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In this issue:

BUDGET PLAN ADVANCES

FUTURE OF GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE, AND MORE

HF3678-HF3691

Session Weekly

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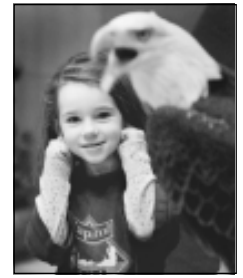
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On the cover: Lobbyists fill the room at the March 8 meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee. That date was the final committee deadline, meaning omnibus budget bills had to be out of House and Senate finance committees.

—Photo by Andrew Von Bank

Fulfilling many wants

House bonding bill represents more than \$700 million for projects across the state, funding for commuter rail uncertain

BY THERESA STAHL

More than \$737 million in projects would be funded by state general obligation bonds, under the House bonding proposal. But as it stands now, the plan contains no funding for the Northstar Corridor commuter rail project.

The House Capital Investment Committee included \$30 million for the project in the bill (HF3618) it approved March 8. But the House Ways and Means Committee removed the project at its March 11 meeting.

The bonding bill was scheduled for debate by the full House March 14, but it had not been taken up when this issue of Session Weekly went to press. Whatever version of the bill passes the House will likely require a conference committee because of differences with the Senate plan.

Proponents are concerned about capturing

members voted to reject the committee's established bonding recommendations because they could not agree about the project.

Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Cologne), chair of the transportation finance committee, has long voiced her disapproval of the project and reiterated that viewpoint during the March 8 hearing.

"It will not alleviate the problem of congestion," she said. Studies have shown railways have had virtually no impact on congestion, Molnau said. She added that light-rail transit has cost the state more than was anticipated.

"Highways are not good enough for the future," countered Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), who carried the project amendment.

The Department of Transportation originally requested \$120 million for the project, which was recommended for full funding by the governor.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Funding for the Northstar Commuter Rail line was rejected by the House Ways and Means Committee on March 11.

federal matching dollars for the Northstar Corridor project that would build a, commuter-rail system on existing railroad tracks between St. Cloud and Minneapolis.

The plan created debate in the House Transportation Finance Committee, where mem-

Tingelstad said \$30 million would cover costs for design and land acquisition.

The Senate has allocated \$8 million for the project in its bonding bill.

The House bonding plan is only a few million below Gov. Jesse Ventura's initial recom-

mendation of \$746 million in general obligation bonding. However, the governor has suggested bonding projects should be closer to \$500 million considering the state's budget situation.

The Senate proposal is nearly \$1.2 billion.

During the March 13 floor session, Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) offered a minority report regarding the bonding bill that aimed to replace the bill's existing language with a proposal that totals nearly \$398 million.

"Let's maintain and repair what we currently have," he said.

Krinkie said he doesn't think it is fiscally prudent to spend additional money when the budget isn't balanced.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), the capital investment committee chair, asked members to vote against the move. He pointed out that the bonding bill stays within the state's financial guidelines.

Krinkie's motion failed on a 14-114 vote.

The following are some highlights of the House bonding proposal.

Higher education

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system would receive almost \$200 million, the greatest amount for bonding in the House's proposal. The allocations, which include \$60 million for general maintenance and asset preservation, would reach nearly all system campuses.

Two new science buildings would be constructed, one at Winona State University for a cost of \$29 million and another at Minnesota State University, Moorhead for nearly \$13 million.

Southwest State University would receive money to replace the food service building destroyed by a fire in January. State funds would cover expenses not paid for by insurance companies.

Other projects include \$17.4 million for a library and information access center at Metropolitan State University; \$12.6 million for a student center at Minneapolis Community College; and \$9.2 million for a classroom/technology building at Alexandria Technical College.

The House proposed funding for several University of Minnesota projects at the full amount requested but would only give \$40 million, or half of the amount requested, for asset preservation.

On the Minneapolis campus, \$24 million would be designated for the renovation of



Conservation concerns

Balance urged for early 20th century forest management

At the turn of the 20th century, the timber industry was gaining momentum in Minnesota, and forestry officials and academics were looking at its continued viability.

The state had just passed two fundamental laws: one governing fire prevention in forest lands and the other creating a state forestry board to manage the forests.

A book surveying forestry in Minnesota published in 1902 indicates optimism over the future of the industry, but it also warns that certain management issues must be addressed.

In particular, author Samuel Green, a professor of forestry at the University of Minnesota, discussed restocking, the quality of timber, and the effects of population growth on forests statewide.

"We are working our timber resources as though they were a mine, which can never be restocked," Green wrote. "This great timber industry, of so much value to the state, would be continued indefinitely under normal conditions. But there is practically no timber land in this state under normal conditions, and there is little or no increase on the far greater part of our cut-over timber lands."

During 1899 and 1900, the state Bureau of Labor reported that nearly 32,000 people, nearly all men, were employed in forest and woodworking pursuits, collecting more than \$4 million in wages.

Residents of Minnesota were also using timber for fuel. Green was concerned that certain parts of the state had a surplus of dead and downed timber, suitable for fuel, but there was no way to clear it and get it to parts of the state where it could be used.

However, other economic considerations — such as land taxes and overall management practices — were higher on the priority list for legislative attention.

"Taxes on timber lands are generally excessive in this country, and entirely out of proportion to the value of the land, and it is largely on account that owners of timberlands do not care to hold them," Green wrote. "This, as a matter of state policy, is unwise, for the reason that it prevents the development of economic forestry."

Green pointed to forest practices in Germany as a model for landowner forest management and government intervention. He advocated the European practice of treating forest land as a special class for tax purposes.

He also supported the idea of encouraging game in forests and requiring government management only when private owners weren't taking steps to replant and maintain volume. The goal of game hunting in the forests is to increase public interest in the forests and their maintenance.

It's also a good way to recruit supporters for forest concerns, he said.

Some German provinces controlled timber cutting to only the increase in trees each year. While Green advocated that assurances of future growth should not be

left entirely to landowners, he suggested a balance between the two.

Professor Green warned that the fire suppression law passed in 1895 did not have enough funding attached for effective prevention.

"The area to be covered is very large, much of it is very sparsely populated, and the funds available are very meager for best results," Green wrote, "so that, although it has been very ably enforced, and some convictions made under it, yet it should be amended in several respects to make it effective."

Several large fires between 1908 and 1918 destroyed forests in northeastern Minnesota, despite efforts to prevent fires in the region.

The industry hit its peak in 1905, but large replanting efforts did not materialize until after 1910. Government conservation efforts, including the establishment of the Superior National Forest, began in 1909.

Further expansion of forest conservation in the state began in the late 1920s and continued with the advent of the federal Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Today, timber sales total about \$13 million annually. A large portion is managed for timber production, while a significant percentage is kept for recreation, wildlife habitat, and insect and disease control.

(M. KIBIGER)

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



Forest rangers displaying fire fighting tools in 1928.

Nicholson Hall, which would house classrooms for freshman students, writing and language centers, and computer labs. The Mineral Resources Research Center would receive \$18.4 million for design, renovation, furnishing, and equipment.

A new building for the chemistry and biology programs and enhancement of other science facilities at the Duluth campus would be funded for \$25.5 million. Also, \$8 million was allocated for renovation on the Morris campus.

Transportation, public safety

The proposal includes \$48 million for local bridge assistance, \$26 million for high-use local roads of regional significance, \$25 million for local highway improvements, and \$10 million for 10-ton road upgrades.

An amendment by Rep. John Jordan (R-Brooklyn Park), offered during the House Capital Investment Committee hearing, reduced the allocation for local roads by \$4 million to pay for the Northwest Busway between Minneapolis and Rogers.

A \$26 million allocation for a statewide public safety radio system would assist nine counties in the Twin Cities metropolitan area in linking to a high-frequency system for emergency personnel.

Economic development, housing

The Rural Finance Authority Loan program would receive \$15 million under the proposal.

The Department of Trade and Economic Development would receive \$22 million for redevelopment grant funding, \$16 million for Minnesota Public Facilities Authority matching grants, nearly \$16 million for Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Program grants, and \$3.25 million for expansion of the St. Cloud Civic Center.

Environment

The Department of Natural Resources would receive \$89 million to fund state environment projects. A state park initiative would be awarded \$25 million; flood hazard mitigation would receive nearly \$22 million in grant money; and metro regional parks and Greater Minnesota regional parks would each receive almost \$11 million.

The Pollution Control Agency would receive \$10 million for the closed landfill cleanup program, under the bill.

State buildings

The House followed the governor's recommendations for the Department of Corrections facilities.

The Stillwater prison would receive

Continued on page 27

Editors note: House committees unveiled the second round of budget reductions March 12. The largest cuts come from health and human services portions of the state budget. That proposal is outlined on page 16. The other portions of the budget affected by the further reductions are included in the highlights section that follows.

The House was debating the measures late March 14 when this edition of Session Weekly went to press. Look for further updates in the next issue or on the Session Daily Web site at <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/sdaily/sdaily.htm>.

★ AGRICULTURE

Biodiesel bill passes

A bill requiring that all diesel fuel sold in the state contain an additive derived from animal fats or plant oil, typically soybeans, is on its way to the governor.

The House passed the 2 percent biodiesel requirement 78-53 on March 11 after the Senate approved the measure 53-11 earlier in the day. If the governor signs the requirement, Minnesota would be the first state in the nation to have such a mandate.

Supporters of the statewide requirement — which would go into effect in 2005 or earlier if the state passed a biodiesel tax credit — call the measure a boon for Minnesota soybean producers and rural communities. Meanwhile opponents, particularly the state's trucking firms, have labeled the plan a costly mandate for diesel users.

Under HF1547/SF1495*, sponsored by Rep. Tim Finseth (R-Angus) and Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), the requirement would not take effect until the state's biodiesel production exceeds 8 million gallons.

The requirement would not apply to motors used by nuclear power plants, trains, and taconite and copper mines. Those industries would have two years to study the costs of biodiesel.

Another compromise measure would require the state to reimburse processors for up to 80 percent of costs associated with transitioning to biodiesel if the mandate is repealed within two years of the effective date.

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) predicted that biodiesel would be the state's "second oil well" after ethanol. "We have a real opportunity to be a forerunner on this issue," he said.

Proponents also argued that the biodiesel requirement would make the state compliant

with a 2006 federal mandate requiring states to remove sulfur from diesel. Biodiesel would be an acceptable alternative as a lubricant.

Legislators supporting the plan dismissed opponents' predictions of high costs, pointing to studies and surveys showing the cost of a gallon of diesel fuel with the additive increased a maximum of 2 to 3 cents.

Finseth said the bill would bolster the state's rural economies by requiring that 50 percent of the biodiesel be "home grown."

Some House members from suburban districts denounced the measure as a subsidy for farmers that unfairly shifts the costs to truckers and taxpayers.

Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan), who tried unsuccessfully to send the bill back to conference committee, said the requirement would "make Minnesota an island."

He said it would burden truckers, who he argued operate under "razor thin margins."

Rep. Doug Peterson (DFL-Madison) challenged Wilkin's island analogy. "Minnesota could lead, follow, or get out of the way," he said. "And I'd rather lead."

★ CONSUMERS

Prohibiting sales calls

The House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee approved a bill March 7 that would prohibit most telephone solicitations to people who sign up for a state do-not-call list.

HF2710 next goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The bill would allow phone customers to sign up for a list maintained by the Department of Commerce. Telephone solicitors would be prohibited from calling those on the list.

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul), sponsor of the measure, said several states adopted similar legislation last year and most remaining states are considering proposals this year.

The committee adopted an amendment changing the fee that telemarketers would be required to pay to purchase the do-not-call list from \$15 to \$125. Under the amended bill, the fee would be reduced to \$90 in fiscal year 2004 and then to \$75 for the following years.

The Department of Finance estimates the bill would cost \$482,000 for fiscal year 2003, \$348,922 for fiscal year 2004, and \$299,197 for fiscal year 2005, making the fees necessary, Entenza said.

The numbers are based on the Department of Commerce having to hire three full-time

investigators and other staff and equipment. The estimate is also based on 1,000 telemarketing companies purchasing two lists per year.

Entenza said that with 140,000 telemarketing companies nationwide, he thought the estimated 1,000 purchasers was too low.

Rep. Arlon Lindner (R-Corcoran) said that because of the cost of the bill and because the state is trying to address a budget deficit, the committee should not approve the measure. He expressed doubt that the legislation would work and noted that the bill does not prohibit nonprofit organizations from making calls to those on the list.

Entenza said that 85 percent of telemarketing calls come from commercial businesses.

Michael Schumann, a St. Paul business owner, said the problem cannot be addressed through legislation. He said the bill would instead take away an existing tool that he has used to stop unwanted calls.

Schumann said that Qwest offers its customers a screening service that prevents companies without valid caller identification information from ringing the subscriber's telephone. He said the bill would require the companies to activate their caller identification information and thus those calls that are now prevented would get through.

★ CRIME

Keg registration

Beer kegs sold in the state must be labeled with an identification tag, under a bill signed into law by Gov. Jesse Ventura.

Sponsored by Rep. Steve Dehler (R-St. Joseph) and Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), the measure was passed by the House in 2001. The Senate passed the bill March 11, and Ventura signed it March 13.

Dehler said the measure is meant to crack down on underage drinking, which is a problem in his community.

Effective Aug. 1, 2002, off-sale retailers must attach a identification tag to each keg they sell. The tag must include the retailer's name, address, telephone number, keg identification number, and a warning that removing the tag is a crime.

The law requires off-sale retailers to record the driver's license number and keg

Signed
by
the
governor
★ ★ ★

identification number at the time of the sale. The retailer must also record the date and time of the sale, and must collect the purchaser's signature.

Information collected must be kept for at least 90 days, and the retailer must make the information available to law enforcement officials upon request.

The law will also make it illegal for store clerks to knowingly record false information for the sale, although the law does not set a fine for those who do.

Dehler said the law does not set any new penalties for violators, and that existing civil and criminal laws continue to place responsibility upon those who purchase alcohol.

Store clerks are liable only if they knowingly sell liquor to people under 21 years old.

HF58*/SF389/CH232

★ DEVELOPMENT

Minerals fund may lose money

Pulling more than \$8 million from the 21st Century Minerals Fund over the next three years, the House approved cuts for the second phase of the budget reduction plan.

February's gray economic forecast has forced further cuts on every area of the state budget. The body passed HF3011, sponsored by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), on March 14 by a 73-59 vote.

The total reductions would result in a transfer of \$8 million to the general fund in the current biennium and \$6 million in 2004-2005. The minerals fund would lose \$6.7 million in this biennium and \$1.6 million in the 2004-05 biennium.

Rep. Tom Baak (DFL-Cook) offered an amendment that would restore money to the minerals fund.

"What we desperately need on the iron range is an investment in the future," he said.

McElroy said he agrees that the mining industry has to change, but said the fund will be higher than was anticipated at the end of biennium, and the remainder of funds is sufficient to meet current needs.

The amendment would take money from the workers compensation fund, which McElroy said would result in an increase in workers compensation premiums across the state.

The amendment failed on a 63-68 vote.

During the current and next bienniums, the bill would cut \$1.4 million from the Jobs Skills Partnership Program, which McElroy said has a carryover of about \$1 million.

Additionally, the Minnesota Film Board would lose a total of nearly \$1.4 million, and the Manufactured Home Park Redevelopment

Program would be reduced by \$400,000 just in the current biennium.

The following cuts would be made in 2004-2005:

- \$800,000 from the Minnesota Youth Program;
- \$600,000 from the Youth Intervention Program;
- \$512,000 from the Challenge Program administered by the Housing Finance Agency;
- \$460,000 from the Housing Rehabilitation and Accessibility Program; and
- \$120,000 from the Minnesota Historical Society's general fund.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

★ EMPLOYMENT

School employee benefits

Summer unemployment benefits for school food service employees would become part of permanent law, under a bill approved March 12 by the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee.

"The employer pays the unemployment to keep them over the summer months," explained Rep. Loren Jennings (DFL-Harris), sponsor of HF3082.

SNOWY TRACKS

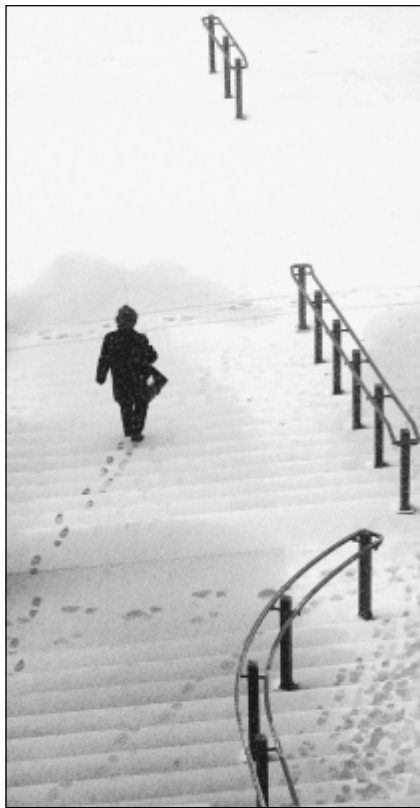


PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

A State Capitol visitor finds a new blanket of snow covering the ground March 14.

Rider language, which designates legal policy for appropriations, since 2000 have allowed the employees to collect unemployment during the summer.

The state unemployment fund would not be affected; food service employers would pay for the benefits.

Unemployment is funded through a tax to businesses. Lee Nelson, unemployment insurance director for the Department of Economic Security, said the 11 school food service employers in the state are "not anywhere near the maximum tax rates."

Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) introduced an amendment that would provide similar benefits to school bus drivers.

However, Nelson said it may be "impossible to administer" for several reasons. One problem would be that some school bus employers are at the maximum tax rate, he said.

Gary Botzek, a lobbyist for the Minnesota School Bus Operators Association, said he is concerned about the \$8 million the bill may cost. The association represents 192 members who operate or own more than 5,000 buses.

Sertich withdrew the amendment, but said he will work on the language and offer it again. The bill needs to stop at two other committees before it can receive a vote on the House floor.

HF3082 now travels to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

★ ENVIRONMENT

Budget reductions

An additional \$10 million in environmental and natural resources spending cuts passed the House 70-62 on March 14 as part of the second round of trimmings.

Under the previously approved budget law, the Legislature cut spending on environment and natural resources programs by \$12.9 million this biennium. That plan focused on a projected \$1.9 billion budget deficit.

The new cuts are in response to a revised economic forecast issued in February that revealed an additional budget shortfall of about \$440 million.

After clearing the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee on March 12 and the House Ways and Means committee the next day, HF766 moved to the House floor.

The bill would reduce recycling-promotion grants to counties to about \$5 million in fiscal years 2004-05. The Office of Environmental Assistance would be directed to provide a statewide message emphasizing waste reduction as a substitute for local outreach efforts.

It would also transfer about \$1 million from the Pollution Control Agency to the Office of Environmental Assistance to administer the state's household hazardous waste program.

Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), chair of the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee and bill sponsor, said counties would be expected to spend the remaining dollars on the more immediate task of recycling and reducing solid waste.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) worried the cuts would hamper innovative county efforts and lead to an ineffective "top-down approach."

"Counties have taken the lead on waste management," she said.

The committee later adopted an amendment offered by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), which calls on the Legislature to restore funding for the recycling programs by tapping into the solid waste fund if additional money becomes available. The Legislature, however, would not be able to draw down the fund to the point that it couldn't meet other obligations.

The bill awaits action in the Senate.

Land designation, ATV usage

A plan designating more than 100,000 acres in northwestern Minnesota as wildlife management areas advanced in committee March 8.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee approved HF1359, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment

(R-Rosemount), and referred it to the House Taxes Committee.

Under the plan, 102,315 acres in Beltrami, Marshall, and Roseau counties currently designated as state consolidated conservation land would become wildlife management areas.

Since the land would be taken off the tax rolls, counties would receive payments in-lieu of tax from the state lottery fund. The payments to counties would subsequently increase from 44 cents per acre to about \$3.54 an acre.

Committee Chair Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater) expressed concern about the funding process, predicting the state would have fewer dollars for other habitat programs.

The designation would complete a state initiative to convert 1.5 million acres of the conservation lands into wildlife management areas. The Department of Natural Resources has pushed to set aside the land.

In a fact sheet on the bill, the department wrote: "Without proper designation, these lands remain in a type of 'management limbo' without specific guidance and attention to their best use potential and without the ability to control usage of these lands."

The bill also contains provisions on all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use in state wildlife management areas. It directs the DNR commissioner to designate at least 90 miles of trails for the vehicles by Jan. 15, 2004.

The department would be required to report to the Legislature on its progress during the next two sessions.

At the hearing, DNR Deputy Commissioner Steve Morse said the department would prefer a scaled back target for new trail designations.

HF1359 also authorizes the department to enforce ATV use violations. This section of the bill would be valid until Jan. 15, 2004.

Among other penalties, it would allow the commissioner to arrest or ticket a rider who purposefully causes "serious damage" to the wildlife management area.

FAMILY



Early education funding

The House passed a bill March 14 that would trim another \$6 million from its budget in the area of early childhood and family education.

The bill, approved 68-64, also projects cuts of another \$15 million for fiscal years 2004-2005.

HF2902, sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), chair of the House Family and Early Childhood Education Finance Committee, returns money to the state's general fund by making cuts, slowing the growth of programs, and requiring local communities to come up with a 25 percent match for one program.

The bill would cut another \$500,000 from the child-care development fund, which also lost \$500,000 under the budget balancing plan that became law March 1.

Family and early childhood education will lose \$4 million for fiscal years 2002 and 2003 in the law, but \$3 million was returned by the transfer of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds.

The new plan also freezes funding for the adult basic education program in 2003 at the 2002 level of \$32.4 million. The bill would also limit the program's growth to 5 percent per year, instead of the current 8 percent.

Basic sliding fee child care, a program that helps working families not on welfare pay for child care, would also take a hit, losing \$1 million a year through 2005 under the bill.

State aid to communities for after-school enrichment programs would also require a 25 percent match from the community, and its base funding would be cut back by 25 percent beginning in 2004. Previously there was no local match required for the grant.

About \$1.7 million will also be added to the general fund by placing a limit on each school district's early childhood and family education reserve account.

Some DFL members were unhappy with further cuts to child-care assistance and other programs.

Rep. Mary Jo McGuire (DFL-Falcon Heights) said the state is balancing the

TOO LOUD



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Devin Roelke, left, and Maura Curry from the Capitol Child Care Center in St. Paul cover their ears while Tempest, a 17-year-old American Bald Eagle, does a territorial scream in the Capitol Rotunda during the annual Minnesota Zoo Day March 11.

budget by targeting the most vulnerable members.

Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) agreed, adding that the state held K-12 and higher education safe from further budget cuts.

"What about hurting little kids?" she asked. "We are hurting little kids."

Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls) said the state should be able to come up with \$6 million to spare programs that help children from further cuts in 2003.

Republican members responded by stating that the bill doesn't cut programs but only limits growth.

Sykora said she invited those who disapproved of the plan to suggest other ways to trim the committee's budget but was given no feedback.

The bill next goes to the Senate.

★ GAME & FISH

Licensure changes

People convicted of hunting while under the influence of alcohol or drugs would be barred from obtaining a lifetime hunting license within five years of the offense, under a bill sent to the House floor March 8.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee approved HF2604 with little discussion. Sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), the bill would apply to lifetime licenses to hunt with a firearm or by archery.

The rest of the bill would authorize the state to issue lifetime licenses for deer hunting by archery, as well as by firearm, already authorized under state law. Lifetime licenses may also be purchased for fishing and small game hunting.

To be eligible for the lifetime license, the hunter would have to be a resident of Minnesota for at least one year. A hunter under age 21 would have to be the child of someone who has lived in the state for a minimum of one year.

The fees for lifetime licenses are as follows:

- \$337 for children 3 and younger;
- \$450 for ages 4 to 15;
- \$573 for ages 16 to 50; and
- \$383 for those over 51.

The money from the license fees would be dedicated to the lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund.

Another game and fish bill also cleared the committee at the March 8 meeting. HF3128, sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), would allow a licensed hunter to kill game with a 0.50 Action Express handgun cartridge.

LITTLE LOBBYIST



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Five-year-old Ashley Burnside colors a drawing of the state that will later be taped to a legislators door as part of the March 14 Early Childhood Parent Rally Day. Ashley came with her mother, Christi, and younger sister, Kayla, to meet with legislators to encourage continued funding for the early childhood and family education (ECFE) programs. Ashley attends the North Branch ECFE program.

★ GOVERNMENT

State budget cuts

State government functions will be cut nearly \$39 million, under a plan approved March 13 by the House State Government Finance Committee.

The cuts came in the form of a delete-all amendment to HF3270, sponsored by Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview). That bill originally dealt with only abolishing the Department of Employee Relations.

The bill now travels to the House Ways and Means Committee, where it will be heard March 15, said Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), the committee chair.

Under the plan general fund reductions total nearly \$14.82 million.

Included in that number is an additional reduction of nearly \$4.65 million from the Legislature's base: \$2.12 million from the House, \$1.64 million from the Senate, \$509,000 from the Legislative Coordinating Commission, and \$383,000 from the legislative auditor. The cuts bring the legislative base to a total 10 percent reduction between the two budget reduction phases.

Additionally, \$6.22 million in legislative carry forward dollars are now being sent to the general fund.

The third element of general fund cuts would come from seven different sources:

- \$2 million from an executive branch reorganization by creating eight secretary

positions to oversee the 27 state departments, instead of each department having a commissioner. That would allow a consolidation of executive level and service positions under the eight secretaries.

- \$500,000 reduction to the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, money to be used to fulfill a statute providing for amateur sports activities at Target Center;
- \$470,000 from the attorney general's office via the ending of partnership agreements with agencies;
- \$389,000 from the State Arts Board;
- \$209,000 from the Minnesota Humanities Commission;
- \$200,000 from the Office of Technology; and
- \$175,000 from the secretary of state's office, with the stipulation that cannot be from revenue producing programs or elections.

Furthermore the bill moves \$24.1 million in non-general fund transfers, including \$2 million from the building code fund surplus and \$400,000 from the Minnesota Conservation Fund account. The remaining \$1.7 million out of the total \$3 million in the auto theft prevention fund would also be transferred to the general fund.

The largest chunk in this area was \$20 million in general reductions, including a state hiring freeze, and a moratorium on consultant contracts.

The bill would also establish \$26.92 million in cuts for the 2004-05 biennium, \$22.72 million of which are general fund reductions.

Public TV request returns

Following the 2001 special session, Gov. Jesse Ventura signed a bill that allocated \$7.8 million to public television through grants for digital conversion. He later advised the commissioner of administration to not sign an agreement with the Minnesota Public Television Association, upon which the money was contingent.

The Legislature has again passed a bill to fund the same request so public television does not go dark. The vote was 114-14 on March 14.

"Digital television conversion is not a core function of state government," wrote Steven Bosacker, the governor's chief of staff, in a letter to the commissioner.

But Rep. Dave Bishop (R-Rochester), sponsor of HF197, said he puts public television at a higher priority than the governor, noting it offers "a great deal of educational programs."

A federal mandate requires that all public television stations convert from an analog signal to digital by May 2003. The federal government will pay 45 percent of the cost only if the state pays 45 percent, leaving the remaining 10 percent to individual stations.

In order to stick to budget targets, Bishop's plan takes \$7.8 million for the conversion from the appropriation to construct bus garages on Snelling Avenue in St. Paul. That money is contained in the House bonding proposal.

The \$7.8 million is just enough for Minnesota's stations to meet the mandate and stay on the air, said Bill Strusinski, executive director of Minnesota Public Television Association. But he said he would be back next year asking for \$14 million more.

Strusinski testified at the March 12 meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee.

"Why (does it have) to be our dollars and not your own dollars?" asked Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul).

Strusinski said public television is "not flush with money," and the request is for less than what other states are paying.

The Senate version of the bill (SF107), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), was passed by that body by a 62-4 vote on Feb. 18.

State treasurer's office

In 1998 Minnesota voters approved the elimination of the state treasurer position, effective Jan. 6, 2003.

Now, one representative is trying to keep the position intact.

The House State Government Finance Committee approved HF2761, sponsored by Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), March 13. It now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Erickson's bill creates an office of the state treasurer. The treasurer would be appointed by the governor, just like commissioners of other agencies. Previously, the state treasurer has been an elected position.

"I'm not convinced we did the right thing in eliminating the treasurer's position," Erickson said. "I believe we still need the treasurer as a watchdog."

The language is also included in the committee's second budget reduction bill, HF3270, sponsored by Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview).

"We often take bills that might be in a conference committee and include them," she said.

Erickson said the bill is unique because it has no true Senate companion.

One Senate measure (SF891) sponsored by Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) would transfer duties of the state treasurer to the state auditor, but that bill was withdrawn and a different bill (SF2963) was introduced. That bill, which transfers the duties to the Department of Finance, passed the Senate 54-8 on March 8.

The committee adopted an amendment that would leave the treasurer on the state's Investment Advisory Council. An amendment that removes the treasurer from the line of gubernatorial succession was also adopted.

★ HEALTH

Bioterrorism plan

A House plan designed to improve the state's ability to respond to a bioterrorism attack cleared the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee March 7.

HF3031 clarifies the governor's emergency powers and outlines the rights of citizens quarantined to prevent the spread of disease.

Sponsored by Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe), the bill's emergency health powers trigger is bioterrorism, defined as "the intentional use or threatened use of a biological agent to harm or endanger members of the public."

The trigger in the Senate version of the bill (SF2669) is more broadly defined as a "public health emergency." Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato) is sponsoring that bill.

Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), a bill co-sponsor, said the plan has been "drastically reduced in size," and he said he would work to see that it stay modest in scale during any conference committee negotiations.

"This is just a first step," said Huntley, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth School of Medicine. "We'll be back here next year."

Shortly after the East Coast was shaken by

anthrax attacks in November, Huntley proposed legislation that would grant the state authority to "use and appropriate property as necessary" and destroy contaminated materials to curb the spread of disease.

In its current form, HF3031, among other things, grants the governor authority to declare a national security or peacetime emergency in the state in the event of a bioterrorism attack. The governor would be required to call the Legislature into session and consult with the commissioner of health before issuing the declaration.

The state would have the power to "isolate" individuals infected with communicable diseases from the public and "quarantine" those who have likely been exposed. But they would be entitled to "adequate food, clothing, shelter, and means of communication."

The commissioner of health would also be required to obtain permission from the court before isolating or quarantining an individual or group.

However, if the delay would "significantly jeopardize" the commissioner's ability to prevent spread of the disease, he or she would be allowed to go forward without court approval, but must get it within 72 hours.

An individual quarantined or isolated would also be allowed to request a court hearing.

HF3031 also directs the Department of Health to study other emergency health power issues and report back to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2003.

The department estimates the study would cost \$114,027, which will be funded by federal bioterrorism preparedness grants.

The rest of the provisions in the bill would sunset July 1, 2005.

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.

★ HUMAN SERVICES

Background checks

Counties would not be allowed to set aside a disqualifying criminal record and issue an emergency license to someone seeking work at a facility serving vulnerable adults, under a bill approved March 8 by the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

The 89-page bill (HF3166), sponsored by Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), contains a number of Department of Human Services policy changes. Attorney General Mike Hatch proposed some of the changes in response to an investigative series published by the *Star Tribune* in October 2001.

The series documented that the Department of Human Services had set aside the

criminal records of workers caring for the state's most vulnerable adults that would have otherwise barred them from employment.

Other sections in the bill contain technical modifications to continuing care programs requested by the Department of Human Services.

Under HF3166, the department would be authorized to review records held by a number of agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to determine an individual's criminal background.

The department could disqualify an applicant or revoke an employee's license if the individual failed to cooperate with the background screening process.

Volunteers at facilities or group homes that serve vulnerable adults and children would also be subject to a criminal background study if they are not under continuous and direct supervision.

The bill would also permit the human services commissioner to exchange private information about reports of maltreatment with the Department of Corrections. It would require the commissioner to provide the Ombudsman for Mental Health and Retardation with any active and inactive investigative data upon request.

Those disqualified because of a criminal past would be allowed to ask the department to reconsider. Individuals already on the job would be required to have continuous and direct supervision while the department reviews the case.

If someone has a license revoked or suspended at the conclusion of an investigation, he or she would be allowed to request a hearing.

The bill now goes to the House floor.

★ INDUSTRY

Telecommunications changes

The House passed legislation March 7 that would make minor changes to telecommunications laws in the state.

HF3125, sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), would instruct the commissioner of commerce to contract with a qualified vendor instead of a local consumer group, as is in current law, to provide telecommunication relay services to consumers.

In addition, the bill would change the name of the fund used to pay for the services to more clearly reflect that the funds provide access for communication-impaired people.

The House amended a provision into the bill that would allow, upon local approval, two Alexandria utilities to formalize a relationship.

The bill reads that the city may enter into a joint venture with Runestone Telephone Company and Runestone Electric Association to provide local niche service.

"The services have been a tremendous asset to the Alexandria area," said Rep. George Cassell (R-Alexandria), who moved the amendment. He explained that demand has grown fast for the Internet service niche.

A second amendment failed on a 61-68 vote. Under the provision, long distance phone companies would have been prohibited from charging calls made within school districts. Carried by Rep. Irv Anderson (DFL-Int'l Falls), it would have mostly benefited districts in Greater Minnesota.

Wolf said he strongly opposed the amendment. "This greatly expands the scope of bill."

Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) pointed out that his district passed a referendum to put a small charge on phone bills to cover long distance calls made within school districts. "Someone has to pay for this," he said.

The bill passed by a 130-0 vote. The Senate version, sponsored by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul), awaits action in that body.

Gas station owner rights

A statute that gives gas station owners additional rights to the land they occupy would become permanent, under a bill passed by the House March 7.

Gas stations are generally operated by franchisees that lease their locations. The law, first passed in 2000, required that the operator of the station be given an opportunity to purchase the property before the franchisor could sell it to a new franchisor.

The provision currently has a sunset date of July 1, 2002. The bill (HF2766), sponsored by Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), passed 130-0.

The controversy between franchisors and franchisees over the amount of flexibility each can retain has kept the law from becoming permanent. But this year, Haas said, no large oil companies came forward to oppose the bill as they had in previous years.

Haas said the franchisees won't lose any money under the bill, and it protects local businesses. For example, Haas said 26 of the 27 Murphy Oil Corporation service stations in Minnesota were recently purchased by individuals who had previously operated them under franchise because of the law.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. John Hottinger (DFL-Mankato), passed the Senate 57-0 on March 14. The bill now goes to the governor.

★ INSURANCE

Glass replacement language

The state's windshield insurance law has continued to evolve over the years. The House passed a bill 129-3 on March 7 that the sponsor said might finally satisfy both repair shops and insurance companies.

HF2570, sponsored by Rep. Ken Wolf (R-Burnsville), would change the current standard by which insurance companies have to pay claims from "competitive price" to "fair and reasonable."

Current law requires insurance companies to pay market price for glass replacement as determined by a survey of costs charged in communities around the state.

Wolf said that insurance payments for auto glass repair should be no different from payments for auto body repair whereby the market should determine the price. He said the bill makes the insurance process for glass replacement similar to the existing process for fender repairs.

"I think we got it to the right place now. I think most people are on board," he said.

According to information provided by American Family Insurance on claims filed between Jan. 1, 2001 and Oct. 31, 2001, the range of the costs was from \$334 to \$1,064. Wolf said that the national average is \$368 and in Minnesota it is \$441.

He said the bill would not give an unfair advantage to large repair shops over smaller ones. "If a shop has to charge \$1,000 for a \$368 repair then they don't deserve to stay in business."

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) said an amendment she offered that was adopted by the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee Feb. 12 may be unconstitutional in the way it is written. It would prohibit insurance companies from recommending a vendor to the insured unless requested by the insured. The language was included to address the issue of "steering," where insurance companies allegedly point consumers to preferred repair shops.

Clark encouraged Wolf to find suitable language to address the concern when the bill goes to conference committee.

Rep. John Tuma (R-Northfield) echoed Clark's concern, saying that the steering provision was essential because of the negative impact the practice has on smaller repair shops.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul), passed the Senate 63-0 on March 14.

LAW

Fireworks bill progresses

Every year Minnesotans cross state lines to buy firecrackers, sparklers, and other fireworks.

The House Judiciary Finance Committee approved a bill March 7 that would allow those devices to become legal in Minnesota. It now heads for the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Mark Holsten (R-Stillwater), HF1543 would allow the sale of fireworks for personal use from May 1 to July 15 and Dec. 1 to Jan. 2 and allow them to be used on private land from July 1-7 and Dec. 25 to Jan. 2. Holsten said 41 other states allow for the sale of fireworks.

Rep. Wes Skoglund (DFL-Mpls), was the leading opponent of the bill during the hearing.

He questioned if this would mean more fireworks being used in the state. Holsten said there would be more safe firework use with this bill, because a provision calls for the state fire marshal to develop and distribute safety information about using fireworks.

Skoglund also expressed concern about the physical well-being of people who misuse the fireworks.

"You're ignoring the human costs in this bill — people losing fingers, getting blinded, or having hearing loss," he said. "This is a step backwards. I don't why we're doing this."

"This will cause more emergency, fire, and police calls — all at a cost," said Bill Strusinski, representing the Minnesota Fire Chief's Association.

The criminal penalty for misusing fireworks would be a misdemeanor under the bill.

The bill, supported by Gov. Jesse Ventura, limits sales to retailers who are licensed by the state fire marshal. Among the criteria for a license are a stand-alone building with no more than 5,000 square feet of selling area, there must be one exit door per every 1,000 square feet of retail space, and the facility must be "equipped with an adequate number of smoke detectors."

However, novelty items, such as snakes, drop pops, smoke devices, and sparklers could be sold by any retailer.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

One instead of two

Having two asphalt plants within two blocks of each other in a Minneapolis neighborhood doesn't necessarily equate to being twice as good.

The House passed a bill March 7 by a 127-4

ST. PATRICK PIPER



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, Tom Klein, an Irish musician from St. Paul, plays "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" on the uilleann pipe March 14 in the House chamber. The instrument is an Irish bagpipe with air supplied by a bellows held under and worked by the elbow.

vote that would allow the city of Minneapolis to partner with a private company in building a new single plant.

Sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount), HF2796 would allow the city to enter into negotiations with the company. He said the public/private partnership would allow for cleaner asphalt production in the future.

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL-Mpls), whose district is the home to both plants, said the two individual plants are old, inefficient, "a source of pollution, and a concern to the neighbors."

He added that building the new plant on one of the existing sites would reduce air pollution while keeping jobs in the neighborhood.

The bill would allow the joint venture to occur but would require the city to issue a request for proposals to allow competitive bidding for the project.

Officials representing the private company

told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee Feb. 6 that the bill ensures a competitive process so that there is no advantage to any potential bidders, and would likely save 40 percent to 50 percent in asphalt production costs.

The bill requires the joint venture to provide a lower cost and reliable supply of asphalt for a 25-year period when compared to the current city facility.

The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls), passed the Senate 64-0 on March 14. It now goes to the governor.

Commission growth

Signed
by
the
governor

The Shakopee Public Utilities Commission will increase in size, under a law signed by Gov. Jesse Ventura March 7.

Sponsored by Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) and Sen. Claire Robling (R-Prior Lake), the law changes the commission from three members to five.

Shakopee has seen tremendous growth over the past decade, as has the entire northern Scott County region. Buesgens said the city's population doubled during the last decade and likely will double again by 2010.

The commission is responsible for the management of publicly owned water and electric utilities in the city. Its members serve three-year staggered terms and are appointed by the city council.

The law maintains the staggered terms. One position would expire on April 1, 2004, while the second additional position would expire on April 1, 2005 under the measure.

Taking effect upon local approval, the law will prohibit more than one city council member from serving on the commission.

HF2624*/SF2441/CH226

SAFETY

Checking security installers

Criminal background checks would be required for employees of electronic security system companies, under a bill that received the approval of the House Jobs and Economic Development Committee March 12.

"Once you have access to the codes, you can basically control it," said Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson), sponsor of HF2787.

Owners, company officers, and current and future employees of security systems would have to undergo a Minnesota criminal background check. Background checks would only

be required for licenses that come up for renewal, Hilty said.

The bill, which was also approved by House committees on crime prevention and judiciary finance, will now go to the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

HF2787 would cost \$136,000 in fiscal year 2003, and \$87,000 in each year of the 2004-2005 biennium. The 2003 amount includes funding for system modification, rulemaking, two full-time employees, one new workstation, and hearing costs.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension would be permitted to charge security companies for background checks, and the companies would be allowed to pass that cost on to employees or applicants.

An employee found to have a criminal history would have to be discharged and would lose their license under the bill. Failure for a company to conduct background checks would be a misdemeanor.

Installers of fire protection equipment would be exempt from the requirement.

TAXES



Stadium financing plan

People who buy newspapers or magazines could help pay for a new Minnesota Twins ballpark.

So said the House Taxes Committee, which narrowly approved a financing plan March 12 for a new baseball stadium.

The plan is a delete-all amendment to HF2214, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake). The bill, which now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee, passed on a 13-11 vote.

Under the amendment, offered by Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), at least one-half of funding for the \$340 million stadium would come from the team and other private sources. The team would be responsible for cost overruns.

"My concern is trying to come up with \$170 million to finance privately and fund operating losses until a new park is open," said Twins President Jerry Bell, referring to someone who may be interested in purchasing the team, which is for sale.

The remaining dollars would come from bonds issued by the city housing the facility.

In addition to facility revenues, including an admission ticket tax, bonds would be paid off with hospitality and hotel-motel taxes of up to 5 percent each, a minimum \$2 parking surcharge, and media access fees.

The plan does not include a tax on sports memorabilia or car rentals, two components



Minnesota Vikings Head Coach Mike Tice testifies March 8 before the House Taxes Committee in support of a new stadium to be used by the Vikings and the University of Minnesota football team.

of other proposals.

However, before a city can get in the running for a stadium, it must first win voter approval. The referendum vote would take place June 4. "That way city residents can decide if they want their city in competition for the ballpark," McElroy said.

The plan also calls for a statewide referendum during the Sept. 10 primary election that would impose a sales tax on newspapers and magazines to help pay off the bonds. The sales tax would also be available to provide funding for other sports facilities, such as a football stadium for the Minnesota Vikings and University of Minnesota. The tax would raise an estimated \$25.2 million annually.

McElroy does not want to wait until the Nov. 5 general election because he believes voter turnout will be high for the primary, and Major League Baseball owners could vote to contract the Twins before the general election, as they meet shortly after the World Series ends.

Rep. Ted Winter (DFL-Fulda) expressed concern about taxing smaller, weekly newspapers in Greater Minnesota to help with stadium funding. "I'd rather see user fees," he said.

"There is a myth that a stadium can be built with user fees," said Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair. "A lot of people are not going to like certain provisions in this bill, but we must have a financial plan that works."

St. Paul proposals

The Capital City would become home to the Minnesota Twins, under two proposals heard by the House Taxes Committee March 7.

The committee held three hearings March 6 through March 8 on various stadium proposals. The committee compiled one stadium proposal March 12, including some of the concepts in the St. Paul proposals.

HF2789, sponsored by Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul), would allow the city to impose a 3-percent citywide tax on retail sales of liquor, entertainment, and food. The city would also be authorized to impose a \$1 per ticket tax on events held in the stadium.

The state's contribution would be the issuance of bonds to finance the construction of the ballpark.

"The people of St. Paul are behind this bill," Osthoff said.

St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly said a stadium is a good investment because having 81 games with 2 million to 3 million fans coming downtown would add vitality and activity in the city.

The St. Paul City Council passed a unanimous resolution in support of the stadium proposal. Council President Dan Bostrom said the resolution includes putting a question on the September primary ballot asking for voter support of the proposed sales tax.

Jaye Rykuny, representing the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 17, said the union supports the proposal. She said the estimated payroll for the union members working at the ballpark would be around \$8 million per year. She added that around 400 part- and full-time jobs were created by the Xcel Energy Center.

Another St. Paul proposal (HF3433) before the committee would create a baseball park district surrounding the stadium. The idea, sponsored by Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul), would include development of mixed-income housing — including a percentage deemed affordable housing — restaurants, bars, and shops.

"Unlike the ill-conceived Metrodome where a stadium was simply plunked down, this concept ties a stadium to a broader vision — a place where people live, and a place where people shop," Paymar said.

The plan calls for the state to issue \$125 million in revenue bonds. The city would repay the bonds through several city taxes and other

A comparison of stadium bills considered

Bill and sponsor	Type	Tax changes	Financing	Other requirements
HF2214 Mares	Baseball now (\$340 million)**	ticket tax, 5% hospitality and hotel/motel tax for the local community, sales tax on newspapers and magazines subject to statewide referendum	\$2 parking surcharge, media access fees, city-issued revenue bonds local voter referendum for stadium	team held to 30-year lease with no escape clause
HF2513 Mares	Baseball	Up to 3% liquor, entertainment, and food tax	Met Council issued revenue bonds 49% of team owned locally;	Tax subject to referendum, team held to 30-year lease with no escape clause, rent, ticket, and other lease requirements.
HF2789 Osthoff	Baseball in St. Paul	3% liquor, entertainment, and food tax in St. Paul; stadium ticket tax	State GO* bonds	
HF3433 Paymar	Baseball in St. Paul	Stadium sales tax, ticket tax, parking surcharge; 13% tax on metropolitan area sports memorabilia purchases	Revenue bonds	team held to 30-year lease with no escape clause
HF3659 Gray	Baseball in Mpls. (\$370 million)**	2% food and alcohol tax in downtown Mpls.; 1% lodging tax citywide; 6% tax on vehicle rentals in Hennepin County; ticket surcharge; sales tax on Twins memorabilia and merchandise	Revenue or GO* bonds from Hennepin County and Mpls.	team held to 20-year lease with no escape clause
HF3658 Goodno	Football in Mpls. (\$440 million)**	Tax on wholesale sports memorabilia purchases	Game-day parking surcharge; naming rights to stadium; \$2.1 million from the state lottery	team held to 30-year lease with no escape clause

*General obligation bonds backed by the state's taxing powers.

**Not all proposals list a total stadium cost.

revenue sources, including an additional sales tax at the stadium, a ticket tax, a \$2 per vehicle parking surcharge, and a 13-percent metropolitan area tax on professional sports memorabilia.

Minneapolis stadium plan

The House Taxes Committee heard a proposal March 8 that would keep the Minnesota Twins in Minneapolis with a \$370 million roof-ready ballpark near the city's entertainment district.

The bill requires public financing of up to \$205 million under the bill (HF3659), sponsored by Rep. Gregory Gray (DFL-Mpls). The Twins would be required to contribute \$125 million with an additional \$50 million coming from other private sources.

So far, the bill does not seek any state funding for the stadium.

The Hennepin County Board estimates using \$185 million in bonds, and the contribution for city of Minneapolis is capped at a \$10 million.

"There is sizeable support at all levels for having the Twins stadium in Minneapolis," Gray said.

The bill would require that the bonds be paid

off with a 2-percent tax on food and alcohol sold in restaurants in the downtown taxing area, a 1-percent citywide lodging tax, a 6-percent countywide tax on motor vehicle rentals, and a surcharge on ticket sales at the ballpark. In addition taxes on ticket sales at the ballpark, income taxes from the ballplayers and a sales tax on Twins memorabilia, clothing, and novelties would also go to repay the bonds.

The bill does not specify what kind of bonds — either general obligation or revenue-based bonds — must be used. In fact, the final plan can include a combination of both, as well.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), the committee chair, said that the use of the term "user fees" to finance the park should be clarified. Abrams said he was not speaking specifically to the Minneapolis proposal but that sales tax on restaurants and bars would also be paid by patrons not attending baseball games.

"The 25 members of this committee and the 134 members of the House can handle the truth," Abrams said.

Mike Opat, chair of the Hennepin County board, agreed the term should be used carefully but that the amount of people the stadium would bring into the area would greatly benefit the businesses in the district.

Of all the proposed sites for a new stadium, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak said the location near the city's garbage burning plant was the most responsible use of public funding since the existing infrastructure would allow easy access in and out of the area.

During his city's testimony, St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly questioned putting an outdoor park near the garbage facility. Opat said electricity generated at the plant could serve the ballpark. Adding that the issues of parking and access should not be dismissed either, he said that getting to the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul is easier by riverboat than by automobile.

Sam Grabarski, president of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, said that there are 167,000 downtown workers and that 70 percent attend Twins baseball games at least once per year.

Concepts, though not specifics, in the bill were included in the stadium package approved by the committee March 12.

Football plans

A \$440 million retractable roof football stadium built on the University of Minnesota campus would provide a home for the Gophers and Minnesota Vikings, under a bill heard by the

House Taxes Committee March 8.

HF3658, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), would create a sports facilities account that could fund not only a football stadium, but also a baseball park and improvements to existing facilities.

Revenue sources for the account, under the bill, must include a combination of the following: a tax on wholesale purchases of sports memorabilia, \$2.1 million annually from the state lottery, a surcharge on game day parking, and naming rights for the new stadium.

Goodno, who chaired the stadium task force during the interim, said the bill incorporates many of the group's recommendations.

Mike Kelly, executive vice president of the Vikings, said that if the state is going to help build a football facility, now is the time. The bill would incorporate a \$51.5 million loan from the National Football League. Kelly said it is likely that loan program will not be continued past next year.

The bill also requires the Vikings to contribute \$100 million and the University to provide the land for the stadium and a 4,000-space parking ramp.

Kelly said the Vikings are nearing a financial crisis and that the Metrodome is no longer an NFL-caliber stadium. The team ranked 26th in total local revenues last season and will rank 31st by 2004.

The popularity of the sport remains high, Kelly said. Viking games are the highest rated television show in the market, according to the Nielsen Ratings, and the team is second to the Green Bay Packers in local market ratings.

Rep. Bob Milbert (DFL-South St. Paul) said that sports add to the quality of life around the area. He said that he supports the approach of creating a facilities dedicated account because it would help address not only the needs of the Vikings and Gophers, but the Twins as well.

The plan was not included in the bill approved by the committee March 12.

Change-up in plans

Minnesota Twins President Jerry Bell said the team's 2001 proposal for a stadium was for the team to pay for one-third of the cost, a local unit of government where the park was to be located to pay for one-third, and the state to provide one-third through an interest free loan.

Bell told the House Taxes Committee March 8 that HF2513, sponsored by Rep. Harry Mares (R-White Bear Lake), has been amended so that little remains of what the team initially envisioned.

As it is currently drafted, the bill would authorize the Metropolitan Council to issue an unspecified amount of revenue bonds after a

local unit of government enters into an agreement with the Twins for a roof-ready ballpark that is owned by the local government.

Mares said the bill would require that the team use the park for 30 years without an escape clause. It also would authorize the local unit of government to impose a local liquor, entertainment, and food tax of up to 3 percent, subject to a referendum.

Under the bill, the team owner must work with the governor, the chair of the Met Council, and a community foundation to transfer 49 percent of the team to the foundation to ensure that the team remains in Minnesota.

Committee members questioned whether public funds should be provided without a requirement that the game itself adopt reforms to address the ability of smaller market teams to compete.

"This industry is in a death spiral," Rep. Philip Krinkie (R-Shoreview) said, pointing out much of the revenue the team is seeking with a new stadium, such as revenue generated by the naming rights, will instead go to the costs of paying off the bonds issued, under the plan.

Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) said the bill doesn't address the real problem — the imbalance in player salaries among large market teams, such as the New York Yankees, and small market teams like the Twins. He said that many teams with newer ballparks lost money last season.

Bell said that Minnesota is a midsize market, not a small one as it is often referred to, and that baseball owners are unified in their resolve that the game adopt "substantial" revenue sharing between teams.

Portions of this bill, including no escape from the lease, were included in the final bill approved by the committee March 12.

Public sentiment

After devoting three days of hearings to discuss various stadium financing proposals for the Minnesota Twins, Vikings, and Gophers, the House Taxes Committee heard from members of the public March 8.

Patrick Hill, representing Financial Accountability for New Stadiums, said the current condition of Major League Baseball is "so fundamentally flawed" that a new stadium will do little to help the Twins.

He pointed to findings from the league's own Blue Ribbon Panel on Baseball Economics that said seven of the teams that had new publicly funded stadiums built in the 1990s still have financial woes.

Hill said threats of contracting the Twins created an "artificial crisis" to hold taxpayers hostage in the use of public funds to build a stadium.

"Somebody in this country has to stand up to the greed of major league sports and say no," he said.

Martha Easton, a political sociologist representing Progressive Minnesota, spoke against a discussed provision that would require any local referendum be held in June.

She said that holding a vote on stadium funding would not allow the proper time for adequate discussion of the issue. She said special elections have traditionally low voter turnout and the stadium issue would likely lead to the spending of large amounts of money to sway opinions on an issue involving a corporate entity.

She said she prefers the question be put to voters in the November general election.

Joe Marble, representing Citizens United for Baseball, helped last fall in the effort to gather petition signatures to present to Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig in support of the team and against contraction. He said he was surprised at how many people in North Dakota and South Dakota were fans of the team.

"The Twins are an asset to the entire Midwest region," Marble said.

He spoke against any local referendum requirement saying that one city should not be able to decide the fate of a regional asset.

TRANSPORTATION



Possible gas tax increase

A House committee has abandoned a plan to increase the state's gas tax by a fixed rate in favor of a plan that would allow for yearly increases as needed.

Committee Chair Rep. Carol Molnau (R-Cologne) presented HF3364 to the House Transportation Finance Committee March 8. The amended bill is the result of a delete-all amendment that incorporated the intent of HF2680, sponsored by Rep. Bernie Lieder (DFL-Crookston).

The bill, now sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), would allow the commissioner of revenue to increase the tax on gasoline and other fuels yearly as needed to pay off \$1.25 billion in bonds issued by the state between 2003 and 2012.

It also sets up a major project account where the new tax money would go. The plan would not affect the 20 cents per gallon tax that is currently collected.

The bill specifies that in fiscal year 2003, the new revenue be split three ways with one-third going to highway improvements in at-risk interregional corridors that are primarily outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The remaining two-thirds must go to removing bottlenecks and improving highway safety and capacity, under the bill.

After 2003, 95 percent would be evenly split between interregional corridors outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area and bottleneck reduction within the metro area. The remaining 5 percent would be designated for “trunk highway-related advantages to transit” statewide.

But defining “advantage to transit” created some debate. Several legislators said that the wording needs to be more clear in the bill before it reaches the House floor. No firm definition of the phrase was given in committee.

The bill would also create an exemption to a ban on entering into new consultant contracts. That provision is part of the omnibus budget balancing agreement that became law March 1 after the Legislature overrode Gov. Jesse Ventura’s veto.

The exception would allow the state Department of Transportation to continue to hire contractors to finish road construction projects, Molnau said.

The bill now moves to the House Capital Investment Committee.

Overweight fees

The House passed a bill March 7 that would limit how much truck drivers can be charged for hauling too much weight.

The vote was 94-36.

Rep. Mike Osskopp (R-Lake City), the sponsor of HF2884*/SF2715, said he brought the bill on behalf of a constituent who makes about \$450 a week but was fined \$46,000 after his milk truck was found to be overweight.

Current law allows law enforcement to fine drivers for an overweight violation but also allows fines to be assessed based on records from the previous 30 days.

STATE CHAMPS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Rep. Bob Milbert reads a resolution in the House chamber March 11 honoring the 2002 state girls hockey champions from South St. Paul High School.

The bill limits the fine for violations to \$10,000 and only allows law enforcement to assess fines up to 14 days prior to the violation.

It also allows shippers to throw out shipping records after 14 days. Current law requires shippers to keep records for 30 days.

Osskopp said the bill would make the punishment more fitting to the crime.

Rep. Richard Mulder (R-Ivanhoe) offered a successful amendment on the House floor that would double the usual overweight fines for truck drivers who intentionally evade weigh stations.

Overweight trucks can damage roads and cost the state large amounts of money.

During a Feb. 14 hearing in the House Transportation Policy Committee, Rep. Torrey

Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) said the bill may not help much since many truck drivers couldn’t afford a \$10,000 fine any more than a \$40,000 fine.

If the goal of the fine is to compensate for damage done to roads the fine should be \$5 million, he said.

The fine is also unique since police are usually not able to fine people for violations committed in the past, he added.

“We don’t have other laws where police can just send you a ticket for what you did 29 days ago,” Westrom said.

The bill passed the Senate 63-0 on March 14. It now goes to the governor. Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing) sponsored the Senate version.



Learn not to burn

Students ignite spark for legislation to raise safety awareness

First grade students at Nathaniel Morton Elementary School in Plymouth, Mass., were so touched by a December 1999 fire that claimed the lives of six firefighters they decided the state should do something to honor the victims.

The cause of the Worcester, Mass., fire was the misuse of a candle, and thus, the students worked with their state representative to bring attention to the need for candle safety awareness. In the 2000 session, Massachusetts’ lawmakers passed a bill establishing the second Monday in December as “Candle Safety Awareness Day.” The governor signed it into law.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, candles cause close to 10,000 home fires

each year, 85 percent of which are due to misuse. Such blazes kill about 120 people nationwide annually and result in \$145 million in damage.

The goal of Massachusetts’ Candle Safety Awareness Day is to educate people on how to prevent candle fires from expanding beyond the wick. Leading causes of the fires include leaving candles unattended or inadequately controlled, placing candles near combustible materials, and children playing with candles.

Nationwide misuse of candles isn’t the only safety issue. In 2001, the Consumer Product Safety Commission banned the use of lead candlewicks citing concerns with the amount of toxic emissions emitted from candles made

with metal wicks (many of them manufactured for the booming aromatherapy industry).

American candle makers agreed to stop using lead wicks in 1974 but the \$3.2 billion industry includes much importing of candles from other countries, many of which don’t regulate the use of lead in wicks.

Although few regulations exist for candle makers both domestically and abroad, the history of such regulation goes back to the Middle Ages. For example, English law of 1381 required makers and sellers of candles to assure the quality of their product or face penalties including exile from the country.

(D. MAEDA)

Slicing some more

Health and human services programs take another cut as lawmakers work to balance the state budget

By SARAH MCKENZIE

A plan to cut an additional \$61.6 million in health and human services spending passed the House 72-60 on March 14 as part of a Republican plan to shore up the remaining \$439 million budget deficit for the current biennium.

The Legislature previously approved \$95.9 million in health and human services spending cuts to help address a projected \$1.95 billion deficit for the current biennium.

The plan would also transfer \$325 million from the Tobacco Prevention Endowment to the general fund, a move criticized by House DFLers for reducing spending on teen smoking prevention.

Republicans argued the move is necessary to spare programs from deeper cuts. It would reduce statewide tobacco prevention grants from \$17.8 million a year to \$2.3 million, but maintain \$4.4 million in grants for local efforts.

House members defeated a number of DFL amendments offered on the floor, including a plan to take \$245 million from the trunk highway fund in place of the Republican plan to drain down the tobacco fund. A measure to require public places to have barriers or ventilation systems to reduce second-hand smoke in non-smoking areas was also defeated.

"This bill goes after our most needy citizens and balances the budget on their backs," said Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth).

Republicans, however, countered that although the plan would affect the state's most "vulnerable citizens," the bill is a responsible response to the state's looming budget shortfall. Further, they criticized the House DFL caucus for failing to come forward with an alternative plan.

The bill is the largest piece of the second phase of budget reductions proposed by the House to balance the state's budget. Several other bills traveling through the House provide further reductions to other parts of state government.

Rep. Kevin Goodno (R-Moorhead), the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee chair and bill sponsor, said that

since "education has been taken off the table" for spending reductions, health and human services programs had to take a larger hit.

The bill cleared the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee and Ways and Means Committee earlier in the week, along with two abortion-related amendments offered by Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie).

One measure would require women to receive information about the procedure at least 24 hours before the scheduled abortion. The other would prohibit groups from receiving state family planning grants if they refer

In committee, Rep. Betty Folliard (DFL-Hopkins) criticized House Republicans for proceeding with a "stealth bill," arguing the majority's approach left minority members with little time to propose amendments.

Goodno and other Republican members challenged Folliard's criticism by noting the committee provided the public and House members with ample opportunity to come up with alternative solutions.

"We listened to 77 witnesses during 10 hours of testimony to find the best way to protect seniors, people with disabilities, and current coverage for children," Goodno said.

Under the plan, the \$61.6 million target in spending cuts would be met by the following, among other things:

- limiting use of the state's General Assistance and Emergency General Assistance programs, saving \$696,000 in 2003 and about \$16 million in the 2004-05 biennium;
- reducing state special family planning grants



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Members of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee debate an abortion amendment at the March 12 committee meeting.

patients for abortions.

A motion to remove the "informed consent" section of the bill failed in the House Ways and Means Committee. A similar amendment to strike the abortion language from the bill failed on the House floor on a 48-84 vote.

The budget plan would also restore \$17.2 million in county funding for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which was cut earlier. The University of Minnesota would also receive \$350,000 to continue the "U Special Kids" program for children with severe medical problems.

by 25 percent, saving \$1.1 million in 2003;

- repealing a plan to cover more children with the state's Medical Assistance health plan program, dubbed "Cover All Kids," saving \$13.8 million this biennium and \$66.26 million in 2004-05; and
- consolidating the General Assistance Medical Care program into MinnesotaCare, the state's subsidized health care plan, resulting in net savings of \$37.3 million.

The "Cover All Kids" program was the governor's initiative passed by the Legislature during the 2001 special session.

The General Assistance program serves more than 23,000 low income Minnesotans without children who don't qualify for other state or federal programs. Those enrolled don't pay premiums like those on MinnesotaCare.

Folliard and Huntley objected to the consolidation and said it would shift costs to counties and hospitals.

Huntley predicted state hospitals would lose money because MinnesotaCare caps hospital treatment coverage at \$10,000 per year.

Under the plan that cap would be waived for individuals meeting the federal poverty guideline, meaning they earn a minimum of \$8,860 a year.

Under the proposed consolidation, children, senior citizens over 65 and patients at institutes for mental disease would be able to keep their General Assistance benefits.

Rep. Luanne Koskinen (DFL-Coon Rapids) criticized the plan for shifting the cost of state welfare programs to counties. She also predicted the cuts would lengthen waiting lists at state regional treatment centers.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) challenged

criticism of the agreement, saying the committee took great pains to spare senior citizens, the working poor, and others served by state programs.

He also applauded efforts to safeguard a prescription drug program for the disabled.

"We have a \$2.4 billion shortfall and it's painful," Abeler said. "This is not a perfect plan, but it's a plan."

Folliard sharply criticized the abortion amendments, calling the "informed consent" measure a "women are stupid" bill.

Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault) said most women in her district support the measure and said she was offended by Folliard's description.

Otremba said some abortion providers don't provide women with adequate information.

"This bill empowers women," she said.

In the Ways and Means Committee, members suggested that the abortion provisions mark the bill for sure veto, because the governor does not support the plan.

Because the abortion amendments are policy provisions in the finance bill, the

governor would be required to veto the entire bill in order to veto the provisions. He vetoed the same measure in 2001.

Besides the contentious abortion provisions, the Health and Human Services Finance Committee wrestled over the proposal to transfer more than \$300 million from the Tobacco Prevention Endowment to the general fund.

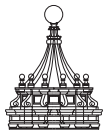
Huntley said state-funded prevention programs targeting teen smoking have had "remarkable success" and have already yielded results.

He unsuccessfully offered an amendment to strike the provision in the bill that transfers money from the Tobacco Prevention Endowment and a provision barring the Department of Health from adopting rules related to the Clean Indoor Air Act without legislative approval.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester) said it's too early to measure the success of the programs and tie them to lower teen smoking rates. He said the lower smoking rates are more likely the result of increases in the cost of cigarettes.

Health and human services budget reductions as part of the second phase of the House budget-balancing plan

- Shifts budget reserves from State Operated Services accounts to the general fund, saving \$7.75 million in fiscal year 2003 and \$5 million the next biennium;
- Limits eligibility for General Assistance payments to six months in two years instead of one year, saving an estimated \$696,000 this biennium;
- Limits use of Emergency General Assistance, a cash assistance program for low income people, to once every 18 months instead of a year, saving an estimated \$3.2 million in the 2004-05 biennium;
- Reduces family planning special project grants by 25 percent, trimming \$1.1 million from the deficit this biennium;
- Transfers extra money from a chemical dependency treatment fund to the general fund, resulting in a \$6.6 million savings in fiscal year 2003;
- Eliminates an automatic 24-month extension for those enrolled in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) that wish to count education and training toward an employment plan, saving \$460,000 this biennium;
- Raises the income limit for families on MFIP to 120 percent of federal poverty guidelines (\$21,180 for a family of four) from 117 percent (\$20,651 for a family of four), trimming \$302,000 from the deficit this biennium;
- Consolidates the General Assistance Medical Care program into MinnesotaCare, saving an estimated \$37 million this biennium; and
- Repeals the "Cover All Kids" initiative, which was set to take effect July 1. It would have expanded the number of children covered by the state's Medical Assistance program. Repealing the program would save the state \$13.8 million in 2003 and \$66.3 million in the next biennium.



NOTES

Former member passes away

Former Rep. Carolyn Rodriguez (DFL-Apple Valley) died March 7 of bone cancer. She was 58.

Rodriguez represented District 53A from 1981 to 1982 and 37A from 1983 to 1984.

(Redistricting occurred between Rodriguez's two terms.) During her time in the House, she served on the Commerce/Economic Development, Education, Local/Urban Affairs, and Transportation committees. During her second term, she was the vice chair of the House Education Committee.

After leaving the House, Rodriguez continued her involvement in a number organizations, including several legislative commissions, business and political

caucuses, the Regional Transit Board Advisory Committee, and the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board.

Rodriguez is survived by her husband, Jesus Rodriguez Domingo of Apple Valley; her son Roberto Andres Rodriguez Deshon of Edina; her father, Dr. George Deshon of California and his wife Viva; her twin brother, George Deshon, Jr., of Hawaii; and her sister Susan Deshon of Oregon.

Cross-checking evidence

Plan would expand collection and number of DNA samples in the state's database

By LISA HILTON

On Nov. 17, 1991, the body of Jean Broderick was found bound and gagged in the woman's Minneapolis home.

After an analysis of DNA evidence recovered from the crime scene, Martin Estrada Perez was charged with rape and first-degree murder in connection with her death. Based on the strength of that DNA evidence, Perez was sentenced in 1993 to life in prison without parole.

Although the scenario is common enough today, the case marked the first time in the United States that anyone had been identified based on a DNA sample that matched one contained in a database.

The identification of Perez as a suspect was the result of a law enacted in 1990 that required law enforcement officials to collect DNA samples from sex offenders convicted of first- through fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Since Perez had previously been convicted of rape, his DNA was in the state database and was successfully matched to DNA from the crime scene.

Minnesota has since had 43 other "cold hits," when a suspect is identified through DNA matches from the database.

In fact, DNA collection proved so successful in solving crimes that the 1999 Legislature expanded the law to include samples from persons convicted of other violent crimes against people, such as murder, manslaughter, assault, robbery, kidnapping, first-degree burglary, and incest.

The law was again expanded during the 2001 special session to require specimens from those convicted of fifth-degree sexual conduct, as well as those incarcerated for any offense who have been convicted of a qualifying offense in the past.

And the database may soon expand again.

A provision in the House anti-terrorism package would require law enforcement to collect DNA samples from all felons. The samples would then be sent to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) lab to be retained until the

Legislature approves funding for analysis, said Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), the sponsor of the plan (HF2622).

The bill awaits action in the House Ways and Means Committee.

The plan would allow the state to expand the database without spending additional money on analysis at a time when the Legislature is struggling to balance the budget, he

last year are expected to bump that number up to 4,000.

The latest change will send the number of DNA sample submissions soaring to 21,000 a year, Stanek said.

That much of an increase will require about eight additional staff members to analyze the samples, Dolejsi said.

According to the BCA, analyzing samples from every felon would cost the state about \$2.2 million the first year, and \$1.4 million for every subsequent year.

Each sample costs the state about \$50 to analyze, and costs local law enforcement agencies between \$20 to \$50 to collect.

Although increasing the database is expensive, it will save money in the long run since it

"Having these DNA databases does solve crimes. It saves law enforcement and society in general a lot of money and gets these people off the street."

— Frank Dolejsi, director,
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
Forensic Science Laboratory

said. "Why should we lose a year's worth of samples?"

Stanek said he anticipates the Legislature will approve funding for analysis of the samples next year when it sets the budget for the 2004-2005 biennium.

The timing also makes sense because a new BCA building in St. Paul is slated to open next spring, Stanek said. The building was designed to accommodate the increase in database samples.

In a report provided to the 2002 Legislature, Frank Dolejsi, director of the bureau's Forensic Science Laboratory, encouraged the Legislature to make the change.

"Having these DNA databases does solve crimes," he told members of the House and Senate crime prevention committees during a joint meeting earlier this session. "It saves law enforcement and society in general a lot of money and gets these people off the street."


But those collections should not be mandated unless the state is willing to put some money into the project, Dolejsi said.

Between 1990 and 2000, the state collected about 1,000 samples a year. The change made two years ago resulted in sample submissions jumping to 3,000 annually, and changes made

reduces investigation costs, Dolejsi said.

Ten states now require DNA samples for all felony convictions, and Colorado is scheduled to begin the practice March 31. Texas has also approved a similar law but did not set an effective date.

Minnesota's database is also linked to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National DNA Index system, allowing states to cooperate in apprehending criminals. In 1997, Minnesota became the first state to have a "cold hit" using the national database. That database contains almost 800,000 known DNA samples.

Dolejsi cited Florida as an example of how expanding the law could help solve crime. In May 2000, the state began collecting samples from offenders convicted of all levels of burglary. As of February 2001, Florida had 357 matches to their database compared to Minnesota's 34. 

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Unemployment extension

Committee awards Farmland workers 52 weeks, denies other requests

BY THERESA STAHL

In a year of decreased spending, the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee has only considered funding the extension of unemployment benefits.

Several companies were turned away March 8 when the committee, in its omnibus bill (HF3648), decided to grant extra benefits for Farmland Food Company workers. It is the only proposal that meets the governor's requirements, which include either a declaration of bankruptcy or shutdown of operations and that the company be located in a rural area.

Those denied were Fingerhut Corporation, Inc., airline and related industries, and the 3M plant located on St. Paul's east side.

Workers who qualify for full unemployment benefits from the state can be paid a percentage of their salary for up to 26 weeks.

Committee Chair Rep. Dan McElroy (R-Burnsville), sponsor of the bill, said he was concerned about expanding unemployment benefits too much.

"Every penny comes from businesses and every penny comes in the form of higher prices or lower wages," he said.

Under the bill, Farmland's former employees would receive a maximum 52 weeks of unemployment benefits to collect within two years, provided the applicant is enrolled in a training program.

Farmland won the committee's approval because of its particular situation. The company's Albert Lea plant, which burned in July 2001, never reopened, forcing 425 people to be laid off. About 200 of those workers are still unemployed, according to Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), original sponsor of the Farmland proposal (HF2636).

Unlike the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Albert Lea and the surrounding communities do not offer as many resources for finding other employment. Farmland officials are also considering rebuilding the plant, which would

cost \$70 million to \$80 million and take three to four years, according to Bill Avery, a union representative.

"The chances of rebuilding would be diminished" if the workforce left the area, said Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont). The former plant employees have fewer options than Fingerhut or airline workers, he said.

Like Farmland, Fingerhut has locations in Greater Minnesota. However, McElroy said the state has never before granted an extension of benefits before a layoff occurred. Currently, the company has not declared bankruptcy and may not be completely closed.

Rep. Joe Opatz (DFL-St. Cloud), sponsor of the Fingerhut legislation, pointed out that 2,000 workers received warning notices in early February saying that they would be laid off in 60 days.

There is uncertainty about what will happen with the company, whether it will close or be consolidated, Opatz said, "but there is no uncertainty about whether there are going to be significant layoffs."

"We're not going to be in session to solve this problem until next January," said Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm). People may be more inclined to stay in Minnesota if they know their benefits will be extended, he said.

Recent federal legislation, however, would benefit Fingerhut workers because it enables people to receive up to 13 additional weeks of

unemployment benefits. That law applies to people who filed for unemployment after March 15, 2001.

That legislation was pending at the time of the committee hearing, and McElroy reasoned that if workers were laid off before June 30, 2002 they would qualify for the federal law, and if they were laid off after that date, their benefits would not run out before the Legislature is back in session in 2003.

The Farmland provision would include any additional weeks granted by the federal government in the 52 weeks of unemployment benefits available.

Another proposal, discussed at the committee's March 7 meeting, would grant extra unemployment benefits to airline workers, as well as employees of related industries, such as travel agencies and companies that provide meals to airlines.

Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington), the sponsor of the airline industry measure originally contained in HF2750, said the events of Sept. 11 have "seriously curtailed" those businesses.

The committee did not include Larson's bill in its final omnibus measure.

McElroy said he didn't support the airline provisions because the workers live in the most prosperous area of the state and the same argument could be made for any business in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Carolyn Dahm, chair of the legislative committee for a Northwest Airlines union, said it is expensive to be unemployed. "We are not looking for a grandiose lifestyle."

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) offered an unsuccessful amendment to the Larson bill that would grant the same extension of unemployment benefits to workers at the 3M St. Paul plant. He said the plant will soon be laying off 500 people.

The cost of the Paymar amendment would be \$4.5 million, which would be billed back to 3M, according to officials at the Department of Economic Security.

"This is a good investment in our workforce," said Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls). "It's much more difficult to help people out of a homeless situation."

The bill now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

At the Minnesota Workforce Center's Midway location, people can file for unemployment benefits online, check for job listings, and post a resume.

Tracking ATVs

Bill would provide for more monitoring of all-terrain vehicles and their effect on forests

By SARAH MCKENZIE

On the heels of news reports showing erosion, wetland damage, and rutting in some northern Minnesota forests stemming from heavy all-terrain vehicle (ATV) use, a House committee is trying to do something about the problem.

A plan funding stepped-up monitoring of ATV use in the state's forests was approved by the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee March 7.

The bill's next stop is the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee.

HF2970, sponsored by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), originally called for \$825,000 for monitoring, enforcement activities, and environmental reviews of proposed trails.

The committee, however, approved a delete-all amendment to square the bill with a Senate companion measure (SF3010) that appropriates \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2003 for increased enforcement and monitoring of the recreational vehicles.

The Senate bill, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls), awaits a floor vote in that body.

Special accounts funded by user fees would pay for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) appropriation: \$700,000 from the ATV account, \$460,000 from the off-road vehicle account, and \$55,000 from the off-highway motorcycle account.

Fees are collected under current law, but the bill would provide a specific direction for how the money should be spent.

Dennis Asmussen, director of the DNR Trails and Waterways Division, said the appropriation would bolster the agency's ability to identify environmental problems and confront illegal activities.

The \$1.2 million appropriation would pay for three additional conservation officers dedicated to enforcement. It would also provide for five technicians, nine seasonal workers to help with trail monitoring and maintenance, and an environmental review specialist.

Susan Solterman, public policy director for



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

A bill moving through the House would increase the state's ability to monitor all-terrain vehicle use in state forests.

the Minnesota Audubon Society, called the appropriation an important first step.

"Increased enforcement goes a long way," Solterman said.

However, she called on state policy-makers to limit ATV use to designated trails. She noted that states surrounding Minnesota have adopted that policy.

Currently the state allows cross-country all-terrain vehicle travel in 46 of 58 Minnesota forests.

Solterman distributed copies of a *Star Tribune* poll showing that 72 percent of respondents believe ATVs should be allowed only on special trails. The poll included views from 1,027 adults surveyed statewide Feb. 2-6.

The Minnesota Audubon Society pushed for off-highway vehicle regulation during the 2001 session, but bills in the both the House and the Senate stalled.

In a policy statement, the society asserted: "While (off-highway vehicle) riders represent a minority of the users of our public lands, the inappropriate use of these vehicles by some is causing conflicts with other users and serious environmental harm in our forests, parks, and trails."

Members of the committee approved an amendment to HF2970 limiting recreational motor vehicles in state-managed forests to designated trails and roads. Licensed hunters and trappers, however, would be exempt during the harvesting season.

The DNR proposed a similar plan during the 2000 legislative session but it did not become law.

Representing the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, Ray Bohn said users "feel comfortable" with the proposed restrictions. Currently users can ride across any "pristine meadowland," he added.

The association and two other advocacy groups for off-highway vehicles supported the measure that would apply to all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, and 4x4 vehicles.

"Our goal as ATVers is to develop a quality trail system, well-maintained and properly enforced, that will provide a good riding experience for those who want to recreate on ATVs," Sonia Bartz, president of the All-Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota, wrote in a March 8 statement. "We can accomplish that goal in an environmentally friendly manner and be a good neighbor with the other users of our public lands."

Testifying in support of the amendment, DNR Deputy Commissioner Steve Morse said the plan signals a significant policy change for Minnesota. He called it consistent with the department's view that "cross-country travel is inappropriate in state forests."

The committee vote came a day after the department announced a series of initiatives to curb environmental damage stemming from all-terrain vehicle use, including a plan banning cross-country ATV travel on 25,000 acres in the Finland State Forest and Lake County forest lands.

Additionally, Commissioner Allen Garber announced plans to conduct an environmental review of all-terrain vehicle use in the Spider Lake Recreation Area in Foot Hills State Forest, in north-central Minnesota.

The committee also considered off-road recreational motor vehicle use March 8, approving HF1359, sponsored by Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount). It directs the department to designate a minimum of 90 miles of trails for all-terrain vehicles, among other things.

The committee referred the Ozment bill to the House Taxes Committee.

Morse said designating 90 miles of ATV trails would be a challenge for the department.

Rep. Tom Osthoff (DFL-St. Paul) called it a "modest" proposal. He noted that the state has created spaces for a number of other recreational purposes and said it should do the same for all-terrain vehicle riders. 🐾

Vacancy on Summit Avenue

Budget crunch prompts governor to announce closure of official residence, but move may make renovation easier

By LISA HILTON

In light of a recent budget agreement that trims \$175,000 from Gov. Jesse Ventura's \$2.2 million security budget, Ventura has announced he will move out of the Governor's Residence next month to save money.

If he does, it will be the first time a governor has not lived in the Summit Avenue mansion since it was donated to the state in 1965.

The residence has been in the news lately for other reasons as well. Proposals to renovate the approximately 16,000 square-foot building have received support from Ventura and are being considered by the Legislature.

Dan Creed, manager of the residence, said if the first family no longer uses the house, it would likely be abandoned.

"Based on the governor's comments, it would just be locked up," Creed said.

Although crews would still have to take care of basic maintenance, the state could save about \$100,000 in security costs next year. It could also save about \$550,000 annually in operating costs. In addition to Creed, the residence has seven full-time employees.

It would also mean hundreds of schoolchildren and others who tour the house each year would not get a chance to see it. More than 5,000 people each year tour the home's public areas.

Sam Grabarski, chair of the Governor's Residence Council, said it is up to each governor to decide whether to live in the house, but the home should still be maintained as a place to host distinguished guests.

It would reflect poorly on the state to have to put up foreign dignitaries and other distinguished guests in hotels, Grabarski said. High-profile guests such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Al and Tipper Gore, Mikhail Gorbachev, Kevin Garnett, and Jack Nicholson have stayed at the home.

According to state law, the Governor's Residence, "must be

used for official ceremonial functions of the state, and to provide suitable living quarters for the governor."

Although its deed states that the house may have to be torn down if not used by the state, that language has expired due to a sunset clause placed on covenant restrictions to donated property, Grabarski said.

In addition, the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and St. Paul's Historic Site Register, which would make it very hard to tear down, he said.

Some lawmakers are looking into whether Ventura is legally entitled to close the house, since it is a publicly owned building, Creed said. "Right now we are waiting and hoping it will be resolved."

Ventura mainly stays at the mansion during the week, Creed said. His son also stays there when he is in town. First Lady Terry Ventura and the couple's daughter usually stay at the family's ranch in Maple Grove, and come to the house for special events or to host guests.

In 1910 St. Paul lumberman Horace Hills Irvine paid about \$7,000 for the 1.5 acres on Summit Avenue and secured a building permit, specifying a cost of \$50,000 for the

20-room English Tudor, which features nine bedrooms and eight baths.

Horace and his wife, Clotilde, lived in the home with their four children until his death in 1947. Clotilde died in 1964 and the surviving Irvine daughters gave the home to the state the following year.

Although the Legislature debated whether the home was a good investment for the state, it approved \$100,000 to renovate and operate the building as the first official governor's residence.

But 36 years later, renovations are again needed, and the state again must decide how much to invest in the house.

The mansion, completed in 1912, is in need of extensive renovation to bring it up to safety code and improve energy efficiency.

The mansion's fire alarm system needs to be upgraded and a second stairway needs to be added for the third floor in order to comply with fire code.

Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems need work, windows need to be replaced to improve energy efficiency, and the building's exterior needs conservation work.

Grabarski said Ventura did the brave thing by proposing \$4 million in bonds for the project. No governor has felt politically comfortable proposing the renovations before, he said.

Although the governor may live in the home, it belongs to the citizens, and the Legislature should not shy away from funding renovations for political reasons, Grabarski said. "We encourage the Legislature to think of this as a necessary thing to do for future governors and the people of Minnesota."

The Senate included \$4 million for the project in its bonding recommendation, but the House has included only \$500,000.

If funding proposals were approved this session, renovation would not affect Ventura unless he is re-elected, since work wouldn't begin until next year, Grabarski said.

Creed said Ventura's decision to move out could actually help renovation plans win legislative approval since the governor would not be inconvenienced by the work.

"This may be a good time to get it done," Creed said. 🐼



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Gov. Jesse Ventura has said he is moving out of the Governor's Residence in St. Paul because of cuts to his security budget. The state has operated the mansion since 1965.

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 ses-

sion, 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
Res. 6	2681*	2469	Resolution supporting personnel responding to Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.	1/31	
Res. 7	3411	3207*	Resolution urging delayed termination of LTV pension plan.	2/27	
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	Mpls. Firefighters Relief Assn. 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*		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	

◆ - veto overridden by Legislature

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

Minnesota House of Representatives 2002 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
49A	Abeler, Jim (R)	581	1729	40A	Larson, Dan (DFL)	221	7158
45A	Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	27B	Leighton, Rob (DFL)	289	4193
19B	Anderson, Bruce (R)	411	5063	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	337	4218
3A	Anderson, Irv (DFL)	343	4936	45B	Leppik, Peggy (R)	485	7026
6A	Bakk, Thomas (Tom) (DFL)	345	2190	2A	Lieder, Bernie L. (DFL)	323	5091
48B	Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	329	5510	33A	Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
59A	Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	56B	Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
30B	Bishop, Dave (R)	453	0573	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	377	4277
12B	Blaine, Greg (R)	387	4247	55A	Mares, Harry (R)	401	5363
25B	Boudreau, Lynda (R)	473	8237	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
30A	Bradley, Fran (R)	559	9249	57B	Marko, Sharon (DFL)	279	3135
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	1072	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
46B	Carlson, Lyndon R. (DFL)	283	4255	36B	McElroy, Dan (R)	437	4212
10B	Cassell, George (R)	421	4317	54A	McGuire, Mary Jo (DFL)	259	4342
23A	Clark, James T. (R)	551	9303	39B	Milbert, Bob (DFL)	243	4192
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	35A	Molnau, Carol L. (R)	443	8872
11A	Daggett, Roxann (R)	439	4293	21B	Mulder, Richard (R)	515	4336
31B	Davids, Gregory M. (R)	549	9278	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	389	4262
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	335	0173	8A	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	357	2676
65A	Dawkins, Andy (DFL)	215	5158	20A	Ness, Robert "Bob" (R)	509	4344
14A	Dehler, Steve (R)	491	7808	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
29A	Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	19A	Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
60B	Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	369	9281	16A	Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
27A	Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	29B	Osskopp, Mike (R)	521	9236
24A	Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	66A	Osthoff, Tom (DFL)	273	4224
18A	Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	11B	Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	393	3201
64A	Entenza, Matt (DFL)	261	8799	37A	Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
42A	Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	42B	Paulsen, Erik (R)	545	7449
17A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	38B	Pawlenty, Tim (R)	459	4128
52B	Evans, Geri (DFL)	211	0141	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	209	4199
1B	Finseth, Tim (R)	517	9918	32A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
44A	Folliard, Betty (DFL)	281	3964	1A	Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
4A	Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	13B	Peterson, Doug (DFL)	287	4228
36A	Gerlach, Chris (R)	531	5506	39A	Pugh, Thomas W. (DFL)	267	6828
63B	Gleason, Mark S. (DFL)	313	5375	44B	Rhodes, Jim (R)	409	9889
9A	Goodno, Kevin (R)	563	5515	32B	Rifenberg, Michelle (R)	423	1069
52A	Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	353	4331	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	375	0170
58B	Gray, Gregory (DFL)	327	8659	28A	Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
54B	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	253	5387	17B	Schumacher, Leslie J. (DFL)	217	5377
26A	Gunther, Bob (R)	379	3240	41A	Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
48A	Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	21A	Seifert, Marty (R)	593	5374
50A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	577	2439	5B	Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)	233	0172
22B	Harder, Elaine (R)	583	5373	2B	Skoe, Rod (DFL)	321	4265
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	62B	Skoglund, Wes (DFL)	251	4330
47B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	227	3709	57A	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	349	7807
8B	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	34A	Smith, Steve (R)	503	9188
37B	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	433	6926	3B	Solberg, Loren A. (DFL)	309	2365
56A	Holsten, Mark William (R)	381	3018	33B	Stanek, Rich (R)	543	5502
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	431	2451	14B	Stang, Doug (R)	597	4373
6B	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	28B	Sviggun, Steve (R)	463	2273
53B	Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	7A	Swapinski, Dale (DFL)	331	4282
7B	Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	23B	Swenson, Howard (R)	539	8634
18B	Jennings, Loren Geo (DFL)	237	0518	43B	Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
34B	Johnson, Jeff (R)	487	5511	46A	Thompson, Mark (DFL)	223	4176
24B	Johnson, Ruth (DFL)	241	7065	50B	Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	229	4201	25A	Tuma, John (R)	533	4229
47A	Jordan, John (R)	359	3751	51B	Vandeveer, Ray (R)	529	4124
15A	Juhnke, Al (DFL)	371	6206	63A	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	239	4200
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	61B	Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
26B	Kalis, Henry J. (DFL)	317	4240	12A	Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
60A	Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	231	0171	55B	Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	225	1188
20B	Kielkucki, Tony (R)	367	1534	51A	Westerberg, Andrew (R)	523	4226
16B	Knoblach, Jim (R)	451	6316	13A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	557	4929
49B	Koskinen, Luanne (DFL)	301	4231	38A	Wilkin, Tim (R)	413	3533
53A	Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	22A	Winter, Ted (DFL)	247	5505
15B	Kubly, Gary W. (DFL)	315	4346	41B	Wolf, Ken (R)	571	5185
31A	Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	43A	Workman, Tom (R)	537	5066

Note: Room numbers are subject to change.

*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155; List as of March 8, 2002

Minnesota Senate 2002 Members

District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party			Phone (651) 296-
		Room*				Room*	
66	Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	39	Metzen, James P. (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
56	Bachmann, Michele M. (R)	125 SOB	4351	2	Moe, Roger D. (DFL)	208 Cap.	2577
41	Belanger Jr., William V. (R)	113 SOB	5975	67	Moua, Mee (DFL)	323 Cap.	5285
13	Berg, Charles A. (R)	G-25 SOB	5094	29	Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264
61	Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	25	Neuville, Thomas M. (R)	123 SOB	1279
48	Betzold, Don (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	2556	43	Oliver, Edward C. (R)	117 SOB	4837
52	Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	325 Cap.	4334	34	Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
64	Cohen, Richard J. (DFL)	317 Cap.	5931	60	Orfield, Myron (DFL)	227 Cap.	4191
28	Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	19	Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
20	Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	65	Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
14	Fischbach, Michelle L. (R)	G-15 SOB	2084	37	Pariseau, Pat (R)	109 SOB	5252
49	Foley, Leo T. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	59	Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
26	Fowler, Chuck (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	5713	57	Price, Leonard R. (DFL)	235 Cap.	7-8060
23	Frederickson, Dennis R. (R)	139 SOB	8138	63	Ranum, Jane B. (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061
58	Higgins, Linda I. (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	53	Reiter, Mady (R)	132D SOB	1253
24	Hottinger, John C. (DFL)	205 Cap.	6153	46	Rest, Ann H. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	2889
40	Johnson, David H. (DFL)	124 Cap.	9261	18	Ring, Twyla (DFL)	306 Cap.	5419
15	Johnson, Dean E. (DFL)	124B Cap.	3826	45	Robertson, Martha R. (R)	141 SOB	4314
50	Johnson, Debbie J. (R)	149 SOB	3219	35	Robling, Claire A. (R)	143 SOB	4123
6	Johnson, Douglas J. (DFL)	205 Cap.	8881	62	Sabo, Julie A. (DFL)	317 Cap.	4274
44	Kelley, Steve (DFL)	321 Cap.	7-8065	11	Sams, Dallas C. (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
32	Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649	12	Samuelson, Don (DFL)	120 Cap.	4875
4	Kinkel, Anthony G. "Tony" (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	4913	31	Scheevel, Kenric J. (R)	129 SOB	3903
30	Kiscaden, Sheila M. (R)	135 SOB	4848	47	Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869
16	Kleis, Dave (R)	107 SOB	6455	27	Schwab, Grace (R)	151 SOB	9248
36	Knutson, David L. (R)	133 SOB	4120	7	Solon, Yvonne Prettner (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
51	Krentz, Jane (DFL)	111 Cap.	7061	17	Stevens, Dan (R)	105 SOB	8075
9	Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	1	Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
10	Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	42	Terwilliger, Roy (R)	115 SOB	6238
21	Lesevski, Arlene J. (R)	131 SOB	4125	5	Tomassoni, David J. (DFL)	111 Cap.	8017
3	Lessard, Bob (IP)	G-51 SOB	4136	22	Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
33	Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159	38	Wiener, Deanna L. (DFL)	303 Cap.	7-8073
8	Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-9 Cap.	0293	55	Wiger, Charles W. (DFL)	301 Cap.	6820
54	Marty, John (DFL)	325 Cap.	5645				

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

Minnesota House and Senate Membership

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

2002 Minnesota House of Representatives Profile

Membership					
	2002	2001	1999	1997	1995
DFL	63	65	63	70	71
R	71	69	71	64	63
Men	100	99	99	95	102
Women	34	35	35	39	32

Age					
	2002 [†]	2001 [†]	1999	1997	1995
21-30	5	5	6	5	6
31-40	25	27	23	27	24
41-50	39	42	51	45	51
51-60	43	41	38	43	34
61-70	14	12	13	11	16
over 71	4	3	3	3	3
Average age	48.3	48.4	48.7	48.3	47.9

† - Ages not available for four members

Education					
	2002	2001	1999	1997	
High School	3	3	4	5	
Some College	14	13	17	19	
4-yr. Undergraduate Degree	42	44	39	40	
Some Graduate work	13	13	13	16	
Graduate Degree	50	50	49	43	
Technical College	6	5	6	10	
2-yr. Undergraduate Degree	6	6	6	1	

Current Term					
	2002	2001	1999	1997	1995
1	20	18	20	22	26
2*	20	20	24	29	29
3*	22	22	25	25	16
4	22	22	20	14	11
5	16	17	10	7	20
6	8	8	5	14	7
7	4	4	10	6	4
8	7	7	4	3	2
9	3	3	3	1	3
10	2	2	1	3	5
11	1	1	2	3	3
12	1	1	3	2	6
13	3	3	2	4	1
14	2	2	4	—	—
Other*	3 (15)	4 (15)	1 (22)	1 (21)	1 (20)

* - Includes nonconsecutive terms

Occupation				
	2002	2001	1999	1997
Business	24	23	24	21
Educator	20	20	19	22
Attorney	15	15	17	17
Legislator	14	15	14	18
Farming	9	8	9	11
Consultant	5	6	6	6
Homemaker	4	4	5	5
Communications	3	3	4	4
Insurance	2	2	4	3
Retired	4	4	4	3
Real Estate	3	3	3	2
Trades	3	2	2	3
Accountants	2	—	—	—
Government	2	3	2	6
Other	24	26	20	17

Friday, March 8

HF3678—Dempsey (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Mississippi River Parkway Commission extended to 2009.

HF3679—Dawkins (DFL) Taxes

Working family income tax credit increased.

HF3680—McGuire (DFL) Family & Early Childhood Education Finance

Early childhood care and education pilot projects established, and money appropriated.

HF3681—Knoblach (R) Taxes

St. Cloud area cities local sales and use taxes authorized to fund specified projects.

Monday, March 11

HF3682—Leighton (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Adams municipal grant provided to investigate possible contamination from a former coal gasification plant, and money appropriated.

HF3683—Bradley (R) Health & Human Services Finance

Health records access provisions modified.

Wednesday, March 13

HF3684—Daggett (R) Taxes

Detroit Lakes tax increment pooling authorized to meet debt service obligations.

HF3685—Erickson (R) Health & Human Services Policy

Births resulting in stillbirth recorded.

HF3686—Erickson (R) Civil Law

Driver's license application provision requiring social security number federal repeal urged by resolution.

HF3687—Kahn (DFL) Taxes

Minneapolis southeast industrial area tax increment financing district extension authorized.

Thursday, March 14

HF3688—Kelliher (DFL) Taxes

Guthrie Theater construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3689—Kelliher (DFL) Taxes

Walker Art Center construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF3690—Seifert (R) Higher Education Finance

State contract moratorium exemption provided for contracts paid entirely with fees paid by students at public post-secondary institutions.

HF3691—Seifert (R) Rules & Legislative Administration

Constitution; previous applications by the Legislature to Congress to call a constitutional convention voided by resolution, and other states urged to do the same.

COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

MARCH 18 - 22, 2002

Schedule is subject to change.
For information updates, call House Calls at **(651) 296-9283**.
All meetings are open to the public.
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House committee schedules are also available on the Web site at <http://www.house.mn/info/schedule/index.htm>.

MONDAY, March 18

8 a.m.

**Legislative Commission on
Metropolitan Government**
112 State Capitol
Chr. Sen. Ann H. Rest
Agenda: Blueprint 2030.

8:30 a.m.

TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: Public hearings:
HF3664 (Abrams) Local municipal bonding authority restrictions provided.
HF2751 (Stang) Minnesota credit union protection act adopted.
HF3375 (Seagren) Hennepin County environmental response fund continued.
HF3594 (Abrams) Income tax federal update provided including victims of terrorism tax relief act of 2001.
HF3503 (Daggett) Bakery goods including bread, and other foods, specifically exempted from the prepared foods sales tax.
HF3574 (Marquart) Property tax notice lake improvement district amount required to be shown separately.
HF3629 (Marquart) Property tax payment required prior to title transfer of manufactured homes, and notification provided.
HF3652 (Buesgens) Biomass electrical generating facility under a certain size exempted from property taxes.
HF3669 (Rifenberg) Owner-occupied and owner-operated lodging property tax classification established.

9 a.m.

EDUCATION POLICY
5 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Harry Mares
Agenda: HF1868 (Davids) Statewide health

insurance for school district employees pilot project established, post-retirement health insurance coverage authorized, and labor management team provided to design the plan.
HF3007 (Olson) School districts authorized to opt out of specified state mandates.

**Legislative Coordinating Commission
Subcommittee on Employee Relations**
300S State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Carol Molnau
Agenda: Review/approve managerial plan, review/approve commissioner's plan, update on collective bargaining, review/recommend salary cap waiver for Rochester Public Utilities manager.

1 p.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

TUESDAY, March 19

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

Time to be determined

TAXES
200 State Office Building
Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Continuation of hearings and other bills to be announced.

WEDNESDAY, March 20

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

Time to be determined

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

THURSDAY, March 21

9 a.m.

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION.

Time to be determined

TAXES

200 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, March 22

8:30 a.m.

TAXES

10 State Office Building

Chr. Rep. Ron Abrams

Agenda: To be announced.

Continued from page 4

\$23.1 million to finish exterior restoration of its surrounding walls, plus \$90,000 for pre-design of a new segregation unit. The Lino Lakes facility would receive \$4.2 million for a new unit to house 416 offenders, and the Shakopee women's prison would receive \$3.1 million to renovate an independent living unit.

A new veterans home for transitional or permanent housing that would provide health and social services would receive nearly \$20 million in the bill. Also, the Hastings veterans home would receive almost \$9 million for building preservation.

Additionally, \$50 million would be allocated to the Department of Administration for new state buildings.

Other projects

Under the state education department, the House would allocate \$1 million for a south-west metro magnet school and \$500,000 for early childhood facilities grants. The Perpich Center for the Arts would receive its requested \$643,000 for asset preservation.

The Minnesota Historical Society would receive \$2.5 million in asset preservation and

\$500,000 in county and local historical preservation grants.

No funding

The Minnesota Zoo would not receive any of its nearly \$19 million request for the design and construction of the zoo master plan.

The House has recommended no funding for the arts. Proposals heard include: \$35 million for the Guthrie Theater; \$12 million for

Reflections

Several bills on the road to becoming law this legislative session deal with improving modes of transportation for the state. A quick glance at House bill introductions indicate that lawmakers are pushing to have a strong transportation-related package by the time this session ends.

The bills involve light-rail transit, bus route improvements, rethinking the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes on freeways, local road upgrades, gas tax increases, increased airport security, and even limited use of the latest in technology — the Segway electric-powered device for personal movement — a cross between a scooter and a vehicle.

It is a far cry from modes of transportation that played an important role in the growth of the state.

The oldest modes of travel were by foot, canoe, pack horse, and dog sled. As the French and British moved further inland from the Great Lakes in search of trade with the American Indians or to acquire new land for their countries, they settled in small outposts which soon grew as pioneers made surrounding areas a permanent home.

These pockets of concentrated populations grew along such major water routes as the Minnesota, Mississippi, and Red rivers. Those who moved there made the oxcart, horse and buggy, and stagecoach better methods for transporting goods and themselves over rugged or muddy paths that connected to outlying farms and towns.

On water routes, the Virginia was the first steamboat to chug up the Mississippi to

Fort Snelling in 1823. According to historian Theodore Blegen, "That was a great day at the fort, a great day in the history of Minnesota." He said the fort inhabitants and others nearby felt that they were now connected with the outside world.

By then some new immigrants had already settled in the Red River Valley by coming through Hudson Bay in Canada. But many who settled along the Red River could not make a living hauling their carts with

merchandise to St. Paul, or grow enough crops to feed their families. In 1823, 12 families loaded up their ox carts and walked about 300 miles from the western part of the territory to Fort Snelling to start over, said Blegen.

As methods of transportation in early Minnesota continued to expand, the demise of the oxcart was helped along by the Legislature. It passed laws to make faster connections to distant destinations by providing better roads on caravan routes already carved out by years of usage.

Lawmakers at the turn of the 20th century also played a key role in establishing the area as a railway center to help increase the transport of raw materials to the Twin Cities and cities to the east and west.

The trains made return trips filled with newcomers and freight cars stocked with supplies for those already residing in the rapidly growing state.

The age of transportation marches on as today's legislators continue to improve ways to get from point A to point B.

—LECLAIR GRIER LAMBERT

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society



renovation of the Children's Theatre; \$10 million for the Schubert Theater; \$2.3 million for the design of the Rochester Art Center; and \$1 million for the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

Also, a \$30 million request for the Minneapolis Planetarium was not recommended. Supporters said the planetarium will likely not be built without the state funding. 🐾

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

New business in Minnesota

New businesses started in Minnesota during 2000	12,100
Approximate number of new jobs created by those businesses	47,300
Percentage of businesses started by people ages 25-44	65
Ages 45-64, as percent	29
Percentage of businesses with one founder	33
Businesses with two founders, as percent	45
U.S. Census Bureau estimated number of businesses that succeed after operating for four years, as percent	50
Founders with no experience starting a business, as percent	64
Outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area, as percent	66
Start-ups that prepared a business plan before starting operations, as percent	62
Those that performed market research, as percent	38
Percentage that prepared a marketing plan	30
Percentage of start-ups that didn't prepare a business or marketing plan, perform market research, assemble a team of experts, or organize an advisory board	27
Number of founders using access to loans (most commonly used government service), as percent	27
Those using tax-related services, as percent	25
Those using advice on how to operate a business, as percent	19
Approximate percentage of businesses started for less than \$50,000	40
Between \$50,000 and \$100,000	25
Percentage of founders who said start-up costs were as expected	62
Founders using personal funds in starting a business, as percent	85
Those seeking outside equity or debt financing	52
New businesses that employed 25 people or fewer, as percent	76
Percent that employed more than 50 people	10
Percentage of new businesses in manufacturing sector	29
High-tech areas, as percent	18
Business services, as percent	16
Computer-related services, as percent	12
New businesses generating between \$1 million and \$4.9 million in revenue, as percent	39
Less than \$1 million, as approximate percent	50
Percentage of start-ups that offered new-to-market products or services, or improvements to existing products or services	38
New businesses, as percent, that indicated no current (or future) international sales	75

Source: *Starting Up Economic Engines: Key Highlights from a Survey of Minnesota's Business Start-ups*, Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development, September 2001.

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