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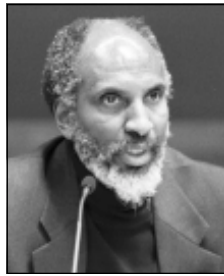
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On the cover: members of the 2001-2002 Minnesota House of Representatives.

—Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank

Racial profiling

House members disagree on which methods would be most effective in addressing the problem

By **JONAS M. WALKER**

The House has begun to address an issue that representatives, community leaders, and law enforcement personnel agree has haunted Minnesota and the rest of the United States for many years: the ‘profiling’ of minorities by police officers.

“We have made this a top priority of this committee,” said Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield), who chairs the House Crime Prevention Committee.

At a packed Feb. 13 committee meeting, Tuma asked Jason Brown, vice-president of the Minneapolis chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, why the issue of racial profiling was attracting so much national and local attention.

Brown, who joined other community leaders, government officials, and academics in support of legislative initiatives addressing racial profiling, replied, “This is an issue of power, an issue of being heard.”

He made reference to Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls), Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls), St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, and Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton, all of whom are prominent African-Americans who testified before the committee. “Twenty years ago, we didn’t have a mayor and a representative (to speak to the issue of racial profiling). Now we have the power; we have your atten-

tion. By God we’re going to use it,” said Brown, to the audible delight of some in the audience.

Sayles Belton said Minneapolis has already begun collecting data to study racial profiling. She explained that doing so was in “no way meant to suggest that we don’t have dedicated police officers who are professionally performing their duties. But, we know that racial profiling does occur.”

She characterized collecting data as “the first step in the right direction towards eliminating biased policing. Eliminating racial profiling is at the top of our agenda in Minneapolis. We want the same in the state.”

Connecticut, Missouri and Rhode Island currently require participation by all law enforcement agencies in statewide racial profiling studies. At least eight other states are addressing the problem in some way. “To not act on this shows that the Minnesota Legislature is immune or doesn’t care,” Gray said.

Representatives have sponsored three bills that demonstrate both the widespread agreement that racial profiling does occur and the significant differences, which continue to divide stakeholders. All three create statewide studies to record information about police stops, including the date, time, location, the officer’s reason for the stop, and the outcome.

Beyond agreeing as to the basic data to be collected, the proposals differ in three major

aspects: the state official responsible for collecting the information, the voluntary or compulsory nature of the study, and the collection of officers’ badge numbers.

Gray is developing a bill, which will likely be introduced within the next few weeks, that contains the most rigorous study.

Under his plan, the attorney general would be responsible for overseeing the compulsory statewide collection of data, including officers’ badge numbers. Additionally, police chiefs would report “whether the driver and passengers were advised of their constitutional rights under the Fourth Amendment to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures,” whether a search was conducted, any injuries resulting from the stop, and the stop’s duration.

Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), a Minneapolis police officer, offered HF505 under which the commissioner of public safety would collect information volunteered by Minnesota law enforcement agencies. It would explicitly forbid the identification of the stopping officer by badge number. “I’m not convinced that doing so would serve any benefit,” said Stanek.

In another major difference from other plans, HF505 would study “the officer’s perception of the race, ethnicity, or national origin of the driver.” Stanek explained that under those conditions, police officers would be reluctant to ask stopped drivers about their race or ethnicity.

A third plan would not require chiefs to collect individual officers’ badge numbers, but would identify all collected data as coming from a particular law enforcement agency, as Stanek’s does.

But another feature of the third plan, HF737, sponsored by Rep. Carlos Mariani



PHOTOS BY ANDREW VON BANK

John Powell from the Institute on Race and Poverty, St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, Minneapolis Police Chief Robert Olson, and Migizi Communications Director Laura Waterman-Woodstock are among those who testified at a Feb. 13 hearing on racial profiling.

(DFL-St. Paul) is that officers would have to actually record "whether the officer knew the race/ethnicity of the driver before the stop," a piece of information not registered under the other two proposals.

Mariani described the bill, as "a middle ground" between the Stanek and Gray resolutions.

Like Gray's plan, Mariani would make the commissioner of public safety responsible for collecting data, which chiefs would be required to report. In its current form, HF737 would not require that individual officers be associated with the data on stops. However, Mariani suggested in a later interview that he could look favorably on such a requirement.

Mariani and Gray each pointed out that badge-identified records would be used for internal police department review only, and would not be made public.

In his budget, Gov. Jesse Ventura recommended a one-time allocation of \$280,000 to the Department of Public Safety to compensate local jurisdictions for the cost of an optional study.

Stanek's bill would allocate \$1.15 million in the form of grants to the commissioner of public safety, while the Mariani and Gray bills do not currently include final cost figures. All three bills are financed via general fund appropriations.

Commissioner of Public Safety Charlie Weaver said Ventura is "opposed to statewide mandatory collection," instead favoring money for increased training and in-service education, as well as voluntary data collection. Weaver told the committee that Ventura characterized racial profiling as "fundamentally a local issue."

Gray countered that, although he empathized with the governor's concern that local control not be compromised, Minnesota has a responsibility to address racial profiling statewide. "The concern I have is whether local law enforcement officials are going to act on the information (garnered in the study). Are the most egregious violators going to come forward?"

Sayles Belton echoed Gray's sentiment when asked by Stanek if the state's mandate that local agencies collect data would be too much of a burden on local officials. "The whole state should be a partner in sharing costs and ensuring the credibility of the study," she said.

Gray added local control of the study would be appropriate if "this were solely an issue of law enforcement. This is a major civil rights issue," he said. "Eliminating racial profiling is not something we can pawn off to the mayors or police chiefs. This is something we as a state need to come to grips with." 🐼



A tough start

Still in its infancy, the BCA weathered harsh criticism from officials

At a time when lawmakers are planning to fund CriMNet, a computerized system to track and identify criminals, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has garnered attention not often focused on state agencies.

In that regard, contemporary bureaucrats and law-enforcement officials might empathize with their professional peers of 70 years ago.

The U.S. Congress enacted the 18th Amendment in 1920, forbidding the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol. At the time, Minnesota was still something of a wild territory, and St. Paul in particular was known as a safe haven for all manner of criminal behavior.

Hoping to curb increasing criminality on the prairie, Minnesota created the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in 1927. Two years later, Gov. Theodore Christianson left no room for ambiguity in communicating his frustration with rising crime and the BCA's seeming inability to effectively respond.

In a 1929 statement to the Legislature the governor wrote, "The essential functions of government are few. And it is those essential functions that government fails most lamentably. The first duty of the state is to protect life, liberty, and property. But it is to this duty that the State devotes the least of its activity."

Christianson explained that embattled honest citizens who knew criminals were deviously at work in their midst had nowhere to turn. Even as governor, he said, "There is no agency of the state government, not even a single investigator, that I can call upon to get the evidence."

The governor wrote that local police departments were overwhelmed by "the numerous depredations by desperate criminals which have occurred, the frequent bank robberies and other outrages which have been committed, the recent invasion of the State by members of the underworld from other cities, (and) their apparent intention to establish a center of operations here."

To officials Christianson sounded a warning bell that something needed to be done. He organized a Commission on

Criminal Apprehension to study the matter and charged the commission to "prepare definite measures for presentation to the law-making body."

The commission conducted "an examination of the laws governing the systems of criminal apprehension in other states and examination of the practical workings of these systems." Echoing Christianson's consternation, the committee began its final report by saying "anyone who indulges in the belief that the problem of crime is not a grave one, is simply blind to patent facts and deaf to resounding alarms."

On Dec. 31, 1930, the committee concluded that "we are handicapped by a paucity of either general or accurate records and statistics of crime." Although the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension had been operating for three years, "few records and reports (of crime) have been received by the bureau, and no substantial progress has yet been made in collecting any statistics."

The committee reported that "we find a drifting away from the old, purely local system of policing towards a centralized state organization." At the time, 11 states had established state police, three had created county police units, and at least 19 states, including Minnesota, had established a state patrol, which primarily regulated traffic on the trunk highway system.

"There can be no efficiency in detection or apprehension without unified action and organization directed from a central head. All peace officers, local or otherwise in their appointment, should be coordinated, and they should have the power of arrest throughout the state," the committee wrote.

Since then, the BCA has grown to be the major statewide force in the investigation of crime scenes, the collection of criminal statistics, and the accumulation of data on particular criminals. It employs more than 200 people, has 13 field offices throughout the state and, according to its Web site, has a forensic lab with "an international reputation as one of the finest in the country."

(J. WALKER)

★ CHILDREN

Childcare consolidation considered

Gov. Jesse Ventura has recommended consolidating all existing subsidized childcare programs into one program.

The proposal was presented to the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee Feb. 12 by Cherie Kotilinek and Elizabeth Roe, from the Department of Children, Families and Learning (CFL), charged with overseeing childcare programs.

The governor's proposal would combine the childcare programs that currently reside within the Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) and Minnesota Family Investment (MFIP) programs into one and eliminate two others, moving their funding to the new one.

While there would be no net change in appropriations from the general fund, there would be an increase to the department's budget. The additional funds, a total of \$21.5 million, for administering the repackaged program would come from the child care grant program in the Higher Education Services Office and the dependent care tax credit in the Department of Revenue. Both these programs would end under the proposal.

Concerned lawmakers challenged the program change on a number of fronts.

"This is a real thorny issue because most of the money you've put in has come from other programs," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), committee chair.

Rep. Peggy Leppik (R-Golden Valley) was concerned the elimination of higher education childcare grants meant students would no longer get the childcare support they need. In fact, according to Roe, 28 percent of students currently receiving those grants would not be eligible under consolidation unless they opted to work 20 hours a week.

"I don't believe the governor has an agenda against students," Kotilinek said, "but that he has an agenda for working families."

That agenda is based on the following goals:

- To allocate resources to the highest priority families;
- To provide incentives for families to transition to self-sufficiency; and
- To treat families in similar financial circumstances similarly.

Eligibility requirements would change for the new program. For example, income eligibility would drop from 75 percent or less than

the state median income to 50 percent or less.

"This would appear to be a major reshuffling of how people are served by these programs," said Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls). "These programs are a promise we make to the people of Minnesota."

★ CRIME

Gas 'n go no more

Legislators are considering a bill that would suspend for one year the driver's license of any person convicted of stealing gasoline.

Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) is the sponsor of HF205. But his efforts to have it approved by the House Crime Prevention Committee were delayed Feb. 15 when it was revealed that committee rules require Nornes to submit a document outlining the cost to the state of any legislation, called a fiscal note. He promised to produce the information.

According to one Bloomington gas station owner, "drive-offs" cost his company more than \$11,000 last year. He explained the

practice of filling a vehicle with gasoline and then leaving without paying bewilders gas stations nationwide.

The owner, Leroy Voehl, said the problem is especially acute when gas prices are at their highest. In addition to the intuitive explanation that people are more prone to drive away when they feel gas prices are too high, Voehl said gas station profits are at their lowest when prices are highest. "We are catching the brunt of high fuel costs," he said.

Voehl said gas stations are required to pay state fuel tax regardless of whether customers pay for or steal what they pump. "We are the tax collectors for you people. Are you going to help us or not?"

Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) inquired as to whether HF205 would lead to prosecution of honest but forgetful customers who unintentionally depart a gas station without paying. Nornes assured her that the bill would not, as a defendant would first have to be convicted of stealing gasoline before his or her license would be revoked.

Voehl told the committee Minnesota gas stations are increasingly likely to use protective measures that alienate customers, causing them to fuel elsewhere.

For example, his station has begun accepting only credit card payments or cash before filling begins, moves that have angered many loyal customers.

★ EDUCATION

Education credit reduction proposed

As part of Gov. Jesse Ventura's tax proposal, the state's K-12 education credit would be scaled back.

HF511, sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), would limit the number of eligible expenses and reduce from 100 percent to 75 percent the amount of the credit.

The House Taxes Committee heard testimony Feb. 13 that the reduction would create difficulties for some of the state's lower income families. No action was taken on the bill.

Currently families with a household income of less than \$37,500 are eligible for the credit which can be applied towards the expenses for items and services such as certain textbooks, tuition, computer hardware and education software, musical instruction and instrument

VALLEY SINGERS

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

At the opening of Feb. 12 session, House members are treated to a song performed by the Valley Singers from Valley Middle School in Apple Valley. The choir is directed by Jonathan Ofstad.

rentals, and qualifying transportation costs.

Morgan Brown, executive director of the Minnesota Education League, said the proposed changes would make the credit more confusing and less accessible. He said by reducing the percentage of the credit's value, and limiting what is eligible, figuring out the credit would become more complex.

Brown said the changes would also shut down a number of loan funds available to lower income families to purchase education services. Families with their qualifying education credit later repay those loans.

Officials from the Department of Revenue testified that like much of the tax proposal, reduction in credit assistance to low income families would be offset by other measures in the proposal such as the increase in the state's working family tax credit.

The department said the amount of errors that occur by those filing for the education credit is substantial. Approximately 7,900 returns totaling more than \$4.3 million were adjusted in 1998. In 1999 approximately 2,715 returns totaling \$2.3 million were adjusted.

Carolyn Louper-Morris, the president of Cyberstudy101, a Minneapolis company that helps low income families access the tax credit, said not all the families that would lose the education credit will qualify for the working family credit as both programs have different eligibility requirements.

Measuring teacher effectiveness

Legislators explored a method for measuring student achievement and evaluating teachers at a joint meeting of the House K-12 Education Finance and House Education Policy committees Feb. 9.

Dr. William Sanders shared procedures of a "Value-Added Assessment System" he took part in developing at the University of Tennessee to evaluate teaching effectiveness.

Sanders said what's most important to measure is the progress a student makes from the point they enter a grade.

"What I'm looking for is scales of measure that are highly correlated with curricular objectives," he said.

He explained that students should be measured individually; however, the teacher needs to be evaluated by all students' progress in the classroom.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) asked what makes an effective, better teacher. Sanders said they make gains across the range of students.

"(Effective teachers) have got children working at different paces, in different places at the same time," he said. "They have to provide academic growth opportunities for all students."

Sanders admitted the value-added system measures math well, but cannot effectively measure areas such as fine arts.

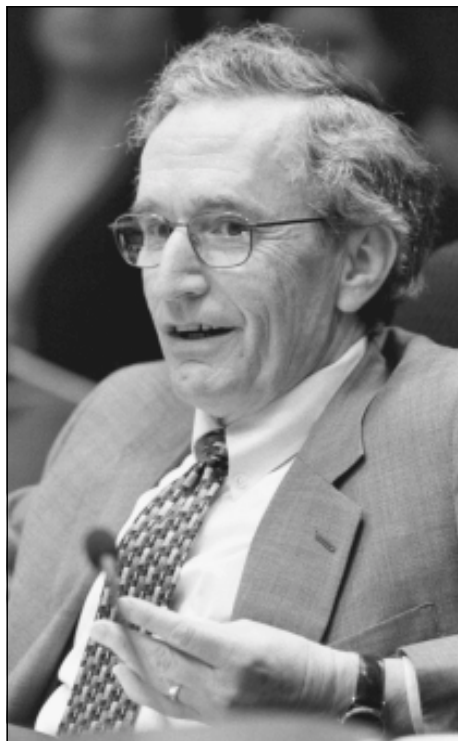
"There is more measurable variability among math teachers" than arts, science, and reading, he said. For example, Sanders said some students will read on their own, and while parents will help with math homework, they generally do not introduce new concepts.

Several representatives questioned how student attendance and mobility played into measuring student achievement and teacher evaluation.

Rep. John Dorn (DFL-Mankato), a teacher for 29 years, said he's found student performance greatly reflects attendance patterns. Sanders said students are only included in data if they attended 150 days of the school year.

"There is a set of kids that are falling through the cracks because they move so much," said Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls), also a teacher. Sanders replied the system uses data on all students, and the mobility factor doesn't lower measurements because they are using a value-added system.

Rep. Leslie Schumacher (DFL-Princeton) disagreed with Sanders, saying the system was flawed, as far as evaluating teachers due to the effect attendance and mobility on a student's progress. Sanders said it is a conservative method for measurement.



Dr. William Sanders addresses the joint House Education Policy/K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 9 about "Value Added Assessment System," an analytical procedure developed at the University of Tennessee to evaluate teaching effectiveness.

Student meal funding

Two bills proposing to increase funding for student meals at school and expand eligibility for a breakfast program grant were heard before the K-12 Education Finance Committee Feb. 14.

Reps. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) and Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls), both educators, attested to the importance of students starting their day with a good meal.

HF687, sponsored by Kielkucki, would raise the amount the state must pay for school lunches from 8 cents to 14 cents. The bill also would increase funding for school breakfasts, and would make more schools eligible to receive grants for free and reduced student meals.

Statistics prove that good nutrition helps in the learning process, Kielkucki said. "We have to equip our students with the tools to achieve, and that includes food."

The representatives had on hand a school principal, school nurse, and parent to testify to the benefits of eating breakfast.

Despite funds for meals, "We have a tough time making ends meet," with requirements to serve more and offer food within nutritional provisions, said Polly Podpesker, director of food and nutrition at Grand Rapids Public Schools, and a representative for the Minnesota School Food Service Association. Funding for school breakfasts has not increased since 1993, she said.

Carol Rosener, school nurse for a Hopkins junior high school, said the chief complaint in the early morning hours is a headache or stomachache and that the student can't concentrate. The first question she asks is if the child had breakfast, and the answer is usually no.

In addition to provisions in Kielkucki's bill, HF734, sponsored by Davnie, would allow secondary schools to be eligible for a school breakfast grant program. Currently, only elementary schools can apply for the program.

Davnies said that in high school, "When many students are taking their first steps to independence, or rebellion," they will refuse to eat breakfast.

Rep. Robert Ness (R-Dassel) said a price increase for school meals is "way overdue."

Both bills would be effective in 2002 and 2003, and will be considered for inclusion in the omnibus education bill.

Teacher exam data

A bill that would require the Minnesota Board of Teaching to report data from exams taken to obtain a teaching license is expected to have better luck this session than last year when it was taken out of the omnibus education bill.

"This year it is going to pass," said Rep. Alice Seagren, chair of the K-12 Education Finance Committee.

Seagren's committee heard the bill Feb. 14 and will consider it for inclusion in the omnibus education bill.

The bill (HF292) is sponsored by Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), who said the data will show how successful teachers are at passing.

To obtain an initial teaching license, one must pass a basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math. Those who do not pass the test take remedial courses, usually offered by their college or university.

According to the bill, the Legislature would receive reports on the number of teacher candidates who took the exam, the number of candidates who passed and failed, and scores earned on the test.

The bill would be effective beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.

ELECTIONS



Font size bill passes

By a 125-6 vote, the House passed a bill Feb. 12 that would clarify the state's campaign disclaimer law.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), sponsor of HF486, said that under current fair campaign practices laws, paid political advertisements appearing in newspapers, periodicals, or magazines must include a disclaimer stating who prepared and paid for the ad. However, there were no regulations as to the size of the disclaimer.

"Why do we have a disclaimer law if you can't even read the disclaimer?" Seifert asked.

He said the law was in place because truth in advertising is important in election campaigns so voters can know what group or person is responsible for political advertisements.

The original bill would have required that the disclaimer be in at least 8-point sized type.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) asked Seifert why the bill focused on type size rather than the larger issue of legibility. He said the size of the type doesn't matter as much as the font style used, considering many ads use a tightly compressed typeface.

After much discussion, the House accepted an amendment offered by Seifert striking the 8-point type requirement and requiring that disclaimers be "legible."

Seifert said the issue of size was brought up during the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee's hearing of the bill. He said that without specifying a type size, a candidate could use tiny print and still claim the disclaimer could be read by using a magnifying glass.

"This sends a message to people that they have to have a readable disclaimer," Seifert said.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill was not necessary and that the issue was

that the current disclaimer law was not being enforced.

He said the "real issue" was the broader concern of the need for comprehensive campaign finance reform.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Ensuring proper spending

The thin line between public service and politics might become a little more defined under a bill that would make changes to state campaign laws.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), sponsor of HF53, told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 9 that the bill would prohibit constitutional officers, agency heads, and legislators from spending agency funds for advertisements and public service announcements using their name, image or voice.

The committee approved the bill and referred it to the full House.

Under the measure agencies would still be allowed to produce advertisements for their programs and services but would not be able to use the agency head or candidate in the message.

Seifert distributed a 1998 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* article about former Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III using \$10,000 from his agency's budget on public service announcements that ran during the election cycle. The announcements with Humphrey's narration were in support of a crime bill before the Legislature. Humphrey was a candidate for governor at the time.

Those announcements, Seifert said, blurred the line between serving a public purpose and campaigning for office. He said those with established campaigns should use committee funds for the announcements that can be perceived as serving a political purpose.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) said the bill was a "poor solution to a nonexistent problem." She said the bill would not prohibit a candidate from using agency funds in the production of announcements and advertisements but would only prevent them from using those funds to pay media outlets to run the messages.

Prohibiting the state from using popular figures, such as the current governor, in promoting its public service programs would also be a disservice, she said.

EMPLOYMENT



Reference check change considered

Legislators may soon change the balance of power between workers and their previous employers.

When most people apply for jobs, they

expect their previous employers will make fair and accurate statements regarding their past employment. When that doesn't happen, workers can sue for damages.

According to Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), Minnesota employers refrain from passing along all but the most basic information. Though existing law allows them to provide objective employment information, many businesses will convey only dates of employment and the official job title of previous employees, though existing law allows them to discuss many other items, fearing lawsuits from previous employees denied jobs elsewhere.

Knoblach says one result is that good workers suffer because previous employers withhold positive information rather than expose themselves to criticism by making favorable comments about good employees and saying nothing about bad ones. Additionally, workplace safety and efficiency may be compromised by workers who would not have been hired if previous employers had shared information about poor job performance.

To encourage former employers to share complete job histories, Knoblach sponsored HF415. The bill would provide statutory immunity to employers who provide reference information on former employees.

The bill received a hearing in the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 12. It was referred to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Committee.

Under the bill, an employer would not be liable for damages incurred to the former employee stemming from the sharing of information unless: the information is false, the employer knew or should have known the information was false and acted maliciously by communicating it, and the prospective employer actually relied on the information.

Furthermore, employees must demonstrate these conditions "by clear and convincing evidence," a standard some said is too high. Joel Carlson of the Minnesota Trial Lawyers Association said such a high standard "is little more than absolute immunity in disguise."

"Why should employers have such a high degree of protection when everyone else is held to the preponderance of the evidence?" asked Bernard Brommer, president of the Minnesota AFL-CIO. He explained that, currently, plaintiffs in civil defamation cases have to prove they were defamed only by a preponderance of the evidence.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that small businesses might be lulled into "a false sense of security" by the law, and could find themselves subject to additional lawsuits if they followed Knoblach's reasoning and began sharing information. Despite Skoglund's concern, Tom Hesse, director of fiscal and labor

management policy for the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, endorsed the bill.

★ ENVIRONMENT

Feedlot funding questioned

Gov. Jesse Ventura's feedlot initiative is a prime example of the ways in which governmental bodies and agencies overlap in solving problems — and the accompanying tradeoffs.

Lisa Thorvig, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, told members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 9 that money authorized for the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) should be reallocated to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. No action was taken on the issue.

The proposal would shift \$2.47 million during the next two years from a flexible water clean-up fund to one that is dedicated to bringing feedlots up to environmental standards. The initiative is part of a funding package that includes the Pollution Control Agency, Water and Soil Resources Board, and the Department of Agriculture.

The Clean Water Partnership is a pass-through grant program created in 1987 to address the problems of contaminated runoff in urban and agricultural areas.

"We are accelerating the use of the CWP fund for feedlots instead of letting them come up on the list as other projects do," Thorvig said. This is in keeping with an overall effort to shift existing resources from lower to higher priority uses, she added.

The money would be used to cost-share with livestock operators for environmental upgrades, technical assistance, and planning and assessment assistance, as well as for county delegated feedlot permit program grants.

In addition to the reallocation of CWP funds, Ventura has recommended \$1.45 million during the biennium from the general fund for staffing the PCA feedlot permit staff.

Feedlot permit fees would be reduced by \$399,000 during the next two fiscal years as part of the Environmental Tax Reform package.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) expressed concern that the PCA was moving away from a program that had a lot of support. "This is a flawed process," she said. Other committee members agreed they would prefer to keep the money in the Clean Water Partnership if possible.

"I don't want to be critical of the agency in this matter because I know you're faced with a difficult situation," Committee Chair Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) told Thorvig. "This committee finds this difficult too."

"We did a lot of soul searching over this," Thorvig responded.

Frog funding fizzles

The study of malformed frogs has been one of the highest profile programs in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. However, the funding for the study ends this biennium.

Lisa Thorvig, deputy commissioner of the PCA, told the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 12 the research part of the program will not be renewed.

The only real change in the program is that the agency will no longer provide funding to outside researchers, said Mike Sandusky of the PCA. It will not conduct any research of its own, either.

However, the agency will continue to collect and provide frogs and other relevant items, such as water and sediment samples, to other researchers. Minnesota is the only state doing this, Sandusky said.

He said the agency is a season behind on analysis and is currently seeking a herpetologist for its staff.

Minnesota has been in the forefront of frog research since 1995 when school children from Le Sueur found a large number of deformed frogs while studying a wetland area.

Their discovery galvanized the public, and sightings of malformed frogs were reported from two-thirds of Minnesota's counties by the summer of 1996. Soon, people in other states and other countries were sighting deformed frogs.

Because the malformed frog phenomenon is not unique to Minnesota, the PCA has concluded the problem is a national one and future research should be led by federal agencies. The national frog research network is now

"well established," Sandusky said.

The PCA has collaborated with other researchers and national agencies to determine the extent and causes of the problem.

The cause of the deformities has not yet been determined. Research indicates it might be something in the water where malformed frogs are found, but they don't yet know what that "something" is. Possibilities include parasites, endocrine disrupters, and ultraviolet radiation.

The phenomenon of malformation in frogs is important because it may be a harbinger of problems that will face humans in the future.

Tourism talk

Fade in: a beautiful Minnesota summer day, two boys in a fishing boat with their dad. Impressed with the great fishing, the boys ask how dad knew about this fishing hole. "Just a hunch." He grins and shrugs. Suddenly several more fishing boats pull up nearby, each motored by a well-known angler. "Wow!" the boys yell. "How did you know about this spot?" They all hold up Minnesota Fishing Guides. "It's in here!" Fade out on boys with delighted expressions.

"Looks like more (fish) stocking's going to be needed," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee.

The video clip was part of a presentation by the Minnesota Office of Tourism before Holsten's committee Feb. 14.

Although the tourism office does not have

60 . . . AND COUNTING

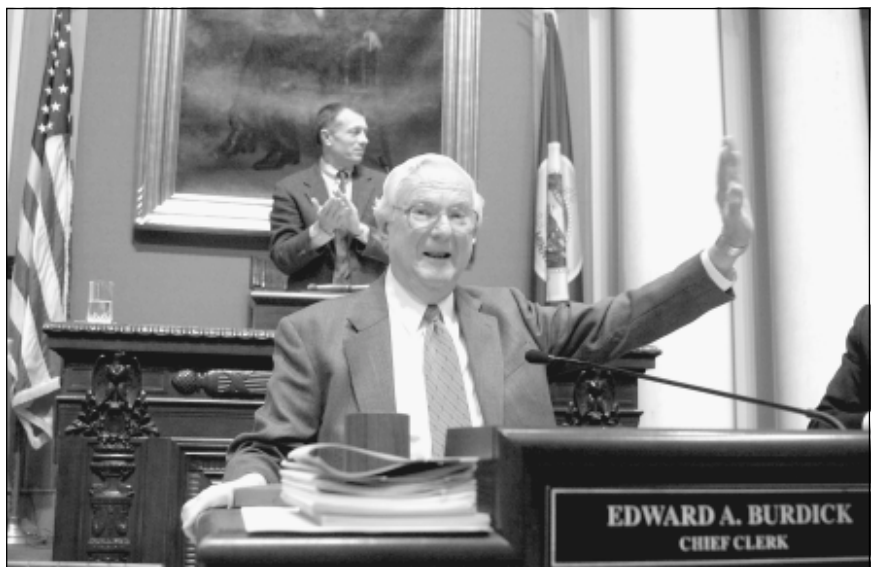


PHOTO BY TOM OLSCHIED

Chief Clerk Ed Burdick waves to acknowledge the applause of members while being honored Feb. 15 for his 60 years of service to the House of Representatives. Burdick was first hired as a session-only page and his first day was Feb. 15, 1941.

its budget reviewed by the committee, its activities are pertinent to the Department of Natural Resources budget, which is under the committee's stewardship.

"We need to know who you are going after," said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls). "The people who tread lightly and cost us a little or those who tread heavily and cost us a lot."

For example, if more people are coming to Minnesota to hike, then investments must be made in the trail system. If fishing is the goal, lakes may need to be stocked with fish species more often.

About half of all tourism is related to Minnesota's natural resources: fishing, golf, hunting, boating, skiing, snowmobiling, biking, hiking, camping, and just enjoying Minnesota's natural beauty and wildlife.

It is the job of the Office of Tourism to promote these activities both within the state and in other states and countries. They do this in a variety of ways: TV ads, brochures, activity guides, a Web site, and advertising in various media. Most of these are supported through businesses in the tourism industry paying to be placed in the advertisements.

According to John Edman, director of the Office of Tourism, 23.5 million people visited Minnesota last year either for pleasure or business. In addition, Minnesota residents made 10.7 million trips within the state. The economic impact of that travel and tourism totaled \$8.3 billion, he said.

"Surveys show Minnesota exceeds people's expectations in terms of what they're looking for in outdoor activities and natural beauty," Edman said.

"We want to bring in dollars from other states," he said, "but at the same time we don't want to lose dollars from Minnesotans going elsewhere."

★ FAMILY

Four-legged friends exemption

They may not pay any taxes, but the state's homeless dogs and cats most likely would support a measure sponsored by Rep. Darlene Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

HF115 would provide a sales tax exemption on animals sold by nonprofit animal shelters. Luther told the House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division Feb. 15 that the exemption would only apply in cases where the sales price of the animal does not exceed the reasonable costs of caring for the animal prior to the sale.

Beverly Orr, the founder and chair of Last Hope Inc., said her nonprofit organization located in Farmington is dedicated to helping unwanted, abandoned, and homeless animals.

"This would save tax dollars to cities and



Bev Orr of Last Hope Inc. in Farmington, testifies Feb. 15 for a bill that would exempt the sales of pets by animal rescue groups from sales and use taxes. Her testimony came before the Sales and Income Tax Division of the House Taxes Committee.

towns who wouldn't have to put down and cremate homeless animals," she said.

The Department of Revenue estimates the cost of the measure would be around \$510,000 during the biennium. According to the department, there are more than 51,000 animals adopted yearly in the state that would qualify for the exemption.

Orr said Last Hope opened in 1985, and in that year helped 40 cats and dogs find homes. The operating expenses at the time were \$853.

Last year the all-volunteer organization helped 1,444 dogs and cats, had expenses of around \$128,000, and collected \$7,300 in sales taxes, she said. The organization is totally dependent on fees and donations for its budget.

Orr said the average cost of placing a cat is around \$88 while the average cost for placing a dog is around \$150.

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

★ GAMBLING

Card club helps horses

In horse racing terminology, "points of call" refer to places during a race where the running positions are indicated on a chart. The final point of call is always the finish, and the penultimate point of call is the eighth pole.

Randy Sampson, president of Canterbury Park, presented a point of call on the state horse racing facility's condition to the House Government Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 9.

Sampson said the opening of the card club at the facility last April helped horse racing to its most successful year in a number of years.

"Canterbury Park is a much more viable business," he said. "Its chances for success are much better."

In 1999 the Legislature approved the card club specifying that there could be up to 50 tables at the facility and that only unbanked games, or player versus player games, opposed to players versus the house, would be allowed.

Sampson said the 42-table club employed a full-time workforce of greater than 400 with part-time seasonal help numbering more than 1,000.

In 2000 the wagering for live races at the track topped \$15.6 million, while simulcasts accounted for more than \$57.2 million. The size of total purses for the year was the highest since 1991. Attendance at the track was 230,658.

According to a Department of Trade and Economic Development study, the track was responsible for 7,657 jobs in the state and had a \$252 million economic impact at its peak in the early-1990s.

The state's 400 horse farms represented an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars, the report stated.

Sampson said the 2001 season will have 61 live racing dates, the largest number since his family re-opened the track six years ago.

★ GOVERNMENT

Tornado relief

Rep. Gary Kubly (R-Granite Falls) sponsored a bill (HF618) that would appropriate funds for disaster relief in his hometown.

The dollars are needed as the southwestern Minnesota community was hit for the second time in three years by a natural disaster that ruined much of the town. In July 2000, it was hit by a tornado that followed a major flood in 1997.

Granite Falls Mayor David Smiglewski told the House Economic Development and Tourism Division of the Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee Feb. 14 the

tornado ravaged one-third of the community.

Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) jokingly advised the mayor to plan natural disasters during the legislative session. Requests for state funding can only be heard when the Legislature is in session.

Sandy Brustuen, a Granite Falls resident, shared her experience in the tornado. "It was the most terrifying thing I've ever been through," she said.

Brustuen and her family lost their house in the flood and again in the tornado. Insurance is paying for about one-half of the cost to rebuild, she said.

Funds for the bill originally totaled \$6.5 million. However, the bill's sum was amended to subtract \$3.6 million from the original amount, taken from the Minnesota Investment Fund, which, without the amendment, would have used its entire allocation.

The amendment, bringing the bill down to \$2.9 million in aid, passed with a 6-4 vote by committee members. The monies would be allocated through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the state Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Smiglewski said financial assistance would be used to "attract businesses and to better suit occupants" of the town. More than 15 percent of Granite Falls' high-end jobs "walked out of our community.

"We want to try to bring community back to where it was four years ago," he said.

The bill now moves to the Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

Geographic concerns raised

There would be a greater mixture of representatives on state boards and councils under a measure approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 14.

HF546, sponsored by Rep. Gary Kubly (DFL-Granite Falls), would require administrative boards and agencies with statewide jurisdiction to have representation as near as possible to the state's population balance.

Kubly said the bill came as a result of the committee's confirmation hearings of candidates to the state's Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board. All four of the candidates came from the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

The boards and agencies should be as "equitable and inclusive" as possible, Kubly said.

The state's open appointment law, established in 1978, was created to encourage citizen participation in helping determine the policies and services of state government. The boards and councils range from the State Arts Board to the Battered Women's Advisory Council.

The Office of the Secretary of State publishes a list each month of all the vacancies. Most of the positions are voluntary but many do pay a small per diem and expenses for attending the meetings.

During a Feb. 12 hearing of the bill, Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo) was one of several committee members to express a concern that by requiring balance on the boards and councils, it may tie the hands of those trying to fill vacancies.

Lipman said it might be a better idea to limit the bill's scope to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and work on the balance issue as part of the open appointments process.

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Bovey) said finding people in Greater Minnesota to serve on a volunteer basis on boards that meet in St. Paul, while a worthwhile goal, may be difficult to attain.

Kubly offered an amendment which was approved during the Feb. 14 hearing clarifying that the population balance requirement would not pertain to boards that specify metropolitan or non-metropolitan residence for some or all if its membership.

The amendment also would allow an appointing authority to certify to the secretary of state that for a vacancy that has a limited number of applicants from a geographic area, the population balance requirement unreasonably limits the filling of the position.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

HEALTH



Dental loan forgiveness

A shortage of dentists in Greater Minnesota is approaching crisis proportions, according to officials from the Minnesota Department of Health.

An initiative recommended by Gov. Jesse Ventura would help alleviate the problem, according to Gayle Hallin, assistant commissioner for the community health services division for the department.

Hallin presented the governor's Health Workforce Development Initiative to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Feb. 12.

Access to health care in rural Minnesota has eroded across the board, she said, and is in urgent need of an infusion of skilled health care workers and an upgrading of facilities.

The governor's proposal would target investments to eliminate health disparities, including those faced by rural Minnesotans, in all types of health care.

One component of this initiative is to extend the educational loan forgiveness program for health professionals to dentists.

This program would repay a portion of a dentist's school loans in exchange for a promise to practice dentistry in an under-served area for a specified amount of time.

"Loan forgiveness is a strong component in a student's choice of career location," said Mark Schoenbaum, manager of primary care and financial assistance programs for the health department.

He said forgiveness of educational loans has proven to be very effective in attracting health providers to rural communities and keeping them there.

"Most of those who serve out an obligation in rural areas and small towns remain in that location or a similar one," Schoenbaum said.

Under the governor's proposal, funding for the loan repayment program, which would include loan forgiveness for physicians, nurses, and dentists, would total \$3.2 million during the next two years. Fourteen dentists per year would be added to the program.

A dentist in the program would be reimbursed for up to \$10,000 per year in loans, for a minimum of three and a maximum of four years.

While the loan forgiveness program is intended for graduating practitioners, during the first year of the program dentists who are already practicing in urban settings would be accepted, Schoenbaum said.

No action was taken on the proposal.

HIGHER EDUCATION



MnSCU states its case

Calling it an "investment in Minnesota's future," representatives from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities said additional funding is necessary, or changes may be on tap.

MnSCU is the largest single provider of higher education in the state with approximately 216,000 students in credit bearing courses annually at its 35 institutions with 53 campuses. Sixty-one percent of fall 1999 undergraduates in Minnesota were at a MnSCU institution.

Speaking before the House Higher Education Finance Committee Feb. 12 and 14, Chancellor Morris Anderson and Laura King, vice chancellor and chief financial officer of MnSCU, explained their organization's 2002-03 biennial request.

"We are requesting a \$255.6 million increase to build the capacity of our 35 institutions to provide students with high-quality education and competitive skills," Anderson said. The base budget for MnSCU is \$1.14 billion.

Of that request, \$153.3 million is for inflationary increases, including staff compensation and health care costs, and \$157.7 million

is for quality and competitive investment, which includes “the cost of providing quality academic programs, competitive course offerings and assurance of access to higher education in Minnesota.”

The costs are offset by a proposed 3 percent tuition increase each year and \$30 million in internal reallocations. King said reallocation has been occurring for 10 years, but is now being “drawn out into the daylight so people know about it.”

“We’ve done our job (by reallocating),” said Winona State University President Darrell Krueger told the committee. “You’re on the verge of not fulfilling your side.”

Gov. Jesse Ventura’s recommendation calls for a \$47.6 million increase.

“We thought the nearly \$256 million was to compete,” Anderson said. “At \$153 million we are in the maintenance mode, and at \$47.6 million we are in survival mode.”

Without additional funding, “We will close programs and lay off faculty,” he added.

Students will also pay more. Winona State University is projecting a 15 percent tuition increase for next year, while fees are forecast to rise 16 percent at St. Cloud Technical College.

Representatives also presented trends that they say show the reduced funding MnSCU has received in the past decade, such as MnSCU’s share of the state’s general fund decreasing from 6.3 percent for fiscal year 1990-91 to 4.6 percent in fiscal year 2000-01.

Another example, Anderson said, is the change in appropriation per capita from 1990 to 2000 was 57 percent for the state budget, but 16 percent for MnSCU. “There have been state resources available, but maybe the priorities have shifted.”

★ HOUSING

Lack of affordability

Five years ago the Twin Cities ranked first in the nation’s 25 largest metropolitan areas in terms of housing affordability. Now, the area is 14th.

Rick Packer, a project manager for Arcon Development, told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 14 that despite having one of the highest median incomes in the nation, the Twin Cities area’s affordable housing problem is becoming more severe.

He said the area’s median house price is rising three times faster than the median family income.

According to the Builders Association of the Twin Cities, it is expected that when buying a new home in 2001, the minimum townhouse cost will be \$130,000, and the minimum

STUDENT DEMONSTRATION

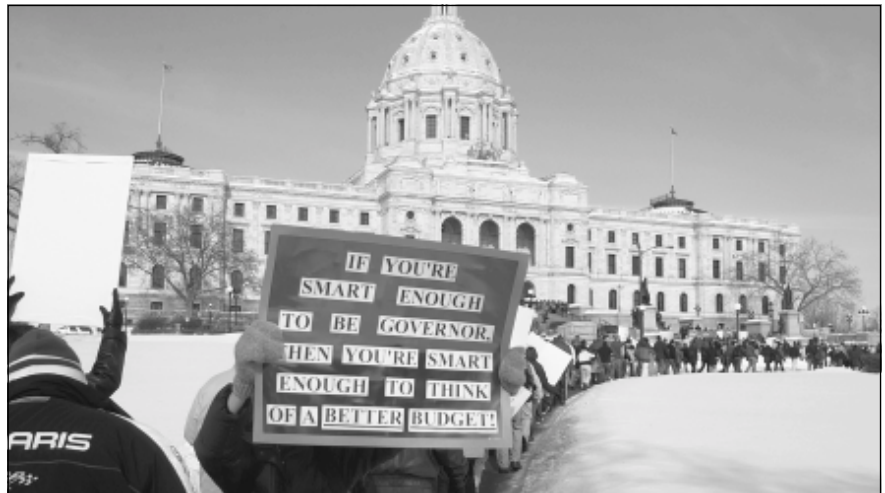


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Students from all of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the University of Minnesota make their way to the steps of the Capitol for a rally after marching from the St. Paul Technical College. The Feb. 14 rally was in opposition to Gov. Jesse Ventura’s budget proposal for higher education.

single-family house price will be between \$250,000 to \$275,000.

Packer said increasing land prices and rising regulatory fees are driving up the costs of building new homes.

He said it is accepted appraisal and lending practice to require the value of a lot be approximately 25 percent of the total house package. Every \$1,000 increase in the price of a house equals 3,400 families that will no longer be able to afford the house.

The committee also heard testimony that political planning decisions are a driving factor.

Glenn Dorfman, from the Minnesota Association of Realtors, said “smart growth” development practices serve an “elitist agenda” by shutting out new arrivals to the area, mostly minorities, from living in the growing suburban areas.

“When people complain about traffic backups and parking shortages, what they mean is that they want government to get everybody else off the roads,” Dorfman said. “They certainly do not support policies that would put them out of their own cars or deprive them of parking.”

He said first time homebuyers make up 40 percent of his business and the state’s minority population is the fastest growing segment of first time homeowners.

★ INDUSTRY

More fuel additives

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) has sponsored legislation that would require diesel fuel sold in Minnesota to contain a minimum of 2 percent “biodiesel” fuel by volume starting July 1, 2002. The bill, HF362, would increase that

minimum amount to 5 percent by 2006.

Biodiesel fuel is a blend of petroleum oil and nontoxic, biodegradable, combustible liquid fuel derived from vegetable oil or animal fats. It can be used in semi-tractor trailers, farm implements, jet engines, and home-heating systems. However, Westrom said jet engines would be exempted from the requirement.

Westrom told the House Agriculture Policy Committee Feb. 14, “I am soy charged. I want this whole committee to be soy charged by the end of this meeting.” Soybean oil is commonly used in biodiesel fuels. The committee took no action on the matter, but more hearings are expected.

Mike Yost, a Murdock soybean farmer and former president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, said biodiesel fuels are “good for the environment, the economy, and for our energy security.” He said the association had seen no evidence of soy oil additives contributed to the ‘jelling’ of diesel fuel.

That testimony was endorsed by Dana Albers, Hennepin County Fleet and Equipment Manager. He managed a study of county-owned snowplows that demonstrated no observable fuel problems with soy oil additives. In fact, some drivers suggested plows with the soy added gained a bit of power.

Bill Frank, vice president of the Minnesota Trucking Association, characterized the bill as “good farm politics, but bad public policy.” He said increasing demand for soy products would only marginally help farmers, while gravely affecting truckers.

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fiscal disparities reviewed

The 1971 Legislature created the state's fiscal disparities program to provide a method for local governments in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to share in the resources generated by the growth in the area without removing any resources currently available.

The law requires that each taxing jurisdiction contribute 40 percent of the growth of its commercial industrial property tax base since 1971 to a metrowide pool. The money is then redistributed according to a formula based on population and fiscal capacity.

The House Taxes Committee Property Tax Division heard two bills Feb. 12 that would make changes to the program, or eliminate it altogether.

HF381, sponsored by Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington), would repeal the program beginning with taxes payable for 2002. Lenczewski said that with the governor's extensive tax reform proposal the time was right for examining the program.

Had other state aid programs like the Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid and Local Government Aid been in place, the fiscal disparities program may never been implemented, she said.

According to information provided by the Citizens League, the cities of St. Paul, which gained \$27.1 million, Cottage Grove, which gained \$3.3 million, and Coon Rapids, which gained \$3.1 million, are the top 2001 benefactors from the program.

On the other hand, Bloomington contributed \$21.8 million more than it received, Eden Prairie contributed \$11.3 million more than it received, and Plymouth contributed \$10.8 million more than it received.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said the program's history needs to be taken into account in any reform or repeal discussion. He said without the program, projects such as the construction of the Mall of America and the Metrodome might never have occurred.

HF193, sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would cap a municipality's contribution to the pool at 15 percent of its total net tax capacity or a percentage equal to the percentage of net tax capacity contributed for taxes payable in 2001, whichever is greater.

The committee took no action on either bill, but both will be considered for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

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

★ SAFETY

Cigarette bill extinguished

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee failed to approve a bill Feb. 14 that would have established cigarette fire retardant standards.

The motion to send the bill to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee with no recommendation failed by a 9-9 vote.

HF175, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), would require the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety with assistance from the state's fire marshal to develop rules establishing the standards.

Tom Brace, the state's fire marshal, said the state of New York will commence rulemaking shortly establishing standards in that state for cigarettes designed to go out if the smoker does not take a puff. He said that under HF175 Minnesota would likely adopt rules similar to New York's.

Brace said of the 60 people killed in fires in Minnesota during 1999, 15 died in fires caused by careless smoking.

Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie) said fire retardant cigarettes wouldn't address issues like fire standards for furniture, and of individual safety negligence.

"We can't legislate against carelessness and while this may be one tool, it is not a panacea," Kielkucki said.

Ozment said one of the goals of the legislation was to demonstrate to the federal government that if there were enough support among states a federal standard should be developed.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City) said he was concerned that there was nothing in the bill that would require that the rules deal with health issues. Osskopp said that by requiring cigarette makers to develop fire retardant cigarettes, the companies might just put in chemicals to achieve the standard.

Jim Gould, a Washington D.C. attorney representing cigarette manufacturers, said if the law were approved, Minnesota cigarettes would need to be different from any other state. Gould said since the issue involved interstate commerce, any law would have come at the federal level.

★ TAXES

A break for businesses

Each June, many Minnesota businesses see a one-month blip that can be an increase in their corporate taxes. The House Taxes Committee Sales and Income Tax Division heard two bills Feb. 8 that would eliminate this unique requirement.

Under current law retailers with at least \$120,000 in annual sales tax collections must pay 62 percent of their estimated June sales tax liability two business days before June 30. The rest of the year they are required to pay the taxes by the 14th of the following month.

HF184 sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) and HF338 sponsored by Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina) would eliminate the June accelerated sales tax payment effective for the June 2002 liability.

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

Abrams said the accelerated tax was established in the early 1980s when the state was facing budget shortfalls. The state fiscal year ends each June, and in order to move more money into the current fiscal year the payment from merchants was shifted.

Businesses are penalized if they estimate their tax incorrectly, paying less than they actually owe. Jack Mansun from the Department of Revenue said 10 to 12 percent of filers pay a fine each year.

"This was a very bad piece of tax policy," Abrams said. He said the 2000 omnibus tax law lessened some tax burden on state retailers by eliminating the accelerated payment requirement on excise taxes and reducing the percentage due on sales and use tax from 75 percent to 62 percent.

The cost of either bill over the next biennium is estimated at \$145.2 million in fiscal year 2002 and \$10.7 million in fiscal year 2003. Officials from the Department of Revenue testified that cost estimate might change depending on the state's February revenue forecast.

Rep. Andy Dawkins (DFL-St. Paul) said since there would be such a large one-year cost that perhaps it would be appropriate to use the state's budget surplus to ease the transition.

In proposing similar legislation in previous years to the leadership in both parties in the House and Senate, Abrams had suggested using budget surpluses to pay the cost but that admittedly the June accelerated sales tax was seen as an "unsexy item" to address.

He said eventually Minnesota will need to address its accelerated payment requirement if it wishes to participate in a nationwide attempt to create a more universal sales and use tax system simplifying the calculation, reporting, and payment requirements for vendors.

Industry leaders speak out

Individuals representing some of the state's communication industries united in opposition to the governor's tax plan during a hearing Feb. 14.

Continued on page 27

Energy deliberations

Three bills focus on conservation and renewable sources in Minnesota

BY THERESA STAHL

Emphasizing conservation and modern energy sources, three bills proposing new energy legislation were introduced to the House Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 12.

In order to meet capacity shortages, several organizations have created plans that underscore energy efficiency, affordability for low-income customers, renewable energy sources, and customer choice in selecting energy suppliers.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville) is the chief sponsor of all three bills heard by the committee he chairs.

The POWER (People Organized for Workers, the Environment and Ratepayers) Campaign bill (HF492) calls for energy efficiency by promoting conservation, exploring renewable energy sources, such as wind power and advanced fuel cells, and modernizing power plants to maximize their use and retain jobs. It was presented to the committee by Bill Grant, executive director of the Midwest office of the Izaak Walton League.

"Existing power plants are among our most valuable assets," Grant said. The bill would exempt plants that pledge to convert to cleaner fuels from the personal property tax, and it would set caps on emissions.

Between efficiency, renewables, modern technologies, and repowered plants, the campaign estimates 300 megawatts of new energy capacity.

"There is tremendous potential for these sources" to meet growth over the coming years, Grant said.

The POWER campaign also addresses affordability for consumers, which includes negotiating payment plans that would prohibit disconnections during extreme heat or cold with certain customers.

"Nearly two-thirds of Minnesotans who want energy assistance cannot get it," said Ron Elwood of the Legal Services Advocacy Project, a part of the campaign.

The POWER bill seeks no general tax dollars.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

William Grant, director of the Midwest Office of the Izaak Walton League of America, speaks about energy issues in front of the House Regulated Industries Committee Feb. 12.

The plan from the Department of Commerce weighs most heavily on conservation. "If you don't have to use energy, that's the best plan of all," said Ann Seha, director of energy policy for the department.

HF659 would form a statewide energy plan to encourage public participation in conservation and take advantage of modern energy technologies, especially those that have no fuel costs once in use, Seha said.

In its effort for conservation, the bill further requires utilities to share the statewide conservation goal and "demonstrate achievement in compliance plans and progress reports."

Funding for modern energy technologies includes \$500,000 each year from a Renewable Development Fund at Xcel Energy. Monies would go toward locating power generation closer to where the need is, reducing stress on

transmission and distribution systems, and reducing the need for new large generation plants, according to the proposal.

Linda Taylor, commissioner of the department, said the plan would be developed and implemented one year from now and would be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval.

"We have a strong emphasis on conservation first, and building later," she said.

The third bill is proposed by the members of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, which has consistently supported competition among energy suppliers, according to Bill Blazer, senior vice president of the chamber.

The chamber's bill (HF710), therefore, "gives the customer the opportunity to choose their generator of electricity," Blazer told the committee.

Customer choice is one of two policy changes the bill would require. The other would streamline regulatory requirements related to long-distance transmission, while local distribution would remain regulated.


States are moving to competitive energy options, for other reasons than price, Blazer said. One of the chamber's goals, however, is to retain Minnesota's below-average energy pricing position among the states.

Blazer said customer choice would have three positive effects: incentive to conserve energy, competition prompting new energy generation, and to trigger technological innovation.

"When there is tension between supply and demand, businesses get creative as to how to market more conservation," he said. "Under regulation, the incentive just isn't there."

Blazer said chamber members have continually supported a measure for customer choice over the past four years, the last poll having been taken in July 2000.

Legislators so far have shaken their heads at deregulation, fearing a path that might lead them to a situation like California's, where they are facing an energy crisis.

Wolf said he will soon be introducing a fourth energy bill that would encompass qualities of the other three. He said the committee will consider all the bills over the next few weeks. 

More to be done

Proposals would expand eligibility for prescription drug assistance beyond increased benefit in 2000

BY MARY KAY WATSON

Two bills that would make more people eligible for Minnesota's prescription drug program are being proposed in the House.

Rep. Jim Abeler's (R-Anoka) bill (HF13) would expand eligibility by eliminating the requirement that persons must be 65 years old and by raising income eligibility from 120 to 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines.

In addition, it would establish a sliding fee schedule requiring participants with incomes between 120 and 150 percent of the guidelines to share in the cost of the program by paying a monthly deductible.

In 2000, federal poverty guidelines were set at \$8,350 for a single person and \$11,250 for a family of two.

If the bill passes, these provisions would take effect July 1, 2001. Money to pay for the anticipated increase in enrollees would be appropriated from the general fund.

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee heard presentations Feb. 13 and recommended that the bill be passed, referring it to the Health and Human Resources Finance Committee.

"I believe this is a move in the right direction," Abeler said. "There will always be a cut-off point. There will always be a person who doesn't quite make that mark."

A similar bill, HF222, authored by Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids), differed primarily in that it would increase the income limit to 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines. Koskinen authored the original senior drug bill in 1997.

HF222 was sent to the finance committee without recommendation.

Several people testified for both bills.

"On behalf of all seniors I want to thank you for the senior drug program," said Alan Timm of Coon Rapids. "I believe raising the income standards would be most helpful. Seniors also need to be reassured that this program will continue."

Minnesota's prescription drug program, enacted in 1997, was implemented in 1999



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

White Bear Lake resident Judy McLeod, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, gives emotional testimony about the high cost of prescription drugs during the Feb. 13 meeting of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee.

with a \$4 million annual appropriation. It is supervised by the state Department of Human Services and administered by the counties.

The program has been amended twice to increase participation and expand the funding level. The 2000 Legislature amended the program to include people with disabilities, which was to be effective July 1, 2002.

Along with age, income, and residency requirements, enrollees must meet specific asset guidelines.

To qualify, a single person may have assets of up to \$10,000, and a married couple may own \$18,000 in assets. A home, car, and pre-paid burial fund up to \$1,500 are exempt. The bills before the committee do not change these guidelines with one exception. Koskinen's bill would increase the burial fund to \$8,000.

The need for the program has been well

documented. Surprisingly, enrollment has been much lower than the anticipated 12,000 persons, according to Kathleen Henry, director of Health Care Eligibility and Access in the Department of Human Services. An enrollment of 2,111 in January 2000 increased to 5,657 in January 2001.

"My generation is not used to asking for help," said Doug Davis, advocacy coordinator for the Minnesota chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). "We like to think we can take care of ourselves."

Marge Jamieson, a member of the Minnesota Board on Aging, said she thinks many people who might be eligible are discouraged from signing up by the age, income, and asset guidelines. She said about 20 percent of the 11,000 people who called the board about drug costs last year were eligible but didn't know it.

Davis said outreach should be more specific and probably needed to be done at the county level. Currently, outreach for the program includes brochures, posters, radio announcements, and the "Senior LinkAge Line," an information service.

Both bills also make the prescription drug program available to Medicare enrollees who are under age 65 a year earlier than existing law provides.


This would also apply to people with a disability.

Joel Ulland, from the Multiple Sclerosis Society, said the group supports the change in both bills from July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2001 as the effective date of coverage for people under age 65 with disabilities.

"Access to prescription drugs is vitally important to people with MS," Ulland said. "One of the largest barriers has been that Medicare doesn't pay."

Christine Grui, a resident from Lexington, said her medications for multiple sclerosis cost \$2,500 per month. No longer able to work, Grui, a former nurse, said she is afraid of what could happen if her husband were to lose his job.

Judy McLeod, a former nurse from White Bear Lake, said her monthly prescription cost for multiple sclerosis is \$1,535. She said she spends more on drugs than on groceries.

According to Ulland, Grui would qualify under Abeler's bill and McLeod would qualify under Koskinen's bill. 

Crystal ball

Former White House technology director challenges lawmakers to provide support for advances that are only 10 years away

BY THERESA STAHL



Technologically speaking, how far into the future can you imagine?

Can you imagine being able to immediately identify a body at a crime scene by the victim's DNA? Can you imagine a hearing aid that could tell you when it was safe to cross the street,

which restaurant was just up the road and what the dinner special was that night?

Duncan Moore says these things may be possible by the year 2010.

Moore was the first guest speaker in the 2001 Capitol Forum Series that began Feb. 8. The series, designed for legislators and legislative policy staff, is presented by Minnesota Technology, Inc., and the McKnight Foundation. However, due to bad weather and a late session of the House many legislators were unable to attend the Feb. 8 speech.

Moore, the former associate director of technology for the White House Office of Science and Technology, spoke to those gathered about new technologies, their effect on the economy, and the technology issues in the future.

"Technology is moving so fast, and we don't have the time, the money or enough people to work" to satisfy the pace for the future, he said. It is up to government to supply the monies for technology, he added.

This year the federal government allocated \$43 billion for technology. The funding supports fundamental research, including that at universities.

"There has to be a good pathway for researchers (professors) at universities," Moore said. "The state plays a critical part."

A strong research infrastructure is needed to handle the ethical, legal, and societal implications of technological advances and to continue the workforce in education and training for new technologies, he said.

"We are concerned about ethical implications with technology," Moore said. The trade-offs can be a lot of good, but they can also bring a lot of harm.

"Technology is moving so fast, and we don't have the time, the money or enough people to work."

—Duncan Moore

In the past few years, we have created things that are economically driven, Moore said. "We took social needs of the country and figured out how science and technology can support them."

Looking forward to 2010, Moore stretched imaginations and rhetorically asked audience members how technology could aid humans to improve lives.

In crime technology, he asked, how can we use Global Positioning Systems to trace former criminals?


Technology for successful aging could make great advances, helping people live 10 years longer. One way technology could aid the elderly is in the winter, which can be difficult for

older people, especially for those who can't drive. What if, Moore asked, a person could call a bus, and knowing that it would take them 10 minutes to get to the bus stop, have the bus call their house when it was 10 minutes away?

Despite the great advances we could make in technology, none of it will be possible without skilled people. "There is a huge workforce problem," Moore said.

He reported that the number of people in the United States graduating with electrical engineering degrees is one-half of what it was in 1987. Comparatively, parks, recreation, leisure, and fitness majors have tripled in the last 30 years. He said many students think, "If unemployment is so low, why major in something hard?" History has shown the only time many people choose more difficult majors is when the country is in recession.

Moore also expressed concern for the anticipated major shortage of kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers. In three years the country will need to replace 2.2 million (or two-thirds of) teachers. Yet the nation's colleges and universities are only generating 120,000 teachers each year, and statistics show that 40 percent to 50 percent are not teaching one year after they have graduated. The subjects in most need of teachers are science and math, especially now, Moore said.

Moore asked "Where are we going? In 2010?" He left legislators much to consider as they lead the state toward a more technologically advanced future. 

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

On a rural mission

Marquart vows to consider how every issue affects rural Minnesota

BY THERESA STAHL

Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth) compares his experience as a legislator to that of a college student.



Rep. Paul Marquart

"Being a rural legislator, and being away from home is kind of that same feeling as living in the dorms when you were in college," Marquart says, only this time he's living in a hotel.

The committees he and other legislators serve on are much like sitting in class, he said.

"I am a teacher, yet I'm a student down here," says the former Dilworth mayor and social studies teacher. "Every night I go home and do my homework."

Marquart said he plans to spend most of his "class time" promoting and educating others on issues that affect non-metropolitan parts of the state.

"I look at every issue that comes up as to how it effects rural Minnesota," he said.

While he will focus mostly on education and agriculture, Marquart says he will also advocate affordable housing and incentives to create new jobs and new businesses in rural areas, lowering prescription drug costs for senior citizens, and campaign finance reform.

The committees on which Marquart serves reflect his areas of concern: Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy, Education Policy, and Higher Education Finance. He said the only committee he requested but was not assigned to was agriculture.

Marquart's top concerns in education pertain to declining enrollment, he says. Between September 1999 and September 2000, nine of the 11 school districts in his House district lost enrollment, totaling more than 300 students.

"The governor is asking school districts to be more accountable, to look at achieving higher quality standards, and a lot of districts are just looking at how to survive and move on to the next year," he said. "It's going to be

difficult to retain the high quality, much less improve it."

Schools in Marquart's district have had to cut their language and industrial technology programs. Elementary classrooms are growing from class sizes of 20 to 25 students, he said. "It's starting to erode at the quality of our education."

Marquart points to a struggling agriculture economy as another circumstance that's hurting rural areas in Minnesota. He has pledged to support permanent agricultural property tax relief and promote policy supporting the small family farmer.

He sees potential for diversifying products

"I have the best of both worlds. Teaching and working with youth one-half of the year, and setting policy for the state to improve the quality of life for rural Minnesota."

—Rep. Paul Marquart

such as ethanol and soy and wants to promote their uses statewide. Marquart said he is aware of agricultural needs that reach higher than the state level.

"A lot of concerns in agriculture and the lower commodity prices certainly are federal problems, but there are some things to do as a state," he said.

It is important for legislators across the state to be aware of rural issues, Marquart said.

As examples, he cited the development of affordable housing, creating incentives for businesses and new jobs, and bringing high-speed Internet access to remote areas of the state.

"Legislation needs to be flexible in state law as to how can it apply to various areas and communities in the state," Marquart said.

He also stressed the significance of bipartisan ship. "It's important that Democrats and Republicans work together on rural Minnesota issues."

Marquart speaks with knowledge about politics from his 11 years as the mayor of Dilworth, a small town near Moorhead. During his time as mayor he worked closely with Ken Parke, Dilworth city administrator, who says Marquart will be missed.

"People didn't feel like they were losing him, but just representing them in another way," Parke said of when Marquart won the election.

Parke describes Marquart as very personable, someone who always promoted the positive. "When people had concerns he always followed through," he said. "He spent a lot of time improving the quality of life in Dilworth. He's a person that doesn't sit for very long."

Marquart's love for government, leadership qualities, and his background as mayor and in teaching government make him an excellent politician, Parke said.

"He's a political figure that was actually sincere about the things he was saying," he said. "Everybody knows he's going to be hard to replace."

Marquart says he misses his family — wife Colleen and daughters Lindsey, 14, and Ashley, 9 — but running for state representative was a decision they made together. In fact, Marquart said one of the reasons he didn't

pursue the position earlier is because he felt his children were too young, but "now they understand what's going on."

Now, Marquart wants to focus on crucial issues that are important to rural Minnesota and will return to Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton to teach each fall. "That's something I would never want to give up."

"I have the best of both worlds," he said. "Teaching and working with youth one-half of the year, and setting policy for the state to improve the quality of life for rural Minnesota."

DISTRICT 9B

1998 population (estimate): 33,669

Largest city: Breckenridge

Counties: Becker, Clay, Otter Tail, and Wilkin

Location: northwestern Minnesota

Top concern: "Declining enrollments and long-term erosion of our high quality of education."

—Rep. Paul Marquart

History maker

First female African-American legislator brings community concerns to the Capitol

BY MARY KAY WATSON

Election Day 2000 was fraught with tension for many — politicians and voters alike. But for one Minnesota woman and her constituents in District 61B, it was an historic and celebratory day. Rep. Neva Walker (DFL-Mpls) was elected to the Legislature: the first African-American woman to serve there.



Rep. Neva Walker

“It’s not about me,” Walker said. “It was a community win. Everyone has taken ownership of it.”

Walker sees herself first and foremost as a community organizer. She has worked on issues of affordable housing, youth organizing, and neighborhood development.

She has especially enjoyed opportunities to work with people with developmental disabilities. “That’s something I cherish,” said Walker, whose 7-year-old family member was born with Down’s syndrome.

“I believe in hands-on learning,” she said. “I don’t necessarily believe what other folks tell me.”

Walker never intended to run for the Legislature. But an experience demonstrating with homeless people at the Capitol galvanized her. “The reception here wasn’t that friendly” during the rally, she said.

That encounter motivated her to examine the state government more closely. When Walker learned that there had never been a black woman legislator in Minnesota, she was “so disappointed” that she tried to find someone to run for office. No one came forward, so she decided to do it herself.

“I firmly believe there shouldn’t be a distinction between community work and political work. Now I have the opportunity to combine the two.”

“Community” could be Walker’s middle name. Her mother, Clarissa Walker, has been program manager for Sabathani Community Center in south Minneapolis for more than 30 years.

“I’m a community baby,” laughed Walker, 29. She grew up in the Sabathani neighborhood and was one of her mother’s earliest and longest-serving volunteers. The center includes transitional housing and back-to-school assistance, a clothing shelf, holiday assistance, tax service, a garden, and a food shelf that serves between 1,000 and 1,500 people a month.

“My mother is the person from whom I’ve gotten most of who I am,” said Walker. “The two men in my life — my father and my grandfather — focused on family first, and my mother did the community stuff.”

Walker’s 13-year-old son Shae, an eighth-grader at Minneapolis Green Central, takes her

disparities and racial profiling. She also hopes to study diversity issues in education — not only in Minneapolis, but throughout the state.

“Being a black woman, I definitely have an interest in communities of color,” Walker said, “but I also see the correlation between communities of color and towns in Greater Minnesota. They wonder, ‘Are our schools going to stay open?’ and we wonder, ‘Will we get teachers of color?’”

She said her involvement in community issues has been her best preparation for the Legislature. “Folks think you need a master’s degree, or to be a lawyer or teacher or some other profession to be a legislator. You don’t,” Walker said. “All you need is compassion for the community, a determination to learn, and a commitment to work.”

She wants to involve young people of all ages in the political process in an informal, non-threatening way. She encourages students to visit her at the Legislature on Fridays, or she will go to their classrooms.

“I firmly believe there shouldn’t be a distinction between community work and political work. Now I have the opportunity to combine the two.”

—Rep. Neva Walker

new job at the Legislature in stride. His main concern is that she help pass laws to get rid of smoking and drinking.

In addition to volunteer work, Walker has worked for the Jordan Neighborhood Association, Family and Social Services, and The United Way. She received her education in sociology at the University of Minnesota.

Her introduction to the Legislature has been both exhilarating and exhausting. She said it didn’t take long to discover the most important characteristic a new Legislator needs: a sense of humor.

She has enjoyed getting to know her freshmen peers — both DFL and Republican. “We’re all different. Realistically, we all have personal agendas and district agendas. As someone who comes from a social service background, I have more of a tendency to give dollars to social services. I know the work they do.”

“I don’t promote living off the government, but there’s a role government has in assisting families to be as self-sufficient as they can.”

In addition to affordable housing, issues of importance to Walker include educational

She said a young man recently told her “stay healthy and fight because we’re so happy you’re there.”

People have high expectations of Walker because of her unique position. “I remind people that I’m in a quadruple minority: my party’s in the minority, I’m black; I’m a woman; and I’m under 30. Let’s be realistic.”

DISTRICT 61B

1998 population (estimate): 32,120

Largest city: Minneapolis

County: Hennepin

Location: south central Minneapolis

Top Concern: “I want to involve community in every aspect of the Legislature: encouraging them to come and visit me, to take historic tours, sit in on committees, watch the action on the floor, come in and testify, and e-mail or phone their legislators.”

—Rep. Neva Walker

Carrying on

Wasiluk brings family tradition of public service to Legislature

By JONAS M. WALKER

Rep. Scott Wasiluk (DFL-Maplewood) brings with him a proud heritage of political activism that runs through generations of his family's history.



Rep. Scott Wasiluk

His paternal grandparents hail from Belorussia, now Belarus, a country in central Europe, formerly part the U.S.S.R that gained its independence upon the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Wasiluk's grandfather left his ancestral homeland at the age of 21, escaping the Russian Czar's 1911 draft efforts. He abandoned his family's landholding past, accepting the fate to be wrought by his own hands in the the United States. He first arrived in Minneapolis by way of Canada.

His marriage was arranged between the Russian communities in the Twin Cities and Detroit. His bride even hailed from the same area in Belorussia. The couple moved to St. Paul and had a son, Wasiluk's father, in 1917.

Wasiluk's parents were closely involved in Twin Cities progressive politics in the middle of the 20th Century. They worked on Hubert Humphrey's campaigns, and introduced their children to the DFL party. When Wasiluk's father passed away, his mother carried on in his position on the Maplewood City Council.

Wasiluk's sister, Sandy Dicke, is now an assistant sergeant-at-arms for the House. She says family ties profoundly influenced the younger Wasiluk. "I taught him everything he knows about politics and ice skating."

Looking back, she remembers her brother as a bright, adept athlete, especially proficient at hockey and tennis. She also recalls that Wasiluk was known for his forgetfulness. "Once, he made it all the way to International Falls for a hockey tournament with only one skate," she said, smiling.

Wasiluk brings his educational and scien-

tific backgrounds to bear on his new duty representing the people of District 55B. He grew up in Maplewood, and still lives in the district's largest city.

The Wasiluk family ties to their community run deeper than just the freshman legislator. Wasiluk's wife, Julie, currently serves on the Maplewood City Council, and their two children are enrolled in the public schools Wasiluk used to help administer.

Wasiluk brings nine years of experience on the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School Board to the Legislature. In three of those years, the North St. Paul High School alumnus chaired that body.

He says that "the policy aspects of schools

job is very different from the task of campaigning. Wasiluk's sister is confident her brother is up to the challenge. The character trait she most admires is his "willingness to devote the necessary time to public service."

As to his legislative priorities, Wasiluk is deferential to the work done by his predecessors, Bruce Vento and, more recently, Betty McCollum, who was elected to the United States House of Representatives in November 2000 to replace Vento, who passed away that summer.

Wasiluk says his priorities will surround "good communities, good schools." Asked about the relationship between the two, Wasiluk added, "Safe schools exist in safe communities. In my experience, collaboration and synergy made the schools stronger."

Citing his experience leading educational initiatives during belt-tightening eras, Wasiluk says he has learned to provide "more service with less" support and fewer resources. He gives the example of building new schools in his district with the help of local business lead-

"Safe schools exist in safe communities. In my experience, collaboration and synergy made the schools stronger."

—Rep. Scott Wasiluk

and school districts" form the basis of his public administration experience.

A University of St. Thomas graduate, Wasiluk's political experience began at an uneasy time for Democrats nationally. In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected president and Wasiluk took a job as a page for former State Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood). "He was my senator," explains Wasiluk. "I was interested in government; good government, and policy."

Wasiluk works as a microbiologist at Boston Scientific Corporation, which manufactures medical equipment. He "coordinates studies to ensure that the process of sterilizing medical equipment is efficacious."

He describes his job as "rewarding," and plans to keep in touch with work during the legislative session.

As any first-time legislator will admit, the

ers and community organizers.

"The environment fits in there, too," he added.

He will have the opportunity to apply his scientific expertise in the pursuit of good government as Wasiluk was appointed to both the Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance committees.

DISTRICT 55B

1998 population (estimate): 34,419

Largest city: Maplewood

County: Ramsey

Location: northern St. Paul suburbs

Top concern: "Good communities, good schools, these will be my highest priorities."

—Rep. Scott Wasiluk

Monday, February 12

HF745—Bishop (R)
Higher Education Finance
University Center Rochester health sciences center construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF746—Bishop (R)
Higher Education Finance
University Center Rochester infrastructure improvement completed, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF747—Dehler (R)
Agriculture Policy
Farmed cervidae harvest permitted on licensed shooting preserves and money appropriated.

HF748—Dehler (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District Nos. 486, Swanville, and 487, Upsala, cooperative secondary facilities grant provided, maximum grant amount increased, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF749—Dehler (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 748, Sartell, fund transfer authorized.

HF750—Dehler (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 738, Holdingford, fund transfer authorized.

HF751—Kuisle (R)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities tuition policy provided, and University of Minnesota tuition policy recommended.

HF752—Rhodes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Louis Park local contributions for tax increment financing districts authorized.

HF753—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Conservation angling licenses provided, and limits and fees specified.

HF754—Mulder (R)
Crime Prevention
Enhanced 911 emergency telephone service signs and markers matching payments to local governments authorized.

HF755—Dorman (R)
Taxes
Solid waste management tax rates reduced and automatic adjustment provided for future years.

HF756—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Income tax deduction provided for specified governmental pension income.

HF757—Mulder (R)
Transportation Policy
Trunk Highway 75 designated "King of Trails."

HF758—Sertich (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Natural resources research institute grants provided and money appropriated.

HF759—Kahn (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
MinnesotaCare provider taxes repealed, cigarette and tobacco taxes increased, health care access fund eliminated, MinnesotaCare transferred to the general fund, and unfair cigarette sales act repealed.

HF760—Osskopp (R)
Transportation Policy
State patrol fine distribution modified, trooper training account established and fund uses specified, and money appropriated.

HF761—Folliard (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Minnesota Family Investment Plan, (MFIP), education and training program provisions modified.

HF762—Schumacher (DFL)
Education Policy
American sign language/English interpreters and oral or cued speech transliterators requirements provided for employment by a school district.

HF763—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Agribusiness investigative unit established in the Office of the Attorney General, support family farms license plates authorized and requirements provided, and money appropriated.

HF764—Swapinski (DFL)
Judiciary Finance
Hazardous materials emergency response/chemical assessment teams operation provided and money appropriated.

HF765—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Lottery ticket revenues dedicated for natural resource purposes increased.

HF766—Holsten (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Omnibus environment and natural resources appropriations bill.

HF767—Holberg (R)
Civil Law
Business discrimination provisions modified, and discretionary disclosure permitted during investigation.

HF768—McGuire (DFL)
Education Policy
Educational program requirements provided for care and treatment facilities and money appropriated.

HF769—Holberg (R)
Crime Prevention
Vehicular homicide repeat offender penalties enhanced.

HF770—Carlson (DFL)
Education Policy
State board of education established, membership provided, and powers granted.

HF771—Opatz (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Age of eligibility to hold office lowered and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF772—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Prevailing wages required for state employees engaged in work on state buildings.

HF773—Kielkucki (R)
Taxes
Personal and dependent exemption income tax deduction provided.

HF774—Peterson (DFL)
Regulated Industries
Energy independence for Minnesota goals and timeline provided, task force created and reports required.

HF775—Boudreau (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Day training and habilitation service variance request mediation process established, rate structure pilot project provided, county responsibilities defined, task force extended, and money appropriated.

HF776—Kielkucki (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Minnesota learning resource center grant provided for A Chance to Grow/ New Visions, and money appropriated.

HF777—Skoglund (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Minneapolis police chief's appointing authority increased, and police department community services bureau abolished.

HF778—Stang (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Motor vehicle sales and distribution unfair and illegal practices specified.

HF779—McElroy (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Motor vehicle dealers; franchise transfers and objections to establishment or relocation of a franchise provisions modified.

HF780—Carlson (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Heating fuel costs of public post-secondary institutions reimbursed, and money appropriated.

HF781—Hilty (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Commissioner of agriculture constitutional office created, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF782—McGuire (DFL)
Crime Prevention
DWI; electronic alcohol monitoring recidivism and conditional release violation rates study required.

HF783—Stanek (R)
Crime Prevention
Deadly force definition modified relating to less lethal munitions used by peace officers.

HF784—Bishop (R)
Higher Education Finance
Metropolitan State University St. Paul campus library construction provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF785—Tingelstad (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
University of Minnesota Raptor Center lead poisoning in bald eagles research provided and money appropriated.

HF786—Abeler (R)
Family & Early Childhood
Education Finance

Adults with disabilities community education programs monitoring and technical assistance provided, and funding levels ensured.

HF787—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Nursing home moratorium exception priority for Anoka area extended, and money appropriated for moratorium exceptions.

HF788—Greiling (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Children's mental health disorder prevention and treatment outcomes required, school pre-assessment teams role expanded to mental health reporting, school grants provided for developing mental health plans, and money appropriated.

HF789—Davids (R)
Agriculture Policy
Agricultural land definition modified relating to recreational trespass law.

HF790—Davids (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy
Blufflands trail system requirements modified.

HF791—Kuisle (R)
Agriculture Policy
Dairy producer civil fine excess amount waiver granted and reimbursement provided.

HF792—Peterson (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy
Migratory waterfowl policy advisory committee established.

HF793—Leighton (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance
Fillmore and Mower counties flood control retention ponds grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF794—Peterson (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Rural revitalization board and commissioner of rural revitalization established, funding designated, and money appropriated.

HF795—Johnson, S. (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Ramsey County project ReConnect grants provided and money appropriated.

HF796—Davnie (DFL)
Education Policy
Arsenic; school districts notified annually to treat wood treated with arsenic, school districts and charter schools prohibited from purchasing wood treated with arsenic without safety commitment, and money appropriated.

HF797—Erhardt (R)
Transportation Policy
Minneapolis and Richfield Highway 62 reconstruction project restrictions imposed.

HF798—Dawkins (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance
Civilian conservation corps worker statue provided and money appropriated.

HF799—Osskopp (R)
Transportation Policy
Combat wounded veteran special motorcycle license plate authorized.

HF800—Wenzel (DFL)
State Government Finance
Camp Ripley Minnesota military museum operating funds provided and money appropriated.

HF801—Kuisle (R)
Transportation Policy
Motorists required to move to left lane of highways when emergency vehicles are parked on the right shoulder.

HF802—Bakk (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance
Gitchi-Gami state trail development funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF803—Smith (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Legislature; requiring each bill introduced to be accompanied by a fiscal note.

HF804—Smith (R)
Crime Prevention
Tenants; issuing a dishonored check for rent defined as theft.

HF805—Smith (R)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development
Real property registration requirements provided and phased in.

HF806—Smith (R)
Civil Law
Grandparent visitation rights provided and expanded, procedures specified, and mediation required.

HF807—Swapinski (DFL)
Agriculture Policy
Genetically engineered agriculturally related organism release requirement exemptions repealed.

HF808—Dempsey (R)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development
Mississippi River Parkway Commission promotion of tourism and economic development along Great River Road provided and money appropriated.

HF809—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Mass purchase of pistols or semiautomatic military-style assault weapons prohibited under most circumstances.

HF810—Swenson (R)
Civil Law
Court administrators required to send notice of payment of judgements to specified credit reporting agencies.

HF811—Swenson (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Rural hospital capital improvement grant and loan program established and money appropriated.

HF812—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Suicide prevention goals, programs, duties and studies required; mental illness transition plans established; provider payment rates adjusted; mental health services and treatment coverage requirements provided; and money appropriated.

HF813—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Licensed mental health counseling board established, licensure requirements provided, rulemaking authorized, penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

HF814—Winter (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
Medical assistance hospital surcharge repealed and money appropriated.

HF815—Fuller (R)
Crime Prevention
Alcoholic beverage concentration terms defined.

HF816—Folliard (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
School counselor incentive grants provided and money appropriated.

HF817—Howes (R)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs
Local government contract public bid requirements modified.

HF818—Goodno (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance eligibility asset limitations modified relating to employed persons with disabilities.

HF819—Kielkucki (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy
Wright County board authorized to rename a body of water.

HF820—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Watershed districts authorized to increase levies for enforcement purposes.

HF821—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Abortion informed consent required and civil remedies provided.

HF822—Abeler (R)
Transportation Finance
Light rail; commuter rail funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF823—Johnson, R. (DFL)
Education Policy
School counselor demonstration site pilot program provided, and money appropriated.

HF824—Winter (DFL)
Taxes
Sales tax rate reduced.

HF825—Peterson (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Bus purchase levy established.

HF826—Johnson, R. (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
Declining pupil unit aid increased and money appropriated.

HF827—Stanek (R)
Transportation Finance
Capitol complex security technology purchase and installation provided and money appropriated.

HF828—Mullery (DFL)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs
Hennepin County employees granted disaster volunteer leave.

HF829—Boudreau (R)
Local Government &
Metropolitan Affairs
Local building department professional activity funds authorized.

HF830—Slawik (DFL)
Civil Law
Ramsey and Washington county property owner personal information disclosure notice continued.

HF831—Biernat (DFL)
Civil Law
Uniform parentage act (2000) adopted.

Thursday, February 15

HF832—Daggett (R)
Taxes
Lawful gambling taxes reduced and reporting requirements modified.

HF833—Walz (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Fishing contest held without a permit allowed an increased number of participants.

HF834—Walz (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Triploid grass carp use permitted for aquatic vegetation control, rulemaking required, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF835—Walz (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Crosslake city library grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF836—Walz (R)
K-12 Education Finance
Independent School District No. 182, Crosby-Ironton, fund transfer authorized.

HF837—Bradley (R)
Education Policy
Teacher leave extensions to teach at charter schools limited to single extension.

HF838—Ozment (R)
Taxes
Dakota County Rosemount highway shop construction materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.

HF839—Milbert (DFL)
Taxes
Dakota County Northern Service Center in West St. Paul construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF840—Greiling (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Mental health assessment required within 72 hours of referral.

HF841—Dorman (R)
Taxes
Lawful gambling tax rates reduced provided and reporting requirements modified.

HF842—Bakk (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board, (IRRRB), board membership regulated.

HF843—Haas (R)
Taxes
Osseo public works facility and community center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF844—Swenson (R)
Agriculture Policy
Agriculture Department responsibility for inspection services on dairy farms defined, and cooperation required between Pollution Control Agency and Department of Agriculture.

HF845—Hackbarth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
All-terrain vehicle (ATV) safety training and youth operating provisions modified to include a riding component.

HF846—Clark, K. (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
HIV/AIDS general education in the workplace funding provided and money appropriated.

HF847—Entenza (DFL)
K-12 Education Finance
HIV/STI education in schools funding provided and money appropriated.

HF848—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Peace officers authorized to execute search warrants on foreign corporations to search for electronic evidence, Minnesota corporations to provide electronic evidence when served, and specified child pornography penalties enhanced.

HF849—Skoglund (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Firearm and ammunition manufacturers required to provide shell casings and projectiles to commissioner of public safety, firearm ballistics identification system funded, and money appropriated.

HF850—Mariani (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development
Ethanol plant odor control equipment grant provided to Gopher State Ethanol, and money appropriated.

HF851—Walz (R)
Crime Prevention
DWI; chronic offender pilot project treatment program created, courts authorized to require offenders to complete program, and money appropriated.

HF852—Howes (R)
Transportation Policy
Motor vehicle filing fees modified and clarifying changes provided.

HF853—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
State park land acquisition provided and money appropriated.

HF854—Huntley (DFL)
Health & Human Services Finance
HIV; education and awareness activities in Greater Minnesota funded, and money appropriated.

HF855—Mares (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
PERA; membership, allowable service, benefit calculation, employer reporting, contribution rates, amortization requirements, vesting, and refund provisions modified.

HF856—Kielkucki (R)
Civil Law
Liability limited for specified non-profit corporations maintaining homes for dependent children, providing day training and habilitation services, or day services for children with mental retardation and related conditions.

HF857—Kielkucki (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Election Day registration to require picture identification, additional registration information required, certain felony convictions reported, and rulemaking authorized.

HF858—Erhardt (R)
Taxes
Vending machine foods exempted from sales tax.

HF859—Bakk (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Knife River harbor of refuge and marina improvements provided and money appropriated.

HF860—Marko (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Multimodal transportation fund established for highway and transit projects, motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF861—Hilstrom (DFL)
Crime Prevention
Life imprisonment without possibility of release sentence imposed for first degree murder of a child under the age of 14.

HF862—Mullery (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Privatization of public services procedures established, and public accountability provided.

HF863—Hilty (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Aitkin County tax-forfeited land sales authorized.

HF864—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Cannon River joint powers board resource protection grant provided and money appropriated.

HF865—Fuller (R)
Crime Prevention
Community service authorized in lieu of criminal fines under specified circumstances.

HF866—Opatz (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
St. Cloud area joint planning district plan transportation component development grant provided and money appropriated.

HF867—Seagren (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Hennepin; suburban regional park district authorized to set commissioner compensation, boundaries clarified, open meeting law conformity provided, donations accepted, and joint powers agreements authorized.

HF868—Abrams (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Patent rights and protections established, coverages regulated, carrier and provider duties specified, and remedies provided.

HF869—Howes (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipal annexation of unincorporated land procedures and criteria provided.

HF870—Erickson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Snowmobile trail access grant-in-aid continuation required.

HF871—Erickson (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
City purchases on credit cards authorized, and personal liability established for unauthorized purchases.

HF872—Sertich (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

St. Louis County special purchasing laws repealed.

HF873—Howes (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Hubbard County tax-forfeited land conveyance authorized free of the tax-forfeited trust.

HF874—Opatz (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Legislative sessions limited to odd-numbered year, special sessions authorized by written agreement of the speaker of the House and majority leader of the Senate, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF875—Mares (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Health plans required to provide coverage for scalp hair prostheses in cases of cancer treatment.

HF876—Jacobson (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Ramsey County single ICF/MR funding provided for field audit disallowances, and money appropriated.

HF877—Bakk (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Specified solid waste transfer station project repayment obligations waived.

HF878—Luther (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

District 287 Foundation grant provided to develop supportive housing to provide independent living opportunities for adults with disabilities and money appropriated.

HF879—Jennings (DFL)**Judiciary Finance**

Rush City prison buffer zone land acquisition and building removal funded, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF880—Solberg (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin, additional levy authorized to finance library and community service project.

HF881—Buesgens (R)**Education Policy**

State board of education established, elected state superintendent provided, education responsibilities realigned, and task force recommendations on resources and duties required.

HF882—Opatz (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Urban growth boundaries established, Metropolitan Council review and approval required, and agricultural and open space preserved between metropolitan area and St. Cloud region.

HF883—Johnson, S. (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Criminal justice data communication network use authorized for determining if civil commitment petitions as sexual psychopathic or sexually dangerous person should be filed.

HF884—Stang (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Poultry producers provided mediation and binding arbitration options.

HF885—Buesgens (R)**Taxes**

State tax share payments to counties with tribal casinos appropriation limit removed.

HF886—Mulder (R)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Immunization schedule established annually for persons enrolled in schools, child care facilities, or post-secondary institutions, and task force established.

HF887—Leppik (R)**Transportation Policy**

Residential roadway redefined.

HF888—Olson (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Health insurance uniform charges required and certain discriminatory charges prohibited.

HF889—Solberg (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 318, Grand Rapids, school-based health center levy authorized.

HF890—Kelliher (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Loring Playhouse in Minneapolis on-sale wine and malt liquor license authorized.

HF891—Olson (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Lake Improvement districts; modifying percent of property owners necessary to petition for creation, termination or holding a referendum on creation.

HF892—Kahn (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Mill City museum operation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF893—Sertich (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Historic building revenue provided school districts and money appropriated.

HF894—Osskopp (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Casino; card club wagering system definitions modified.

HF895—Mahoney (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Temporary workers bill of rights enacted, and criminal and civil penalties imposed.

HF896—Ness (R)**K-12 Education Finance**

Summer school funding reinstated, basic skills summer school pupil units defined, and money appropriated.

HF897—Sertich (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Arrowhead University Center development funding provided and money appropriated.

HF898—Kelliher (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Malformed amphibian research grant provided to Pollution Control Agency and money appropriated.

HF899—Olson (R)**Education Policy**

Textbook and instructional materials loaned to nonpublic school pupils content requirement modified.

HF900—Slawik (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Counties required to give property owners the option of excluding their names from lists released for non-governmental purposes.

HF901—Anderson, B. (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Voting provisions for overseas voters clarified.

HF902—Lenczewski (DFL)**K-12 Education Finance**

Gifted and talented revenue provided as ongoing component of general education revenue and money appropriated.

HF903—Gerlach (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Obsolete statutes repealed restricting sale of wagon covers and similar items.

HF904—Davnier (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Prohibition on possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon on school property modified to remove exemption for holders of a permit to carry a pistol.

HF905—Haas (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Health insurer and health maintenance organization regulation simplified, small business health insurance task force established, and appointments provided.

HF906—Schumacher (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Benton County Graves farm property purchase grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF907—Osthoff (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Prior service credit purchased for a specified teacher.

HF908—Dehler (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Independent expenditures by political parties on behalf of their own candidates limited as a condition of receiving a public subsidy.

HF909—Paymar (DFL)**Transportation Finance**

Ford Parkway bridge rehabilitation provided and money appropriated.

HF910—Dempsey (R)**Education Policy**

Educational administrators board established, duties transferred, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated.

HF911—Pelowski (DFL)**Education Policy**

Soda pop sale or distribution prohibited in schools.

HF912—Murphy (DFL)**Crime Prevention**

Arson strike force sunset extended.

HF913—Leppik (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

Minnesota Project Innovation, Inc.; grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF914—Kuisle (R)**Taxes**

Manufactured home parks property tax class rate reduced, and homestead and agricultural credit aid adjustment provided.

<p>HF915—Cassell (R) Education Policy Pledge of allegiance required in all public schools.</p> <p>HF916—Erhardt (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Securities fees modified for certain securities issued by open-end management companies and unit investment trusts.</p> <p>HF917—Rhodes (R) Health & Human Services Policy Council of health boards established.</p> <p>HF918—Otremba (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Alzheimer's Disease care facilities patient disclosures required, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF919—Dawkins (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Civil commitment definitions and procedures modified, patient rights specified, coverage and cost of care provided, voluntary consent procedures expanded, court records sealed, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF920—Dawkins (DFL) Civil Law Civil commitment court case captions required to refer to patient by initials and commitment court records sealed.</p> <p>HF921—Dawkins (DFL) Crime Prevention Stolen property definition modified relating to leased property.</p> <p>HF922—Mares (R) K-12 Education Finance Century College and Intermediate School District No. 916 agreements clarified, grant authorized, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF923—Skoe (DFL) Education Policy Repealing mandated three additional days of student instruction or staff development training.</p> <p>HF924—Nornes (R) Health & Human Services Finance Residential mental health grant program for facility upgrades established and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF925—Bakk (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Logging; master logger certification program developed, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF926—Goodno (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Uniform health care identification cards content and format modified, prescription drug information required on cards, and issuance requirements established.</p> <p>HF927—Kuisle (R) Transportation Policy Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds portion dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, money appropriated, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p> <p>HF928—Abeler (R) Education Policy Health and safety program expenditures to include removal of architectural barriers for disabled access.</p> <p>HF929—Wenzel (DFL) Taxes Vacant platted land assessment provided.</p> <p>HF930—Dawkins (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Elections; judicial retention elections, instant runoffs, "none of the above" vote, campaign jury, party caucus and primary date changes, absentee voting modifications, and tabulation equipment fund provided, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF931—Cassell (R) Taxes Nonpublic schools sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax exemptions extended to school districts.</p> <p>HF932—Swenson (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Regional sludge management demonstration project appropriated money.</p> <p>HF933—Gunther (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Farm implements and outdoor power equipment buyback requirements provided.</p> <p>HF934—Bradley (R) Health & Human Services Policy Alternative quality assurance licensing system project for programs for persons with developmental disabilities expiration date extended, requirements modified, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF935—Goodno (R) Health & Human Services Policy Automatic external defibrillator; liability immunity for persons rendering emergency care clarified.</p>	<p>HF936—Finseth (R) Transportation Policy World War II and Korean Conflict veterans special license plates authorized.</p> <p>HF937—Rhodes (R) Education Policy Profile of Learning personal and family financial management area modified.</p> <p>HF938—Boudreau (R) Taxes Faribault outdoor swimming pool construction materials and equipment purchase sales and use tax exemption provided.</p> <p>HF939—Howes (R) Taxes Resorts; class 1c and 4c improvement materials and equipment sales and use tax exemption provided.</p> <p>HF940—Howes (R) Taxes Homestead resort valuation and tax deferment provided.</p> <p>HF941—Erickson (R) Agriculture Policy Federal rules adopted relating to pesticides, occupational safety and health, transportation, seeds, food and drugs, good manufacturing processes, drug and feed additives, and eggs.</p> <p>HF942—Abeler (R) Health & Human Services Policy Speech-language pathologists and audiologists licensure established.</p> <p>HF943—Walker (DFL) Health & Human Services Finance Health disparities across populations addressed by a statewide prevention program and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF944—Johnson, R. (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Fair drug pricing; prescription drug program established and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF945—Bradley (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Proposed rule notices required to include a readable and understandable summary of the rules.</p> <p>HF946—Winter (DFL) Taxes Motor vehicle rentals and alcohol sales special sales and use tax rates repealed.</p> <p>HF947—Winter (DFL) Taxes Pork processing facility construction sales and purchases tax exemption extended.</p> <p>HF948—Winter (DFL) Taxes Lawful gambling tax rates reduced and reporting requirements modified.</p>	<p>HF949—Rifenberg (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Newspapers; qualified papers serving small local public corporations requirements modified.</p> <p>HF950—Anderson, I. (DFL) Transportation Policy Snowmobile use of highway rights-of-way provisions modified.</p> <p>HF951—Slawik (DFL) K-12 Education Finance School district equity revenue increased.</p> <p>HF952—Solberg (DFL) K-12 Education Finance Nonresident pupil transportation levy authorized.</p> <p>HF953—Fuller (R) Crime Prevention Child abuse list of offenses modified to include violations from other states.</p> <p>HF954—Sertich (DFL) K-12 Education Finance First-grade preparedness programs expanded, qualified property poor school district revenue designated, and money appropriated.</p> <p>HF955—Wasiluk (DFL) Education Policy Students unable to read by the end of third grade prohibited from enrolling in fourth.</p> <p>HF956—Wasiluk (DFL) Taxes Sales tax rate reduced.</p> <p>HF957—Gunther (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Minnesota computers for schools program appropriated money.</p> <p>HF958—Johnson, R. (DFL) Taxes Elderly and disabled income tax deduction amount increased.</p> <p>HF959—Folliard (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Chemicals; health risk value rules evaluation provided for chemicals emitted into the air.</p> <p>HF960—Milbert (DFL) Taxes High school league tournament admissions exempted from sales tax.</p> <p>HF961—Wagenius (DFL) Taxes Energy efficient products exempted from sales tax.</p>
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MONDAY, Feb. 19

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: HF111 (Krinkie) - carry over - Ethics code applied to executive branch constitutional officers, officers prohibited from engaging in outside work, and malfeasance definition expanded for purposes of recall.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy
Agenda: Review of Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's administrative costs and use of federal funds. Overview of current affordable housing plan.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: HF351 (Stanek) DWI; felony level driving while impaired offense established.
HF101 (Dempsey) Port development assistance appropriation provided.
Governor's budget spreadsheet presentation, John Walz, Fiscal Analyst.

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: HF375 (Kubly) Farm tractor clock-hour meter tampering prohibited, criminal and civil penalties imposed, and remedies provided.
HF453 (Skoe) Discharge of judgments against bankruptcy debtors regulated.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: Remediation Fund and solid waste overview.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: Mayo Medical Center budget request. Witnesses: Dr. Tony Windebank, Dean; Dr. David Agerter, Chair, Family Medicine Department. U of M Efforts to Spend Money Smarter.
Witnesses: Mark Yudof, President; Richard Pfitzenreuter, Chief Financial Officer.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: HF734 (Davnies) Relating to education finance; increasing funding for school lunches and breakfasts; expanding school eligibility for a fast break to learning grant; appropriating money.
HF500 (Kielkucki) Relating to education; appropriating money for a teacher preparation program to educate teachers of students with emotional and behavioral disorders.
HF555 (Finseth) Relating to education; authorizing a fund transfer for independent school district No. 628, Plummer.
HF578 (Pugh) Relating to education; authorizing a grant to special school district No. 6, South St. Paul, for a full day kindergarten program; appropriating money.
HF741 (Goodwin) Relating to education finance; expanding eligibility for the alternative facilities program to districts with older facilities.
HF743 (Anderson, I.) Relating to education; providing for revenue for extracurricular activities; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 123B.
HF816 (Folliard) Relating to education; providing for school counselor incentive grants; appropriating money.

Sales and Incomes Tax Division/ TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder
Agenda: HF569 (Molnau) Exempts certain purchases by counties for road and bridge maintenance from sales, use, and vehicles sales tax.
HF469 (Abeler) Allows county agricultural societies to retain sales tax proceeds to fund improvements.
HF588 (Swapinski) Exempts sales to Western Lake Superior Sanitary District.
HF592 (Dorman) Decreases the non-mixed-municipal solid waste tax and repeals accounting and record-keeping requirements.
HF755 (Dorman) Reducing the solid waste management tax rates, allowing for automatic future adjustments of these rates.

12:30 p.m.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: Food Assistance Program; Family Assets for Independence Program; Minnesota Economic Opportunity Grants; Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA).
HF674 (Swapinski) A bill for an act relating to child abuse; appropriating money for child advocacy centers.
Child Abuse Account.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: HF172 (Mares) Mahtomedi authorized to provide housing assistance to get local daytime paramedic service. Continued Hearing.
HF518 (Rhodes) St. Louis Park firefighters' civil service commission abolition authorized.
HF665 (Kielkucki) Regional development commissions and other regional organization local planning assistance funding provided and money appropriated.
HF817 (Howes) Local government contract public bid requirements modified.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf
Agenda: Presentation by Patrick Wood, Chairman of the Texas Public Utilities Commission, on Electric Deregulation/Restructuring in Texas. Discussion and analysis of major energy proposals (HF492, HF659, and HF710) before the committee.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

7 p.m.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

Edina City Council Chambers
4801 W. 50th St.
Edina, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

TUESDAY, Feb. 20

8 a.m.

Joint House TRANSPORTATION POLICY/Senate TRANSPORTATION

123 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Tom Workman, Sen. Randy Kelly
Agenda: Transportation issues, Congressman Jim Oberstar.

8:15 a.m.

Joint CRIME PREVENTION/JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. John Tuma, Rep. Rich Stanek
Agenda: Department of Corrections: Presentation on Per Diem Reduction Plan.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: HF478 (Sykora) ADD; parents and providers required to evaluate programs prior to prescribing drugs to children with attention deficit disorder, educational neglect definition clarified, number of children affected determined, and money appropriated.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: HF603 (Abeler) Council on disability sunset extended.
HF405 (Koskinen) Patient health information data confidentiality provided, and release of health records to the state prohibited without patient consent.
Other bills may be added.

10:15 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: Aggregate Resources Task Force Report.
Rep. Tom Rukavina, Task Force Chair.
Department of Natural Resources.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.
Testimony on: Section 11, proposed budget for Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning.

TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Continuation of HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill - public testimony.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knoblach
Agenda: Overview of Department of Natural Resources asset preservation issues, CREP.

COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Greg Davids
Agenda: HF560 (Goodno) Relating to health; providing patient protections.
HF564 (Rhodes) Relating to housing; establishing a pilot program to improve neighborhoods by providing deferred low-interest loans; appropriating money.
HF412 (Mulder) Relating to

housing; prohibiting the housing finance agency from excluding small-volume lenders from loan programs.

HF690 (Mahoney) Relating to consumer protection; prohibiting the tattooing of minors; providing an exception.

4 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Continuation of Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

5 p.m.

REDISTRICTING

Southwest State University
Student Center West
1501 State St.
Marshall, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Erik Paulsen
Agenda: Rep. Marty Seifert: Welcome and opening remarks.
Tom Gillaspay, State Demographer: Analysis of Minnesota's population shifts.
Robin Anthony, Minnesota Secretary of State's Office: Local government redistricting timeline.
Open microphone: Comments, questions and input from the audience.

6 p.m.

Joint House EDUCATION POLICY/

Senate EDUCATION
200 State Office Building
Chrs. Rep. Harry Mares, Sen. Sandra Pappas
Agenda: Joint hearing to meet and recommend University of Minnesota Regent nominees to be presented to a joint convention of the Legislature.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 21

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: Department of Administration overview.
HFXXXX (Olson) Employees Right to Know.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Continuation of Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dan McElroy (Vice Chair Rep. Bob Gunther will chair this meeting.)
Agenda: Budget review:
Worker's Compensation Court of Appeals;
The Bureau of Mediation Services.
HF331 (Abeler) Historic preservation grant program created and money appropriated.
HF626 (Walz) Family homeless prevention and assistance program funding provided and money appropriated.

TRANSPORTATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: Driver and Vehicle Services budget presentation, Brian Lamb, Director.
Department of Public Safety Admin. and Related Services budget presentation; Frank Ahrens, Director.
Office of Pipeline Safety budget presentation Tom Brace, State Fire Marshal; Charles Kenow, Administrator.

10:15 a.m.

CIVIL LAW

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Steve Smith
Agenda: HF369 (Bishop) Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.
HF239 (Lipman) Real property ownership and application clarifications provided, Minnesota common interest ownership act modified, and torrens proceedings representation provided.
HF243 (Dawkins) Trusts; uniform principal and income act modified, and antilapse law clarified.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: Department of Natural Resources: Minerals overview and budget presentation; Water overview and budget presentation.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: DOER Health Insurance Plan Purchasing Overview.
Witnesses: Dave Haugen, Assistant Commissioner, Employee Insurance Division.
University of Minnesota Perspective on Health Insurance Plan Purchasing.
MnSCU Perspective on Health Insurance Plan Purchasing.
Witness: Bill Tschida, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, MnSCU.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

TAXES

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

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tim Finseth
Agenda: HF362 (Westrom) Requires that diesel fuel sold in the state contain a minimum of five percent biodiesel fuel oil by weight.
HF394 (Seifert) Repealing certain provisions regarding castrating certain animals running at large in towns.
House Resolution 3 (Kielkucki) Recognizing the McLeod County Farm Family of the Year.

Economic Development and Tourism Division/COMMERCE, JOBS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Arlon Lindner
Agenda: To be announced.

FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FINANCE

Tours
Chr. Rep. Barb Sykora
Agenda: Committee Off-site Tours: Lifetrack Resources; Winnetka Learning Center; Perspectives, Inc.; Hubbs Center.
Vans depart northwest parking lot of State Office Building promptly at 12:15 p.m. Return to State Office Building at approximately 5:15 p.m.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: Legislative Auditor: Program Evaluation Report, "Affordable Housing"
Other business.

1:30 p.m.

Subcommittee on Metropolitan Council and Agencies/ LOCAL GOVERNMENT & METROPOLITAN AFFAIRS

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Buesgens
Agenda: Organizational matters. HF46 (Lipman) Comprehensive local planning local control reestablished, metropolitan land use planning and Metropolitan Council review of local comprehensive plans repealed, and conforming changes provided.

7 p.m.

Sales and Income Tax Division/ TAXES

Dakota County Administration Center
1590 W. Hwy. 55
Hastings, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder
Agenda: HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

THURSDAY, Feb. 22

8:15 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: To be announced.

JUDICIARY FINANCE

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Rich Stanek
Agenda: Budget overview for the Department of Corrections.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Tom Workman
Agenda: HF132 (Haas) Traffic-impacted metropolitan city street account created in county state-aid

highway fund, and allocation provided continued.
HF416 (Rifenberg) Hokah authorized to vacate roads if necessary due to extensive damage continued.
HF672 (Hausman) Railroad bridge expansion financial assistance authorized.

10:15 a.m.

CRIME PREVENTION

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. John Tuma
Agenda: Legislative Auditor's Report on Chronic Offenders. Legislative Auditor's Report on District Courts.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: HF501 (Ozment) Conservation officer enforcement activity comparison prevented from use in performance evaluation.
HF241 (Juhnke) Portable fish houses exempted from licensing requirements.
HF242 (Juhnke) Fishing; use of two angling lines permitted.
HF753 (Bakk) Conservation angling licenses provided, and limits and fees specified.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: HF158 (Gleason) Property Tax Refund - continued.
HF212 (Gleason) Airport property.
HF363 (McGuire) LGA for Falcon Heights.
HF616 (Marko) LGA for Newport.

Sales and Income Tax Division/ TAXES

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Elaine Harder
Agenda: HF773 (Kielkucki) Provides an individual income tax subtraction for personal and dependent exemptions.
HF756 (Daggett) Allows an individual income tax subtraction for certain governmental pension income.
HF233 (Fuller) Exempts ambulance services from motor fuel taxation.
HF321 (Fuller) Exempting unmarked police cars from sales tax.
HF622 (Fuller) Exempts construction materials and equipment for a BCA satellite

laboratory in Bemidji from sales and use taxes.
HF607 (Skoe) Exempts certain agricultural equipment from the sales and use taxes.

STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE

300N State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Philip Krinkie
Agenda: HF218 (Krinkie) State Government Finance Bill.
Teachers Retirement Association; Minneapolis Employees Retirement Fund;
Local Police & Fire Amortization Aid;
1st Class City Teachers State Aid.

12:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Bob Ness
Agenda: To be announced.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Knobloch
Agenda: Overview of Minnesota Housing Finance Authority.

REGULATED INDUSTRIES

200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ken Wolf
Agenda: Presentation by John Stauffacher, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs of Dynegy, on regulatory concerns of independent power producers.
Note: The Regulated Industries Committee is meeting in room 200 during the Commerce Committee's regular meeting time. The Commerce Committee will not be meeting at this time.

3 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

7 p.m.

Property Tax Division/TAXES

Burnsville High School
600 E. Hwy. 13
Burnsville, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

FRIDAY, Feb. 23

8:15 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY

Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: To be announced.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Kevin Goodno
Agenda: Continuation of Minnesota Department of Human Services overview of budget pages C-5 to C-295.

10:15 a.m.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES FINANCE

10 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Mark Holsten
Agenda: Department of Natural Resources: Trails and Waterways overview and budget presentation; Parks and Recreation overview and budget presentation.

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE

300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Peggy Leppik
Agenda: MnSCU Board Level Administration and Management Legislative Study Overview.
Witnesses: Judy Grew, Senior Management Consultant, Management Analysis Division, Department of Administration; Jim Jarvis, Management Consultant, Management Analysis Division, Department of Administration; Michael Vekich, Chair, MnSCU Board of Trustees.

K-12 EDUCATION FINANCE

5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: To be announced.

12 noon

Property Tax Division/TAXES

St. Cloud City Hall
400 2nd St. S.
St. Cloud, Minn.
Chr. Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: HF511 (Sviggum) Governor's Tax Bill.

Reflections

Three women who died within the past month made a direct and lasting impact on the lives of Minnesotans. They were strong advocates for some of the issues being discussed even today at the Capitol.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh, Timothy Olivia Vann, and Dale Evans all mapped new roads and charted new territory through their dedication and leadership in pointing the way for others to follow, in spite of personal setbacks.

Lindbergh was married to Charles A. Lindbergh, Jr. Although not the first to fly across the Atlantic, as some believe, Charles, from Little Falls, was the first to fly solo from New York to Paris.

In 1977, she played a major role in forming the Anoka-based Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation to help balance conservation and the environment with technology. Anne, not a native of Minnesota, often attended foundation meetings, though she lived out of state.

On May 20, 1985, she and her daughter, Reeve, spoke at the dedication of the Lindbergh statue across from the Transportation Building on the Capitol complex. In spite of Anne's own successes, she and Charles coped with losing two of their six children, including their firstborn, who was kidnapped and murdered at the age of 20 months.

Vann moved to St. Paul from Oklahoma with 10 children in tow in the late 1950s. She lived in a large colonial home on Dayton Avenue where she raised the children, one grandchild, and was a surrogate mother to many in the neighborhood.



Anne Morrow Lindbergh

While her children pursued various ventures, Timothy waited until age 54 to achieve her master's degree in public administration and then go on to direct the Model Cities Health Center in St. Paul.

She made time to volunteer for civic and community organizations, while performing many church duties for the St. Paul Cathedral. She continued her dedication to helping others even after the tragedy of losing a daughter in a tragic fire.

Vann, who once was the only female on a Negro League baseball team, fought for race equity, less

the community, housing, care. She legislators tied on numerous occasions Capitol in 1970s and 1980s. A strong interest in health care kept her on the HealthPartners Board of Directors for 14 years.



Timothy Olivia Vann

The family was invited to the White House in 1983 to receive a Great American Family award from First Lady Nancy Reagan. That same year, they received the Saint Paul Urban League's annual Family of the Year award.

Close to 2,000 people showed up for her funeral at the cathedral as a testament to the impact she made on St. Paul.

Dale Evans is mostly remembered by those who were young enough to spend 10 cents at a Saturday movie to watch she and husband Roy Rogers gallop across the

screen after the bad guys. With Roy on his steed, Trigger, and Dale on her horse, Buttermilk, with sidekick Gabby Hayes alongside, they always demonstrated that good won out over evil. When the West-erns faded, they took their entertainment to America through television.

As "Queen of the West" Evans was a singer and songwriter who married Roy in 1947. Between them, they had nine children — one of their own, four by adoption, one by Dale's former marriage, two by Roy's, and one foster child.

The Rogers' also suffered personal tragedy through the deaths of three children: one from the mumps, one in a church bus crash, and one choked to death.

But Dale and Roy's strong religious beliefs gave them inspiration to continue to be role models for many people.



Dale Evans

In 1975 Dale, Roy, Dusty Evans, their TV sidekick, Pat Brady, and the Sons of the Pioneers gave a rousing performance at the Minnesota State Fair. Dale also came to Minnesota in 1980 as the motivational speaker for a women's seminar in Bloomington.

All three women — Lindbergh, Vann, and Evans — made an unforgettable impact on Minnesota. A message to them may be summarized by the first line of one of the hundreds of songs written by Dale Evans: "Happy Trails To You."

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

Photo of Anne Morrow Lindbergh copyright National Women's Hall of Fame Web site, Timothy Olivia Vann photo courtesy of the family, and the Dale Evans photo copyright of the Official Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Web site.

Continued from page 12

"It's a form of pin the tail on the donkey policy," Mark Anfinson of the Minnesota Newspaper Association told the House Taxes Committee. He was referring to what he thought was an arbitrary approach to what would be subject to the sales tax under the bill.

"It's a strange set of priorities that would inhibit the dissemination of information," he said.

HF511 sponsored by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) would hit newspapers hard throughout the state, Anfinson said. The bill would eliminate the sales tax exemption on publications, add tax onto circulation services and advertising, and lead to collection problems.

He said under the proposal newspaper carriers would now be tax agents and the newspaper vending boxes would have to be redesigned in order to be capable of collecting the sales tax.

Stephen Bergerson, a Minneapolis attorney speaking on behalf of the Minnesota Communication Industry Coalition, said the industry is one of the largest and fastest growing business sectors in the state. He said Minnesota publishing, printing, advertising, film, and other communication-related companies employ more than 200,000 people and generate around \$17 billion in annual revenue.

Bergerson said the sales tax expansion on

those industries would result in major advertisers such as BMW, L.L. Bean, and United Airlines pulling their business from Minnesota advertising agencies. He said the resulting loss in business would mean the state's big firms would relocate, and midsize and small agencies would either shrink or fold.

"Every single state which has ever had an advertising services tax, and that includes Arizona, Maryland, Florida, and Iowa, have quickly repealed it. Every single one of the other 40 states including, not incidentally, New York, Illinois, California, and Texas that have considered it have rejected it," Bergerson said.

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

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota Occupational Projections 1998-2008

Total number of jobs projected for Minnesota in 2008	3,196,670
Total number jobs estimated in 1998	2,761,900
Resulting number of new jobs	434,770
Percent increase	16
Percent growth from 1988 to 1998	23
Number of jobs projected to be available by 2008 to new workforce entrants and re-entrants, due to the retirements	650,000
Projected number of new jobs in service industry	236,432
As a percent of all new jobs	54.4
Largest area (business services) in new jobs	89,558
Second largest (health services) in new jobs	46,136
New jobs in trade industries by 2008	86,685
Largest area (retail) in new jobs	67,204
Projected number of new jobs in manufacturing	31,594
Largest area (durable goods) in new jobs	17,742
Projected new jobs in finance, insurance and real estate by 2008	27,282
New jobs in transportation, communications, and public utilities by 2008	21,034
Projected number of new jobs in self-employment outside of agriculture	12,362
New construction jobs by 2008	11,578
Projected decrease in agricultural, forestry and fishing jobs	6,194
As percent of 1998 industry workforce	8
Projected decrease in mining jobs	1,724
As percent of 1998 industry workforce	21
New jobs for projected fastest growing occupation (computer systems analysts) between 1998-2008,	32,169
Retail salespersons new jobs (second fastest)	13,777
Cashiers new jobs (third fastest)	12,259
Lost jobs for fastest projected declining occupation (farmers) between 1998-2008	5,560
Lost jobs for second fastest declining occupation (farm workers)	1,987
Lost jobs for typists and word processors	1,448
State unemployment rate 1998, as percent	2.5
Unemployment in 2000, as percent	2.7

Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Minnesota Statewide Occupational Projections, November 2000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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