota uniform health care identification cards will be required on those issued July 1, 2003 and later. The law states group purchasers must annually certify compliance with the card requirements.

Information on the card will have to conform with the format adopted by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs, and all information must be presented in a "clear, readable, and understandable manner."

In order to make the cards more readable, the law also contains specifications for the card issuer name and telephone numbers and names of contact persons that pharmacies may call for assistance.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the legislation.

The law takes effect Jan. 1, 2003.

HF926*/SF1001/CH110

Potluck rules

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed into law May 2 a measure permitting schools to sponsor and hold potluck events in areas of the school other than school kitchens.

The new law also allows fraternal and patriotic organizations to sell home-prepared food at certain organization-sponsored events.

Previous law prohibited all licensed food establishments, including schools, from sponsoring potlucks.

The law remains firm that food prepared for potlucks cannot be brought into any licensed food establishment kitchen, including school kitchens.

The measure was sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) in the House and Sen. Arlene Lesewski (R-Marshall) in the Senate.

The law will take effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF967*/SF876/CH65

Immunity change

The "Good Samaritan Law" grants immunity from civil damages to people who provide emergency medical care without expectation of being compensated unless the person acts in a willful and wanton or reckless manner in providing the care, advice, or assistance.

Under a new law effective May 18, 2001, that immunity is limited for people who use automatic external defibrillators to restart a heart.

The new law says that civil immunity extends to people who use a defibrillator in the course of normal employment, unless their normal duties includes giving emergency medical care. Therefore, professional emergency medical care providers are explicitly excluded from the state's Good Samaritan protections.

Good Samaritan laws are designed to encourage average citizens to offer emergency medical assistance by providing immunity from civil claims arising from "acts or omissions" in rendering care, advice, or assistance.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Randy Kelly (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored it in the Senate.

HF935/SF824*/CH107

Medical review change

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will change the frequency with which physicians must review the prescribing activities of physician assistants.

Previously, state law required that physicians review all prescribing, dispensing, and

administering of drugs and medical devices done by delegated physician assistants on a daily basis. The new law will change the frequency to weekly.

According to the measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), the physician and physician assistant must have a written agreement spelling out the process and schedule for the review.

Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1160*/SF1127/CH49

★ HIGHER EDUCATION

Collective bargaining units combined

Combining the two instructional units at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities for collective bargaining purposes is now allowed under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21.

Sponsored by Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan), the law allows for the merger of the community college instructional unit and the technical college instructional unit into a new state college instructional unit for MnSCU employees and for the appointment of an exclusive representative.

"This is a logical development out of the merger of the MnSCU system in 1994," Leppik said May 15 on the House floor. She said the units agreed to merge earlier this year.

The collective bargaining agreements of the separate instructional units will continue until replaced. Benefits of members will also be maintained until the merger.

Other existing collective bargaining agreements not affected by this law include: reinstatement rights to employees who are on an approved leave of absence, and all dates for seniority, accumulated benefits and other benefits.

Leppik said this bill will help eliminate some turf battles when similar courses are taught by members of both unions, but instructors are working under different contracts in regards to conditions and compensation.

"It doesn't work well with two bargaining contracts in one building," said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal).

The bill is effective May 22, 2001.

HF977/SF1033*/CH133

**Don't forget ...
return your survey and
renewal card!**

Rights, responsibilities clarified

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will include social workers in a list of specified health professionals required by law to notify individuals of a specific threat of violence by a client against an identified individual.

The "duty to warn" provisions were created in 1986 to specify that particular professionals have a duty to predict, warn of, or take reasonable precautions to provide protection from specific threats made by a client against a particular individual. Such professionals are required to contact the law enforcement agency nearest the potential victim or client. Social workers will now be among those professionals.

The law specifies that professionals governed by the law cannot be held liable, nor can they be sanctioned by a licensing board, for failing to discharge this duty. Additionally, the law does not require social workers or any other professional to disclose threats made against oneself.

The new law also places social workers into a group of professionals who are authorized to create professional organizations. Other such professionals include doctors, practitioners of chiropractic, nurses, psychologists, optometrists, dentists, pharmacists, and podiatrists.

The law was sponsored Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) and Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville).

HF1634/SF1460*/CH42

IMMIGRATION

Black Minnesotans council members

The state Council on Black Minnesotans will increase by two members under a new law that takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

The law, sponsored by Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls), would expand the size of the council from its current 11 members to 13 members. Under the measure, the additional seats will be filled by one person whose ethnic heritage is from West Africa, and one member whose ethnic heritage is from East Africa.

The new law will define East Africa as the areas occupied by Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Somalia.

West Africa, under the law, will encompass Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and those parts of Mali and Niger south of the Sahara.

The Council on Black Minnesotans was

established in 1980 to advise the governor and Legislature on issues facing African-Americans in the state. The council is also charged with recommending changes to laws to help address those issues.

Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), the law's House sponsor, said the number of immigrants from Africa to Minnesota is increasing, and that by requiring representatives from West Africa and East Africa to serve on the council, issues crucial to those communities would be better addressed.

HF387/SF142*/CH39

INDUSTRY



'Illegal' steel dumping resolution

The Legislature and Gov. Jesse Ventura sent a message to President George W. Bush requesting that the Bush administration immediately investigate steel product imports to the United States.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), maintains that the "absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade ... ultimately (has) a detrimental effect on this state's economy."

Sponsors decried the practice, called "illegal dumping," which constitutes other countries exporting their excess steel into the United States and selling it at a lower price than American manufacturers.

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

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

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

HF219/SF258*/R1

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

No gas below cost

Gas retailers will be restricted from selling gas below cost, under a new law signed May 21 by Gov. Jesse Ventura. The measure aims to protect small, independently owned gas stations from large retailers engaging in predatory pricing.

The law was sponsored in the House by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and in the Senate by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing).

The law defines cost as the average terminal price, plus state and federal taxes, plus either six percent or eight cents, whichever is less. This minimum price requirement prohibits certain retailers from possibly driving others out of business by engaging in predatory pricing, which is when major companies drop their prices below what their smaller competitors can afford.

On the House floor, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) told his colleagues to consider the long-term effect without this law. "In the long run ... small competition is eliminated and we have the big guys who can set the price for gasoline," he said. Now, those small retailers will have a better chance of staying in business, he concluded.

To allow special offers, the new law permits retailers to sell gas below cost as part of promotions for three days in a three-month period.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF1007/SF970*/CH129

Extended benefits for miners

Miners who were laid off when the LTV Steel Mining Co. shut down its Hoyt Lakes facility last year can receive more unemployment benefits, under a new law.

The law, which is effective retroactive to Aug. 1, 2000, allows the 30 LTV miners laid off at that time to collect an extra 26 weeks of unemployment benefits when regular benefits expire. More than 1,300 additional workers of the Hoyt Lakes plant were laid off when the company went bankrupt in February 2001.

Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) sponsored the measure in the House. Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower) sponsored the Senate version. However, the law received significant support in both bodies beyond its sponsors.

"Those 900 people on unemployment benefits are making decisions about how to put their lives back together for themselves and their families," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

The former LTV workers are also moving into new careers, and Bakk said in rural Minnesota one can't go down the street and find another job — especially on the Iron Range.



Dave Walkama of Aurora, a 30-year employee of LTV Mining in Hoyt Lakes, carries a sign of support for a new law that extends unemployment benefits for laid off employees of the mine.

"Their skills are unique to the industry," he added.

The law reflects positions taken in both the House and the Senate, drawn together in conference committee. The original House plan granted an extra 13 weeks of unemployment compensation for those laid off last August. The Senate version of the measure called for 30 weeks of unemployment compensation for all former LTV workers — including those affected by both the August and February layoffs.

Under the law, the former workers are eligible for 26 weeks of compensation in a 95-week window of time. This allows workers to be employed in temporary positions such as summer construction.

To receive benefits, applicants must be enrolled in an education or job-training program. The 95-week period extends through the end of the 2001-02 school year, allowing time for applicants to complete any training programs while still receiving benefits.

The new law also extends the time a mining plant must be kept in operating condition in Minnesota from one year to two years, to provide more time to find a buyer for the facility.

HF47*/SF39/CH30

Gas station franchisee rights

The sunset date for a provision that allows gas station owners additional rights to the land they occupy is extended, under a new law effective April 27, 2001.

Under the law, the expiration date of May 5, 2001 is now July 1, 2002. The measure was sponsored in the House by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin).

Last year was the first time franchisors were required to give franchisees an opportunity to purchase their stations.

Often, gas stations are operated by franchisees who lease, rather than own, their locations, and the law passed in 2000 required that before the franchisor who owned the property could sell it to a new franchisor, the operator of the station had to be given an opportunity to purchase it.

The law continues to provide a sunset date instead of incorporating the provision into permanent law due to controversy between franchisors and franchisees over the amount of flexibility each can retain, according to Haas.

Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) carried the legislation in the Senate.

HF323*/SF914/CH48

Propane research council

A propane education and research council can be formed under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 21.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), who sponsored the measure in the House, said the council will provide educational programs administered by fire departments to help teach people the proper use of propane in homes and in recreational uses, such as ice fishing houses.

Howes said language in the law conforms with federal legislation passed in 1996 relating to the propane industry. That legislation allowed propane education and research councils to be formed under guidelines that ensured anti-trust concerns were not violated.

The new law specifies that propane producers and retail marketers may not assess an amount to exceed one-tenth of one cent per gallon of odorized propane to help pay for the costs of the council. Federal law prohibits that cost from being passed on to the consumer, Howes said.

The law also specifies that the council report annually to the Department of Public Safety detailing its collections and expenditures.

Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) was the Senate sponsor.

The law is effective Aug. 1, 2001. If no

council has been established by Aug. 1, 2004 the new law would be repealed.

HF1174/SF694*/CH130

INSURANCE



Senior citizen auto coverage

Senior citizens who become disabled in an auto accident will have more rights, under a new law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura May 18.

Minnesota residents who have no-fault automobile insurance are covered for loss of wage or other labor income if the insured person becomes disabled in an auto accident. This coverage is now mandatory, except for persons over age 65 who have no wage or other labor income.

Existing law permits persons over 65 to decline no-fault coverage for income loss as part of their auto insurance. Under the law, seniors will have an unconditional right to decline the no-fault coverage for income loss. It will also require insurance companies to notify seniors of this right, at the first issuance or renewal after age 65 and annually thereafter.

Under current law, the person must have coverage unless they "will not reasonably be expected to be able to receive" benefits from the coverage, as determined as a result of inquiry by the insurance company.

A request by the insured not to have this coverage will remain in effect until revoked by the insured.

The law is sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Linda Scheid (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

The law becomes effective Aug. 1, 2001.

HF694/SF1264*/CH124

NAIC reciprocal law

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 17 that will comply with a reciprocal law requested by the federal government regarding insurance agents.

Minnesota's new law models provisions ordered by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. If at least 20 states do not comply by passing a law by November 2002, the association has said it will set up a federal licensing system. Many states are creating legislation to adhere to the association's provisions.

One provision in the new law changes the term "insurance agent" to "insurance producer," by request of insurance companies.

The law, which does not make major changes in regulations of insurance producers, is intended to reduce barriers for

producers doing business in states other than where they live by eliminating special requirements that apply to non-resident agents.

Under the law, nonresidents can obtain a nonresident license without taking courses or an examination, if that resident's state reciprocates for Minnesota residents. Also, under certain conditions, a person who has been licensed in another state can get a license in Minnesota without new training or testing.

The law, sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Edward Oliver (R-Deephaven), becomes effective July 1, 2002.
HF1955/SF1826*/CH117

★ LAW

Real estate clarification

A portion of real estate title law is changed under a new law effective April 27, 2001.

The measure, sponsored in the House by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), is intended to streamline the Torrens portions of statute governing real estate.

Lipman explained that there are two systems regulating real estate title law: abstract, in which a private, third party, such as a lawyer, makes determinations regarding the chain of real estate ownership over several sales and Torrens law, in which a government agent makes those determinations.

The new law allows single owners of multiple tracks of land, such as a housing developer, to file a single declaration creating covenants, conditions, and easements. Under previous law, owners of multiple properties had to file separately for each particular property.

County officials testified that registrars will lose revenue but will experience a decrease in workload.

The new law also clarifies the attorney general's responsibility in cases where the state is the defendant in Torrens law matters. In the future, the attorney general may either choose to represent the state or may refer a case to a county attorney. Previous law required the attorney general to refer such cases.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Thomas Neuville (R-Northfield).

The new law preserves former provisions to govern actions pending on April 27 or started before Feb. 1, 2002.

HF239*/SF170/CH50

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Officials may accept some gifts

Local officials can now enjoy certain conferences a little bit more, under a new law effective May 15, 2001.

Current law prohibits any government official from accepting gifts from a person or a representative of an association that has a direct financial interest in a decision the official is authorized to make.

For example, legislators are not allowed to accept gifts from lobbyists, not even when attending an event that is not directly related to the Legislature or the decisions legislators must make there.

However, the new law provides that the prohibition does not apply when the official is attending a conference sponsored by a national or multi-state organization where the gift offered is food or a beverage, given at a reception or meal. The law also stipulates that an equivalent gift must be given or offered to all other attendees.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) and Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) were the sponsors of the measure.

HF2110/SF1441*/CH93

Housing assistance for firefighters

A new law effective April 12, 2001, will give cities the authority to provide housing assistance for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), allows cities to offer the assistance to attract and retain qualified personnel necessary to ensure timely public safety service.

Mares said he sponsored the bill on behalf of the city of Mahtomedi that is seeking help in attracting volunteer firefighters to the city.

The legislation was necessary because of a precedent established by a 1952 state attorney general opinion. That opinion held that the city of Newport did not have the authority to provide living quarters to its police chief unless the Legislature granted special authority.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) was the Senate sponsor.

HF172/SF9*/CH19

★ RECREATION

Horse track employment regulations

A new law effective May 1, 2001 eases employment restrictions at the state's horse racing track.

Under previous law, people seeking employment in horse racing where pari-mutuel betting was allowed had to obtain a class C occupational license offered by the racing commission. Those that had been convicted of a felony were prohibited from obtaining the license.

The new law modifies that restriction to those who have a felony of record.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), who sponsored the law in the House, said the restriction prohibited those who were convicted of a felony but later had the conviction overturned on appeal, or those who completed their sentence, from working at the track.

Another provision of the new law increases the legal amount of an anti-inflammatory drug that a test blood sample from a horse can be allowed to have under the medication rules of the state's racing commission.

The law allows five micrograms per milliliter of blood as the maximum level for drugs such as phenylbutazone. That particular drug is commonly used to treat laminitis, a chronic foot ailment among horses. The previous law allowed three micrograms.

Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL-Chisholm) was the Senate sponsor.

HF995*/SF1214/CH59

★ RETIREMENT

Retirement benefits

Spouses of teachers who were granted early retirement incentives in the early 1990s and are younger than their spouse will now be eligible to continue coverage under the school district's health plan.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the new law May 24, which was sponsored by Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal) and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary (DFL-Fridley).

Legislation in 1993 granted early retirement incentives that included the option for the retired employee and their spouse to continue in the school district's health plan at no charge until the retired employee reaches age 65, which is the age of Medicare eligibility. At that time, however, younger spouses were no longer covered.

The new law allows spouses to be eligible for the school district's health plan at their own expense until they reach age 65.

The Legislature will reconvene in regular session Jan. 29, 2002.

The spouse, whose coverage has been discontinued but who wishes to be covered under the plan as a result of this law, has to notify the former employer within 180 days of the effective date of this law.

The law is effective May 25, 2001, and also applies to a spouse of an employee who stopped receiving coverage before the effective date because the retired employee attained the age of 65.

HF514/SF1124*/CH166

★ SAFETY

School bus driver regulations

A new law, effective June 1, 2001, could prevent some sex offenders from driving school buses.

Sponsored in the House by Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Chaska), the new law specifically bars those convicted of certain sex offenses — illegal use of minors in sexual performance, possession of pornography containing minors, or dissemination or display of harmful material to minors — from driving school buses.

The new law applies to offenses committed on or after June 1. Existing law regarding licensed bus drivers bars any felon or anyone convicted of the following crimes: a drug offense, driving a school bus while intoxicated, indecent exposure, or other forms of child abuse.

The new law follows testimony by Chaska Police Chief Scott Knight that sexual offenders have acquired permission to drive school buses after concealing their identity.

The Senate version was sponsored by Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake).

HF57*/SF27/CH25

★ TRANSPORTATION

Ted Foss Highway

Interstate Highway 90, from its intersection with Trunk Highway 74 in Winona County to the Wisconsin border, will be designated "State Trooper Theodore 'Ted' Foss Memorial Highway," under a law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The commissioner of transportation will be required to place appropriate signage marking the highway. The funds for those signs will come from private sources.

Foss, a corporal with the Minnesota State Patrol, was killed Aug. 31, 2000 by a semi-tractor trailer that crashed into his squad car parked along the interstate near Lewiston. Foss was making a traffic stop at the time. He died at the scene and four occupants of the stopped vehicle were injured.



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

The truck driver was found to not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, but was charged with reckless and inattentive driving.

The House measure was sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove). Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids) sponsored the law in the Senate.

HF2161/SF2005*/CH113

Locks and dam request

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a resolution May 17 that urges authorization of funding for improvement and rehabilitation of inland waterways.

The resolution will be sent to President Bush and other federal office holders, including Minnesota's senators and representatives serving in Congress.

The resolution:

- Supports Minnesota's pro-rata participation in funding new construction at the Sault Ste. Marie Lock;
- Recognizes the importance of river transportation to Minnesota's agriculture and economy;
- Acknowledges the need for restoration and rehabilitation of critical habitat in the Upper Mississippi River basin; and
- Urges Congress to authorize funding to improve the efficiency of river transportation and to restore the ecological values of the Upper Mississippi River.

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

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

Farmers told legislators they want to move their grain in a more efficient and environmentally friendly way. To that end, they would like some of the locks and dams extended from 600 feet to 1,200 feet to accommodate larger tows.

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

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

"I see a system of locks and dams as integral to our transportation system," said Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), who sponsored the measure in the House.

Wear and tear on the river from barge traffic was of concern to some testifiers during the 2001 session. Language supporting environmental rehabilitation was inserted into the resolution in support of that concern.

Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel) sponsored the resolution in the Senate.

HF208*/SF551/R4

Student safety

School districts, nonpublic schools, or private contractors will be required to annually verify the validity of driver's licenses of each person who transports students, under a new law effective Aug. 1, 2001.

The schools, districts, and companies may use the National Drivers Register or the Department of Public Safety to perform the verification.

According to commerce sources, the National Driver Register is a computerized database of information about drivers who have had their licenses revoked or suspended, or who have been convicted of such serious traffic violations as driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Government entities can use the system to avoid granting drivers and other licenses to people convicted of offenses that may legally disqualify them from lawfully driving.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Julie Sabo (DFL-Mpls) sponsored it in the Senate. HF1172/SF1056*/CH98

Width restrictions for RVs

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will redefine the maximum legal width of recreational vehicles.

Previously existing law limits the total outside width of a vehicle to 102 inches, just short of nine feet. The new law will specify that the 102-inch limit will not include attachments that do not extend beyond the width of the vehicle's rearview mirror if the recreational vehicle is self-propelled, or beyond the width of the rearview mirror on the towing vehicle if a trailer is being towed.

The new law makes no changes to an existing provision giving municipal trucks bearing sewage sludge immunity from the width restriction.

Additionally, the new law declares that motor homes may not be longer than 45 feet. Motor homes are defined in existing law as a unit meant to provide temporary living quarters permanently attached to a vehicle. The general length limit for single-unit vehicles is 40 feet.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the law in the House and Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1085/SF1155*/CH83

Limited bus driving privileges

Licensed childcare providers will be allowed to operate school buses under limited conditions, under a law effective July 1, 2001.

Under the new law, the holder of a Class D driver's license — the license issued to anyone wishing to drive a regular car, truck, or van — without a school bus endorsement, may operate a van-type school bus with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less and a capacity of 15 or fewer persons including the driver.

This is only true if 14 conditions provided in the law are met, including the following:

- the operator is an employee of the entity that owns, leases, or contracts for the bus;
- the operator drives only from points of origin to points of destination, but not for home-to-school or vice versa trips;
- the operator provides annual training in, among other things, training and certification in safe operation of the vehicle, understanding student behavior, handling misconduct appropriately and safe loading and unloading of students; and
- a driver background check has been completed.

The bill will also allow licensed childcare providers to use buses that look like school buses except that the stop arm has been removed, the eight-light system is deactivated, and it is identified as a "childcare bus" in letters at least eight inches high on the front and rear top of the bus. Such vehicles must be further identified with the name, address, and phone number of the owner or operator on each front door in letters no smaller than three inches high.

Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) sponsored the measure in the House and Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) sponsored it in the Senate.

The provisions of the new law expire July 1, 2003.

HF2181/SF2225*/CH97

Handlebar height unrestricted

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will repeal a section of state law regarding motorcycles.

The law, sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen), removes from statute a provision that makes it illegal to operate a motorcycle with handlebars extending above the operator's shoulders when the operator is seated with both feet on the ground.

Workman told the House that the motorcycling community endorsed the repeal, and predicted there would be no negative impact resulting from the change.

Sen. Grace Schwab (R-Albert Lea) sponsored the measure in the Senate.

HF1383*/SF1598/CH60

★ VETERANS

Honoring contributors

They were a fleet of ships carrying imports and exports that became a military auxiliary during World War II. The Merchant Marines helped the wartime effort by keeping commerce going with ships equipped with guns and Navy personnel on board.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 18 that authorizes a plaque honoring the service of civilians like the Merchant Marines who contributed during World War II.

The new law allows a memorial plaque to be placed on the State Capitol grounds recognizing those civilians who served in support of the war effort and who years later were given the status of veteran by Congress.

Rep. Len Biernat (DFL-Mpls), the House sponsor, said those who served in groups like the Merchant Marines and the Women's Airforce Service Pilots played a significant role in the country's war effort and many of them gave their lives for their country.

The Women's Airforce Service Pilots were a group of women pilots that flew non-combat flights freeing up male pilots for combat duty.

The law requires a person or organizations other than the Department of Veteran Affairs to furnish the plaque. But the law also requires the commissioner of that department and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board approve the plaque.

Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) sponsored the measure in the Senate. The law is effective May 19, 2001.

HF1023/SF1222*/CH125

Honoring wounded warriors

Beginning this year, Aug. 7 will be designated as Combat Wounded Veterans Day, under a new law.

The day will honor military veterans who were wounded while serving their country and whose sacrifices have entitled them to a Purple Heart Decoration.

The law stipulates that each year the governor shall issue a proclamation honoring the observance.

According to Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville), the House sponsor of the measure, Aug. 7 was selected because it was the date President George Washington awarded the nation's first Purple Hearts.

In 1782 Washington awarded three soldiers the honor which he designed, created, and called the Badge of Military Merit. After the Revolutionary War no other soldiers received the badge until it was revived and renamed the Purple Heart by the United States War Department in 1932.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul).

The law takes effect Aug. 1, 2001.

HF481/SF520*/CH104

Remembering Bataan Death March

On Dec. 10, 1941, three days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt dubbed "The day that will live in

infamy," the Japanese began their invasion of the Philippine Islands.

Months later United States troops isolated on the Bataan Peninsula west of Manila surrendered to the Japanese and were forced to march 60 miles.

A new law effective Aug. 1, 2001 will provide a plaque on the State Capitol grounds honoring those soldiers who were forced to participate in the Bataan Death March.

Rep. Dale Walz (R-Brainerd), the House sponsor of the law, said that tens of thousands of soldiers were forced to march up to 10 days without food or water beginning on April 9, 1942. He said if any soldier was to fall or failed to march, they were shot, stabbed, or killed.

The law provides that after the plaque is

approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board it may be placed in the Capitol Rotunda or another appropriate place. The commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs will be required to ensure placement of the plaque and may accept contributions from non-state sources to pay for its costs.

Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1778/SF1269*/CH115

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 Oskopp-(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 Knobloch-(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-(IP)	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. Larry Howes-(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) Bakk-(DFL) B • Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) Sen. Douglas J. Johnson-(DFL)	20 A • Rep. Robert "Bob" Ness-(R) B • Rep. Tony Kielkucki-(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 Bernardy-(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 Buessgens-(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 Westerberg-(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. Bob Milbert-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	53 A • Rep. Philip 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 Wasiliuk-(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 Bachmann-(R)	

★ BUSINESS

Recourse for construction delays

An attempt to override Gov. Jesse Ventura's veto of a bill that would have allowed contractors to seek recovery of costs on public contracts where delays are caused by the public entity failed shortly before the House adjourned May 21. The vote was 70-63.

The bill would have allowed contractors to seek recovery for costs or damages, or seek an equitable adjustment for delays or disruptions caused by acts of the public entity.

Rep. James Clark (R-New Ulm) said the bill came as a result of instances such as one that involved a construction company that was to deliver fill but had the delivery substantially delayed by a Metropolitan Airports Commission decision to install a traffic light.

Clark said the company went to the commission to renegotiate a change in the contract due to the delay but was given no flexibility in the time of delivery clause.

In his veto message Ventura wrote that the "no damage for delay" clause is commonly used in public works contracts and the legislation would lead to increased litigation and higher contract costs.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) said contractors already have the right to seek redress for damages caused by a public entity through the court system.

Earlier in the evening the Senate voted to override the veto by a 63-1 margin with Sen. Bob Lessard (I-Int'l Falls) being the lone dissenter.

The bill originally passed both houses with unanimous votes.

Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) was the Senate sponsor.

HF2074/SF2031*/CH126

★ HEALTH

Governor vetoes entire funding bill

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed the entire \$7.6 billion health and human services omnibus funding bill May 15, citing disagreements over policy language included in the bill.

Specifically, the governor objected to a provision that required women seeking abortions to give consent to the procedure at least 24 hours before it could be performed. Ventura



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gov. Jesse Ventura announces his opposition to and veto of the \$7.6 billion omnibus health and human services funding bill in his reception room May 15. The bill contained several policy measures the governor objected to, including a provision that women seeking abortions must provide consent at least 24 hours before undergoing the procedure. Ventura vetoed a similar measure in 2000.

vetoed a similar provision in the 2000 session and had promised a veto should the omnibus bill include the measure.

Ventura claimed that tucking policy into omnibus bills was an abuse of the legislative process and a move he would not support.

"I believe that no issue is so important that it justifies risking the integrity of the legislative process," Ventura said in a statement accompanying his veto message.

The bill (HF1832/SF2361*) would have provided \$6.3 billion in general fund spending for health and human services programs, including the Minnesota Family Investment Program and other health entitlements.

Another significant part of the bill included several changes to current health- and human services-related issues.

The bill would have provided for:

- Reform of long-term care, reflecting a shift to more home-based services;
- Funding mental health programs such as civil commitment and suicide prevention;
- Alternatives for children with autism;
- "Unlocking" the waiting list for people with developmental disabilities; and
- Improving the health disparities.

Members in both the House and Senate had

lengthy debate involving funds for teen pregnancy prevention. In the House debate, \$5 million per year was moved from teen pregnancy programs to welfare-to-work initiatives in the vetoed bill.

The bill also contained a controversial change to the state's immunization schedule. The provision would have allowed the commissioner of health to make changes only if recommended by all three of the following: the U.S. Public Health Service, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The changes would have had to have been reported to and reviewed by the Legislature at its next session.

Many of the provisions in the omnibus bill were attached to a different bill (HF1381/SF1397*), sponsored by Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan). A conference committee has yet to resolve the differences between the House and Senate versions.

HF1832/SF2361*/CH118

HIGHER EDUCATION

Edvest program vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill that would have changed provisions for the state's Edvest program. It was his first veto of the 2001 session.

The Edvest program allows accounts to be created for a designated beneficiary who will attend college in the future. Families with an income of \$80,000 or less are eligible to receive back up to 15 percent — maximum of \$300 — of their contribution in the form of a state grant.

Sponsored by Rep. Rob Eastlund (R-Isanti), the measure would have extended the time for adopting rules for the Edvest savings program by nine months. The program cannot begin operation until the rules are adopted.

The Senate sponsor was Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato).

The original 18-month provision for beginning the program expired in 1999 as officials from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office were working on aspects of the program and overlooked the time enactment clause.

"I want to emphasize that my veto relates to the process, not the policy," Ventura wrote in his veto message. "I do support the implementation of the Edvest program and its excellent goal of encouraging and supporting saving for higher education. However, I believe the program should begin as soon as possible. Rather than extending rule-making authority for up to nine months, I encourage the Legislature to take the steps necessary for immediate implementation prior to the adjournment of this year's legislative session."

Ventura expressed concern that annual appropriations of \$1.5 million to the general fund have been cancelled for three years, and there are no assurances this year's appropriation will be used.

"I appreciate and share the Legislature's support for this program, and encourage expedited legislative action so this savings plan can begin this spring," Ventura wrote.

The House later amended the policy language for the Edvest program into the omnibus higher education finance measure. When the Legislature adjourned May 21, that bill was still unresolved in a conference committee.

HF550*/SF954/CH58

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Restrictions vetoed

Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed a bill May 17 that would have prohibited a resident from using dirt bikes on their property.

If approved, the proposal would have allowed the city of Edina to impose restrictions on the operation of recreational motor vehicles on property owned by the operator if the property is three or fewer acres in area.

Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), the House sponsor of the measure, said he brought the legislation forward on behalf of residents who lived next to a person who had built an elaborate dirt bike track in his backyard for his sons to use.

David Velde, Edina's city sanitarian, told a House committee this session that because the noise level wasn't constant, the city determined its existing nuisance ordinances did not apply.

Barbara Zell, who lives next to the house with the track, testified at the same hearing that the activities of the residential neighborhood were being interrupted not only by the noise involved but also by clouds of dust that blew over the fence into her yard.

In his veto message, Ventura wrote that laws should not be "capriciously enacted" that restrict people from doing as they want on their own land. He was also concerned the law was giving one community authority to restrict a homeowner's property rights without looking at whether other communities would support the same type legislation.

Sen. Roy Terwilliger (R-Edina) was the Senate sponsor.

HF1526/SF1528*/CH114

TRANSPORTATION

Veto override fails

The House failed to override Gov. Jesse Ventura's veto of a bill that would have expanded state Department of Public Service authority over utilities using railroad rights-of-way.

The motion to override Ventura's veto of the bill was defeated 83-49 May 21. Votes to override vetoes require a two-thirds majority. The Senate overrode the veto 62-2 earlier in the day.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Workman (R-Chanhassen) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), the bill would have expanded particular department authority over regulation of phone, cable, fiber optic, and other telecommunications wires. Currently, such

authority exists only over electric wires and natural gas lines.

During House debate Workman described rail lines as "the Great Wall of China" that prevent the expansion of telecommunication lines in rural areas. Answering concerns that the bill could interfere with important transportation projects, he said it was not intended to affect light-rail transit.

Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston) expressed the concern of several legislators that, although the bill did not explicitly mention light rail, "perhaps there are some problems" or unintended consequences. Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) said, "Thanks, governor, for the veto."

In his veto message to legislative leaders, Ventura wrote that the bill would create "a property right for the telecommunications or cable company in the state's rail bank right of way and may require the state to pay for future relocation of those utility or phone lines. This cost is not provided for."

He concluded that his veto would "protect the rail bank right of way for future uses and from unanticipated costs."

HF1817/SF1821*/CH122

Minnesota State Agencies

(Area code 651)

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

Working overtime

Previous special sessions have dealt with issues ranging from legal matters to military benefits to stadiums

BY JONAS M. WALKER

The failure of the Legislature to pass any major spending measure other than the family and early childhood education bill before the constitutionally mandated conclusion of regular session May 21 necessitates the governor's calling the 40th special session in state history.

Previous special sessions have been called for a variety of state business, including balancing the state's finances, suffrage, and special legislation arising from legal problems for an individual company.

Although the governor has called special sessions to augment fewer than one-half the 82 sessions held since the state's founding in 1858, several sessions were sufficiently contentious to warrant multiple special sessions.

The first regular session prompting multiple special sessions was in 1936, when Gov. Floyd B. Olson called lawmakers back to St. Paul twice to legislate state laws regarding President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act, passed two years earlier.

Not until 1982 was there a need for a third special session in one year when Gov. Al Quie called the Legislature to order for three days in December.

Lawmakers then considered issues such as the state workers' compensation plans and providing emergency short-term employment for unemployed Iron Rangers. The previous two sessions had considered similar issues.

Special sessions seem to have been more abundant during particularly contentious historical periods.

For example, Gov. Alexander Ramsey called the state's first special session in 1862 to respond to American Indians' armed resistance to white settlement. The Legislature considered measures relating to voting provisions for military personnel, providing for organization



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

House members had to share a desk in the Senate Chamber during a special session on Sept. 29, 1989 when the House Chamber was going through its restoration.

and equipment of the state militia, and regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages to American Indians.

Soldier's suffrage and benefits seems to have been an especially difficult issue for legislators to settle during normal sessions. According to the Legislative Reference Library, no fewer than five special sessions addressed military issues, three of those specifically took up bills dealing with soldier's voting rights.

The sessions came at intervals corresponding to major American wars. The Civil War yielded suffrage concerns during the 1862

special session, called by Ramsey. The first World War spurred two special sessions; one in 1916 to address voting issues and another in 1919 relating to soldiers' benefits. Gov. J. A. Burnquist initiated both.

Gov. Edward Thye called World War II's special session just three months before D-Day, June 6, 1944. It was the last special session to explicitly take up issues surrounding the suffrage of military personnel. The last war-related special session was called by Gov. Orville Freeman, who assembled legislators to pass a bill for Korean veteran's bonuses in 1958.

Military personnel were not the only Minnesotans to benefit from special suffrage-oriented sessions. Burnquist's 1919 special session included the state's ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing women the right to vote. It took effect one year later.

Funding proves to have been a common motivation for governors to call special sessions. Gov. Arne Carlson called the second most recent special session to take up the issue of a new Twins stadium. Although the session lasted for three weeks in October and November 1997, the issue remains a lively one among legislators.

Carlson also called the most recent special session in 1998 to "clarify" a 1991 law that proved unfavorable to the position of Warroad-based Marvin Windows in a long-standing civil case against Pennsylvania Plate Glass. The two-day session in April yielded a clarification endorsed by the governor and attorney general, but was declared unconstitutional for being retroactive.

The shortest special sessions have lasted only a day. Governors have called one-day sessions 14 times. The longest single session ever was 159 days to deal with taxes, revenue, and reapportionment. Called by Gov. Wendell Anderson for May 25, 1971, the special session finally concluded Oct. 30, 1971. However, there was a recess from July 31 through Oct. 12.

Legislators have spent a total of 730 days in special session, including 29 during the eighth Territorial Legislative Assembly in April and

Continued on page 35

Continued from page 4

- The biggest differences lie in education funding and tax reform and relief. The House tax proposal (HF2498) would cut taxes in the state by more than twice as much as the Senate bill. The House bill includes more than \$1.56 billion to \$609 million in the Senate tax bill.
- The Senate's higher education proposal (SF2343) spends \$2.9 billion while the House (HF2489) has proposed \$2.83 billion.
- For K-12, the House omnibus bill (HF82) would cost \$8.72 billion while the Senate (SF2359) would provide \$8.82 billion.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), in his fourth term, said this will be his second special session with the work of the Legislature being "the least complete it has ever been."

Saying that the job is "half done," McElroy said he is "absolutely optimistic" about finding a solution to the impasse because "failure is not an option."

Leaders in both bodies are focusing on a compromise over tax relief before they set targets for the other spending bills.

The taxes conference committee, which met as a working group May 22, had the Senate moving closer to the House target. The Senate Taxes Committee Chair Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls) presented a new plan that would incorporate the K-12 general education levy takeover by the state proposed by both the House and the governor. The Senate has also proposed moving closer to the House position of property classification rate reform.

"There is substantial agreement in the reform aspects of the property tax reform," Pogemiller said. "We're not very far apart, it is a question of degree."

Pogemiller said the Senate remains strongly opposed to the proposal to cut commercial/industrial property tax rates to the extent the House does and the potential long-term shift from businesses on to homeowners. He said the Senate also does not believe in the theory that by cutting the tax rates on apartment property more affordable housing will be available.

But Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the House Taxes Committee chair, disagreed with Pogemiller's assessment. "I don't think we're really that close. We agree on the general education takeover and that's about it."

Abrams said the House would strongly hold to its proposed repeal of the health care provider tax and to move transit funding off the property tax. And he said there remains a large philosophical difference between the two proposals.

"We will not pass a property tax relief bill if property tax reform is not a part," he said. "(The Senate is) looking at relief and we're looking at reform."

Differences between the House and Senate

(Senate spending exceeds House in all omnibus bills except Taxes)

Higher Education

\$68 million

K-12 Education

\$101.2 million

Family and Early Childhood Education*

no difference

Environment and Agriculture

\$28.8 million

Health and Human Services

\$534.2 million

Economic Development

\$48.8 million

State Government

\$3.7 million

Transportation, Public Safety, and Courts

\$115 million

Taxes (reflecting tax relief)

\$909.3 million

Debt service

\$20.8 million

(The Senate passed a bonding bill and the House did not.)

Source: House Fiscal Analysis

*Both the House and Senate passed this bill with about \$544 million in general fund spending before adjourning May 21. It is the only one that has been resolved by both bodies.

Even with a historic tripartisan system this session isn't entirely unique as history shows the last time the state had such a substantial effort to reform its property tax system was 1971, the year of the "Minnesota Miracle." That session saw the state taking over more of the K-12 education funding while lowering property taxes. Gov. Wendell Anderson called a special session that year that ended up lasting five months.

Matt Smith, the commissioner of the

Department of Revenue, said this time around at least all sides agree property tax reform is an issue the state needs to address. And he said the difference between this year's debate and those in the past is the discussion centers on how to distribute the overall relief and not on whether to "raise someone's taxes in order to lower someone else's."

How soon the sides can reach an agreement will dictate when Ventura will call a special session. The governor has said he will not call lawmakers back until an agreement is reached and he has had time to review the agreed upon omnibus bills.

After being re-elected as Speaker of the House in January, Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) spoke to members about "seizing the opportunity" and working together for the good of the state. His message that day may determine how the work of this year's Legislature is ultimately judged.

"The experience of the last two years ought to have made us more aware, ought to have made us more confident, also have made us more committed, to do the balanced work for the citizens of Minnesota," Sviggum said. "While we here are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, in the form of the governor's office, I recognize that there are obvious differences. But we are more alike than we are unlike." 🐼

Writer Jonas M. Walker contributed to this report.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members and staff file out of the House chamber at midnight after session concluded May 21, the last day of the regular 2001 session.

To find out who represents you
at the Capitol . . .

Call the House Public Information
Office at (651) 296-2146
or 1-800-657-3550

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Minnesota

Idea

1 A bill is an idea for a new law or an idea to change an old law. Anyone can suggest an idea for a bill — an individual, consumer group, professional association, government agency, or the governor. Most often, however, ideas come from legislators, the only ones who can begin to move an idea through the process. There are 134 House members and 67 senators.

Introduction

4 The chief House author of the bill introduces it in the House; the chief Senate author introduces it in the Senate. Identical bills introduced in each body are called *companion* bills. The bill introduction is called the *first reading*. The presiding officer of the House then refers it to an appropriate House committee for discussion; the same thing happens in the Senate.

General Register

7 In the House, the General Register serves as a parking lot where bills await action by the full body. Bills chosen to appear on the Calendar for the Day or the Fiscal Calendar are drawn from the General Register.

In the Senate, a different procedure is used. Bills are listed on the General Orders agenda. Senate members, acting as the “committee of the whole,” have a chance to debate the issue and offer amendments on the bill. Afterwards, they vote to recommend: passage of the bill, progress (delay action), or further committee action. And sometimes they recommend that a bill not pass. From here, the bill is placed on the Calendar.

Conference

9 If the House and Senate versions of the bill are different, they go to a conference committee. In the House, the speaker appoints three or five representatives, and in the Senate, the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration selects the same number of senators to form the committee. The committee meets to work out differences in the two bills and to reach a compromise.

Legal form

2 The Office of the Revisor of Statutes and staff from other legislative offices work with legislators in putting the idea for a new law into proper legal form. The revisor’s office is responsible for assuring that the proposal’s form complies with the rules of both bodies before the bill can be introduced into the Minnesota House of Representatives and the Minnesota Senate.

Committee

5 The bill is discussed in one or more committees depending upon the subject matter. After discussion, committee members recommend action — approval or disapproval — to the full House and full Senate. The House committee then sends a report to the House about its action on the bill; the Senate committee does likewise in the Senate.

Calendar for the Day

8 In the House, the Calendar for the Day is a list of bills the House Rules and Legislative Administration has designated for the full House to vote on. Members can vote to amend the bill, and after amendments are dispensed with, the bill is given its *third reading* before the vote of the full body is taken. The House also has a Fiscal Calendar, on which the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee or House Taxes Committee can call up for consideration any tax or finance bill that has had a second reading. The bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

In the Senate, bills approved by the “committee of the whole” are placed on the Calendar. At this point, the bill has its *third reading*,

Authors

3 Each bill must have a legislator to sponsor and introduce it in the Legislature. That legislator is the chief author whose name appears on the bill along with the bill’s file number to identify it as it moves through the legislative process. There may be up to 34 co-authors from the House and four from the Senate. Their names also appear on the bill.

Floor

6 After the full House or Senate accepts the committee report, the bill has its *second reading* and is placed on the House agenda called the General Register or the Senate agenda called General Orders. (A committee can recommend that non-controversial bills bypass the General Register or General Orders and go onto the Consent Calendar, where bills usually pass without debate.) After this point, House and Senate procedures differ slightly.

after which time the bill cannot be amended unless the entire body agrees to it. Toward the end of the session, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration designates bills from the General Orders calendar to receive priority consideration. These Special Orders bills are debated, amended, and passed in one day.

A bill needs 68 votes to pass the House and 34 votes to pass the Senate. If the House and Senate each pass the same version of the bill, it goes to the governor for a signature.

Governor

11 Once the governor has the bill, he or she may: sign it, and the bill becomes law; veto it within three days; or allow it to become law by not signing it. During session, the House and Senate can override a governor’s veto. This requires a two-thirds vote in the House (90 votes) and Senate (45 votes). The governor also may “line-item veto” parts of a money bill, or “pocket veto” a bill passed during the last three days of the session by not signing it within 14 days after final adjournment. ▼

Tracking new laws, vetoes

Exactly 4,972 bills were introduced during the 2001 Legislative Session — 2,565 by the House and 2,407 by the Senate. Of those, 218 bills (and five resolutions) were passed by both bodies during the session and will be sent to the governor.

So what happened to the other 4,754 bills? Some were duplicates, some were folded into other bills, but most are in limbo, awaiting legislative action when the next regular session begins on Jan. 29, 2002. The biennium has ended, and bills do not carry over from one biennium to the next.

And what happened to the 218 bills (and five resolutions) that have been sent to the governor? Most were signed into law, some are awaiting the governor's action, and some were vetoed.

Here's a quick review of the governor's veto authority during the first year of the biennium.

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

- sign the bill and it will become law;
 - veto the bill;
 - line-item veto individual items within an appropriations bill; or
 - do nothing, which in the first year of the biennium results in the bill becoming law.
- The timing of these actions is as important

as the actions themselves.

But the important thing to remember in the first year of the biennium is this: the governor has three days from the time of "presentment" to veto a bill.

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

(For bills passed in the Special Session, however, the governor has 14 days from "presentment" to veto them — the same rules that apply in the second year of the biennium. If the governor takes no action on a bill during this time, the bill is vetoed in what is commonly referred to as a "pocket veto.")

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

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. So the Legislature, either next year or when it is called into special session before then, could vote to override the governor's veto.

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

So what happens to the bills that weren't approved by the Legislature this year?

Bills that were awaiting floor action on the General Register now return to the last committee they were acted upon, where they will stay unless action upon by the 2002 Legislature. This rule also applies to any bill up for consideration on the Consent Calendar, Calendar for the Day or Fiscal Calendar.

For appointed conference committees that have not submitted a report upon adjournment, the bill returns to the body it originally came from and is laid on the table. The conference committee is then disbanded.

Bills that are passed by one body and not the other remain alive for the second year of the biennium. The house that approved the bill in the first year need not repass the bill in the second.

Bills pending before the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee from either body return to the standing committee to which the bill was previously referred.

Bills vetoed by the governor are returned to the body where the bill originated and laid on the table.

Bills remaining in standing committees can be taken up in the second year of the biennium in the committee to which they were last referred.

After each session, a comprehensive summary of all bills that were signed into law or vetoed is published. You can obtain a copy of New Laws 2001 by calling or writing the House Public Information Office, 175 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298; (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.

Editor's note: The following chart includes the 218 bills (and five resolutions) that passed both the House and the Senate and have been sent on to the governor for consideration. Final action is as yet incomplete on 39 of the bills and one resolution. The bills are, for the most part, sorted according to the committee of origin. However, only one omnibus appropriation bill was passed by both bodies before adjournment May 21. As a result, the governor must call a special session for the Legislature to finalize those bills, at which time they will be submitted for his approval or veto.

Here are definitions of some of the terms used in the chart.

Governor's options

- enactment
The date the governor signed the bill into law.
- line-item veto (liv)
The power or action of the governor to reject

individual items within an appropriations bill while approving the rest of the bill.

- Veto
The governor did not approve the bill.
- *An asterisk marks the version of the bill the House and Senate approved and sent on to the governor.

Effective dates

Each act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day it becomes effective, unless the act specifies a different time. Examples:

- Aug. 1, 2001
Each act the governor signs into law, except those that make appropriations, take effect on Aug. 1 following its final enactment, unless the act specifies a different date.
- July 1, 2001
An appropriations act, or an act spending money, takes effect at the beginning of the first day of July following its final enactment,

unless the act specifies a different date.

- Day after enactment
The act becomes effective on the day after the governor signs it.
- Upon local approval
A special law requiring approval from the local government unit it affects becomes effective the day after the local government unit's governing body files a certificate with the secretary of state, unless the act specifies a later date.
- Various
Different parts of the act have different effective dates.
- with exceptions (we)
Act includes other effective dates.
- with qualifications (wq)
Act adds conditions to the effective date.
- retroactive (retro.)
Act goes into effect as of a specified date in the past.

2001 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 24, 2001)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title					
HF—House File SF—Senate File R—Resolution CH—Chapter we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—approved without governor's signature liv—line item veto									
				AGRICULTURE POLICY					
106*	Ness	47	Dille	Minnesota agricultural education leadership council permanent members authorized.	6	3/8			3/9
149*	Pawlenty	505	Higgins	Regulates sale and labeling of Halal food, meat or poultry products.	54	4/30			8/1
285*	Ness	339	Murphy	Agricultural liens regulation provisions modification and consolidation.	57	4/30			7/1
406	Jennings	511*	Sams	Minnesota State Fair foundation established by the State Agricultural Society.	85	5/10			8/1
1145	Boudreau	333*	Kelley, S.P.	Veterinary medicine cease and desist orders authorized.	108	5/17			8/1
1734	Kuisle	1659*	Murphy	Animal feedlot permit conditions and additional level inventory.	128	5/18			5/19
2514*	Finseth	2368	Murphy	Animal Health Board dangerous domestic animal diseases emergency authority expansion.	192			x	
				CAPITAL INVESTMENT					
1159*	Pawlenty	857	Samuelson	Local bridge replacement and Gillette Children's Hospital addition funding modifications.	55	4/30			5/1
				CIVIL LAW					
243	Dawkins	346*	Betzold	Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.	15	4/6			8/1
245	Juhnke	225*	Johnson, Dean	Allows licensed peace officers to determine necessity of patient restraints.	26	4/13			8/1
453	Skoe	319*	Moe	Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.	34	4/24			8/1
239*	Lipman	170	Neuville	Real estate provisions modifications.	50	4/26			4/27 (Sec. 1); 8/1
1260*	Dawkins	1332	Kiscaden	Child support and custody provisions terminology neutralization.	51	4/26			8/1
1889*	Lipman	1831	Ranum	Uniform Partnership Act of 1994 transition issues regulated.	64	4/30			8/1
2396	Skoglund	1999*	Vickerman	Judicial system obsolete references updated and repealed.	78	5/10			8/1
2207	Mulder	2022*	Lesewski	Family support payment dates clarified.	134	5/21			8/1
1516	Hilstrom	1583*	Foley	Child neglect definition modified.	136	5/21			5/22
1697	Smith	1944*	Knutson	Crime of nonsupport of spouse or child clarification and modification.	158	5/22			8/1
1655	Entenza	1614*	Hottinger	Civil actions against the state authorized under certain federal acts.	159	5/22			8/1
440	Knobloch	321*	Kleis	Guardians or conservators criminal background studies requirements.	163	5/24			8/1
1276	Mullery	1968*	Samuelson	Crane operators certification study.	177			x	
1892*	Clark, K.	1545	Chaudhary	Creditor discriminatory practices to include discrimination based on public assistance.	186			x	
1051*	Smith	936	Neuville	Medical malpractice expert review certifications regulated.	189			x	
767	Holberg	1215*	Cohen	Business discrimination provisions modified.	194	5/24			8/1
1898	Holberg	1068*	Betzold	Government data access and maintenance provided.	202			x	
				COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY					
219	Sertich	258*	Tomassoni	Resolution requesting a ban on the importation of certain steel products.	R1	3/15			
2430	Jaros	2328*	Kelly, R.C.	Resolution to amend the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.	R5			x	
320*	Davids	399	Solon	Property casualty insurance agents surplus lines insurance procurement authority.	12	3/29			3/30
1951	Goodno	1204*	Hottinger	Regulates the use of HIV and bloodborne pathogen tests.	28	4/13			4/14
47*	Rukavina	39	Johnson, Doug	Unemployment benefits to certain LTV employees extended.	30	4/11			4/12 retro. to Aug. 1, 2000
949*	Rifenberg	771	Kierlin	Allows for a smaller newspaper to serve as the qualified newspaper for smaller communities.	38	4/24			8/1
323*	Haas	914	Hottinger	Motor vehicle fuel franchisees transfer rights provision expiration date removal.	48	4/26			4/27
1467	Holberg	1419*	Scheid	Payment bonds claims notices requirements modification.	52	4/26			8/1
1637*	Buesgens	1790	Robling	Repeals provisions requiring hawkers and peddlers to obtain a license.	53	4/30			8/1
1084*	McElroy	1066	Metzen	Omnibus financial institutions and banking bill.	56	4/30			5/1 (Secs. 1-7, 11, 12); 8/1
779*	McElroy	823	Betzold	Motor vehicle dealer franchise transfer practices modification.	62	4/30			8/1
1219*	Gunther	1617	Rest	State fund mutual insurance company state involvement reduced.	63	4/30			5/1
933*	Gunther	983	Sams	Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements.	72	5/4			8/1
489*	Haas	311	Scheid	Provides for the procurement of surety bonds.	76	5/7			8/1
1872	Marquart	1611*	Wiger	Vocational rehabilitation facilities grant procedures technical changes provided.	77	5/10			5/11 (Secs. 3,4); 8/1
2070	Gunther	1932*	Lesewski	Economic security statutory provisions modified and repealed.	79	5/10			5/11
390	Winter	110*	Vickerman	PrairieLand exposition center nonprofit management corporation authorized.	81	5/10			8/1
1409	Jacobson	1090*	Reiter	Minor employee age certification requirement satisfied by form I-9.	82	5/10			8/1
1920	Rhodes	1835*	Kelley, S. P.	Employees authorized to receive employment termination information within 15 days.	95	5/14			8/1
1392	Gunther	1258*	Frederickson	Minnesota Investment fund loan or grant authority expansion.	102	5/15			8/1
661	Stang	859*	Hottinger	Accountancy Act of 2001 established, rulemaking authorized, and penalties imposed.	109	5/17			1/1/03
926*	Goodno	1001	Sams	Minnesota uniform health care identification card standards modifications.	110	5/17			1/1/03
1955	Davids	1826*	Oliver	Insurance producers licensing and regulation.	117	5/17			7/1/02
2225	Nornes	2046*	Lesewski	Workers' compensation provisions modifications.	123	5/18			8/1; 5/19/02 (Sec. 23)
694	Davids	1264*	Scheid	No-fault auto insurance sale of income loss benefits coverage to senior citizens regulated.	124	5/18			8/1
1007	Davids	970*	Murphy	Gas sales below cost prohibited and enforcement authority provided.	129	5/21			8/1
1615	Entenza	1610*	Rest	Insurance regulation provided for liquidations and investments.	131	5/21			8/1
2253	Davids	2033*	Reiter	Insurance agents minimum continuing education requirements modification.	141	5/21			8/1

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R—Resolution			*—bill the governor signed or vetoed						
CH—Chapter			†—approved without governor's signature						
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH				
2130	Larson	1964*	Oliver	Life and health insurance guaranty association regulation provisions modifications.	142	5/21			8/1
604	Sertich	564*	Ring	Employee assistance records access and maintenance requirements.	145	5/21			8/1
1311	McElroy	1485*	Kelley, S.P.	Minnesota Money Transmitters Act established.	148	5/21			8/1
1821	Kuisle	1666*	Murphy	Motor vehicle dealers allowed temporary licensing exemption for certain sales.	151	5/21			8/1
1940	Sertich	1472*	Metzen	Capital access economic development program provisions modified.	153	5/21			5/22
1886	Kahn	1721*	Anderson	Genetic testing prohibited as condition for employment.	154	5/21			8/1
514	Carlson	1124*	Chaudhary	Continued insurance coverage provided for spouses of specified education retirees.	166	5/24			5/25
655*	Wolf	1277	Frederickson	Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program Law.	175			x	
1941*	Gunther	1899	Johnson, David	Job Skills Partnership program provisions clarification.	181			x	
1182*	Clark, J.	831	Frederickson	Invention developer contract requirements modified.	190			x	
1994	Stang	1752*	Solon	Local liquor license provisions.	193			x	
1733	Entenza	1561*	Hottinger	Uniform Commercial Code revised Article 9 corrective and conforming amendments.	195			x	
560	Goodno	491*	Berglin	Patient protections and cost-sharing provided.	196			x	
1893	Sertich	1344*	Higgins	Employers prohibited from requiring applicants to pay for background checks or training.	199			x	
2116	McElroy	1965*	Anderson	Obsolete trade and economic development department programs and duties repealed.	200			x	
1270	Entenza	1541*	Oliver	Currency exchanges, real estate brokers, real property appraisers regulation provided.	208			x	
1338	Haas	1054*	Scheid	Insurance provisions modifications.	215			x	
1541*	Mullery	882	Sabo	Rental application fees studied.	216			x	
				CRIME PREVENTION					
556*	Stanek	756	Kelly, R.C.	Federal law enforcement officers authorized to exercise some arrest powers in MN.	16	4/9			8/1
64	McElroy	971*	Kelly, R.C.	Repeals law prohibiting itinerant carnivals.	20	4/11			8/1
466	McElroy	972*	Kelly, R.C.	Repeals law prohibiting endurance contests.	22	4/11			8/1
865*	Fuller	1266	Kinkel	Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.	71	5/4			8/1
953*	Fuller	1265	Kinkel	Child abuse definition expansion.	73	5/4			8/1
782	McGuire	773*	Chaudhary	DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study.	80	5/10			8/1
783*	Stanek	1244	Ranum	Deadly force definition modified to exclude use of less lethal munitions used by peace officers.	127	5/18			5/19
570	Hilstrom	1043*	Chaudhary	POST Board license denial, suspension or revocation authority expansion.	135	5/21			8/1
704*	Fuller	719	Lourey	Criminal offenders rehabilitation law exception for emergency medical services personnel.	144	5/21			8/1
1925	Walker	1369*	Berglin	Battered women shelter facilities per diem payment program implementation.	152	5/21			8/1
992	Skoglund	1552*	Chaudhary	Negligent fire resulting in injury or property damage definition modified.	155	5/21			8/1
273	Skoglund	172*	Ranum	Juvenile petty offense definition exclusions and dispositions modification.	157	5/22			8/1
883	Johnson, S.	846*	Cohen	Criminal justice data communications network use authority expansion.	167	5/24			8/1
1997	Hilstrom	1324*	Marty	Private detectives and protective agents firearms use training requirements modified.	168	5/24			8/1
707*	Skoglund	863	Kelly, R.C.	Carisprodol controlled substance classification effective date modification.	173			x	
848	Skoglund	969*	Chaudhary	Corporations electronic search warrants.	197			x	
205	Nornes	103*	Larson	Gas theft from motor fuel retail business civil remedies provided.	204			x	
372	McGuire	229*	Ranum	Crime victim notification of expungement proceedings required.	209			x	
1261*	Bishop	1937	Chaudhary	Corrections provisions modification and clarification.	210			x	
				EDUCATION POLICY					
34	Seifert	28*	Hottinger	Teacher licensing under current licensure rules.	1	1/16			1/17
1046	Clark, J.	991*	Kelly, R.C.	Notifies schools of student possession of drug paraphernalia.	18	4/11			8/1
1192*	Abeler	1979	Foley	Teachers temporary limited licenses application timelines modified.	68	5/2			5/3
1394	Tingelstad	1706*	Wiger	Asthma inhaler possession and use authorized for public school students.	84	5/10			8/1
2107*	Johnson, J.	1329	Neuville	Student conduct considered grounds for dismissal or removal from class specified.	183			x	
				ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY					
80*	Hackbarth	79	Johnson, Debbie	Coon Lake water level control.	8	3/16			3/17
790	Dauids	702*	Scheevel	Modifies requirements for the Bluffland Trail System.	27	4/13			8/1
501	Ozment	283*	Kinkel	Conservation officer enforcement comparison prevented from use in job evaluation.	32	4/24			4/25
274*	Dorman	70	Marty	Mercury thermometer sales restricted.	47	4/26			1/1/02
1188*	Gunther	1045	Vickerman	Fire training exercise ash disposal regulated.	67	5/2			5/3
1481	Cassell	1164*	Frederickson	Landowner definition modified for participation in Reinvest in Minnesota program.	99	5/15			8/1
1827	Swenson	1613*	Knutson	Pollution Control Agency authority to expedite permits clarified.	116	5/17			8/1
1828*	Ozment	1486	Stevens	Wetlands classification and replacement provisions modifications.	146	5/21			8/1
1612	Kelliher	1434*	Price	Water permit provisions modifications.	160	5/24			8/1
873*	Howes	1126	Kinkel	Tax-forfeited land conveyances, sales, exchanges, and easements.	164	5/24			5/25; local compliance (sec. 15)
870	Erickson	795*	Stevens	Snowmobile trail access grant-in-aid continuation required.	165	5/24			5/25
1071	Bakk	1082*	Frederickson	State park land additions, deletions, and administration.	182	5/24			8/1

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we—with exceptions wq—with qualifications *—bill the governor signed or vetoed †—approved without governor's signature									
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title					
1487*	Haas	1346	Lessard	Recreation and game and fish provisions modifications.	185	5/24			8/1
2028*	Nornes	1785	Higgins	Environmental audit pilot program modified; PCA separate annual pollution report.	187			x	
1497*	Nornes	1580	Moe	Lake County state land sales authorized.	206			x	
				FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE					
1515*	Sykora	1851	Lourey	Omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations bill.	217			x	
				GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY					
1391*	Solberg	1318	Lessard	Resolution for postage stamp of Eric Enstrom's "Grace" photograph.	R3	4/26			
656*	Lipman	231	Betzold	Revisor's Bill.	7	3/15			3/16 (Sec. 52); 8/1
252	Seifert	570*	Reiter	Repeals obsolete rules.	23	4/11			8/1
1455	Osskopp	1435*	Price	Designer selection board provisions modified.	33	4/24			8/1
387	Walker	142*	Higgins	Increases the membership of the State Council on Black Minnesotans.	39	4/24			8/1
2119*	Erickson	1915	Rest	Charitable organization report filing requirements modified.	45	4/24			4/25
995*	Buesgens	1214	Tomassoni	Horse racing license application and medication provisions modifications.	59	4/30			5/1
525*	McElroy	1604	Wiener	Multimember agency members compensation conditions modifications.	61	4/30			7/1
1681*	Dehler	1622	Sabo	State employment technical and housekeeping changes; civil service pilot project extension.	70	5/2			5/3 (Sec. 4); 8/1
1247*	Eastlund	1506	Larson	Veterans Home Board administration of planned giving donations provided.	75	5/4			8/1
1410	Gunther	849*	Vickerman	Rural policy and development center staff authorized to participate in stat plans.	86	5/10			5/11
1687	Clark, K.	1206*	Kinkel	Indian Affairs Council membership expanded to include a member from Bemidji.	88	5/10			8/1
1021	Buesgens	1008*	Betzold	Casino licensee authorized to detain persons suspected of cheating.	92	5/14			8/1
1657	Haas	1404*	Hottinger	Group long-term care insurance purchase authorized for retired state employees.	94	5/14			5/15
1069	Osskopp	986*	Vickerman	Lawful gambling regulation provisions modifications.	96	5/14			5/15 (Secs. 5-13); 8/1
724	Rhodes	1064*	Rest	State professional service contract procedures specified.	100	5/15			7/1
1764	Gleason	2049*	Sabo	Coldwater Springs Camp area historical preservation ensured.	101	5/15			5/16
481	Greiling	520*	Wiger	Combat Wounded Veterans Day designated as Aug. 7.	104	5/15			8/1
1537	Lipman	780*	Betzold	State agency rulemaking housekeeping and technical changes bill.	106	5/17			8/1
1248*	Eastlund	1774	Samuelson	Veterans homes resident deposit accounts modified.	111	5/17			8/1
1778	Walz	1269*	Samuelson	Bataan Death March commemorative plaque placement in the State Capitol provided.	115	5/17			8/1
1023	Biernat	1222*	Wiger	Merchant Marine and Women Airforce Service Pilots plaques authorized on Capitol grounds.	125	5/18			5/19
2074	Clark, J.	2031*	Knutson	Public works contracts regulated.	126		5/18		
1174	Howes	694*	Murphy	Propane Education and Research Council established.	130	5/21			8/1
486*	Seifert	682	Lesewski	Newspaper paid political advertisement disclaimers required to be legible.	143	5/21			8/1
1869	Anderson, B.	1263*	Robertson	Expiration dates of various advisory councils, committees, and other entities changed.	161	5/24			Various
1938	Kahn	1680*	Robertson	Administration department provisions modified.	162	5/24			Various
667	Seifert	555*	Betzold	State agencies rulemaking procedures modifications.	179			x	
1310*	Abrams	1205	Johnson, Doug	State building official authorized to interpret the state building code.	207			x	
1569*	Osskopp	1628	Rest	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities customized trainer positions reclassified.	218			x	
				HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY					
213	Mulder	201*	Sams	Physicians assistants infection control continuing education requirements repeal.	3	2/15			2/16
181	Wenzel	43*	Samuelson	Adult foster care license capacity age requirement and maximum admissions variances.	4	2/28			3/1
357	Mullery	289*	Sams	Alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements modified.	10	3/16			3/17
994	Dorn	883*	Hottinger	Establishes hospital waiver or variance request procedure.	29	4/13			8/1
116	Mulder	274*	Higgins	Respiratory care practitioner advisory council sunset delayed.	31	4/24			8/1
424	Greiling	456*	Berglin	Mental retardation waiver recipients authorized access to respite care in certain facilities.	35	4/24			8/1
275*	Abeler	210	Foley	Nursing facilities closure medical assistance cost savings projection prohibition.	36	4/24			4/25
125*	Nornes	104	Larson	Dentist licensure requirements modified for applicants trained in a foreign country.	37	4/24			8/1
1747	Solberg	1780*	Lessard	Itasca County chemical dependency demonstration project rule exemption extended.	41	4/24			8/1
1634	Mahoney	1460*	Marty	Duty to warn law applied to social workers allowed to form professional firms.	42	4/24			8/1
253	Seifert	249*	Ring	Public health obsolete rules repeal.	46	4/26			8/1
1160*	Davids	1127	Sams	Physician assistants prescribing medication review provisions modified.	49	4/26			8/1
967*	Mulder	876	Lesewski	Permits schools to sponsor potluck events.	65	5/2			8/1
1151*	Mulder	1187	Kelley, S. P.	Modifies penalty provisions for psychologists.	66	5/2			8/1
1522*	Bradley	1421	Stevens	Full-time nursing home administrator requirements modified.	69	5/2			8/1
1748*	Harder	2097	Vickerman	Rural ambulance services staff requirements temporary variances.	74	5/4			8/1
1067	Boudreau	923*	Pariseau	Social work licensure examination requirement exceptions provided.	90	5/10			8/1
935	Goodno	824*	Kelly, R.C.	Good Samaritan law emergency care liability immunity clarification.	107	5/17			5/18
1832	Goodno	2361*	Berglin	Omnibus health, human services and corrections appropriations.	118		5/15		
1081	Jacobson	560*	Sams	Health care review organizations provisions modifications.	120	5/17			8/1

2001 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 24, 2001)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
HF—House File			we—with exceptions						
SF—Senate File			wq—with qualifications						
R—Resolution			*—bill the governor signed or vetoed						
CH—Chapter			†—approved without governor's signature						
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
976	Abeler	359*	Kiscaden	Chiropractors licensing and regulation provisions modification and clarification.	121	5/18			8/1
322	Rhodes	414*	Hottinger	Minnesota Utilization Review Act provisions modified.	137	5/21			8/1
1819	Nornes	1430*	Higgins	Alcohol and drug counselor licensure reporting requirement repealed.	138	5/21			8/1
1155*	Abeler	1081	Sams	Health plan companies network shadow contracting regulation provisions modifications.	170	5/24			Various
1407*	Mulder	1415	Sams	Public health collaboration plans provisions modified.	171	5/24			8/1
1397	Tingelstad	1394*	Kiscaden	Child placement provisions modified and definitions provided.	178			x	
1928	Walker	1407*	Ring	Health care access programs provisions modified.	203			x	
1304	Nornes	1464*	Lourey	Lead poisoning prevention provisions modified.	205			x	
1406*	Mulder	1398	Kiscaden	Maternal death review and study provided.	211			x	
				HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE					
550*	Eastlund	954	Hottinger	Higher education services Edvest office rulemaking authority extended.	58		4/30		
977	Leppik	1033*	Wiener	MnSCU technical and community college employee unions merged.	133	5/21			5/22
				JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE					
421*	McElroy	460	Cohen	Energy assistance program federal fund expenditure authorized.	2	2/2			2/3
1105	Rukavina	960*	Tomassoni	IRRRB Commissioner authorized to acquire discontinued mining property.	149	5/21			5/22
				K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE					
670	Carlson	647*	Rest	Resolution to fund 40 percent of special education costs.	R2	4/6			
				LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS					
817	Howes	376*	Vickerman	City contract limit increases.	5	3/2			3/3
393*	Mahoney	155	Kelly, R.C.	Ramsey County and St. Paul city employees vacant county jobs equal competition.	9	3/16			3/17
487	Vandever	433*	Ring	Townships health, social, and recreational services contracts amounts increases.	11	3/21			8/1
1016	Holberg	509*	Robling	City and county obligations payment by electronic transfer or credit card authorized.	13	4/6			4/7 (Sec.3); 8/1
172	Mares	9*	Wiger	Authorizes cities housing assistance for volunteer firefighters or ambulance personnel.	19	4/11			4/12
394	Seifert	327*	Lesewski	Repealing statutes concerning castrating animals running at large in a town.	21	4/11			8/1
828	Mullery	741*	Orfield	Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.	40	4/24			Upon local compliance
867*	Seagren	646	Rest	Suburban Hennepin Regional Park District provisions modification and clarification.	44	4/24			4/25
1465	Stanek	1432*	Wiger	Police civil service periodic examinations permitted and clarifying changes provided.	87	5/10			8/1
2110	Howes	1441*	Hottinger	Limited exemption to local government gift policy provided.	93	5/14			5/15
1290	Howes	510*	Pappas	County offices made appointive positions under certain circumstances.	105	5/17			Upon local approval
1526	Erhardt	1528*	Terwilliger	Edina authorized to restrict operation of recreational motor vehicles (ATVs).	114		5/17		
610	Solberg	974*	Lessard	Local public officers conflict of interest law exception provided.	132	5/21			8/1
1589	Howes	1301*	Robertson	Bid and performance bond thresholds modified for economic development projects.	140	5/21			8/1
872	Sertich	494*	Tomassoni	St. Louis County special purchasing laws repealed.	150	5/21			7/1
1153*	Mulder	1529	Lesewski	Local government building project architect requirement exemption provided.	172			x	
1507*	Bishop	1572	Langseth	Municipal planning legal nonconforming land uses treatment clarification.	174	5/24			8/1
1218	Rhodes	1154*	Kelley, S.P.	Metropolitan Radio Board expiration date extension.	176			x	
1340*	Anderson, B.	908	Ourada	Wright County recorder appointment permitted.	180	5/24			5/25
2036*	Dempsey	1685	Murphy	Goodhue County auditor-treasurer appointment.	184	5/24			Upon local compliance
1544	Hilty	1367*	Lourey	County creation and boundary change procedures modification.	198			x	
2510	Johnson, J.	2249*	Betzold	Revisor's bill.	201			x	
				REGULATED INDUSTRIES					
1367*	Wolf	1306	Metzen	Owner-occupied residential housing program to use rental energy revolving loan funds.	147	5/21			5/22
659	Wolf	722*	Metzen	Energy conservation, production and regulatory provisions modifications.	212			x	
				TAXES					
2037	Abrams	2208*	Pogemiller	Public finance and debt provisions modifications.	214			x	
				TRANSPORTATION POLICY					
208*	Workman	551	Dille	Resolution urging authorization of funding for modernization of waterways.	R4	5/17			
368	Stang	63*	Fischbach	Stearns County Highway 55 bridge designated as Old St. Anne's pass.	14	4/6			8/1
416	Rifenberg	400*	Kierlin	Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage.	17	4/9			Upon local compliance
37	McElroy	480*	Johnson, Dean	Repeals obsolete traffic regulations.	24	4/13			8/1
57*	Molnau	27	Robling	Certain crimes against children named disqualifying offenses for school bus drivers' licenses.	25	4/13			6/1
1404	Kuise	1709*	Johnson, Dean	Exempts towed implements of husbandry from tail lamp requirement.	43	4/24			4/25
1383*	Workman	1598	Schwab	Motorcycle handlebar height restrictions repealed.	60	4/30			8/1
1085	Workman	1155*	Langseth	Motor home and other defined recreational equipment width limitations modified.	83	5/10			8/1
254	Seifert	930*	Schwab	Transportation obsolete rules repealed.	89	5/10			5/11
1830	Workman	2006*	Schwab	Motor vehicle accident data public availability.	91	5/10			8/1
2181	Workman	2225*	Pappas	Certain school buses operation by licensed child care providers.	97	5/15			Various

2001 MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE FINAL ACTION (as of May 24, 2001)					CH	Governor's signature	Governor's veto	Awaiting governor's action	Effective date
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SF—Senate File	wq—with qualifications								
R—Resolution	*—bill the governor signed or vetoed								
CH—Chapter	†—approved without governor's signature								
HF	Author	SF	Author	Bill Title	CH				
1172	Workman	1056*	Sabo	School bus driver's licenses validity verification requirement.	98	5/15			8/1
1549	Wenzel	1772*	Samuelson	C. Elmer Anderson Memorial Highway outdoor advertising restriction.	103	5/15			5/16
1596*	Workman	1599	Chaudhary	Small vehicle passenger service definition expanded to wheelchair-accessible vehicles.	112	5/17			8/1
2161	Stanek	2005*	Foley	State Trooper Theodore "Ted" Foss Memorial Highway designated on I-90 in Winona County.	113	5/17			8/1
887	Leppik	910*	Robertson	Residential roadway definition modification for traffic regulations purposes.	119	5/17			8/1
1817	Workman	1821*	Murphy	Utility facilities regulation modified in railroad rights-of-way.	122		5/18		
2203	Clark, J.	2142*	Kelly, R.C.	County highways or town roads property condemnation judicial review.	139	5/21			5/22
256	Howes	174*	Moe	Gross weight seasonal increase for transporting carrots authorized.	156	5/22			8/1
708*	Workman	1113	Johnson, Dean	Well drilling machines and equipment registration tax exemption clarified.	188	5/24			5/25
1973*	Workman	2106	Terwilliger	State highways in municipalities regulated and conforming changes provided.	191	5/24			5/25 wq
1488	Workman	1769*	Ourada	Transportation and highway provisions modifications.	213			x	
				WAYS & MEANS					
634*	Haas	648	Kelly, R.C.	Payment of claims against the state.	169	5/24			7/1

What's on the Web

House Public Information Office free publications

The House Public Information Office offers a number of free publications for students, constituents, and those just generally interested in the legislative process. Many of those publications are available on the Internet as well.

Simply point to the House Public Information Office (www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/hinfo.htm) page on the House Web site. There you can find many publications just as they appear in printed form:

- The award-winning *Session Weekly* publication, which provides weekly updates of committee and floor action in the House of Representatives. New laws signed by the governor are also included in the final issues of the session. The publication is free, designed with the average reader in mind, and includes easy-to-understand explanation of the lawmaking

process and ways to contact legislators. Past years are also available.

- *The Minnesota State Government Series*, an eight-part packet about various facets of state government, including state symbols, constitutional officers, and members of Congress. Each item is available separately and all are excellent for schools groups or informational meetings.
- *Come to the Capitol*, a two-page sheet for people planning a visit to the State Capitol for fun or to testify at a hearing. Maps of the Capitol complex are included.
- *Minnesota State and Federal Offices*, a two-page sheet containing contact information for members of Congress, as well as key state agencies.
- *New Laws*, a comprehensive report of all new laws enacted during each one-year session, designed in the same

easy-to-understand format as *Session Weekly*. Past years are also available.

- *Capitol Steps: How Six Bills Became Law*, a publication that follows six bills through the process in the Legislature to become law. This booklet is geared toward older children, at least sixth-grade level, and adults.
- Also available are results from the annual House of Representatives State Fair Poll and downloadable photographs of the State Capitol.

These publications are also available free of charge from the House Public Information Office. Call (651) 296-2146 voice, (651) 296-9896 TTY or (800) 657-3550 toll-free voice and TTY.



Friday, May 18

HF2541—Osskopp (R)

Transportation Policy

Telecommunications access to interstate highway rights-of-way provisions modified.

HF2542—Kelliher (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Minnesota planetarium construction funding provided in Minneapolis, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2543—Clark, J. (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

New Ulm recreational trail construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2544—Paymar (DFL)

Agriculture Policy

Gopher State Ethanol payments suspended upon adoption of St. Paul City Council resolution.

HF2545—Leppik (R)

Higher Education Finance

Residential facilities educational services bargaining unit study committee established, and money appropriated.

HF2546—Swenson (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Regional sludge management demonstration project funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2547—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Moose license separate selection category added.

HF2548—Hausman (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Nuclear waste council established.

HF2549—Hausman (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Minnesota Nuclear Responsibility Act of 2000 re-activated and reorganized modifying provisions relating to storage of nuclear waste, and money appropriated.

HF2550—Osskopp (R)

Regulated Industries

911 emergency telephone system provisions modified to establish emergency telecommunications system.

Saturday, May 19

HF2551—Ozment (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Phosphorous content in rivers and streams limited.

HF2552—Clark, K. (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Minority investment grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2553—Larson (DFL)

Civil Law

Child support satisfaction granted if obligee no longer provides for child.

HF2554—Dibble (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Unsterilized ballast water discharge prohibited.

HF2555—Tingelstad (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Metropolitan regional parks system funding provided and money appropriated.

HF2556—Bakk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Silver Bay Marina capital improvements funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2557—Huntley (DFL)

Governmental Operations &

Veterans Affairs Policy

University of Minnesota-Duluth Bulldog Sports Center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Monday, May 21

HF2558—Goodno (R)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Moorhead; Trollwood arts village construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2559—Mares (R)

Governmental Operations &

Veterans Affairs Policy

State troopers plan and PERA police and fire plan members average salary provisions based on three years of service.

HF2560—Lenczewski (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

Automobile accident prevention course single-session courses authorized.

HF2561—Kahn (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board authorized to lease land adjacent to the Mississippi River for purposes of operating a commercial food or entertainment facility.

HF2562—Leighton (DFL)

Civil Law

Uniform Principal and Income Act of 1997 adopted.

HF2563—Evans (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development

New Brighton Area History Center capital improvements funded and money appropriated.

HF2564—Olson (R)

Crime Prevention

Repeat property crimes offenders required to pay full restitution and complete character-development program, report required, and task force established to propose an institution where offenders will work to repay restitution.

HF2565—Olson (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

State park permit fees increased, state campsites required to remain open as scheduled, and report required.

Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146

Chief Clerk of the House

211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, House

211 Capitol 296-6646

TTY, House 296-9896

Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

TTY, Senate 296-0250

Toll free 1-888-234-1112

Secretary of the Senate

231 Capitol 296-2343

Voice mail/order bills 296-2343


Index, Senate

110 Capitol 296-5560

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May 1857. The average length of a special session is about 18 days.

In 1982, the Legislature broke new ground by simultaneously holding its regular session and a special session. According to the *St. Paul Dispatch*, the Legislature set Jan. 12 as the opening day of the following legislature when it recessed in May 1981. However, a special session called by Quie for Dec. 1, 1981 had yet to conclude.

On Jan. 12, the Senate began a special session meeting at 10:50 a.m. and convened a regular session meeting 10 minutes later. The newspaper remarked that "no one has suggested that legislators can collect a double 'per diem payment' by holding two simultaneous sessions." 

Advance Committee Schedule

MONDAY, May 28

House offices closed.

TUESDAY, May 29

9 a.m.

Joint House/Senate Working Group on Jobs and Economic Development Finance

318 State Capitol (Room may change to 123 State Capitol if it is available)

Chrs. Rep. Dan McElroy, Sen. Ellen Anderson

10 a.m.

Conference Committee SF2340

Omnibus Transportation and Public Safety Budget Bill

Basement Hearing Room

State Office Building

Chrs. Rep. Carol Molnau, Sen. Dean Johnson

1 p.m.

Joint House/Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services and Corrections Bill

Working Group

123 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Kevin Goodno, Sen. Linda Berglin

2 p.m.

Joint House/Senate Omnibus Tax Bill Working Group

15 State Capitol

Chrs. Rep. Ron Abrams, Sen. Larry Pogemiller

Reflections

The first year of the 82nd Legislative Session adjourned May 21 at the stroke of midnight. This occurred after leadership in both the House and Senate worked with the governor through the weekend prior to May 21 in hopes of reaching a compromise on tax reform and other matters taking them down roads less traveled.

As this edition of *Session Weekly* went to press the negotiations continued. Once the differences are ironed out, the governor is expected to call a special session for the bills to be passed.

As the midnight hour drew near May 21, conference committee members waited for funding targets, and other lawmakers dealt with non-fiscal

bills still up for passage.

One such bill caused much debate between the two political caucuses.

It was a proposed reconfiguration of state and congressional districts based on the state's 2000 census population. In it, the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis would be placed in one congressional district.

Back in the 1860s, the Legislature decided on a similar direction of road to take. At the time, both cities were vying for major control of water power along the Mississippi River. In so doing, they created a strong, unethical competition between each other.

Lawmakers tried to solve the situation by issuing mandates, similar to those of the U.S. Congress, for the cities to share the river. Still, conflicts between the cities continued for many years, including one created by some businessmen who tried to get the cities merged for personal gain.

The 1890 census count showed Minneapolis' population was 40,000 greater than its rival. St. Paul cried foul. Many believed Minneapolis had padded the numbers. Indeed, a new federal census found the counts in both cities to be exaggerated, which

solidified an ongoing contest between the Twin Cities.

That genteel rivalry still exists in 2001. Many St. Paulites are annoyed when they hear a national news reporter or a rock star at a concert identify St. Paul as that other city by calling their hometown, "Minneapolis."

A few Minneapolitans mock the Capital City because of the difficulty they experience in finding their way through the maze

of St. Paul streets. But many St. Paulites are only amused by the confusion.

Around July 4, for example, Capital City citizens note their rivals don't know how to use alternate,

less-used routes to get to the Taste of Minnesota festival on the Capitol grounds. Hundreds of "out-of-towners" line up for miles on Interstate 94 to take the only exit they know to get to the Capitol. Roads less taken require a willingness to try new directions.

New legislation proposed at the end of the 2001 session is largely based on new paths to follow. Among unresolved issues are vast changes in governmental policy, an itinerary for tax reform, state government funding, and the redistricting proposal.

Variations or distinct changes in law from another viewpoint may be equated to words by national poet laureate Robert Frost:

Two roads diverged...

And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveler. Long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could...

Then took the other, as just as fair...

I took the one less traveled by.

And that has made all the difference.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT



Many roads, from many directions, converge at the State Capitol.

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
175 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-1298

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

2001 Legislative Session

Number of House files introduced during the 2001 session	2,565
In 1999	2,475
In 1997	2,245
Number of Senate files introduced in 2001 session	2,407
In 1999	2,285
In 1997	2,003
Bills passed by House and Senate to be sent to governor, as of May 24	218
In 1999	250
In 1997	235
Bills signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura, as of noon May 24	154
Bills vetoed in part or in whole by Gov. Ventura, as of noon May 24	5
By Ventura in 1999	18
In 1997, by Gov. Arne Carlson	19
Bills vetoed from 1939 to 2000	386
Veto overrides attempted, successful by Legislature this year	2
Number of overrides since 1945	10
Last year without a veto	1978
Number of resolutions passed and sent to governor	5
In 1999	3
In 1997	4
Resolutions signed by Gov. Ventura, as of noon May 24	4
Pages in the 2001 Journal of the House	5,516
In 1999	5,484
Number of legislative days used so far	59
In 1999	67
In 1997	63
Maximum number of legislative days lawmakers can meet in regular session during a biennium	120
Number of standing House committees, 2001	28
In 1999	26
In 1997	19
Number of special sessions in the 1990s	7
During the first two years of the Ventura administration	0
Days from when the gavel fell to conclude the 2001 session to when the next regularly scheduled session begins on Jan. 29, 2002	253

Sources: Legislature Web site (www.leg.state.mn.us); House Public Information Office; House Chief Clerk's Office; Governor's Log 2001 (www.mainserver.state.mn.us/governor/bill_tracking.html)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For general information, call:
House Information Office
(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550

To obtain a copy of a bill, call:
Chief Clerk's Office
(651) 296-2314

To find out about bill introductions or
the status of a specific bill, call:
House Index Office
(651) 296-6646

For an up-to-date recorded message
giving committee meeting times and
agendas, call:
Committee Hotline
(651) 296-9283

The House of Representatives can be
reached on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us>

Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired.
To ask questions or leave messages, call:
TTY Line (651) 296-9896 or
1-800-657-3550

Check your local listings to watch House
committee and floor sessions on TV.

Senate Information
(651) 296-0504
1-888-234-1112

Senate Index
(651) 296-5560

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(800) 657-3550 toll free voice and TTY.