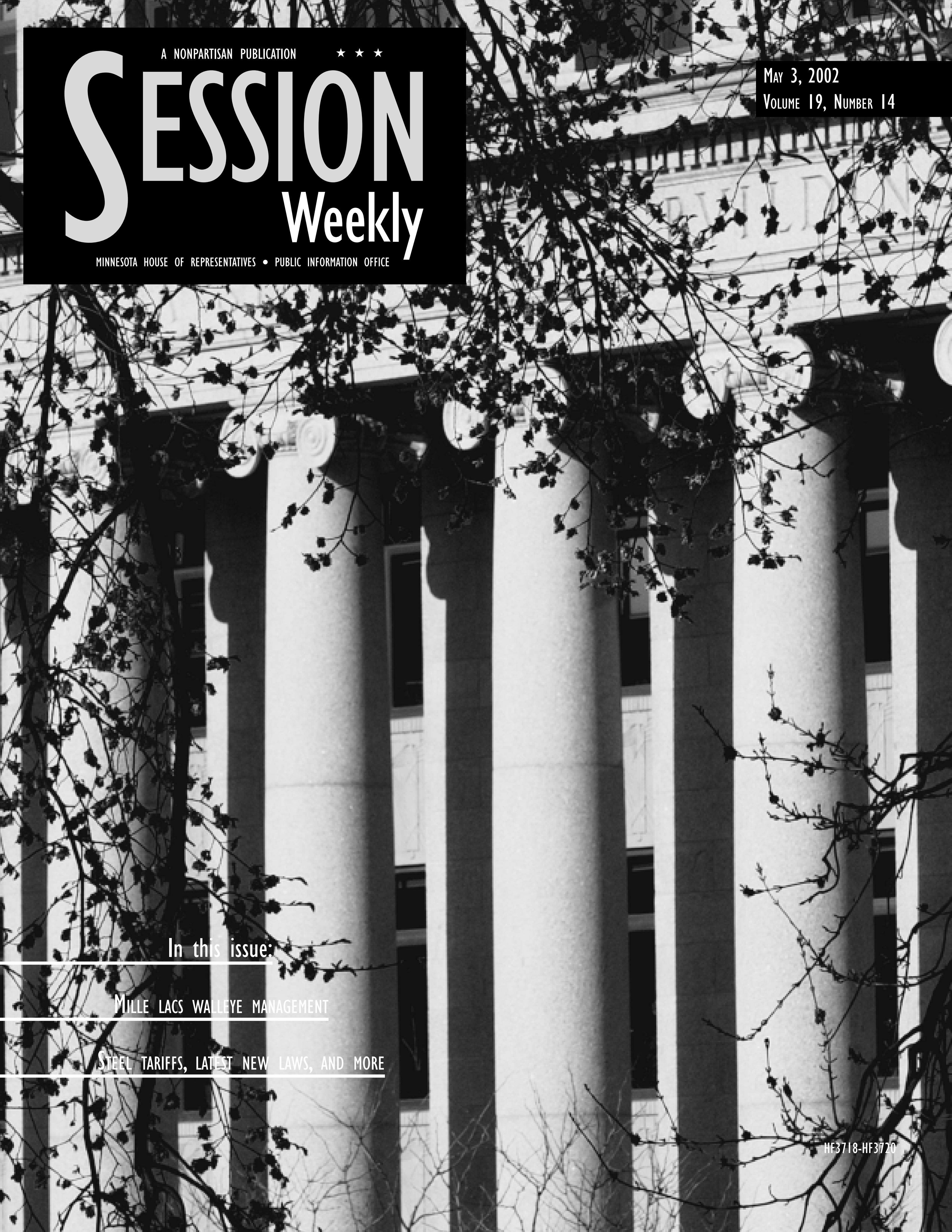


A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION ★ ★ ★

Session Weekly

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

May 3, 2002
Volume 19, Number 14

In this issue:

Mille lacs walleye management

Steel tariffs, latest new laws, and more

HF3718-HF3720

SESSION Weekly

Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 2001-2002 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

To subscribe, contact:
Minnesota House of Representatives
Public Information Office
175 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298
(651) 296-2146 or
1-800-657-3550
TTY (651) 296-9896

Director
LeClair G. Lambert

Editor/Assistant Director
Michelle Kibiger

Assistant Editor
Mike Cook

Art & Production Coordinator
Paul Battaglia

Writers
David Maeda, Lisa Hilton,
Sarah McKenzie, Theresa Stahl

Chief Photographer
Tom Olmscheid

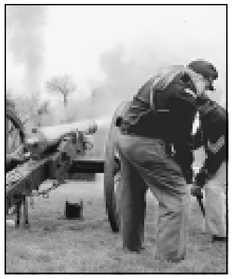
Photographers
Andrew Von Bank, Becky Ekstam

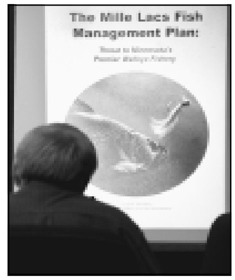
Office Manager
Nicole Wood

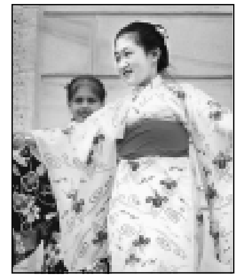
Staff Assistants
Christy Novak, Kelli Lin Foster

Session Weekly (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ***Session Weekly***, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled, 30% post-consumer content.







CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

FEATURES

DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

On the cover: Buds on the trees around the State Office Building await a warm spring day to unfurl their leaves.

—Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Walleye management

Department of Natural Resources, business owners, anglers differ on taking of walleye from one of Minnesota's biggest lakes

BY SARAH MCKENZIE

The turf battle continues over the management of the state's world-renowned walleye fishery, Mille Lacs Lake, and lawmakers say they want to help the competing interests find some common ground.

Three years after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa's 1837 treaty rights to special hunting and fishing privileges, the state continues to struggle with developing a harvest plan that is acceptable to area business owners and anglers.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance committees held a joint informational hearing April 30 to sort through the issue and hear competing visions for the future of the lake.

"It is the citizens' resource and that is why we are here today," said Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the finance committee.

Effective March 1, 2002, a one-year plan negotiated between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the band imposes a 2-inch walleye harvest slot restriction on Mille Lacs anglers, meaning only fish between 14 inches and 16 inches in length can be kept. Anglers are permitted to keep one walleye greater than 28 inches per outing.

The plan will allow sport anglers to keep about 288,000 pounds of walleye this summer while the band's quota will be 100,000 pounds.

Many Mille Lacs business owners say they have taken a financial hit because of the lower harvest levels, predicting more anglers will decide to go elsewhere to fish this summer. Meanwhile, the DNR maintains that they are necessary to ensure the sustainability of the walleye population.

Dick Sternberg, a former DNR fisheries biologist and outspoken critic of the department, presented the committee with a 26-page report analyzing data on harvest and walleye population levels.

In his view, the wind-swept, 200-square mile lake in north-central Minnesota faces an unprecedented problem: too many big walleyes and too few bait fish, such as perch.

"The bait fish in Mille Lacs have crashed," Sternberg said. "The question is how long can these walleyes hang on without much to eat."

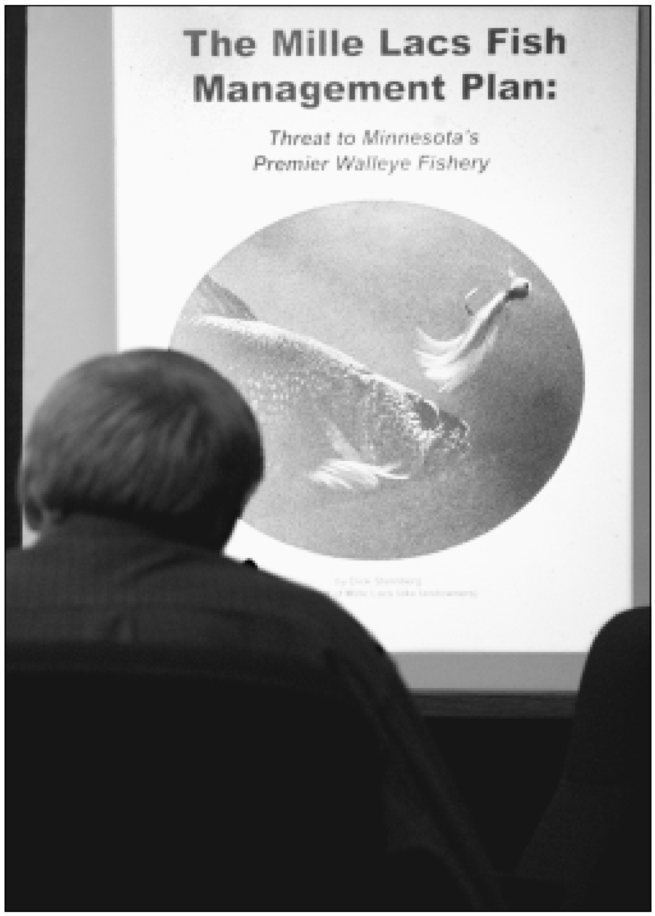


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Dick Sternberg, a former DNR fisheries biologist, presents a proposed fish management plan for the lake during an April 30 joint hearing of the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance committees.

Sternberg argues that the current lake management plan isn't backed by sound biology. He recommended raising the walleye catch to the court-approved 24 percent harvest level and permitting anglers to keep larger walleyes.

"Under the tight constraints of treaty management, the DNR's main concern is keeping walleye harvest within the quota," Sternberg wrote in his report. "But in doing so, it is ignoring the issue of population imbalance, which poses a far more significant threat to the fishery than a quota infraction."

Sternberg presented a graph indicating the average harvest between 1987 and 1996, prior to the court-ordered cooperation between the band and the state, was 591,975 pounds of walleye. Since 1997, the average harvest has been 391,055 pounds.

At the hearing he said the DNR has come up with a "90 percent solution to a 10 percent problem" since anglers have to throw back about 90 percent of what they catch.

Sternberg also questioned the department's methods for determining the size of the walleye population, arguing it underestimates the number of large walleye in Mille Lacs Lake.

The DNR challenged Sternberg's findings at the meeting and dismissed his concerns about a heavy concentration of large walleyes.

"We simply do not believe that the walleye population is going to collapse," said Ron Payer, director of the DNR fisheries division.

Payer suggested that overharvesting poses a greater threat to the population than do a large number of big walleyes.

But Payer conceded the department could do a better job of determining the size of the walleye population.

"The data isn't perfect, but it's good data," he said.

Jack Wingate, DNR fisheries research manager, challenged Sternberg's assertion that the larger fish are responsible for the lake's dwindling bait fish population. He pointed to statistics showing that younger fish consume far more pounds of food per pound of body weight than older, larger fish.

Besides mulling over the competing scientific analyses, committee members also heard testimony from a number of Mille Lacs Lake area business owners who weighed in on the lake management debate.

They pointed to slumping sales in just about everything that is supported by the fishing-based tourism: gasoline, beer, and pull tabs, to name a few.

The number of sport fishing tournaments is also down.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), who sat in on the hearing but does not serve on either committee, read a letter from a constituent troubled by the loss in business from out-of-state tourists.

Bill Eno, co-owner of the Twin Pines Resort with his wife, Linda, said his business has declined more than 20 percent since the tighter fishing restrictions were imposed.

"The businesses need some help," Eno said.

Linda Eno said the 2-inch slot makes it nearly impossible to come home with any fish. During one fishing outing she was with a group that caught more than 130 fish and only one met the length requirements.

She also expressed frustration with the overall treaty management approach that treats the bands differently from the rest of the community.

"We can't have two sets of rights," she said.

Terry McQuoid, who runs McQuoid's Inn in Isle, has been a lifelong angler on the lake. He's noticed a significant increase in the number of large catches on the lake.

For example, he caught a 55-inch muskie last summer.

The downside to the hot bite, however, is a high number of hooking mortalities, particularly among fish caught in deep water.

Advocates of higher harvest limits argue that the number of wasted fish would go down if they could keep more walleye. The DNR, however, maintains that the number of hooking mortalities would go down if anglers practiced more restraint and care when removing the hooks.

Like Sternberg, McQuoid recommended that the DNR and bands allow anglers to keep two walleyes larger than 20 inches.

Dave Overland, secretary of the Minnesota Sportfishing Congress, compared the economic decline in the Mille Lacs Lake area to the collapse of the taconite industry on the Iron Range.

He urged members of the committee to provide the community with relief.

Calling the lake a "resource of statewide significance," Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said the Legislature needs to become more involved in the process. He advocated the formation of a task force to examine the issue, but no action was taken at the hearing.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), chair of the environment policy committee, agreed that more needs to be done to formulate a resolution, but he cautioned against political micromanaging that would undermine the work of the state's biologists.

IT'S A FACT

Selling Minnesota

Publications laud nascent state's temperate climate and robust citizens

Minnesota's settlers were lured here in part by emigration posters, pamphlets, and books advertising exceptional farmland, wholesome citizens, and abundant natural resources.

Public and private interests alike sought to attract newcomers through the publication and free distribution of these materials.

COST OF COMING TO MINNESOTA.

EUROPEAN EMIGRANT RATES OF PASSAGE TO ST. PAUL, FROM

AMERICAN RATES

TO ST. PAUL FROM

Minnesota Board of Immigration agents distributed this handbill across Europe and America.

The 1867 Legislature appropriated $10,000 to create and fund an immigration board. Board members were directed to solicit additional contributions from manufacturers, merchants, and others who benefited from the influx of immigrants and to "publish or cause to be published, pamphlets, guide books, and articles treating on, and describing in a true light, the developed and undeveloped resources of the state of Minnesota."

The board spread the word under such titles as "Minnesota, the Empire State of the New North-West: The Commercial, Manufacturing and Geographical Centre of the American Continent" and "The Cost of Coming to Minnesota," a poster detailing rates of passage to St. Paul from several European and American cities. In the mid-19th century, tickets from Naples, Italy, cost $71.50, while Liverpudlians paid $50.50.

Free-wheeling capitalists also got in on the action, though their efforts were hidden behind the guise of benevolent intervention.

"[This publication] is offered for gratuitous circulation in order that persons here and elsewhere, knowing our healthy climate and prolific soil, may let their friends and others seeking new homes, know of Minnesota, before they incur the fearful risk of plunging themselves and families into the fever-ridden districts of other states," wrote attorney and land speculator Girart Hewitt in an 1867 treatise titled *Minnesota: Its Advantage to Settlers.*

The railroads, always on the lookout for new fares, were not shy about using the printing press to their advantage, either.

"No malaria, no ague (fever) and chills, but all enjoy the greatest blessing possible to mankind, clear heads and healthy, vigorous bodies," extolled an 1889 publication of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway included in *Bring Warm Clothes: Letters and Photos from Minnesota's Past.*

Settlers were also enticed by editorials and glowing personal accounts of Minnesota life published in eastern and European newspapers.

"Fish of the finest quality abound in the lakes and rivers … wheat does well … in fact, vegetables grow almost spontaneously," read one such letter that was sent to the East and reprinted in the June 13, 1854 *St. Paul Daily Minnesotian.*

It's difficult to discern whether many of these letters were written by content homesteaders or composed as a front for the railroad public relations machine.

Recognizing that it would be easy to persuade immigrants of the availability of cheap land and stalwart citizens, but difficult to promote a northern climate, the "bonds that held the Northern Pacific to truth were badly strained," wrote Sig Mickelson in *The Northern Pacific Railroad and the Selling of the West.*

"The skillful use of counter propaganda became necessary" when the heavy snows of 1873 bred discontent among English settlers in Minnesota. When their tales of woe reached the newspapers in England, the Northern Pacific countered by leaking letters to the press allegedly written by satisfied settlers.

Whether or not the tactics were completely ethical, the emigrant posters and publications inspired a population explosion in Minnesota.

The numbers rose from about 4,000 in 1849 to just more than 172,000 in 1860. No other territory or state in U.S. history has ever grown as rapidly during a 10-year period, according to the Minnesota Historical Society.

By the turn of the century, the state's population was pushing 1.8 million.

(N. Wood)

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

CRIME

Reporting change

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

A new law will allow public employees and public officers to report instances of theft, fraud, or embezzlement directly to law enforcement rather than to the state auditor.

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed the legislation May 1.

Effective Aug. 1, 2002, the law will require the person making the report to provide all information pertinent to the incident, including any non-public data.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) told the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 20 that she proposed the change after a case in a Lakeville school where an employee was suspected of theft.

The school district was prevented from disseminating private employee information to law enforcement and had to go through the state auditor's office to seek discipline. In the meantime, the employee resigned, and the district was left with no chance for retribution.

A separate provision will allow school officials to inform law enforcement of the existence of certain data in a student's record if the student's parents or guardians do not object.

The measure does not allow schools to turn over exact data on the incidents, but rather allows only the existence of such data to be reported. Data that can be given out include knowledge of the student's drug use, alcohol use, threatening behavior, vandalism, or theft.

Under the new law, parents would be sent a letter informing them of law enforcement's request for their child's information. If the child's parents or guardians object to the information being disseminated, the school officials would be prohibited from turning over the information.

The law would not include information in the student's education record or data protected by a court order.

The House passed the law 125-0 April 22 and the Senate did the same 56-0 April 25. Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville) is the Senate sponsor.

HF2618*/SF3373/CH352

EDUCATION

Teacher contract bill withdrawn

An amendment to a bill that would put a deadline on submitting teacher contract information may have threatened the bill's chance of being passed this year.

The bill (HF3069/SF2986*) would require school boards to report teacher salaries to the Minnesota School Boards Association within 30 days of the signing of the agreement.

Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), the bill's sponsor, said on the House floor April 29 that the bill would help the association measure statistics in a more consistent way. Currently the reports are voluntary.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) introduced an amendment that would require teachers and school administrators to report student-on-student sexual abuse in public schools within 24 hours.

Existing law requires 24-hour reporting of sexual abuse between a student and an adult. Slawik said there is currently a "loophole" in law regarding student-on-student sexual abuse.

A bill (HF2696/SF2519), sponsored by Slawik, never received a House hearing, but it was heard in the Senate, where a representative of the Oakdale Police Department testified in favor of the legislation, Slawik said.

After House members asked questions about the amendment, and before a vote was taken, Wolf asked that his bill be withdrawn for later consideration.

Some DFL members weren't happy with the request. Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls) thought the amendment and the bill should have received a vote. He said the bill process had not been fair to Slawik, partly because her bill didn't receive a committee hearing.

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said the House as a body should respect the will of the bill's sponsor.

The bill was returned to the General Register, where bills await placement on the Calendar for the Day, and it may be taken up again at a later time.

Billing process update

Laws governing specific billing procedures for the Minnesota state academies for the blind and deaf would become consistent with current practices, under a bill passed by the House.

During a recent audit, the Office of the Legislative Auditor discovered the discrepancy.

"They didn't do anything wrong, but the way they were billing was out of compliance with what the law said," according to Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), the House sponsor. The Senate sponsor is Sen. Thomas Neuville (R-Northfield).

Boudreau said the method of billing written in the legislation is what the academies have been doing for years.

"It puts the method of billing in current statute," she said.

The academies have been using a formula that allows general education money to follow the student to the school they attend.

According to the audit report, the academies, both located in Faribault, did not transfer the correct amount of revenue that current statute requires. However, they transferred the amount officials intended for students at the schools to receive, but the specific formula was never changed in law.

The bill would also clarify the method of counting students, which would be contingent upon a particular number of students, a ratio equation, the general education revenue formula allowance, and pupil weights.

The bill (HF3319) passed 125-0 in the House April 25. It awaits action by the full Senate.

ENVIRONMENT

Pest control spraying

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture would be allowed to continue with a planned gypsy moth eradication program in south Minneapolis and neighboring suburbs this spring, under a bill approved April 30 by a House committee.

State Attorney General Mike Hatch issued a legal opinion April 26 that derailed the department's plans to spray areas near Lake Harriet and Theodore Wirth Park, citing state law that bans aerial spraying in areas where people could be exposed to the pesticides.

The law was originally intended to protect migrant farm workers from hazardous chemicals used on crops.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee approved a bill (HF3719), sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus), that would provide a number of exemptions to the ban on aerial pesticide sprays in areas where people could potentially be exposed.

Greg Buzicky, *left*, director of agronomy and plant protection for the Agriculture Department, and State Entomologist Geir Friisoe discuss the threat that gypsy moths pose to Minnesota during an April 30 joint meeting of the House Agriculture Policy Committee and House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee.

The committee met jointly with the House Agriculture Policy Committee April 30.

Besides allowing the spraying of gypsy moths, a highly destructive forest insect migrating westward across the United States, the bill would allow spraying to control mosquitoes and other public health risks as determined by the health commissioner.

The Department of Agriculture would be required to notify residents of the planned pesticide spray through mailings, public meetings, posted placards, or neighborhood newsletters.

The department would use Bacillus Thuringiensis (B.t.), a naturally occurring bacteria, to kill the gypsy moths, if the bill becomes law. The bacterium is considered safe for humans.

Greg Buzicky, director of the Agriculture Department's Agronomy and Plant Protection Division, noted that time is of the essence as gypsy moth eggs have begun to hatch.

"The Minneapolis urban forest is in jeopardy if this pest gets established," Buzicky said.

Although members of the committee agreed that the department needs the authority to stamp out the moths, some expressed concern about widening the bill's scope to include a number of exemptions.

In particular, some expressed concern about the mosquito spraying exemption, arguing there needs to be further examination of the health effects of the state's bug management program.

The bill, which received approval to bypass House deadlines from the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, now goes to the House floor.

ATV restrictions

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

All-terrain vehicle riders will be barred from driving off trails in state forests, under a new law signed by the governor May 1.

The House voted 125-0 on April 25 to adopt the conference committee report to the law, sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls). The Senate passed the report 64-0 the same day.

Under the new law, motorized vehicles will be allowed on designated forest roads and trails. Commercial loggers, along with big-game hunters and trappers during the hunting season, will be exempt from the restriction.

The riding restrictions are effective May 2, 2002.

The law also appropriates $1.2 million for trail maintenance, monitoring and enforcement, and environmental reviews of proposed trails. The money will be drawn from the all-terrain vehicle, off-highway vehicle, and off-highway motorcycle accounts.

Also under the new law, snowmobiles and outboard motors purchased by the Department of Natural Resources will have to be the four-stroke engine model. Further, it will require that ATVs purchased by the DNR be made in Minnesota.

Another snowmobile section in the new law will allow the DNR to use up to 50 percent of the snowmobile maintenance and grooming grant to reimburse intended recipients of the money for equipment costs.

Counties will also be allowed to raise the speed limit to 65 mph for snowmobiles traveling on marked trails on lakes larger than 10,000 acres. It will be applicable during daylight hours and subject to the approval of the DNR commissioner.

HF2970*/SF3010/CH355

Consolidated-conservation lands

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

More than 100,000 acres of land in northwestern Minnesota will be designated as wildlife management areas, under a new law signed by the governor May 1.

The measure will complete an ongoing effort to apply the designation to remaining acres of the state's Consolidated Conservation (Con-Con) lands.

The House passed the bill (HF1359/SF2125*) by a 100-26 vote on April 25. The Senate backed the measure 61-0 on March 22. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) and Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine).

Minnesota took control of the Con-Con lands beginning in 1929 through tax forfeiture. Farmers largely abandoned the lands during the Great Depression, according to a Legislative Reference Library guide on the issue.

At the time the state took over the lands, the state paid $4.75 million to pay off county drainage ditch debts, securing responsibility for 1.6 million acres in Aitkin, Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, and Rouseau counties.

The Department of Natural Resources has managed the Con-Con lands in a variety of ways: as wildlife management areas, state forests, state parks, scientific and natural areas, or agricultural areas.

Under the new law, 102,315 acres in Beltrami, Marshall, and Roseau counties will become the last acres designated as wildlife management areas, which are heavily used by hunters. The state has more than 1.1 million acres with this designation.

The law contains a provision that will direct the DNR commissioner to designate a minimum of 90 miles of trails for all-terrain vehicles in wildlife management areas. Eight-member working groups will be established in each county to work on trail designation plans.

Deer hunters will also be allowed to use all-terrain vehicles on the lands during the hunting season.

The ATV and Con-Con lands sections of the new law are effective Jan. 1, 2003.

HF1359/SF2125*/CH353

Animal disease control

The House passed a Department of Natural Resources fiscal bill on April 29, which among other things would allow the department to appropriate money from deer hunting licenses to manage chronic wasting disease.

The bill (HF2973/SF2738*), sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) and Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury), passed 120-9 after members adopted a motion inserting House language into the bill.

The Senate passed the bill 63-0 on April 2. The measure now goes back to that body to consider the House amendments.

Chronic wasting disease attacks the brains of infected deer and elk, causing it to lose weight, display abnormal behavior, lose bodily functions, and die.

Deer in neighboring states have been afflicted with the condition, but there have been no confirmed cases in Minnesota. More than 50 state deer have been tested for the disease and the DNR is developing plans for more monitoring and for handling an outbreak, if one occurs.

Additionally, the bill includes a number of technical provisions that would direct the disbursement of federal dollars for wildlife restoration.

It would also make reductions in appropriations for state recreation areas signed into law in 2001. The Red River State Recreation Area — under development near East Grand Forks in northwestern Minnesota and near the North Dakota border — would receive $200,000 instead of $600,000.

The bill would also reduce an appropriation set aside for the Big Bog State Recreation Area from $200,000 to $100,000. The recreation area is under development near Upper Red Lake in north-central Minnesota.

Members also approved a number of amendments, including a $150,000 appropriation that would allow the DNR to conduct walleye research on Mille Lacs Lake in north-central Minnesota.

Another added measure would require the DNR commissioner to review the leasing of lakes for private aquaculture and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2003.

★ GAME & FISH

ATV use, duck decoys

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

The Department of Natural Resources will be required to form a task force to study all-terrain vehicle use in state forests, under a measure signed into law by the governor April 29.

The recreational vehicles have come under scrutiny this session after a newspaper series documented widespread environmental damage in some state forests from unregulated riding.

Under the omnibus game and fish law, the task force will be required to report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2003 with recommendations on how to best proceed with new trail development while protecting the environment from soil erosion, among other things.

The DNR will be obligated to include a number of different viewpoints, including off-highway vehicle users, forest managers, and other people who use the forest without motorized vehicles.

Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount) proposed the task force as a compromise measure to quell concerns by environmentalists and ATV groups. A conference committee co-chaired by Ozment and Sen. Jane Krentz (DFL-May Township), sponsors of the law, adopted the plan as an amendment.

The House passed the bill, including the conference committee agreement, 124-7 on April 22 after it sailed through the Senate earlier in the day 60-0.

Another bill (HF2970) related to ATVs was signed into law May 1 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Besides the motorized trail task force, the new law will allow a limited prairie chicken harvest. Interested hunters will be required to pay a $4 application fee to be eligible for a license. The DNR will then pick hunters through a lottery system. The license fee is $20.

This section of the law takes effect March 1, 2003.

The new law also bans the use of motorized duck decoys during part of the duck-hunting season, specifically opening day through the Saturday closest to Oct. 8.

The new law also restricts recreational shining — the practice of using car headlights or a flashlight to spot deer. Shining onto residential properties at night from a moving car and on posted agricultural lands will be prohibited beginning Aug. 1, 2002.

HF2920/SF2674*/CH351

★ GOVERNMENT

Full disclosure

Members of the State Board of Investment would be required to disclose more of their own financial information, under a bill passed May 1 by the House. The vote was 94-30.

The board, which consists of the governor, attorney general, state auditor, secretary of state, and state treasurer, is responsible for administering and directing the investment of state funds and pension funds.

Sponsored by Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), the measure (HF1025) would require board members to disclose any contract or other arrangement under which the member will perform services for compensation as a

Explosive celebration

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

John Fritsche, *left*, a lieutenant in the New Ulm Battery, in the number four position, fires an original 1856 six-pound field piece to celebrate the annual Freedom Day on the front lawn of the Capitol May 1. Second Lt. Keith Allison, *center*, takes the safetyman number three position, and Sgt. Wardell Lueck, *right*, takes the ramming number one position for the firing of the cannon.

consultant, employee, or independent contractor for a person or entity other than the state.

Current law requires board members to disclose expenses paid by investment advisors, consultants, and outside money managers under contract, or that have bid on a contract with the board. Annual disclosure is also required when a member has a contract with a business that the board has invested in.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) offered an unsuccessful amendment that would have required the constitutional officers to disclose their outside contracts but would have removed the bill's requirement for them to disclose the income amount.

Bishop said knowing whom the contract was with would be sufficient to determine whether a conflict may exist but it was inappropriate to pry into somebody's private income information.

Because the board is responsible for $53 billion in public funds, Entenza said that the dollar amount of private contracts is important to help voters determine the extent to which a conflict may exist.

An amendment offered by Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington) that would have required legislators to make the same disclosures as required in the bill was ultimately ruled out of order by House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) after much discussion.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said the amendment would greatly expand the scope of the bill and dealt with another section of state statutes.

Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls), who is an attorney, said the Lenczewski amendment would cause difficulty for legislators in professions that require confidentiality arrangements with clients. He added that it is appropriate to have different disclosure requirements for a part-time citizen legislature as opposed to full-time employees like the constitutional officers.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where Sen. Richard Cohen (DFL-St. Paul), is the sponsor.

★ HEALTH

Epinephrine in ambulances

The House passed a bill that requires state emergency medical groups to develop a plan to equip all Minnesota ambulances with epinephrine — a stimulant used to treat life-threatening allergic reactions.

Ambulances would be required to carry the drug, which is typically delivered by injection to open a patient's bronchial tubes, by Sept. 1, 2002.

Members voted 120-0 to pass the bill. The Senate approved the measure May 2 by a vote of 58-0.

While nearly all ambulances in the Twin Cities metropolitan area carry epinephrine, about 40 percent of ambulances in Greater Minnesota aren't equipped with the drug.

The provision is included in a conference committee report to a bill (HF3359), sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) and Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan).

Doctors and parents of children with potentially fatal food allergens testified before the conference committee, calling for state law mandating that all ambulances be stocked with the stimulant.

Dr. David Graft, an allergy specialist at the Park Nicollet Clinic in Minneapolis, called epinephrine the "cornerstone" of managing severe reactions to insect bites and food allergens.

"It's not reasonable in the year 2002 that some ambulances would arrive at a scene without epinephrine," Graft said.

The Minnesota Ambulance Association, however, expressed concern about establishing a mandate in state law requiring ambulances to carry the drug.

O.J. Doyle, a lobbyist for the association, said ambulance providers prefer to establish a statewide plan on their own.

"The fear is that this would establish a precedent of practicing medicine through the legislative process," Doyle said.

The association pledged to follow through with a provider-initiated plan to stock all ambulances with epinephrine, which became the compromise measure included in the bill.

Other sections in the bill would allow registered nurses to administer prescription drugs and vaccines to patients that display symptoms consistent with conditions outlined in a protocol.

The bill now goes to the governor.

E-meds permitted

Out-of-state physicians would be permitted to practice telemedicine in Minnesota, provided they meet a number of licensure requirements in their own states, under a bill passed by the House April 25.

The House vote to pass the amended measure (HF3346/SF3026*), sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) and Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), was 126-0. The Senate repassed the bill May 2 by a vote of 58-0. It now goes to the governor.

Telemedicine is defined in the bill as the "practice of medicine when the physician is not in the physical presence of the patient." Mulder said the bill would primarily target physicians who prescribe medication over the Internet.

"This is a 12-year-old issue," Mulder said. "It's time to get this on the books."

Under the bill, a physician would be required to register with the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice and pay a $75 annual fee and a $100 application fee.

Doctors would be obligated to meet a number of other standards outlined in the bill, including having a license to practice medicine without restriction in their home state. They would also be barred from opening an office in this state to meet with or receive calls from patients.

Exemptions from the registration requirements would apply to physicians responding to an emergency medical condition, those who offer services on an infrequent basis, and doctors who consult with Minnesota physicians that maintain authority over a patient's diagnosis and care.

★ INSURANCE

Credit scoring

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law May 1 that will regulate the use of the insurance practice known as "credit scoring" in determining automobile and homeowner policies in the state.

Sponsored by Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) and Sen. Dave Johnson (DFL-Bloomington), the new law will prohibit insurers from rejecting, canceling, or not renewing automobile or homeowners insurance in whole or in part solely on the basis of credit information.

Credit scoring, which differs from a credit report, attributes a "score" to a person based on personal borrowing and spending habits. The practice was developed by mortgage lenders to determine the risk of an applicant in defaulting on a loan.

Effective Aug. 1, 2002, the law will require insurers who use credit scoring in their underwriting to file the scoring methodology and information that supports the insurer's use of a credit score with the Department of Commerce.

It will also prohibit credit scoring if the scoring incorporates gender, race, nationality, or religion of an insured person or applicant.

To address concerns of people whose credit histories have been adversely affected by personal circumstances, such as a death to a loved one or a long-term illness, the new law will require insurers to provide reasonable underwriting exceptions upon request by applicants or policyholders.

Insurers will also be prohibited from using a credit score when the applicant's score is adversely affected by the lack of a credit history.

Both bodies passed the measure April 25 — the House 125-1 and the Senate 62-0.

HF2492/SF2363*/CH357

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Disclosing grant applications

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

Certain public officials would be allowed, as private citizens, to participate in state and federal grant and loan programs, under a new law signed May 1 by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Sponsored by Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) and Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon (DFL-Duluth), the new law will allow people who serve on local housing and redevelopment authority boards to apply for grants or loans administered by the authority. However, they must first disclose, as part of the official minutes of a meeting, that they have applied for the funds as part of a private development they are involved with.

"This brings all the information into the daylight," Howes said.

The new law, effective Aug. 1, 2002, will also require that the individual abstain from voting on the application.

Howes said a new federal rule requires that housing and redevelopment authorities have a representative from the community and that could create an inherent conflict of interest if the resident should want to apply for a grant or loan.

A law was passed last year that allows elected officials in St. Louis County cities with populations of less than 5,000 to apply for federal community development block grants or economic development administration funds after meeting similar disclosure requirements.

Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) spoke against the measure during a House floor debate April 25 saying that public officials should not be allowed to obtain public dollars for private developments.

"Even though everything may be out in the open, you still have someone who has an obvious conflict of interest," Krinkie said.

The House passed the measure 97-26. The Senate passed it 66-0 March 8.

HF3509/SF3257*/CH356

Capitol Improvements

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Nancy Stark, executive secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, testifies before a working group of House members of the capital investment conference committee April 30 about a Capitol building renovation project scheduled to coincide with the Capitol's centennial celebration in 2005.

Easing a parking crunch

Visitors may be able to more easily find a parking spot in Minneapolis under a measure passed by the House 126-0 April 25.

The bill (HF2906/SF2568*) would allow Hennepin County to acquire and improve off-street parking facilities that serve public buildings, used for county purposes, under the jurisdiction of the Hennepin County board.

Current law, originally passed in 1969, limits the county to ownership of one off-street parking facility within the city of Minneapolis.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the House sponsor, said the restriction on the county is the only one like it in the state. He said the bill would allow the county to potentially provide more parking close to the Hennepin County Medical Center.

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) asked Abrams if anyone from the city of Minneapolis opposed the bill since many of the downtown parking facilities are currently owned by the city.

Abrams said he had heard no opposition and that nobody from the city had contacted him.

A successful amendment would change the effective date of the bill from the day after local approval to Aug. 1, 2002.

The bill would also remove a five-year limit currently in place for county lease contracts of real property.

The amended bill was repassed by the Senate April 29 by a vote of 56-0. Sen. Ann H. Rest (DFL-New Hope) is the Senate sponsor.

It now goes to the governor.

Water tank repair

Signed by the governor ★ ★ ★

A new law signed May 1 by Gov. Jesse Ventura will allow municipalities greater flexibility in the way they pay for repair and maintenance of water tanks.

House sponsor, Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), said the measure allows municipalities, either through direct negotiation or a request for proposal process, to enter into multi-year professional service contracts for work on water tanks.

Howes said the bill would allow municipalities to spread payments over a period of time rather than paying the entire costs up front.

Effective May 2, 2002, the new law requires the contracts to contain a provision that a municipality is not required to make total payments in a single year that exceed the water utility charges received by the municipality that year.

Another contract provision requirement, under the new law, is that the work performed be done under the review of a professional engineer licensed by the state.

The law will also allow the city of Walker to enter into an agreement with either the Department of Human Services or the Department of Administration to allow it to take over the maintenance and operation of a water tower owned by the state and located at the Ah-Gwah-Ching nursing home facility.

The House passed the measure 89-36 April 25, and the Senate passed it 64-0 the same day. Sen. Dan Stevens (R-Mora) is the Senate sponsor.

HF2995/SF3168*/CH358

SAFETY

Sparklers legalized

Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a new law April 29 that will allow the sale and use of some fireworks in the state.

Under the measure, people age 18 and older will be allowed to purchase certain fireworks, including sparklers, snakes, and glow worms, smoke devices, and trick noisemakers, for use on private property in the state.

Effective April 30, 2002, the new law requires buyers to provide photo identification at the time of the purchase.

Sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) and Sen. Debbie Johnson (R-Ham Lake), the new law is a result of a conference committee compromise.

The original bill dealt with extending volunteer firefighters' benefits by prohibiting employers with at least 10 employees from taking disciplinary action against an employee who misses time while performing volunteer fire fighting duties. However, those provisions were removed in conference committee.

The House version of the bill would have permitted the sale and use of federally approved fireworks during periods around Independence Day (July 4) and New Year's Day. The new law contains no date restrictions.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), who originally offered the fireworks-related provisions as a separate bill (HF1543), said the compromise reached was to allow the sale of "novelty" items.

Fireworks legalized under the measure include wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item, and other sparkling items that are non-explosive, non-aerial, and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube, or a total of 200 grams or less for multiple tubes.

Both bodies passed the conference committee report April 22 — the House on a 78-49 vote and the Senate with a 34-30 vote.

HF2525/SF2960*/CH350

Celebrating Asian heritage

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Dominique Lee and other members of the Japanese Dance Group perform the "Cherry Blossom Celebration Drums" dance during the kick-off of the 2002 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration on the front steps of the Capitol May 1. The dance group is made up of fourth- and fifth-graders from the World Cultures and Language Magnet School in St. Paul.

THE 50 STATES

Maybe next year

Montana jury, canceled for budget concerns, would have allowed public group to share opinions with legislators

Taxes are always a big topic among lawmakers and their constituents. One state had hoped to increase dialogue between the two by the formation of a group that would let residents' opinions be heard.

A Citizens Jury on Montana's Tax System was scheduled to begin its duties Jan. 28, 2002. A project of the Montana Citizens Partnership, a group of citizens concerned about state tax improvements, it was designed to engage residents in tax reform debate.

The 18-member jury, that was to be representative of all Montanans, was selected from a field of 1,000 people randomly surveyed via telephone. Members were to be paid, primarily through funds donated by private business groups.

However, funding issues forced the project to be scrapped.

"We anticipated the entire project would have cost around $50,000," said Mary Whittinghill, president of the Montana Taxpayers Association. "I think we might have been able to muster up the funds, but there was a definite 'fear' factor lurking in the minds of many people, including some legislators. Others seemed genuinely interested in hearing feedback from Montana taxpayers and the educational opportunity it could have provided."

Jurors were scheduled to meet for five days to hear from expert witnesses about taxes that exist in the state, services provided by government, how taxes are used to support those services, and various reform ideas. Jurors were to then discuss the measures and see if the current mix of taxes is best to help improve the state's economy or offer recommendations for changing tax laws.

Suggestions were to be shared with lawmakers and the public in hopes of further fostering a dialogue on Montana's tax system.

The executive directors of two groups set up to conduct the survey emphasized tax reform was not the goal. "Your interest is not nudging the jury toward a specific outcome. It is to make sure all sides are being presented," said Doug Nethercut, executive director of the Jefferson Center, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit organization committed to public involvement in policy making.

The center has coordinated 30 citizen juries in other states, including many in Minnesota, such as property tax reform in 1999 and the 1990 gubernatorial election.

The other group was the Montana Consensus Council, a nonpartisan organization attached to the governor's office that promotes processes for building agreements on public policy issues.

"Perhaps there will be another opportunity for Montana to utilize this type of process in the future," Whittinghill said. "We'll see."

(M. Cook)

Recycled idea

Plan to reorganize executive branch of state government has its roots in a report from nearly 10 years ago

By David Maeda

In 1991, the Legislature passed a law proposed by Gov. Arne Carlson funding a study for a major reorganization of state government.

Only a few of the final recommendations made by the Commission of Reform and Efficiency were ever implemented, but now the House has revisited the 1993 study in one of its proposals to address the current budget shortfall.

The omnibus state government finance bill (HF3270), sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), incorporates the commission's recommendation to restructure the executive branch of government. The issue was put forward by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview).

The bill would reorganize the state departments and create a governor's cabinet of eight secretary positions. The governor would appoint the secretaries in the following areas:

- administration;
- agriculture, commerce, and trade;
- education;
- finance;
- health and human resources;
- environment and natural resources;
- public safety; and
- transportation.

Secretaries would serve terms concurrent with the governor and be responsible for directing the policies and plans necessary to the "effective and efficient operation of state government."

Existing departments, boards, and commissions would be reorganized under the eight areas, potentially eliminating a number of executive positions. The 1993 report recommended studying areas of redundancy and eliminating programs that are no longer needed.

Krinkie said the consolidation would save around $2 million this biennium and $10 million in 2004-2005.

"This model goes far beyond what we would do in perhaps just shuffling some boxes and rearranging the state organizational chart," he said during a House Ways and Means Committee hearing in March. "It goes to an extensive redefining and realignment of administrative powers."

But Pam Wheelock, the state's finance commissioner, questioned how much would actually be saved under the plan. She said that with agency reductions in the budget-balancing law passed by the Legislature in February it is doubtful additional savings would be achieved.

Wheelock said there also is an apparent inconsistency between proposing such a major reorganization at the same time the Legislature has delayed a merger between the Department of Trade and Economic Development and Department of Economic Security for one year.

In the 1993 report, the 22-member commission appointed by Carlson and the Legislature said that proposed changes would "vastly improve the quality of state services to customers and increase the value for the dollar to taxpayers."

The commission said that the state government structure was often "fragmented and ineffective" in delivering services. "The state's chronic budget deficit and demographic trends point to a future of expanding needs and shrinking resources."

A bill incorporating the restructuring of state government ultimately passed the House in 1994 but did not receive a vote in the Senate. Carlson also opposed it, saying the structure would create a top-heavy bureaucracy.

The recommendation to create an eight-member cabinet was based on the assumption that it would result in better communication of the administration's priorities and would hold top officials more accountable for meeting goals.

Having more than 200 agency executives — including commissioners, deputy commissioners, and assistant commissioners — report directly to the governor reduced flexibility and "government's ability to shift resources, eliminate redundant services and demand program effectiveness," the commission wrote.

Integrating agencies and programs would bring together common services and would help members of the public work their way through the government system more easily, said the report.

Although the core of the report was never adopted, provisions of it ultimately did become law.

In 1995 the functions of the Department of Education and other agencies that operate programs related to children and families were merged into what is now the Department of Children, Families and Learning.

While another commission proposal to merge the Department of Public Service into the Public Utilities Commission did not occur, the department was later merged into the Department of Commerce.

The reform commission's report concluded that with the reorganization and the creation of a secretary of finance, the role of the state treasurer should be further studied and that it was possible the office would no longer be needed. In 1998 state voters elected to abolish the office, effective January 2003.

Another recommendation that received some legislative attention the past few sessions was a provision stating the need for a uniform code of ethics for all state government employees.

"By creating an environment where all public employees can be motivated to practice high ethical standards, reorganization may strengthen public trust in government," the report states.

While further study of the reorganization may be appropriate, Krinkie has said the struggle to find agreement on how to balance the current budget deficit provides the opportunity to incorporate the commission's proposal.

"When we are in times of a budget shortfall, I think it is appropriate to look at major changes in the delivery of state services in order to maximize the dollars available," he said during the March committee hearing. "Hopefully that is what this does."

"This model goes far beyond what we would do in perhaps just shuffling some boxes and rearranging the state organizational chart."

— Rep. Philip Krinkie

Staying aloft

State, federal dollars combine to support commercial airline service at 135 public airports throughout Minnesota

By Lisa Hilton

Although most commercial air service in the state operates at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, Minnesota actually has 135 publicly-owned airports, 11 of which offer scheduled commercial service.

According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport accounts for about 97 percent of commercial boardings in the state. Airports in Duluth and Rochester each claim about 1 percent, and all other airports with commercial service make up the remainder.

While larger airports don't need to worry about having a solid base of passengers for financial support, smaller airports rely in part on support from state and federal aviation programs.

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Passengers fly from the St. Cloud regional airport via Northwest Airlines Airlink planes.

Like other forms of transportation, user fees pay for aviation programs. State and federal aviation fees such as fuel taxes, airline flight property taxes, ticket taxes, and aircraft registration taxes support programs on the state and federal levels.

The need for air service throughout Greater Minnesota was clear to lawmakers more than 50 years ago. In 1945, legislators created the State Airports Fund to promote aviation, encourage air service throughout the state, and help local units of government pay for airports.

Improvements and maintenance

Part of the money in the State Airports Fund is appropriated by the Legislature to pay for acquisition, construction, improvements, or maintenance of airports owned or operated by cities, towns, and other local units of government.

The fund had $35.53 million in resources available in fiscal year 2000, and an estimated $37.6 million one year later. The governor recommended $32.69 million for the current fiscal year and $31.53 million for fiscal year 2003.

In addition, fund dollars can be used to pay for studies and marketing programs that encourage air service to Greater Minnesota.

In order to receive state grants for airport improvement or construction, local units of government must contribute 40 percent in matching funds, said Peter Buchen, manager of MnDOT's Airport Development Section.

The percentage was agreed upon by members of an organization of airport owners, called the Minnesota Council of Airports, after transportation officials said the department would be able to spread funding to more projects around the state if the local match were higher, he said.

On the federal level, Congress appropriates money from the federal Aviation Trust Fund to provide funding for the Airport Improvement Program. Local units of government may apply for grants and must provide a 10 percent match. The Federal Aviation Administration then evaluates and ranks the projects.

In the 2000-2001 biennium, Minnesota received about $125 million in federal grants through the program.

Air service

However, the primary concern for airports in the state is to make sure planes are using the facilities.

One program that has worked toward that end for several Minnesota cities is the Essential Air Service program.

In response to airline deregulation in 1978, Congress established the program to make sure airlines wouldn't abandon service in small cities in favor of more profitable routes.

Several Minnesota cities have benefited from the program, including Fairmont, Mankato, and Worthington. Although those cities no longer qualify for the program, the state transportation department is currently reviewing proposals from several airlines to continue service to Thief River Falls.

Only cities that are more than 70 driving miles from a medium or large airport hub are eligible for the program. A city may also be cut off from the subsidy if more than $210 per passenger is required to keep service profitable for the airline.

The state also supports air service by offering a program that supplements local resources to develop and promote scheduled commercial service in Greater Minnesota.

Funds for the program, which was set up in 1997, may not be used to pay airlines to keep service but may only be used for marketing or advertising purposes.

Future of small airports

Terrorist attacks that brought airports to a halt on Sept. 11 also had a negative impact on small Minnesota airports.

But Richard Theisen, planning program coordinator with the Transportation Department's Office of Aeronautics, said most airports started to see a decline even before then.

"The industry was slowing," he said. "Sept. 11 just magnified that."

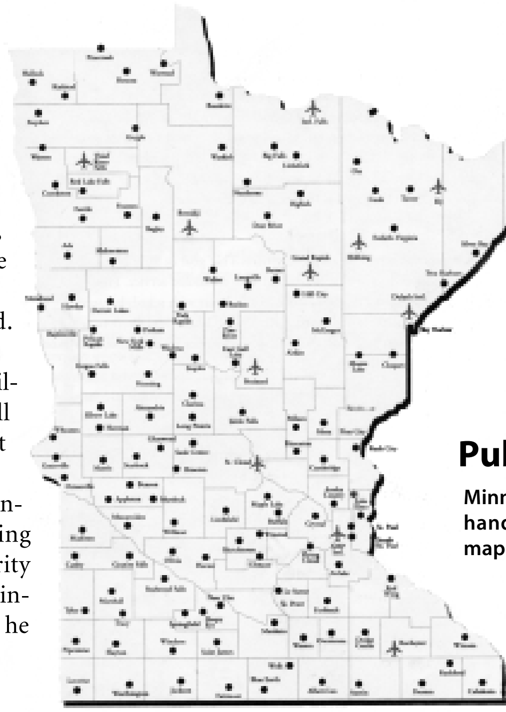
Passenger data for 2001 are not yet available, but the number of passengers will likely be less, since the terrorist attacks shut down airports for several days, he said.

Although industry data suggest that an increasing number of passengers are flying charter or private planes to avoid security hassles nationwide, things are slowly beginning to look up for the airline industry, he said.

Airports in Greater Minnesota are confident that the summer travel season will bring an increased demand for service.

Mesaba Airlines, for example, is increasing the number of daily flights from St. Cloud to the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport from four to six, and flights from International Falls and Brainerd will increase from two to about five.

Other regional carriers are boosting service, as well, Theisen said. "They expect passengers to come back."



Public airports in Minnesota

Minnesota has 135 public airports, 11 of which handle commercial traffic (denoted on the map with an airplane symbol).

Map courtesy Minnesota Department of Transportation aviation plan

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

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

Growing pains

Minnesota business climate has changed over the years, but still remains strong in the national context, despite criticism

BY MICHELLE KIBIGER

Even before Minnesota's statehood, people pondered what separates Minnesota from surrounding states as a place to establish a business.

Though the state drew initial settlers because of its timber, rivers, and other immediate amenities, many successful businesses in Minnesota were established by the state's own residents, either responding to needs of larger industries or looking for their own opportunities.

But studies also indicate the success of Minnesota entrepreneurs has lured large corporate headquarters to the state.

In his 1979 book, *Land of the Giants*, Don W. Larson discussed the factors setting Minnesota apart and the idea that local entrepreneurs were the primary driving force.

"Over the years, observers of the state's business scene have come up with some interesting reasons ranging from a superior work force to the harsh but invigorating climate, which, presumably, contributes to the exceptionally high productivity (of workers)," Larson wrote. "The simple reason Minnesota has more than two dozen of the country's largest firms headquartered here is that they all started in the state as tiny entities, grew, prospered, and found no overwhelming reason for making an expensive move elsewhere."

Though it's true that corporate headquarters seem to have moved in and out of Minnesota more frequently in recent years, Minnesota still ranks ninth among states for the number of Fortune 500 corporations located within its borders.

A brief history

Commercial developments in Minnesota's territorial days largely surrounded the state's timber and lumbering industries.

Henry Sibley, who would ultimately be elected the state's first governor, began lumbering in 1837. Other entrepreneurs, including Frederick Weyerhaeuser in 1860 and Thomas Barlow Walker in 1862, would cash in on the industry, as well.

The timber industry reached its peak in 1905, then rapidly declined. However, it remains a strong contributor to the state's economy today.

But timber was just one component of a tremendous business boom in the 1850s, according to Larson.

James J. Hill and other railroad investors saw the opportunity to develop railroads in Minnesota to transport goods in the rapidly developing lumber, grain, and milling industries. And the needs of those businesses led to the development of other businesses, such as retail businesses, newspapers, printing companies, banks, and financial planners, and insurance brokers.

Larson credits "daring opportunists," like Hill, for making Minnesota so prosperous in the late 19th century.

"They were, after all, willing to risk millions of dollars (even if the money generally belonged to other people), and indirectly they were responsible for the success of a great amount of business activity in Minnesota other than transportation," he wrote, adding that the businesses would not have succeeded without railroads.

Gold prospectors George C. Stone, a Duluth businessman and Minnesota legislator, and Charlemagne Tower developed iron mines and a railroad to move the ore off the Iron Range and out to eastern markets. Stone and Tower were followed by the Merritt family.

In the early 1900s, food companies, such as Super Valu and Land O'Lakes, were founded as cooperatives to help independent producers compete.

And engineering giant Honeywell, now located in New Jersey, actually brought its corporate headquarters to Minnesota in 1927 as part of a merger with competitor Minneapolis Heat Regulator Co., which primarily produced thermostats.

World War II brought another economic boom to Minnesota, as the federal government invested in defense plants and defense contracts to local businesses.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Railroad development, like this line connecting the Iron Range to Duluth, was instrumental in the overall development of business and industry in Minnesota.

While those businesses reeled after the war without government contracts to support them, the post-war years gave birth to the supercomputer and high technology businesses that would become giants in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.

In the 1990s, longtime manufacturer 3M (begun in the early 1900s), retail giants like Dayton Hudson Corporation, Northwest

Airlines, and General Mills were among the big players in the Minnesota economy.

A cut above

Many of Minnesota's original companies have maintained operations in the state, weathering the Great Depression, recessions, and heavy competition. In fact, several of the largest firms in the state are also among the largest in the country.

In 1960, seven Minnesota companies ranked in the Fortune 500 largest corporations in the United States. By 1974, that number had climbed to 13. At that time two of the prior listed had moved or merged with another company.

In 1986, 11 companies were among the top 500, including many of the same companies on the 1974 listing. That number had grown to 15 by 1990 and 16 in 2002.

However, absent from those rankings are the computer and technology giants that drove the Minnesota economy in the second half of the 20th century. Following World War II, the development of supercomputers at Control Data, Sperry Rand, Univac, and IBM put Minnesota's high technology sector on the map.

Competition among local and national firms for supremacy in high technology ventures was fierce for several decades. In fact, of the four major computer firms in Minnesota, minor operations of each still exist in the state.

Taking stock

In the 1970s and 1980s, two governor-appointed state commissions studied the factors that contributed to successful Minnesota businesses and what it would take to foster further development in the coming years.

The Governor's Commission on Minnesota's Future released a study in October 1975 concluding that Minnesota offered an attractive overall package to potential investors – including both a track record of success and a social structure that encouraged personal and business excellence.

It also concluded that many businesses driving the Minnesota economy were not transplants from other areas. Because the state's industries could not rely on raw materials, it had to develop skills, ideas, diversity, and quality of goods and services to be successful, the report said.

"Most jobs have been created not by 'attracting industry' from elsewhere or by national or international organizations who have discovered here some obvious, conventional locational advantages waiting to be exploited," the report stated. "Instead, the vast majority of jobs have been organized by Minnesotans. … The growth of national corporate headquarters emphasizes the importance of local entrepreneurship in the Minnesota picture."

The commission also noted that any outside talent was attracted by the strong community and business climate in the state.

Another report nearly 10 years later said Minnesota was still an attractive location for business, but that the state should do more to encourage the growth of emerging high technology industries.

The strong climate created by the post-war computer entrepreneurs was not enough, according to the 1983 Governor's Advisory Commission on Medical Technology study. Like the 1975 study, the report noted that technology industries were suited to Minnesota because, in general, they rely on innovation and skills, like traditional Minnesota industries.

About 150 manufacturing firms, specializing in medical technology, were located in Minnesota at the time the report was issued.

However, the report criticized the state's business climate for not providing a good place to facilitate transferring new ideas into products.

"While Minnesota is a good place to start a business, many members of the commission believe it is not a good place to continue a business," the report said, recommending better job training programs and better promotion of the state as a good location for business.

Though many businesses did locate and expand in Minnesota in the latter part of the 20th century, others were quick to leave. In some cases, a successful business would be purchased by another corporation, whose headquarters were located in another state. Such was the fate for Honeywell, Cray Research, and Unisys Corp.

A 1998 study by the University of St. Thomas casts a far more pessimistic light on the issue of business migration from Minnesota.

The study surveyed businesses that had either moved corporate operations outside of Minnesota or expanded in other states.

Citing statistics from the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, the study concluded that high workers' compensation rates and high commercial/industrial real estate taxes were among the key factors for business decisions to relocate outside of Minnesota.

"In summary, the survey results do not paint a very positive picture of the business climate in Minnesota," concluded the report, written by George R. Karvel, Thomas A. Musil, and Richard Sebastian. "The business climate is perceived as better in the border states. … Businesses are leaving, and the state of Minnesota is suffering significant social and economic losses."

The report also noted that businesses found the local incentives in other states to be more attractive.

Today versus yesteryear

In 1960, four economic sectors were reflected in the Fortune 500 rankings: manufacturing, industrial, food, and paper products.

With 16 companies, representing at least 10 different sectors, among the Fortune 500 headquartered in Minnesota in 2002, the highest number in recent years, the state appears to still be competitive in the national marketplace.

Two of those companies were on the 1960 list. Three were listed in 1986. And though headquarters of some top companies have left the state or merged with other companies, the core group of original businesses remains and is diverse enough to support the local economy.

Larson described it this way in 1979: "Without question, the healthiest factor, next to the sheer size of the companies involved, is the remarkable diversification of the industries operating in Minnesota. No single industry dominates the scene, and this nicely protects the state when the inevitable downturn hits particular segments of our society."

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

Now is the time

After eight years in the House, Daggett says someone else should have privilege of participating in the legislative process

BY DAVID MAEDA

Prior to her election to the House in 1994, Rep. Roxann Daggett (R-Frazee) was a motivational speaker giving presentations to groups about time management and goal setting.

After making strides on many of her legislative goals, she has decided to allow someone else to take part in the lawmaking process.

"When I made the decision to run I knew it wasn't something I would do forever and I really thought eight years was a good number," she said. "Because we are a citizen Legislature, I think of how many others should have the opportunity to do this."

She considered not running two years ago, but her husband, Dave, encouraged her to seek re-election and see how the redistricting process would affect her district.

When the new boundaries were unveiled in March, Daggett, who moved to Frazee when she was 5 years old and now lives a mile outside the city limits, lost the city as part of her district. She and her husband then made a mutual decision that it was indeed time to step down.

Daggett's professional background provided good training for her House experience, she said. Having served as state president of a volunteer community service organization that has since become the Women of Today, she spent 15 years speaking to business and women's groups.

She said that one of the most satisfying parts of her speaking career was being able to "motivate people to do things that they probably never thought about doing."

Now she says she is looking forward to returning to her speaking career because "I have a lot more material."

Daggett originally decided to run for the Legislature in part because she felt the state's workers' compensation premiums and taxes were causing businesses to leave Minnesota.

Major modifications were made to the workers' compensation system the year following her election, and she said it was encouraging to participate and see that changes can indeed occur.

Another issue central to her initial campaign, welfare reform, also soon became law through the actions of both federal and state lawmakers.

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Roxann Daggett is leaving the Legislature after four terms, saying it is time for someone else from her area to take part in the lawmaking process.

But she cites her involvement in tax policy as one of her proudest accomplishments. Daggett served eight years on the House Taxes Committee, the last four as vice-chair.

She admits that she didn't have much formal background on tax law prior to her committee work "other than I knew I did not want to raise taxes," but she said she is proud of the changes made during the past few years, including income and property tax rate reductions.

"I felt like I was getting a Ph.D. in tax and I'm still probably in the first year because it's a very complicated area of our government," she said. "We tried, and I think we've done some good legislation towards trying to make our tax code simpler."

Along with working on a satisfactory final product comes a certain awe in just being part of the Legislature for Daggett.

"I remember the first time we had the state of the state (the governor's annual policy speech), standing in the House chamber," she said. "First the Senate comes in and all the Supreme Court justices, and the past governors, and all the constitutional officers … and I'm sitting there looking at all these people thinking, 'Wow this is fantastic.' And there have been many moments I felt like that."

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), who also serves on the tax committee, describes Daggett as "steady, positive, and always incredibly dependable. I will miss her and the process will miss her."

McElroy said that in addition to her tax contributions, Daggett has carried a number of "tough bills" including a telemarketing no-call-list measure and a prevailing wage proposal that helped make the way easier for subsequent bills.

Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington) said it was a "great experience" being able to learn from Daggett's Greater Minnesota perspective while serving on the taxes committee.

"There's always a lot of professionalism and integrity to her work," Lenczewski said. "She did a great job representing rural Minnesota."

Daggett looks forward to spending more time with her husband, two children, and two grandchildren. Her father was also excited to hear news about her decision not to run again.

"He said 'Oh good you can go fishing with me now,'" Daggett said, referencing all the time spent campaigning and attending meetings.

Still, Daggett says she'll look back fondly at her years in the House.

"It has been such an incredible opportunity, and I feel so lucky to have had the privilege of serving here," she said. "There's so few people that get this opportunity and I was the lucky one that got to serve."

STEPPING DOWN

Rep. Roxann Daggett
Republican
District 11A — Frazee
Terms: 4
Career notes: Daggett is currently the chair of the House Ethics Committee, and she serves on the main tax committee, both its divisions, and the capital investment committee. She has successfully sponsored an income tax credit for long-term care and a plan allowing for reciprocal hunting licenses between Minnesota and North Dakota.

Fun while it lasted

After nearly three decades as a member of the House, Kalis says it's time to step down

By Theresa Stahl

When Rep. Henry Kalis (DFL-Wells) first considered running for office, the editor of his local newspaper asked when he planned to file for candidacy.

He said he'd get around to it the next time he was in the metro area. She had a different idea.

"She said, 'It seems to me if you're going to run for office you ought to let people know you want the job,'" Kalis recalled.

At 2 a.m. the day the Secretary of State's Office opened for filing, Kalis, his wife, and their three young children headed for St. Paul.

"I think the record would show that I was here first each time I've filed, which would have been 14 times."

"Every year I made it a practice," he said, "but it got earlier and earlier every year. I believe last year I was here at two in the afternoon," he said, chuckling.

Kalis said he believes the editor's theory has merit.

"I enjoy this job and I think when you like something you should show people you like it," he said.

But he said he didn't have the same feeling as all those years before on the night after the election for his current term.

"Something was telling me maybe you've done this long enough," he said.

So, at age 65, after 28 years in the House, Kalis is retiring.

He said it's the hardest decision he's made, though he recalls a few other tough moments as a young lawmaker.

Early in his career, Kalis said making any decision was difficult until he had confidence that he was doing the right thing.

"It was before I really understood that in a democracy you are sent here to make decisions, and knowing full well that not everyone was going to like everything I did," he said. After that, "it made the job a whole lot easier."

Serving on the House budget appropriations committee was a turning point for Kalis in starting to feel comfortable, he said.

"I understood everything is driven by the budget and that successful legislators always look to the future. Even though sometimes it's hard to understand what we do, our constituents really expect us to look long term."

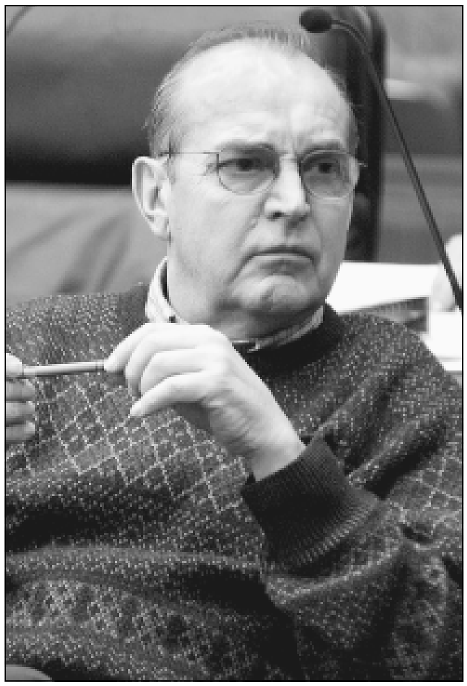


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Henry Kalis, who is retiring after 14 terms in the House, was the first legislator to file his candidacy papers before each election.

Kalis said legislators need to have a philosophy, his being the belief that government can do some good for people.

Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester) said Kalis' philosophy on government may have been in conflict when Kalis served as chair of the House Capital Investment Committee.

"One of the odd things about Henry's service on capital investment is he really doesn't like debt," Bishop said. "He's against public debt, but that's what the bonding bill is all about. He wanted to know why (a project) should be done with public, borrowed money."

Bishop said Kalis is "a very thoroughly prepared conservative Democrat," and a "man of integrity."

"Most times he has not had anything in the bill for himself," Bishop said. "He has not tried to play political games, and he has been very knowledgeable."

And House members seem to know that, says Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul), because when Kalis stands to speak on the House floor, members listen.

"You can see that conversation stops, activity stops, and people listen to him," she said. "He speaks from his heart and his comments reflect integrity and common sense."

He sometimes makes such a compelling argument that he's changed some members' votes, including hers, Hausman said.

She and Kalis have long worked together on transportation committees and are friends.

"He is proof that a metro and rural legislator can bridge those regional gaps," Hausman said.

Kalis said he was able to be a representative for 28 years because of "a spouse that really carried a big load for me." His wife, Violet, managed the farm and took care of their four children during session.

While he couldn't make it to a lot of his kids' activities, his children had different advantages from their father's public position.

"All my kids have an ability to communicate," which Kalis said he believes comes from his involvement in the Legislature. "It comes from being pushed out into the limelight with us campaigning."

Kalis realizes his experience as a legislator is rare, and that his 133 cohorts all have something in common.

"We've campaigned, we've all worked through tough elections, we've all pounded on doors, which is unique in society," he said. "We're a very small percentage."

It's quite an honor, he said, to be the only person in his 34,000-person district serving in the House.

"I don't know if anyone else can say that after serving 28 years," he said. "I can say I really enjoyed this."

Stepping Down

Rep. Henry Kalis
DFL
District 26B — Wells
Terms: 14
Career Notes: Kalis has served as chair of the Capital Investment and Transportation Policy and Finance Committees during his House service. He sponsored the 1988 gas tax law (the last time it was raised) and he worked to pass the Groundwater Protection Act and build veterans homes.

Tariff help wanted

State, federal officials looking at ways to aid a Minnesota industry, retired steel workers

BY THERESA STAHL

The American steel industry is in crisis. The Minnesota Legislature has repeatedly urged action at the federal level, but recent federal actions won't necessarily help Minnesota industry, officials say.

In March, President Bush imposed tariffs on steel imports for three years, however, the tariffs won't affect Minnesota taconite — the raw material mined on the Iron Range. The tariffs generally apply to finished steel.

"The steel industry got relief, but not Minnesota," said Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm).

Beginning in 2002, the United States will assess a 30 percent tariff on most imported steel the first year, 24 percent the second year, and 18 percent the third year. Big steel companies had lobbied for a 40 percent tariff.

The tariffs were put into place to give the steel industry a chance to get on its feet, and hopefully limit job losses and future steel company closings.

The federal Commerce Department submitted a report to Bush finding that "iron ore and semi-finished steel … are important to U.S. national security, but that imports of these two items do not threaten to impair U.S. national security."

Critics say Bush's decision was a political one — that he's trying to win votes from union workers who historically side with the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party.

Others speculate the tariffs will raise prices on cars, houses, and appliances.

Michael LaFaive, in an article written for the Michigan-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy, contends the tariffs will result in more job losses because as prices go up, less is demanded, and fewer sales mean fewer jobs.

Bush's decision was a response to a practice known as "dumping," which is when other countries sell inexpensive steel to American manufacturers. Steel-producing states, including Minnesota, have sent resolutions to the president and Congress asking for action that would address the unfair trade practices.

Minnesota was severely affected by the closing of the Hoyt Lakes-based LTV Steel Mining Co. when it went bankrupt in February 2001. LTV had been the third-largest steelmaker in the nation.

A resolution (HF219/SF258*/R1), which Gov. Jesse Ventura signed on March 15, 2001, specifically requested that the Bush administration investigate the dumping of steel products, which caused the loss of 1,500 jobs for steel workers in Minnesota.

"It helps the finished steel product, but it doesn't necessarily mean they'll come to Minnesota to get pellets."
— Rep. Tom Rukavina

The recently imposed tariffs won't bring back jobs or bring more business to Minnesota, according to Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

"It helps the finished steel product, but it doesn't necessarily mean they'll come to Minnesota to get pellets," he said.

Minnesota produces only taconite pellets. Steel makers, which use blast furnaces to make new steel, purchase taconite pellets or slab steel for their product.

The tariffs barely address the dumping of slab steel, lawmakers say.

"They did put tariffs on slabs, but they set the threshold at about the level they are coming in today, so it doesn't really help us," said Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook).

U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.) asked U.S. steel makers to commit to using "domestic taconite and voluntarily terminate their consumption of any foreign slab steel."

Bakk is hopeful for Oberstar's request.

"If they're helped on the finishing end, maybe they can afford what is a higher cost on the raw material end."

Rukavina said another downfall of the tariffs is they don't affect Mexico or Canada because of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), so those countries will be able to continue selling slab steel at lower prices.

Some say tariff retaliation is inevitable. Already news organizations are reporting that the European Union and other U.S. trading partners may respond with tariffs of their own on steel, clothing, or citrus fruits.

Plant closings and dumping are not the only problems facing the nation's steel industry.

About 600,000 retired workers, including about 3,500 Minnesotans, are at risk for losing pensions and health care benefits, costs that could run up to $10 million. A bill recently introduced in the U.S. Senate, which U.S. Sens. Mark Dayton (D-Minn.) and Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.) have signed onto, would cover health care "legacy costs."

Dubbed the "Steel Industry Legacy Relief Trust Fund," the federal legislation (S2189) would guarantee health coverage and basic life insurance for retired steel workers whose companies have gone bankrupt. Part of the money for the fund would come from the steel tariff revenues.

Legacy costs are often a barrier to industry mergers, so the bill would work to aid the tariffs. Currently, 33 American steel companies have filed for bankruptcy, 17 of which have completely shut down.

The bill, however, would not assist with pension payments.

In February 2002 the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation gave LTV plan participants a 45-day notice of its intention to terminate the pension plan, based on its analysis that the plan was no longer fully funded.

The Minnesota Legislature sent a resolution (HF3411/SF3207*/R7) two weeks later to the corporation stating LTV steel workers were given "virtually no notice" of the termination of their plans. The resolution was also sent to the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Legislature asked the pension

Continued on page 22

Tracking new laws, vetoes

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

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

In the second year of the biennium (even-numbered years), a bill passed by the Legislature and presented to the governor before the final three days of the session will become law unless the governor vetoes it by returning it to the Legislature within three days. The governor normally signs the bills and files them with the secretary of state, but his signature is not required.

But if a bill is passed during the last three days of session, the governor has a longer time to act on it. He or she must sign and deposit it with the secretary of state within 14 days after the Legislature adjourns "sine die" (Latin for adjournment "without a date certain"). If the governor does not sign a bill within this time frame, it will not become law, an action known as a "pocket veto." The governor is not required to provide a reason for the veto.

Only on appropriations bills can the governor exercise the line-item veto authority. This option allows the governor to eliminate the appropriation items to which he or she objects. As with all vetoes (save pocket vetoes) the governor must include a statement listing the reasons for the veto with the returned bill. Here, too, the timetable is either 14 days after adjournment for bills passed during the final three days of the session, or within three days after the governor receives the bill at any other time.

Policy items contained in appropriations bills may not be line-item vetoed. In order to veto such an item, the governor is required to veto the entire bill.

A two-thirds vote of the members in each house is needed to override a veto. But because only the governor can call a special session of the Legislature, anything vetoed after the Legislature adjourns is history — at least until the next year.

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

This information is also available on the governor's Web site (www.governor.state.mn.us). Select the "Policy" link, then click on 2002 Bill Tracking.
Key:
CH=Chapter; HF=House File; SF=Senate File

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
219	2698	2655*	Extending physical therapy board authority to adopt licensee ethics rules.	2/27	
220	351*	264	Omnibus budget balancing and appropriations bill.		2/25◆
221	97	58*	Changing terminology in statute of references to mentally ill.	2/27	
222	3049	3019*	Predatory offenders registration requirement expansion.	2/28	
223	1297	1471*	Municipal Board authority transferred to Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning.	3/5	
224	2642*	2760	Mine inspector annual audit requirement modified.	3/7	
225	3116*	2822	Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund provisions modified.	3/7	
226	2624*	2441	Shakopee Public Utilities Commission increased from three to five members.	3/7	
227	3148*	3025	Speech-language pathologist and audiologist registration requirements modified.	3/7	
228	2992*	2865	Occupational therapist temporary licensure terms modified.	3/7	
229	3062*	2839	Hennepin and Ramsey counties juvenile court judge term limits repealed.	3/7	
230	2748	2573*	Browns Valley school year start before Labor Day.	3/13	
231	2695*	2531	Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association retirement provisions corrections provided.	3/13	
232	58*	389	Beer kegs identification and sales requirements.	3/13	
233	3190*	3111	Juvenile court data in statewide supervision system.	3/13	
234	2783*	2671	No-fault auto insurance residual liability coverage regulated.	3/14	
235	1189*	1376	Election of municipal council members provided after annexation.	3/14	
236	1620*	2210	Orderly annexation agreements strengthened.	3/14	
237	2987*	2873	Cook County Mineral Center cemetery conveyance to Grand Portage reservation authorized.	3/14	
238	3202*	2801	Delano Public Utilities Commission increased to five members.	3/14	
239	2629*	2913	Retired professional designation for Board of Architecture, et al.-licensed retirees.	3/14	
240	3309*	3082	Nursing home licensed bed lay away authorized during moratorium projects.	3/14	
241	2637*	2472	Temporary town officeholders authorized in event of inability or refusal to serve.	3/14	
242	3344*	2892	Second Judicial District combined jurisdiction program authorized.	3/14	
243	3296*	3206	State employee Social Security administrative duties transfer.	3/14	
244	1547	1495*	Omnibus agriculture policy provisions modifications.	3/15†	
245	2612*	2562	Licensed architect, et al. requirement circumstances revised.	3/15	

◆ - veto overridden by the Legislature
† - Filed without signature

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

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
246	2899*	2711	Livable community demonstration account provisions modified.	3/21	
247	3584*	3302	Judgment calculation interest rate formulas modified.	3/21	
248	2813*	2803	Child care providers required to develop policies for reporting suspected child maltreatment.	3/21	
249	2766*	2475	Motor vehicle fuel franchise sale federal code compliance expiration date removed.	3/21	
250	3189*	3135	Street-sweeping vehicles defined as special mobile equipment for registration purposes.	3/21	
251	2742*	2757	State agency contested case procedures regulation provided.	3/21	
252	2531*	2381	Hospice care providers regulated, and criminal penalties imposed.	3/22	
253	3275	2932*	Citizen water quality monitoring encouraged.	3/22	
254	3133	2971*	State procurement competitive bidding for building and construction contract references codified.	3/22	
255	1097	1072*	"Grace" state photograph designation.	3/22	
256	3074	2834*	Steele County recorder appointment.	3/22	
257	3512	3258*	Garfield state land exchange.	3/22	
258	2652	2434*	Polk County recorder and auditor-treasurer appointment.	3/22	
259	2603	2627*	Optometrists and physicians contact lenses prescriptions regulated.	3/22	
260	3238	3115*	State energy efficiency installment purchases regulation provisions modified.	3/22	
261	3462	3080*	Funeral trust account provisions modified.	3/22	
262	3348	3136*	Workers' compensation provisions modified.	3/22	
263	2753	2590*	Carlton County recorder appointment authorized.	3/22	
264	2796*	2670	Minneapolis asphalt plant construction authority.	3/22	
265	2792*	2575	Appliance recycling required.	3/22	
266	3373	3045*	Fourth Judicial District domestic fatality review team pilot project extension.	3/25	
267	3362	3109*	Municipal police departments black patrol vehicles.	3/25	
268	2662	2611*	Interstate compact for adult offender supervision.	3/25	
269	1934	1030*	National crime prevention and privacy compact.	3/25	
270	94	222*	Game and fish laws gross overlimit violations penalties.	3/25	
271	2873	2578*	County human services and public health clients support programs.	3/25	
272	2993	2463*	Nurses overtime work hours regulation; border state nursing licenses reciprocity.	3/25	
273	3263	3167*	Sex offenders civil commitment determinations data access authority.	3/25	
274	1413	1226*	No-fault automobile insurance full medical expense benefits entitlement.	3/25	
275	3276	3100*	Medical assistance reimbursement for tribal health services.	3/25	
276	3291	3124*	Nursing and board care homes resident reimbursement classifications provisions modification.	3/25	
277	3245	3126*	Health care and human services programs provisions technical modifications.	3/25	
278	3061	3117*	Metropolitan Council interceptor facilities continued use determination.	3/25	
279	2600	2419*	Child care programs wading pools public swimming pools regulations exemption.	3/25	
280	197*	107	Noncommercial television station and metro bus garage grant provided.		3/27◆
281	2678	2768*	Medical assistance demonstration project provisions modified.	3/26	
282	3579	3073*	Domestic abuse order for protection or no contact order misdemeanor violations standards clarified.	3/26	
283	2570*	2553	Automobile insurance damaged window glass claims payment basis modified.		3/26◆
284	3274	3068	Military service protection.	3/26	
285	2882*	3122	Electric personal assistive mobility device and roadway and sidewalk regulations.	3/26	
286	3078	2821*	Real estate brokers and salespersons regulatory provisions modifications.	3/26	
287	2664	2459*	Supplemental nursing services agencies registration criteria expansion.	3/26	
288	1885	2115*	Motor vehicle dealers surety bond requirements clarification.	3/26	
289	3091	2764*	Mentally retarded persons incidents and emergencies reporting standards modification.	3/26	
290	2932	2614*	Foster care placement communicable diseases disclosure requirement.	3/26	
291	3080	3055*	Metropolitan transit police provisions modifications.	3/26	
292	2757	2692*	Human services licensure.	3/26	
293	2889	2933*	Individual sewage treatment systems installation.	3/26	
294	2635	2550*	Special education services costs reimbursement.	3/26	
295	3222	2953*	Fire insurance excess coverage prohibitions.	3/26	
296	2933	2546*	Rockville and Pleasant Lake consolidation plan joint development required.	3/26	
297	2884*	2715	Motor vehicle excessive gross weight civil fine imposition modified.	3/26	
298	3196*	2966	State procurement law ethical provisions clarified.	3/26	
299	3205	2890*	Public works contracts regulated.	3/27	
300	3223	2793*	Out-of-state facilities for children with severe emotional disturbance certification plan required.	3/27	
301	2842	3244*	Evidentiary laboratory blood sample reports electronic signatures.	3/27	

◆ - veto overridden by the Legislature
† - Filed without signature

CH	HF	SF	Description	Signed	Vetoed
302	3224	3034*	Hennepin County Medical Center cooperative purchasing authority.	3/27	
303	3240	2814*	Electronic voting authorized for cooperatives.	3/27	
304	2596	2673*	Child custody provided for by de facto custodians and third parties.	3/27	
305	3328	3278*	Driver's education organ and tissue donation instructions.	3/27	
306	3079	2697*	Real estate transactions disclosure requirements.	4/1	
307	3492	3315*	Insurance provisions modification; medical malpractice insurance joint underwriting assoc. issuance prohibition.	4/1	
308	3221	3145*	Military justice code revisions.	4/1	
309	3506	3084*	State and local government units auditing and reporting requirements modifications.		4/1
310	1224*	887	Medical response unit registration provided.	4/1	
311	2785	2542*	Business and nonprofit corporations and limited liability companies regulation provisions modifications.	4/1	
312	3519	2675*	State agencies required to use cleaner fuels.	4/4	
313	2647	2569*	Federal tax rebates not considered means of support relating to veterans home discretionary admission.	4/4	
314	2840	2580*	Criminal prosecution estoppel provisions modified.	4/4	
315	3169	2881*	Housing; municipal low-income housing authority specified.	4/5	
316	3076	2612*	Funeral procession escort private vehicle authorized to use flashing red lights.	4/5	
317	3029	2680*	Energy building code requirements changed in certain instances.	4/5	
318	3058	2739*	Cities additional liquor licenses; hotel rooms liquor cabinets hours of sale restrictions exemption.	4/5	
319	2706*	3076	Obstruction of emergency vehicle during emergency duty misdemeanor penalty provided.	4/5	
320	3030	3322*	Metropolitan Council existing service capacity external use provided.	4/8	
321	3034	2949*	Background check public criminal history data expanded.	4/8	
322	2841	2533*	Criminal offenders county correctional services costs payment.	4/8	
323	2684	2678*	Natural Resources Department provisions modifications.	4/8	
324	3432	3352*	Dry cleaner environmental response and reimbursement.	4/8	
325	3209	3054*	Petrofund consultant and contractor registration period modifications.	4/8	
326	3464	3174*	Money Transmitter Act small business category created.	4/8	
327	1763	1811*	Public drainage systems jurisdiction transfer.	4/8	
328	1683	2150*	Technology circuits or systems contractors and power limited technicians.	4/8	
329	3125*	2987	Telecommunications access for communication-impaired persons program renamed.	4/8	
330	2988*	3023	Insurance licenses, fees, and coverages regulated; health care administration simplified.	4/8	
331	3497	3015*	Commerce Department insurance fraud prevention; crime of employment of runners.	4/10	
332	2719*	2827	Uniform Athlete Agents Act providing student athlete agent registration adopted.	4/10	
333	1517*	1443	Swimming pool requirements established for family day care homes.	4/12	
334	2835	3028*	National and community service commission nonprofit corporation creation.	4/12	
335	2735	2457*	Civil commitment standards modifications; mental health system report.	4/16	
336	2763	2592*	Mutual insurance holding companies reorganization to stock companies.	4/16	
337	3537	3288*	Firefighters interest arbitration decision provision expiration date extension under PELRA.	4/16	
338	3455	3380*	Postnuptial contracts provisions modifications.	4/16	
339	2751	2650*	Credit unions regulation provisions modifications.	4/16	
340	3445	3238*	Nonprofit neighborhood organization members directors election, voting right notice option.	4/16	
341	3193	2957*	Dentist practice violations reporting requirements.	4/17	
342	3257	2988*	Financial institutions detached facilities, charges and fees, and mortgage prepayment penalties regulated.	4/17	
343	2687	3075*	Motor vehicle sales tax payment for sales in violation of dealer licensing requirements.	4/17	
344	3393	3114*	Child support obligors limited driver's licenses and payment agreements.	4/17	
345	1524	1555*	Fertilizer use regulated.	4/19	
346	2935	2909*	Health maintenance organizations rural demonstration project authorized.	4/19	
347	2657	2540*	Probate property succession provisions modified.	4/19	
348	3048	2460*	Criminal penalties for persons who take responsibility for criminal acts provided.	4/24	
349	2473*	2807	Darlene Luther Anatomical Gift Act specifying intent and consent requirements.	4/24	
350	2525	2960*	Certain fireworks legalized; unpaid volunteer firefighting leave.	4/29	
351	2920	2674*	Omnibus game, fish and forest bill provisions modifications.	4/29	
352	2618*	3373	Personnel not public data sharing authority.	5/1	
353	1359	2125*	Wildlife management areas land additions and ATV use regulations.	5/1	
354	3249	2998*	Certain alcohol and drug counselors licensing requirements waived.	5/1	
355	2970*	3010	Recreational motor vehicles use provisions modificaiton.	5/1	
356	3509	3257*	Housing and redevelopment authority officers grant or loan eligibility.	5/1	
357	2492	2363*	Homeowners and automobile insurers credit scoring use restriction and regulation.	5/1	
358	2995	3168*	Walker authorized to maintain and operate state water tower at Ah-Gwah-Ching.	5/1	

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

Tuesday, April 30

HF3718—Kahn (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Minneapolis authorized to issue on-sale wine and malt beverage license to the Southern Theatre.

HF3719—Finseth (R)
Agriculture Policy
Pesticide applications on human areas by overspray or target site spray prohibition clarified.

Wednesday, May 1

HF3720—Davids (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Terrorism; federal backstop for insurance against terrorism legislation urged by resolution to the president and Congress.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MAY 6 - 10, 2002

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call House Calls at **(651) 296-9283**.
All meetings are open to the public.
Sign language interpreter services: **(651) 224-6548 v/tty**.
To have the House committee schedule delivered to your e-mail address direct your Web browser to **http://ww3.house.mn/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule** and fill out the subscription form on the Legislature's Web site.
House committee schedules are also available on the Web site at **http://www.house.mn/hinfo/schedule/index.htm**.

MONDAY, May 6

1 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

TUESDAY, May 7

9 a.m.

Citizen Advisory Committee to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
5 State Office Building
Chr. Nancy Gibson
Agenda: Orientation and CAC business - Background; Discuss task force report with Rep. Dennis Ozment; Discuss conflict of interest information with Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel (invited); Develop CAC work program, including CAC budget for remainder of 2002-03 biennium and for 2004-05 biennium.
Break for lunch (one hour).
2003 proposal review - Review LCMR hearing schedules and timeframes; Review funding priorities and evaluation criteria; Summary of proposals; Summary packets and proposals distributed; Preliminary review of proposals.

10 a.m.

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & VETERANS AFFAIRS POLICY
Basement Hearing Room
State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Jim Rhodes
Agenda: HF1671 (Holsten) Heritage enhancement fund and council established, sales tax revenue dedicated, lottery ticket payments in lieu of sales tax disposition modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

SF3024 Conference Committee
Department of Commerce Housekeeping Bill
112 State Capitol
Chrs. Rep. Bill Haas, Sen. Linda Scheid

WEDNESDAY, May 8 - FRIDAY, May 10

No meetings have been announced.

Continued from page 18

corporation to delay terminating the LTV Steel Mining Pension Plan until March 2003 in order to enable LTV employees and the state "to study possible alternatives to a Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation distressed termination."

The request wasn't met. On March 31, 2002, the corporation took control of the pension plans. Older retirees saw no change in the amount they received, but those who hadn't yet retired when LTV went bankrupt, depending on their age and years of service, saw their future pension reduced by up to half of what they would have otherwise received.

Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), chair of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee, says the effectiveness of resolutions is difficult to measure.

He pointed out the state is involved in new technologies that may bring more taconite business back to the state. The Legislature helps fund the 21st Century Minerals Fund, which is granting money for proposals that create a new product using taconite.

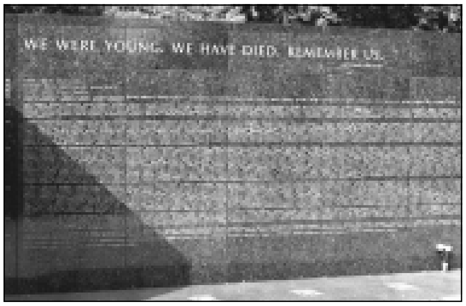
Iron nuggets, which have a higher iron content than taconite pellets, are being bought by rapidly-growing mills. These mills, called mini-mills, account for about half of the country's steel production, according to Bakk.

"This is more critical than tariffs — we need to get into this value-added technology," Bakk said.

McElroy said the minerals fund should have enough money to fund all proposals to fund new ideas on the range.

"I'm supportive of tariffs to make taconite more competitive," he said. "It isn't enough to restore taconite to competition, but technology will help."

Minnesota Memorials



Vietnam veterans memorial

The task of getting a Minnesota Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the state Capitol grounds began in 1987, but the dedication did not take place until five years later.

Teresa Vetter, whose link to the war was the death of a friend's brother while in combat, got the project rolling. She contacted a Vietnam veteran's organization and asked them to help raise funds. In the following years hundreds of others joined in the mission, including a woman who sat on a billboard in Forest Lake for 21 days.

Legislative help came in 1989 when former Rep. Doug Carlson (R-Sandstone) heard a commercial about the fundraising effort. He urged the Legislature to come up with $300,000 for the project, which it did.

The names of fallen Minnesotans are engraved on a wall, the central point of the 2.4-acre site northwest of the Veterans Services Building. It also acknowledges POWs and MIAs.

The last American troops were evacuated from Vietnam during the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

A contest was held to design the monument, and 218 entries were received. After more than two days of narrowing down the field, a Minnesota team won. The group consisted of Stan Sears, a sculptor and teacher at Macalester College, two of his students, Nina Ackerberg and Jake Costillio, and architect Rich Laffin. James Steele Construction Co. of St. Paul was contracted to build the memorial, but a lot of volunteer labor and materials were used in the construction.

Vetter was quoted in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* at the Sept. 26, 1992 dedication, saying, "By no means is this memorial a glorification of war. To me it's simple. To me it says, 'Never forget and never again.'"

(M. Cook)

Reflections

Many lawmakers will leave the House at the end of the 2002 session. Reasons for stepping down are varied, but some are due to legislative districts being realigned after population shifts were recorded by the 2000 census.

Some lawmakers will retire from public life and others may continue their interests in public office by running for the Senate or a higher office such as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, or auditor.

A view of the House Chamber from the left alcove.

One leaving legislator, Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) has announced he has accepted a position with an outside organization that works with the Legislature. The rest will likely return to full-time private careers or just enjoy retirement.

Although it may be commendable to prolong a devotion to public service, members who seek re-election are not assured of returning. Many must first face off in a primary race, then try and defeat an opposing political party candidate in November.

Every two years, House members face the challenge of making a decision about their future. And every 10 years, both the House and Senate members must decide if they want to step down or try again for office after redistricting. Once this transpires, senators do not have to run again or step down for four years.

But now and then the Legislature experiences a high turnover period where many members decide not to return voluntarily or are defeated in the general election.

The 1858 Legislature had 37 Senate members and 80 in the House, and members of the House only served one-year terms. By 1859, only four senators remained from the first legislature, the House retained only one member, and one House member moved over to the Senate.

Once the 1860 census was taken, the imbalance in the district distribution was improved, but by no means made equal. When the third legislative session convened in 1861, the numbers had been changed again, this time to 21 Senate members and 42 representatives in the House.

As the state's population continued to rapidly increase in the latter third of the 1800s so did the number of legislators. In 1871 there were 41 senators and 106 House members. Twenty years later the numbers were 63 and 119.

During that period the Legislature experienced relatively similar levels of turnover. Though turnover did reach more than half of the members in the early 1900s, no specific reasons were established for the turnover rate.

In 1913 when 67 senators and 130 House members gathered in St. Paul, new reapportionment laws were implemented, but legislators who were critical of redistricting "blandly ignored the constitution," said historian Theodore C. Blegen.

Drastic reforms did not occur until 1961. And those reforms specifically resulted in a high turnover among legislators.

Legislative changes made that year included a regular session extension from 60 days to 120 days. Also, congressional districts were changed from nine to eight statewide. The changes played a major role in the future of lawmakers with 56 members leaving the House, many of whom were farmers that could not wait to plant their crops.

Those who run for the Legislature take on very important responsibilities. Most become so involved in public service, while participating in the tradition and unique collegiality at the Capitol, it is difficult for them to leave for whatever reason they may find necessary.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

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

Minimum wage earners

Minnesota minimum wage rate per hour	$5.15
Minimum hourly wage if company's gross sales are less than $500,000	$4.90
Training wage that can be paid to employees under age 20 in their first 90 consecutive days of employment	$4.25
Year federal minimum wage was last raised by Congress	1997
Times the federal rate has been raised since its 1938 enactment	19
States, like Minnesota, with minimum wage rates equal to the federal rate	29
States with no minimum wage law	7
States with higher minimum wage laws than the federal level	11
Rate in Washington state (nation's highest)	$6.90
Number of minimum wage workers in Minnesota in 2001	59,600
As percent of state workers	2.5
Percentage of Minnesotans earning $7 per hour or less	10.9
$6 per hour or less, as percent	5.7
Percentage decrease in number of minimum wage workers in Minnesota from 1996 to 2001	74
Minimum wage earners that are age 25 or older in 2001, as percent	54
Percentage of Minnesota minimum wage earners who are female	67
Percentage in 1996	58
Percentage of African-American workers who earn minimum wage	3
Percentage of Hispanic workers	3
Percentage of Caucasian (white) workers	2.5
Part-time workers earning minimum wage or less, as percent	6.5
Full-time workers, as percent	1.5
Minimum wage earners with a high school diploma or less, as percent	55
Percentage of minimum wage earners who are not married or do not currently live with their spouse	82
Workers earning minimum wage who are living in households below the poverty threshold, as percent	18
People working in the Twin Cities metropolitan area earning minimum wage or less, as percent	1.9
In Greater Minnesota, as percent	3.5
Percentage of minimum wage jobs in service occupations	45
In technical, sales, and administrative support, as percent	29
In sales, as percent	11
Workers earning minimum wage who are employed by eating and drinking establishments, as an approximate percent	33

Sources: *Minimum Wage Workers in Minnesota*, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, February 2002; U.S. Department of Labor; Jobs Now Coalition.

For More Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Index
(651) 296-5560

This document can be made available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by calling (651) 296-2146 voice, (651) 296-9896 TTY, or (800) 657-3550 toll free voice and TTY.