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On the cover: The 2003 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

— Photo illustration by Andrew Von Bank
Budget fix

Reductions, one-time monies part of the plan legislative leaders will consider to solve $356 million problem

BY MIKE COOK

alling it a start to climbing the “Mt. Everest of budget deficits,” Gov. Tim Pawlenty released his plan to eliminate the state’s $356 million shortfall for fiscal year 2003 Jan. 14.

His recommendation includes $171 million in structural budget reductions and the use of $297 million in one-time funds. The total, when coupled with budget reserves, provides a $136 million cushion in case the economy continues to sour, the country finds itself at war, or revenues are down for some other reason.

“In the event that revenues are up, this is a down payment on the huge budget deficit we’re looking at for next year,” said State Finance Commissioner Dan McElroy.

Even with Pawlenty’s plan to get through the end of this fiscal year on June 30, the state would still face a projected $4.1 billion deficit for fiscal years 2004-05.

“If people think we’ve got pain now, it’ll be brutal going into the next round,” said Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), chair of the House State Government Finance Committee.

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said the proposed cuts were not surprising, while House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) called the proposed cuts “tough, but fair.”

Of the structural reductions, $77 million comes from agency grant and programs, $44 million from state government operations, and $50 million from higher education.

“The governor’s clear expectation is that the majority of proposed fiscal year 2003 reductions will be extended as permanent in the fiscal year 2004-05 budget,” McElroy said.

The 69 state agency reductions range from $6.7 million in the Human Services Department to $1,777 from the Uniform Laws Commission. The Legislature is to cut nearly $2.34 million, and the governor’s office $161,900.

The cuts average about 4 percent per group. Peggy Ingison, assistant commissioner with the Department of Finance, told the House State Government Finance Committee Jan. 14 that adjustments were made so that some departments or agencies, such as those with dire
Higher education would also take a $50 million hit — $25 million each for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system. “We believe they’ll be able to absorb those reductions through use of significant reserves and other cost-cutting measures without impacting current student services,” Pawlenty said.

That is of little comfort to some students. “Even during the good economic times of past years, the state did not give MnSCU the funding it needed, and tuition went up double-digit rates,” said Yorgun Marcel, chair of the Minnesota State University Student Association. “Now during a recession, tuition will be climbing, work study and child-care funding has disappeared, and it is going to cost families more to send their kids to college.”

As for one-time cuts, the largest would be a refinancing of $130 million in transportation funding approved in 2001 with trunk highway bonds. “This will have no impact on transportation projects in place now,” Ingrison said. However, it does mean the state must pay more when financing costs are included.

Of the remaining savings, $39 million would come from the 21st Century Minerals Fund that is designed to aid economic development projects in northeast Minnesota. The $20 million that would be left in the fund would “more than accommodate” the needs, Pawlenty said, noting, “The fund cannot sit unused in these times.”

Included in the one-time items would be the lone shift that will save money: the delaying of sales tax refunds on capital equipment purchases.

Under the program, businesses pay taxes on the purchase and then apply for a refund that must be processed within 90 days. Instead of making the payments right away, the state will take nearly the whole time allowed, resulting in a savings of $50 million.

Other one-time savings include $30 million from the Higher Education Services Office SELF program reserves, $15 million each from the Workers Compensation Special Fund and State Airports Fund, $11 million from the Solid Waste Fund, and $7.6 million in unspent funding from five capital projects approved in 1998 that were contingent on matching funds from the recipient.

McElroy indicated an omnibus budget bill based on the governor’s plan would be available by the end of the week. Sviggum indicated a House bill on the cuts should be on the floor by Jan. 24. Many House committees are scheduled to discuss bills prior to their submittal to the Ways and Means Committee and combined into one piece of legislation.

STAFF WRITER TOM LONERGAN CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

Space limitations

Growing population forced expansion of state’s first prison

State prisons may reach capacity come July, according to information released to legislators early in the legislative session. It’s a problem that officials have previously faced in the 150 years since lawbreakers were first incarcerated in state facilities.

In fact, the state’s first prison was already facing serious crowding by the turn of the 20th century — only a few years after it was initially built.

The prison system in Minnesota can be traced back to 1851 when the Minnesota Territorial Legislature passed a law providing for two buildings — a state capitol and a state prison. The capitol was to be built in St. Paul, and the prison in Stillwater.

Located on a nine-acre campus, the Stillwater prison opened for business in March 1853. Complete with 582 cells, it included chapel, dining hall, kitchen, and administrative offices. A hospital wasn’t added until 36 years later.

Incidentally, women were also interned at the prison during this time. Pawlenty said, noting, “The fund cannot sit unused in these times.”

The figures represent a doubling of the prison population during the last decade, according to the Department of Corrections.

The latter opened in July 1995 as the Minnesota Sexual Psychopathic Personality Treatment Center after the Legislature approved conversion of the Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center to a prison.

According to April 2002 figures, there are 6,533 male inmates in the state and 414 females. The juvenile population includes 217 boys and seven girls. The state’s prison population is expected to reach 9,500 in 2010.

The figures represent a doubling of the prison population during the past decade, according to the Department of Corrections.

At the same time, the department’s national cost-per-inmate ranking fell from second to sixth place. This was accomplished by cutting 200 jobs and expanding bed capacities.

(M. BRYANT)
CRIME

Funding the fight

Law enforcement officials from around the state called for legislative support in their fight against gang violence.

Members of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force schooled the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee on the importance of the issue at its Jan. 15 meeting.

The strike force is a multi-agency initiative that brings together local, state, and federal law enforcement officials to combat criminal gang activity throughout Minnesota. The state funds the program by reimbursing localities for the officers they assign to the program.

Despite an ever-growing number of gangs and gang members in Minnesota, Ron Ryan, statewide commander of the strike force, said he is pleased with the level of teamwork that has developed among the agencies and with citizens since its creation in 1997. Cities are also pleased with the results.

St. Paul Mayor Randy Kelly, a chief architect of the program during his time in the Minnesota Senate, said the initiative has contributed to a “renaissance” in his city, noting the rate of serious crime went down 8 percent in the past year. But he warned that a variety of factors, including a weaker economy and higher unemployment, could help set the stage for a surge of gang activity.

“Gang activity is cyclical,” said St. Paul Police Chief William Finney, “and we are about to reach another crest right now.”

Due to budget cuts the Legislature made during the 2002 session, a number of localities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul, had to withdraw officers from the program. An official report from the strike force will be given to the Legislature in February, but a preliminary draft states that it needs $4.69 million for the next biennium to continue to support local law enforcement at the current level.

Kelly issued a warning to committee members as they look toward balancing the budget for the 2004-05 biennium. “Do not allow your colleagues to suggest you need to take a backseat in terms of demanding the necessary resources to continue the positive trends of the past couple years,” he said.

EMPLOYMENT

Budget balancing negotiations

Advocates for technology and manufacturing jobs spoke out Jan. 15 about the governor’s proposed 2003 budget cuts.

Their testimony was presented to the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee, which took no action.

The 2003 jobs and economic development finance budget would be cut by $63.6 million if the governor’s plan is approved, according to House fiscal analysts. This includes transferring to the general fund $15 million from the workers’ compensation special fund and $39 million from the Minnesota Miners’ 21st Century fund, which provides loans and investments to iron production facilities.


The budget cuts could have the Department of Trade and Economic Development reducing its operating budget by $678,000, and eliminating $1.3 million in contaminated site cleanup grants. A cut of $1.3 million to the Minnesota Investment Fund, which promotes industrial, manufacturing, and technology jobs, would cut its existing budget in half.

Jacques Koppel, president of Minnesota Technology Inc., said the economic development organization can manage the proposed 20 percent reduction from its 2003 legislative appropriation of $5.35 million. But, he said, a problem would result if the reduction extended into future years.

Minnesota Technology served 1,474 companies during the past two years, helping create high-wage jobs in rural Minnesota. Furthermore, Koppel said, the state receives $26.4 million in new sales and income tax revenues from its $11.4 million biennium appropriation to Minnesota Technology.

“Minnesota is only going to thrive if its existing companies continue to grow here,” Koppel said.

Marty Lehman, chief executive officer for Entronix, an electronics manufacturing services provider in Plymouth and Eveleth, said 38,000 manufacturing jobs have recently been lost in Minnesota.

“To me, that’s not a number. To me, that’s personal.”

Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) said that the proposed cuts to the jobs and economic development finance budget appear disproportionate. While economic development comprises only 1.2 percent of the general fund, proposed cuts to it equate to 13 percent, he said.

Committee Chair Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) said the suggested cuts “seem to be rather skewed toward our division.”

Tom Lijewski, chair of the state Rehabilitation Council for the Blind, urged the committee to recall the deductions handed to state services for the blind in 2002 — one-half of the $915,000 mandated cut to the Department of Economic Security.

“We were asked to bear an unfair share of the burden… in the last round of budget cuts,” he said. “I hope that state services for the blind won’t become a safety net for other programs that seem to be given a higher priority.”

ENVIRONMENT

DNR, PCA, zoo budget reaction

State parks will be open, but Gov. Tim Pawlenty’s recommended $22.4 million environmental funding fix for fiscal year 2003 could hinder pollution reduction and water management efforts, according to agencies affected by the plan.

Pawlenty is looking to cut $7.9 million in agency expenses and programs for the remainder of fiscal year 2003, as well as transfer...
water pollution associated with runoff from the grant program that helps local entities address the impairments to waters so we do not have to spend state and local dollars to clean them up,” PCA Chief Financial Officer Cathy Moeger told the committee Jan. 16. “I have a deep and abiding feeling that we will pay the price later,” said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), referring to the Clean Water Partnership grant program proposed cutbacks. “I hope we don’t lose the sense of prevention that this committee has had foremost in its mind in the past.”

Ozment indicated that the committee hopes to finalize their environmental funding recommendations in bill form on Jan. 21. The next stop would be the House Ways and Means Committee.

DNR Acting Commissioner Brad Moore told the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Jan. 15 that his agency already has taken the obvious budget-cutting measures such as staff reductions and travel restrictions. Other funding adjustments could limit conservation officer recruitment, curb flood damage reduction projects, slow mineral research, and reduce the number of fish tested for contaminants, Moore said.

All state parks will be open by Memorial Day, but certain loops within campgrounds may be closed and amenities such as showers and flush toilets may be limited in places, warned DNR Parks Director Bill Morrissey. “(Campers) will have to be a little closer together and they will have to put up with a little more rustic facilities,” he said.

“We’re not going to close any parks or campgrounds,” emphasized Committee Chair Rep. Dennis Ozment (R-Rosemount).

To offset their budget shortfall, the Minnesota Zoological Garden will impose a parking fee for non-members of $3 per car and $10 per bus beginning Feb. 1, according to Peggy Adelmann, the zoo’s chief financial officer. The fee will be collected on the honor system at the regular ticket gates until the zoo can evaluate the benefits of parking lot renovations.

The PCA faces reductions of $994,000 to the grant program that helps local entities address water pollution associated with runoff from agricultural and urban areas, under the governor’s plan.

“A large part of what we do is prevent impairments to waters so we do not have to spend state and local dollars to clean them up,” PCA Chief Financial Officer Cathy Moeger told the committee Jan. 16.

“Like a deep and abiding feeling that we will pay the price later,” said Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls), referring to the Clean Water Partnership grant program proposed cutbacks. “I hope we don’t lose the sense of prevention that this committee has had foremost in its mind in the past.”

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Limiting student aid

Students yet to submit financial aid materials will likely not receive state grants during the remainder of fiscal year 2003.

The Higher Education Services Office (HESO) took a measure Jan. 10 to fund no awards for students whose completed applications were not received by that date.

Robert Poch, executive director for HESO, told the House Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 13 that the decision will save about $12 million and eliminate awards for about 11,500 students.

“The intent is not to revoke any grants that were made up to (Jan. 10),” he said. “The fear was that if we didn’t take this action we’d run a deficit. We waited until the last minute that we thought we could.”

The office was allocated $133 million for state aid grants this fiscal year, and when demand was higher than anticipated, transferred $16 million from the state work-study and post-secondary child care grant programs. However, the number of requests continues to exceed projected dollars by $9 million to $16 million, in part because more Minnesotans look to further their education. Enrollments in post-secondary institutions were up 6 percent last fall. Similar conditions are occurring in other states.

By law, grants can only be made on a funds available basis. The measure is for internal budget management in the office, not for the overall budget reduction measures proposed by the governor.

Poch said $125 million was granted to 71,000 undergraduate students in fiscal year 2002. Comparatively, $109 million was awarded to 62,000 students two years prior.

Other options, such as placing a surcharge on the family contribution and raising the student share, were looked at before the freeze. However, the decisions did not yield enough money to overcome the anticipated deficit.

Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Robbinsdale) noted that other financial aid is available for students from the federal government and the institutions themselves. “We are beefing up our message about that to students,” Poch said.

For the next biennium, HESO is calling for an increase of $61 million to the state grant program. “We intend to advocate increased support for need-based financial aid in fiscal years 2004 and 2005 as one of the most significant investments the state can make in its people,” Poch said.

SAFETY

Checking immigrant legal status

Since July 2002, the state Department of Public Safety has been issuing special status check driver’s licenses and identification cards to certain immigrants in the United States temporarily.

The practice, enacted by the administrative rules process, places a status check date on each
identification card and driver’s license that coincides with the date that a temporary immigrant must leave the country to return home. In addition, that individual’s license becomes invalid on the status check date unless an extension has been granted for them to stay in the country and that person has also applied for an extension to his or her identification card.

A bill approved by the House Transportation Policy Committee Jan. 14 would make the practice a permanent law. The bill (HF1), sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Melrose), now moves to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

The status check feature was initially suggested as part of the anti-terrorism measure discussed during the 2002 session. Several proposals would have created a color-coded driver’s license specific to temporary immigrants. That plan did not become law.

However, the department decided to adopt a similar practice administratively, officials said, as part of an effort to tighten up regulations governing driver’s licenses, which often serve as the official identification, and proof of residence, for an individual.

“We were looking at tightening up our procedures long before Sept. 11,” said Pat McCormack, acting director of Driver and Vehicle Services for the department.

Department officials testified that the policy also provides an important tool for law enforcement. They said the status check feature allows law enforcement to know what a person’s legal status is and whether they should make additional checks regarding a person’s legal status.

“It doesn’t make sense for Minnesota’s primary identifying document — the driver’s license — to be issued for a period of four years, when someone is only going to be in the country for a short period of time, perhaps only a few weeks or other short-term stay,” said Sara Schlauderaff, assistant commissioner of public safety.

The department, Gov. Tim Pawlenty, and the Minnesota Sheriffs’ Association support the bill.

McCormack said individuals would be informed within 60 days of the expiration of their papers authorizing them to remain in the country temporarily and given options to extend the term of their license or identification card.

If a person does not renew their status on their license or identification card, it would be canceled on the day their authorization expires. Extensions would be available if a person has applied for an extended stay in the country and is awaiting that extension.

Since the practice began in July, about 4,300 new licenses contained the status check feature, out of the nearly 801,000 new licenses granted.

Several members questioned the practice, expressing concern about the religious considerations made in developing the plan and the possible disincentive it may have to someone getting a license.

Officials testified that the department instituted specific guidelines for pictures on the licenses that allow individuals with religious objections to full-face photos to have a photo taken that they are comfortable with that would later be approved by the department. McCormack said they haven’t had to reject any photos so far.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) said she was concerned that the perception individuals may have is that the state is singling them out as a threat in light of the terrorism of Sept. 11. She said she acknowledged that the issue resonates with the public, but that presents a special challenge for lawmakers to assure they are not singling out a specific group.

TAXES

Taxing online purchases

Declining sales taxes may be studied carefully by the House Taxes Committee during the 2003 legislative session, particularly revenues lost to ever-growing Internet commerce ventures.

At the Jan. 14 meeting, nonpartisan House researchers reported that the Department of Revenue lost approximately $125 million in sales tax revenues in 2000 due to “remote” sales. Those attributed to electronic-based sales totaled $66 million; to catalog sales, $58 million.

Officials estimate those figures to rise to $161 million in 2004 and $269 million in 2007.

The Legislature cannot mandate collection of sales taxes from Minnesota customers by Internet and catalog businesses in other states. Furthermore, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that it would be an undue burden to require a company to decipher the tax system in multiple states. However, Congress could take action to address the situation, the court ruling stated. In turn, Congress has made the matter contingent upon sales tax simplification at the state level.

According to nonpartisan House researchers, several attempts have been made to require collection of state and local sales taxes on remote sales. All such efforts have failed thus far.

The Streamlined Sales Tax Project began in January 2000, after several states realized they would have to simplify and coordinate state sales tax systems themselves for congressional action to follow. The voluntary effort aims to simplify states’ tax administration and collections, as well as set definitions for the states in defining their sales tax bases.

Thirty-five participating states, including Minnesota, approved the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement on Nov. 12, 2002. Only four states have brought their laws into compliance, including Minnesota, which acted in 2001 to recognize the provisions that existed. However, additional compliance with the final agreement is needed, said House researchers.

Other states having taken legislative action are North Carolina, Wyoming, and South Dakota.

At 33.5 percent, sales tax revenues are the second biggest contributor to the overall Minnesota state budget, behind individual income tax. Sales taxes are expected to generate $13.4 billion for the 2003 fiscal year.

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

Call the House Public Information Office at (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550
Farmers and managers representing Pro-Corn, an ethanol plant in Preston, testify before the Jan. 16 House Agriculture and Rural Development Finance Committee meeting. The hearing was standing-room only, filled with farmers concerned about proposed cuts in ethanol payments.

**ETHANOL PRODUCER PAYMENTS**

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

**TRANSPORTATION**

Holding construction costs

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee spent two meetings discussing the forces that drive construction costs, and methods the state Department of Transportation is using to try and control those costs.

At the Jan. 14 meeting, the committee received an update on the Wakota Bridge project in the southeastern metropolitan area, as it relates to special circumstances that increase the costs associated with a project.

The project, which constructs two new bridges crossing the Mississippi River on Interstate 494 and makes improvements to U.S. Highway 61, began construction in the spring of 2002. What began in the early 1990s as a road reconstruction project estimated to cost about $60 million steadily grew to a "mega-project" that will likely cost between $200 million and $250 million before it is completed.

According to Bob Winter, metro area engineer working on the project, a major study of the corridor changed the scope — combining improvements on highways 61 and 494 — of the project partway into the planning phases. In addition, environmental concerns, such as the topography of the area, tended to drive the costs. Furthermore, the affects of construction, which will continue until 2007, requires repairs on roads adjacent to the project, another factor affecting cost.

Nevertheless, officials testified that a number of changes were made to reduce the cost of the project in areas where improvements were deemed unnecessary.

Officials also testified that right-of-way acquisition has become increasingly more expensive, as property values have continued to outpace inflation. On other department projects, right-of-way acquisition has accounted for as much as 25 percent of total project costs.

On Jan. 15, members discussed an alternative being used on the reconstruction of U.S. Highway 52 north of Rochester. The project, bid at about $232 million, involves an 11-mile stretch of the highway from Highway 63 to 85th St. NW.

The department is using a design-build format for the project, which differs in the following ways from the traditional construction project method:

- Design elements become part of the bid package, which means state engineers or consultants only design between 5 percent and 30 percent of a project;
- It speeds up the construction process, by involving project contractors in the design process;
- It focuses on the best value rather than the lowest bidder by ranking bidders according to their qualifications and abilities to perform the requirements of the project, and then scoring that by formula with the bid, emphasizing ability of the contractor rather than costs alone; and
- It allows warranties and innovations to be built into the designs of a project.

While transportation officials acknowledge that design-build projects may not initially be cheaper to construct, the accelerated timeline may help reduce the costs of construction in the long run.

In addition, they say it's a fairly new concept in Minnesota and will change and evolve as it is used on more projects. It may take some time to measure how effective a method it is, they said.

**YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT 2003**

Stephanie Sokola, a senior at White Bear Lake High School, serves as Speaker of the House, and Chelsie Glaubitz, a Mankato East High School junior, serves as Chief Clerk during the 49th Model Session of the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government Program Jan. 10. The program gives hundreds of Minnesota high school students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in the legislative process.

PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
http://www.leg.mn
Flunking out
After years of debate, objections, and revision, Profile of Learning may be no more

BY TOM LONERGAN

With a 29-seat majority in the House, an ally in the governor’s office and expected support from many DFL members, Republican legislators are confident the state’s Profile of Learning education standards will soon be repealed.

However, that expected action will merely bring the issue back to a familiar place for critics of the so-called “show what you know” knowledge and assessment portion of the state’s graduation standards – what will replace them?

“We were never against standards,” said Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), sponsor of HF2, which would repeal the profile. “We’ve had standards in education since I started teaching 30 years ago.”

“I think we can do without (the profile),” said Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona), also a teacher. Implementing the profile became “so cumbersome and elaborate, we couldn’t possibly do it,” he said. “They (the standards) were introduced as rigorous, but what we got was rigor mortis.”

Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), chair of the House Education Policy Committee, said the bill would likely be considered before the end of January. “What we replace it with will be controversial,” she predicted.

Since the Profile of Learning was adopted in 1998, school district administrators, local school boards, teachers, and parents have raised a variety of criticisms about the standards. Those issues included what critics called inadequate funding, complex rules and paperwork, poor communication from the state, and that the standards alter a teacher’s curriculum and lesson plan.

Standards serve the purpose of aiding regular assessment of student performance progress. In addition, federal funding the state receives for eligible schools under Title I and other areas is contingent upon federal Department of Education approval of K-12 accountability standards and testing programs. Under the federal “No Child Left Behind Act,” which provides federal support for elementary and secondary education, additional financial assistance is available to states that show consistent annual progress in K-12 school performance.

Minnesota received about $212 million in Title I funding for school districts in the last two years.

The basic skills test and the profile are both part of state high school graduation requirements. The former requires public school students to achieve passing scores on the state’s eighth grade basic skills tests in reading and math and the 10th grade basic skills test in written composition. To meet the profile part of the graduation requirements — called “High Standards” by the state Department of Children, Families and Learning — students in elementary and high schools also take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments.

According to the department, the profile or high standards “define what students should know, understand, and be able to do to demonstrate advanced skills in 10 learning areas. Student progress in the high standards is evaluated on assignments called ‘classroom performance assessments’ that are graded by teachers.”

The learning areas include arts and literature; economics and business; health, physical education and careers; inquiry and research; mathematics, reading, science, social studies, world languages, and writing and speaking.

New learning standards in K-12 education were a response to several decades of criticism that public school systems weren’t doing enough to prepare students for college or the workplace. The idea was to shift learning away from traditional academics and towards experiments, research, independent projects, and community service where students could show “hands-on” knowledge.

Kielkucki’s bill calls for replacing the profile with “statewide rigorous core academic standards” in language arts, mathematics, science, history, and geography. It would require the yet-to-be-named department commissioner to propose new standards by April 15 after consulting with parents, the public, teachers, school principals, higher education representatives, Minnesota businesses, and nationally recognized experts on core academic standards.

Since the profile was adopted, “everyone has agreed it needs radical changes,” said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville). “Because we couldn’t agree on how to change it, we haven’t done anything.”

Last year, the profile narrowly escaped repeal. The House voted 109-22 to scrap the program, but the measure failed in the Senate on a tie vote. In 2000, the Legislature relaxed some of the mandates to give school districts some compliance flexibility and ordered the education department to create an academic panel to evaluate the profile and make recommendations.

Nonetheless, school administrators, teachers, and Education Minnesota, were not satisfied and sought major changes. Last fall, the teachers union governing board said the state had not yet determined “whether the Profile of Learning is working or whether students are learning what is expected.”

The Senate version (SF60), sponsored by Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista), awaits a hearing in the Senate Education Committee.

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Kelly Thomas of Elk River reads to her 4-year-old son, Christopher Grovender, during a rally of the Maple River Education Coalition Jan. 8 in the Capitol Rotunda. The group rallied in support of a proposal to repeal the Profile of Learning.
Running out of space
Minnesota prisons expected to be full this summer, with no reduction in sight

BY JEFF JONES

A surprising jump in Minnesota's prison inmate population in the last year has officials scrambling to find more beds – and money – before the system reaches capacity, which is expected to happen sometime this summer.

Assistant Corrections Commissioner Dan Storkamp told the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 14 that actual population numbers were more than five percent above projections by the end of 2002. Usually, he said, those numbers are off by no more than 2 percent, and frequently the predictions prove to be too high.

But something happened last year, and no one seems to be sure exactly what.

Monthly prison admissions, which have averaged between 260 and 270 new inmates each month since 1998, suddenly jumped to an average of 309 per month in 2002. Storkamp noted that the number of felony court filings also increased dramatically in 2002. This does not bode well for the future, he said, since criminal cases take anywhere from six to 18 months to work through the justice system. Therefore, an increase in caseloads now means a further increase in prison admissions down the line.

Prison population projections take into account current sentencing policies and practices, crime trends, and the expected results of new laws, such as the felony drunken driving law passed in 2002, which may produce more felony arrests and convictions. These are balanced with the number of inmates whose sentences are set to expire or who are expected to begin work release or other alternative correctional programs to arrive at a projected number of total inmates for the upcoming year.

If current trends continue, the department predicts the prison population will be greater than 8,000 by 2005 and it will reach 9,500 by 2010, which is 2,500 inmates more than the current system capacity.

Admissions for drug crimes have increased in recent years, as have those for property crimes, but the state's violent crime rate has actually fallen.

Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL–Mpls) asked if the state could save bed space by finding alternative ways to punish some non-violent offenders. Deputy Corrections Commissioner Dennis Benson said such measures are being examined but that non-violent criminals who are in prisons are generally repeat offenders who have previously failed in the probation system. He noted that 35 percent of Minnesota prisoners are property offenders while about 65 percent are personal offenders.

One option for finding more bed space involves finding other places to house “short-term offenders” – defined as prisoners whose prison sentences are from 30 days to one year – leaving space for the more serious offenders. Other options include doubling-up inmates in cells, expanding current prison facilities, and looking at privatizing some parts of the prison system.

“It's a little like swatting a mosquito with a 50-pound mallet when you bring an offender to prison for 30 or 60 days. We think that there might be a cheaper way, a more efficient way, to hold that offender accountable by engaging local units of government,” said Benson. “Let's save our most expensive resource for those people who really do indicate some level of risk to the public.”

Minnesota has traditionally had one of the lowest incarceration rates in the nation. In 2001, 132 of every 100,000 Minnesotans were in prison, the second-lowest rate in the country. By comparison, Wisconsin incarcerated 383 people per 100,000 and Texas 711.

This doesn't mean Minnesota has fewer criminals than other states or that those who do illegal things are not being arrested. In fact, the state had the nation's 10th highest arrest rate in 2000.

What sets the state apart is the amount of time convicted felons stay in prison, if they go there at all. Since Minnesota relies heavily on probationary sentences for many types of less-serious crimes, many felons do not spend much time inside a correctional facility. While the state has the sixth highest rate of adults under some sort of state correctional supervision, only 8.6 percent of them were serving their sentence in prison in 2000, the lowest percentage in the nation.

At the moment there are no plans, or funds, for building more facilities. Benson said that the best option for adding beds quickly would be to expand one of the state's existing prisons.

Minnesota operates eight adult prisons, the largest in Stillwater. The state's only prison dedicated to female convicts is in Shakopee. The state currently houses 20 federal prisoners and about 60 detainees from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The federal government pays between $70 and $100 per day for those inmates. As new state prisoners come in, those federal inmates, and the income they generate, will be removed to other states.

Benson told the committee that the projected 2,197 new beds needed in the next biennium will require an additional $55 million in funding from the Legislature.
Out front

As House Minority Leader, Entenza hopes to draw public attention to DFL caucus goals, priorities

BY JEFF JONES

Rep. Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) says he’s never had much luck staying out of sight. “My life’s experiences when you’re 6-foot-4, it’s not worth pretending you can hide. People can always find you, so you’d better get up and let them know what you stand for.”

As the new minority leader in the House, Entenza will have plenty of opportunity to do just that. With the smallest DFL caucus since 1969, Entenza and the rest of the DFL House leadership will be trying harder than ever to take their message straight to the public.

“The job is first and foremost to articulate the vision of the kind of Minnesota we want to have,” Entenza said. He has already spoken out several times, within the first few weeks of the session, against Republican plans for resolving the projected budget shortfalls.

“The best solution to the budget crisis is to make sure we evaluate every program on its costs and benefits,” Entenza said, “and to make sure that those folks who are the most vulnerable... are treated the best in a very difficult time.

“This is the worst budget crisis since the Depression, so we’re working to make the cuts we need to but (also) protect the quality of life we have in Minnesota.”

The 52-member House DFL caucus elected Entenza to be its party leader last November, after the caucus lost 11 House seats in the 2002 elections. He replaces Rep. Tom Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul) who stepped down from the post after the election. Pugh had led the party in the House since 1998.

At Entenza’s side will be eight assistant minority leaders, also elected by the caucus, who will play a big part in floor debate and in bringing the DFL message to communities throughout the state. They represent a diverse gender, geography, and expertise. In addition to being equally divided by gender, the eight are equally split between representing districts in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota. “It’s important that the minority leader not be the only voice,” Entenza said.

Entenza says his experience as a criminal prosecutor should help the DFL make its case for strengthening community security and helping local police and fire departments. “We think it’s a tremendous mistake that the funding for terrorism prevention has been held up for seven months,” he said. “One of our first priorities will be to get that money out to law enforcement.”

Assistant Minority Leader Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood) says Entenza is especially good at building relationships and calls him “bold, encouraging, and visionary.”

“I really think he is just what (the DFL party) needs right now. He does a lot of things very well,” Slawik said.

New House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) was elected along with Entenza in 1994. He and Entenza roomed together during their freshman orientation session. “It never entered my mind,” Paulsen said, that both of them would wind up leading their respective caucuses five terms later.

Paulsen says Entenza will be a good leader. “He is an unabashed liberal, as strong in his convictions as I am in my convictions,” Paulsen said. “We get along great.”

House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) has been pleased to work with Entenza, as well. “Matt has been extremely honorable and cordial to deal with,” Sviggum said. “We’ve been able to talk through differences and understand each other.”

Entenza, a father of three boys, isn’t worried about the personal strain of a leadership position. “At one point in my life we had a 1-year-old and newborn twins. The demands of being a legislator seem easy after you’ve juggled three kids.”

Though he is used to being busy, the frantic schedule of meetings and speaking engagements will keep him running even faster this session. “I’m going to owe (my family) a long vacation this summer,” he said.

The eight Assistant DFL Minority Leaders for 2003-2004:

Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls)
Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar)
Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville)
Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center)
Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba (DFL-Long Prairie)
Rep. Gene Pelowski, Jr. (DFL-Winona)
Rep. Anthony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm)
Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood)
Now is the time
After years of 'unofficially' representing the interests of his district, Dill takes a seat in St. Paul

BY MIKE COOK

Like many students, as a youngster Rep. David Dill (DFL-Crane Lake) came to the Capitol and met with his legislator. Now he is taking “his life's biggest field trip” as the new DFL representative from District 6A.

The district is the state's largest geographically, encompassing most of northeast Minnesota and more than 9,600 square miles. "We certainly have more deer than people," he said with a chuckle.

Dill has a unique living arrangement in that his Crane Lake home is on an island in Voyageurs National Park, forcing his 13-year-old son, Drake, to take a boat, ATV, canoe, or snowmobile to the bus stop. His family also has a winter home 30 miles away in Orr, where Dill has been the city administrator for 12 years.

As a child, Dill spent summers in the area with his parents, before permanently moving to Crane Lake in 1982 with his wife, Tucky, after selling their charter airline business.

"I didn't realize I'd been running for state representative since then," he said. "I knew all the people from growing up there so when we permanently moved back I got involved in community leadership and economic development right away, lobbying at the Capitol and going to Washington D.C. to represent the community as a volunteer. After about seven or eight years of that they said, 'We'd like to hire you and make it official.'"

Dill said he mentored under retired Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Tower) for 10-15 years before deciding to run. When former Rep. Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) sought Johnson's Senate seat, many people encouraged Dill to seek the vacant House seat, Dill said.

The campaign galvanized Dill's family like never before in terms of working together. "My son went to 2,000 houses over the course of the summer and knocked on the door, and said, 'My name is Drake Dill and my dad is running for the House of Representatives.' He gave them literature and answered questions on positions."

Like his dad, Drake also won an election in 2002, earning a seat on his school's student council. Drake is a seventh grader in the Orr K-12 school.

Dill recalls coming home one day and having Drake show him a speech he was preparing. "He described supply-side economics in a way that it related to kids in school and how they interact with each other and their teachers. I said, 'My God, that's good.'"

The economics of his district is one of three key issues for Dill. The others are higher education to retrain workers, and services to seniors.

Citing the importance of the dollars for cities in his district, Dill opposes the cutting of local government aid (LGA) to help balance the state's budget. "I have two cities in our district where LGA is more than 50 percent of their entire budget. Some communities are teetering on a very difficult platform making it difficult to balance things."

Shortly before Christmas a sawmill operator told Dill that his workforce had shrunk from 26 people to three people in the previous month. "That's just a common thing right now," Dill said. "It's an economic circle that we have to survive. This is not the first time it has happened, but we need to be smarter than before and prepare for the next thing."

Logging and mining industries are crucial to those in the district, but millions of forested acres in Cook and Lake counties are federally protected. "That land has been taken out of production and local people can no longer earn a living off that land, yet when I went to St. Paul one of the things I said at my new member orientation was that I was aghast at the amount of paper that is everywhere," Dill said. "How can there be that much need for paper if we can't cut a renewable resource?"

"We're trying to make adjustments to the fact that there is a substantially reduced flow of wood fiber coming from our district and we're having a difficult time adjusting to the economics that drive the mining industry. A substantial amount of residents in our district are unemployed in the mining industry from the LTV (mine in Hoyt Lakes) shutdown."

Because of that, higher education for retraining workers is another area of focus for Dill. Of the two colleges in District 6A, he said, "These facilities are extremely important for the retraining." In fact, the first bill he sponsored (HF72) is money for land acquisition at Vermilion Community College in Ely.

Despite the hardships, Dill said many people remain in the area once they retire. "They're tough people that immigrated here and have lived their whole lives here. We have a responsibility to provide them with services, like health care, nursing homes, and in-home health care."

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"It's an economic circle that we have to survive. This is not the first time it has happened, but we need to be smarter than before and prepare for the next thing."

— Rep. David Dill

DISTRICT 6A

2002 population: 36,625
Largest cities: Ely and Two Harbors
Counties: Cook, Lake, St. Louis
Location: northeast Minnesota
Top Concern: "The preservation of local government aid to communities with low property wealth. If LGA is reduced and communities increase property taxes, the increase is felt by every property owner, old, employed, unemployed, retired, business, etc."

— Rep. David Dill
On the homefront

After years of promoting Minnesota around the world, Magnus turns attentions to more local concerns

BY MIRANDA BRYANT

A quick glance at Rep. Doug Magnus' (R-Slayton) background and one would think that St. Paul is too small a town for this guy. He's been to more than 30 countries, some of them several times.

The freshman Republican has traveled the globe for the United Soybean Board, a group dedicated to increasing the number of U.S. soybean food products on more plates in more countries. As such, Magnus has met with leaders in communist China, lobbied members of the European Union, and brokered deals with government ministers in Moscow.

But his home, his family, and his business are in a small town. Magnus was born in Slayton, where he continues to grow corn and soybeans and feed cattle with his son, father, and cousin.

Magnus began thinking about running for the Minnesota House of Representatives last spring.

"I just wasn't happy with what was going on," said Magnus. "The budget problems of course were No. 1. We in southwest Minnesota were getting left behind, I thought. And you can't solve (the state's problems) in the coffee shops."

Don Nickel, who succeeded Magnus as vice president of international marketing for the national United Soybean Board, said Magnus makes for an excellent legislator.

"He has done a very good job of promoting soybeans, specifically Minnesota soybeans," said Nickel, who traveled on trade missions with Magnus to China, Europe, and Turkey. "He is very concerned about agriculture, specifically in Minnesota."

Magnus' international experience, which began when he was in the Vietnam War, may serve him well as a legislator. He's been assigned to four committees: taxes, agriculture and rural development finance, agriculture policy, and transportation finance.

Regarding tax issues, Magnus is sponsoring a bill (HF3) on tax-free zones that Gov. Tim Pawlenty pitched the past two years as a state representative. Legislation presented in 2002 would have created up to 10 tax-free zones throughout the state to stimulate economic development beyond the Twin Cities. It would have also created similar zones for five agricultural processing facilities.

Under the 2003 plan, businesses in designated areas can forgo sales, income, and property taxes for up to 12 years. Individuals living in the areas wouldn't pay property or individual incomes taxes. And investors of tax-free zone ventures are exempt on business income and capital gains taxes on relative investments. Michigan and Pennsylvania have each created 5,000 new jobs through similar programs, said Magnus.

Creating rural jobs is necessary because not everyone in Minnesota can live in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, Magnus said, noting that by 2015 another 1 million people are expected to move to the area. Expanding metropolitan populations place a strain on hospitals, schools, churches, and businesses while leaving outlying areas to die, he said.

Magnus can cite many examples of businesses moving from his corner of Minnesota to neighboring South Dakota. One is Luverne Bumper, which employed 80 people, and was successfully courted by Brandon, S.D. Now it has more than 300 employees in a new plant. "Luverne Bumper ought to be in Luverne, Minn., but you can't blame them," Magnus said.

Tax-free zone legislation will work well in the four counties Magnus represents, he said. For example, Murray County, where he resides, has been losing about 1 percent of its population annually for the past 20 years. And the income disparity between rural and urban areas is growing. In 1996 the annual per capita income was 70 percent of that in the Twin Cities, he said. Three years later it had fallen to 63 percent.

While the transportation committee may not seem an obvious assignment for a farmer, Magnus already has ideas. Exporting Minnesota's agricultural products to foreign markets demands a healthy infrastructure system. With China as the largest international consumer of U.S. soybeans and with Minnesota the third largest soybean producer, efficient transport to the Pacific Northwest for overseas shipment is critical.

An improved infrastructure is key in

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"I just wasn't happy with what was going on. The budget problems of course were No. 1. We in southwest Minnesota were getting left behind, I thought. And you can't solve (the state's problems) in the coffee shops."

— Rep. Doug Magnus

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DISTRICT 22A

2002 population: 36,438
Largest cities: Luverne, Pipestone
Counties: Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock
Location: southwest Minnesota
Top concern: "We realize that for Minnesota to move forward, we have to have a healthy rural Minnesota."

— Rep. Doug Magnus
Hometown roots

Olsen draws on a lifetime of experience, community connections as new representative

BY MICH Elle KEBIGER

When Rep. Stephanie Olsen (R-Brooklyn Park) imagined how the new legislative districts would be drawn last spring, she never guessed the new District 47B would so completely contain the communities she has called home during her lifetime.

But when it did, and when she realized there would be no incumbent member, she knew a run for the House was meant to be.

"When the district was drawn, the Speaker looked at me and he said, 'It's like it was drawn for you,'" said Olsen.

The district includes all the places Olsen has called home throughout her life — her parents' home in Coon Rapids, and her current home in Brooklyn Park.

This wasn't Olsen's first run for the House — she ran for the Republican endorsement in the April 1995 special election for then-District 49B against Eldon Warkentin. She did not receive the endorsement, but her interest in the legislative process kept her active, and ultimately she came to work for the Republican caucus as an education researcher.

Olsen says the makeup of the district and consequently her ties to it made the campaign an interesting experience. She said she was able to reconnect with families she hadn't had contact with in many years, and that was a rewarding experience for her.

"Nobody was really surprised when I jumped into the race," she said. And during the campaign, she said, she and her husband, Troy, who also works for the House Republican caucus, had to find a balance between the rigors of the campaign and normal life.

"Now is an exciting time to be elected," she said. "We need more positive attitudes. I have a strong Christian faith and my parents always taught me that behind every challenge is a good thing in the end."

As a legislator, Olsen said she will focus much of her attention on meeting the needs of the students, parents, and teachers of her district. She said she is interested in changing education policies, such as finding a workable solution to the state's graduation standards, which includes the Profile of Learning. But she also thinks the budget situation might create an opportunity to review education finance, as well.

"The Profile of Learning isn't working for my local teachers; it's not working for kids and parents. I think we'll see resolution of that and hopefully a replacement that's acceptable to all the stakeholders."

—— Rep. Stephanie Olsen

"I do want to see some substantive finance reform, and we may see some additional transit options," Olsen said. "I'm just interested in being a part of that discussion, especially in my unique position having been on that pattern for so long."

Olsen says she's not intimidated by the budget situation, but she's ready to find a balance between cutting the budget and maintaining a level of service for constituents.

"As people voice their solutions, I want to look at those and try to bring ideas to the table myself," she said, "and solve the budget problem."
Called to action
Legislators told that three C's can help get through these troubled times

BY MIRANDA BRYANT

Times haven’t been more precarious around the globe since World War II. Yet a crisis is just what is sometimes needed for courageous leaders to improve a culture.

Such was the message Minnesota legislators heard Jan. 15 from one of the most experienced political advisors in the United States, David Gergen.

Currently the co-director of Harvard University’s Center for Public Leadership, and the editor-at-large for U.S. News and World Report, Gergen has also held positions with the presidential administrations of Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton. His presentation was part of a Blandin Foundation conference, “Leadership: Making Good Decisions in Tough Times.”

“People are hungry in this country for good political leadership,” said Gergen, whose father was born in St. Paul and educated at the University of Minnesota.

Scandals in politics, religion, and corporate business have eroded the country’s trust in most institutions. Adding to the crisis is concern over terrorism and what Gergen said is an almost certain war in Iraq. In all, it is a difficult time to be a leader, he said.

“What’s going to spell the difference is the quality of leadership,” Gergen said before an audience, small in part because of a House Republican caucus meeting.

However, improving leadership and building constituency trust can be abstract notions, Gergen said. He laid out a strategy simply through a “three Cs” plan that culminates with the most important C of all: character.

The first C stood for candor.

State elected officials should tell Minnesotans that the projected $4.56 billion budget deficit is not the end, but the beginning of a situation that can’t be wiped away, he said.

“We are in the midst of a longer-term issue here that we have to face up to,” Gergen said.

Legislators themselves must understand what portions of the deficit are short-term and what are structural, according to Gergen. To be blamed for the shortfalls, in part, is an antiquated structure that attaches taxes more often to products than to services, he said. This results in lost revenue potential, particularly around increasing Internet commerce ventures.

The second C stood for consistency.

It’s not good when elected officials release a budget shortfall figure only to increase the projected deficit a few weeks later, he said. This happened frequently under the Reagan administration, Gergen said.

The third C stood for confidence.

Even if a person isn’t sure what must be done, that person should act with confidence, said Gergen. No one wants a broker that doesn’t exude confidence, he explained.

But the three C’s of candor, consistency, and confidence cannot properly be applied without character, which he said is the single most important attribute of public officials. He added that he would rather see a person with more character than intelligence than the reverse.

Both Nixon and Clinton were extremely smart, but each suffered from character flaws, said Gergen. Also, people might not have liked the philosophies of former U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone, but they agreed he had character.

Sen. Sandra Pappas (DFL-St. Paul) was the only person who managed to ask a question of Gergen before he took a quick exit following his speech. She solicited advice on how to encourage elected officials and office contenders to reach for trust instead of power.

“I’m wondering if we’re not our own worst enemies in terms of trust,” she said, referring to political campaigns that turn negative.

This is a difficult issue in today’s politics, Gergen replied, and it is the very thing that is keeping young people away from the polls.

“It’s something you have to find in your own heart,” he said. “(President) Washington taught us you gain power in willingness to give it up.”

Following the address, legislators were asked a series of questions to help them understand the messages of Gergen’s speech. One question had individuals asking themselves what they want history to say about the legacy of the current Legislature.

Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel) said he hoped history would say, “They made the biggest cuts in the history of the liberal Minnesota state government and still got re-elected.”

The statement drew a round of laughter.

Sen. Becky Lourey (DFL-Kerrick) had another envisioned legacy: “In a time of deficit that we inspired our citizens of our state to rally together in support of a responsible safety net – policies that lead to opportunity with fairness and justice.”

This time applause was the response.

David Gergen, co-director of Harvard University’s Center for Public Leadership and former advisor to four presidents, challenged legislators to be courageous political leaders during his keynote address at the Minnesota Horizons Conference Jan. 15.
Committee Information

2003-2004 Minnesota House of Representatives

Agriculture and Rural Development Finance
509 State Office Building .......... 296-5373

Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 14
Chair: Hilder-R
Vice Chair: Penas-R
DFL Lead: Juhnke-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Craig Clark ............................. 296-1540
Committee Legislative Assistant
Dave Easterday ........................ 296-9463

Agriculture Policy
517 State Office Building .......... 296-8634

Meet: Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 19
Chair: Swenson-R
Vice Chair: Blaine-R
DFL Lead: Otremba-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Craig Clark ............................. 296-1540
Committee Legislative Assistant
Dave Easterday ........................ 296-9463

Civil Law
545 State Office Building .......... 296-9188

Meet: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 12
Chair: Smith-R
Vice Chair: DeLaForest-R
DFL Lead: Biernat-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Craig Stone ............................ 296-5367
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kathy Heimel .......................... 296-3367

Capital Investment
453 State Office Building .......... 296-6316

Meet: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 19
Chair: Krinke-R
Vice Chair: Fuller-R
DFL Lead: Hausman-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Craig Stone ............................ 296-5367
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kathy Heimel .......................... 296-3367

Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy
379 State Office Building .......... 296-9278

Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 26
Chair: Davids-R
Vice Chair: Gerlach-R
DFL Lead: Rukavina-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Brian MCDaniel ........................ 296-4283
Committee Legislative Assistant
Denise Berger ........................... 296-8857

Economic Development and Tourism Division
417 State Office Building .......... 296-7806

Meet: Call of the Chair*

Members: 10
Chair: Lindner-R
Vice Chair: Walz-R
DFL Lead: Mahoney-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Brian MCDaniel ........................ 296-4283
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kelly Tungland ........................ 296-5355
Assignments as of 1/09/03  *Rooms in State Office Building  **-Non-voting member

Education Finance
477 State Office Building .......... 296-7803
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in Room 10*
Members: 21
Chair: Seagar-R
Vice Chair: Kielkucki-R
DFL Lead: Greiling-DFL
Abeler-R  Johnson, J.-R
Bernardy-DFL  Klinzing-R
Biernat-DFL  Krinkie-R
Buesgens-R  M ariani-DFL
Davnie-DFL  Olsen-R
Demmer-R  Slawik-DFL
Eken-DFL  Sykora-R
Erickson-R  Wardlow-R
Goodwin-DFL  Knoblach-R**
Heidgerken-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Greg Marcus .............................. 296-9468
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kitty Musty ............................... 296-3316

Education Policy
403 State Office Building .......... 296-4315
Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 200*
Members: 31
Chair: Sykora-R
Vice Chair: Olson-R
DFL Lead: Carlson-DFL
Anderson, J.-R  Kielkucki-R
Bernardy-DFL  Klinzing-R
Biernat-DFL  Krinkie-R
Borrell-R  Latz-DFL
Buesgens-R  M ariani-DFL
Davnie-DFL  M eslow-R
Demmer-R  N aison, C.-R
Eastlund-R  Olsen-R
Eken-DFL  Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Erickson-R  Seagar-R
Greiling-DFL  Seifert-R
Heidgerken-R  Slawik-DFL
Jaros-DFL  Urdahl-R
Johnson, J.-R  Wardlow-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Becca Pryse .............................. 296-9469
Committee Legislative Assistant
Jennifer Eilts .......................... 296-7167

Environment and Natural Resources Finance
479 State Office Building .......... 296-4306
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 5*
Members: 14
Chair: Ozment-R
Vice Chair: Tingelstad-R
DFL Lead: Wagenius-DFL
Cornish-R  Koenen-DFL
Dill-DFL  Lindgren-R
Hacker-Barth-R  M cNamara-R
Holsten-R  Penas-R
Hoppe-R  W asiuk-DFL
Kahn-DFL  Knoblach-R**

Staff
Committee Administrator
Mary Telega .............................. 296-5994
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mary Telegra .............................. 296-5994

Environment and Natural Resources Policy
409 State Office Building .......... 296-2439
Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in Room 5*
Members: 22
Chair: Hacker-Barth-R
Vice Chair: Cox-R
DFL Lead: Clark-DFL
Cornish-R  Nelson, M.-DFL
Dill-DFL  Olson-R
Has-R  Ozment-R
Holsten-R  Penas-R
Hoppe-R  Peterson-DFL
Howes-R  Swenson-R
Koenen-DFL  Tingelstad-R
Larson-DFL  Wagenius-DFL
Lindgren-R  W asiuk-DFL
McNamara-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Mary Telegra .............................. 296-5994
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mary Telegra .............................. 296-5994

Ethics
289 State Office Building .......... 296-4277
Meet: Call of the Chair*
Members: 6
Chair: Erickson-R
Vice Chair: Pugh-DFL
Davids-R  M ahoney-DFL
Murphy-DFL  Rhodes-R**
Murphy-DFL  (alternate)

Staff
Committee Administrator
Blair Tremere ........................... 296-8880
Committee Legislative Assistant
Jennifer Eilts .......................... 296-7167

Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy
443 State Office Building .......... 296-9889
Meet: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*
Members: 19
Chair: Rhodes-R
Vice Chair: Lipman-R
DFL Lead: Kahn-DFL
Boudreau-R  Knoblach-R
Ellson-DFL  Lesch-DFL
Ericksen-R  Olsen-R
Haa-R  Samuelson-R
Hilty-DFL  Seifert-R
Jacobson-R  Solberg-DFL
Johnson, S.-DFL  Strachan-R
Kielkucki-R  Thissen-DFL

Health and Human Services Finance
563 State Office Building .......... 296-9249
Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 10*
Members: 11
Chair: Bradley-R
Vice Chair: Wilkin-R
DFL Lead: Hunterley-DFL
Abeler-R  Otrema-DFL
Boudreau-R  Samuelson-R
Finstad-R  Thao-DFL
Norme-R  Knoblach-R**
Opatz-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Heidi Holste ............................ 296-7185
Committee Legislative Assistant
Cheryl Burke ............................ 296-4375
Health and Human Services Policy
559 State Office Building .......... 296-8257
Meet: Mondays, 12:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 10*
Members: 16
Chair: Boudreau-R
Vice Chair: Abeler-R
DFL Lead: Paymar-DFL
Bradley-R Samuels-R
Dempsey-R Smith-R
Finstad-R Soderstrom-R
Huntley-DFL Thao-DFL
Nornes-R Walker-DFL
Otremba-DFL Wilkin-R
Staff
Committee Administrator
Andy Gildea ................................. 296-5065
Committee Legislative Assistant
Cassi Holmstrom ......................... 296-5489

Higher Education Finance
375 State Office Building .......... 296-4373
Meet: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 300S*
Members: 12
Chair: Stang-R
Vice Chair: Nornes-R
DFL Lead: Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Anderson, J.-R Latz-DFL
Carlson-DFL M Nambama-R
Cox-R Meslow-R
Dorn-DFL Nelson, C.-R
Fuller-R Knoblauch-R**
Staff
Committee Administrator
Bret Walsh .................................... 296-4091
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mike Miller ................................. 296-7168

Jobs and Economic Development Finance
485 State Office Building .......... 296-3240
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*
Members: 12
Chair: Gunther-R
Vice Chair: Dorman-R
DFL Lead: Dorn-DFL
Clark-DFL Osterman-R
Daivid-R Sertich-DFL
Gerlach-R Severyn-R
Lindner-R Walz-R
Mahoney-DFL
Staff
Committee Administrator
Erik Aamoth ............................... 296-5069
Committee Legislative Assistant
Liz Spears ................................. 296-6586

Judiciary Policy and Finance
543 State Office Building .......... 296-5502
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*
Members: 20
Chair: Stanek-R
Vice Chair: Eastlund-R
DFL Lead: Murphy-DFL
Anderson, J.-R Meslow-R
Blaine-R Paymar-DFL
Ellison-DFL Rhodes-R
Finstad-R Smith-R
Hilstrom-DFL Soderstrom-R
Hilty-DFL Strachan-R
Johnson, S.-DFL Thao-DFL
Lesch-DFL Walz-R
Lipman-R Knoblauch-R**
Staff
Committee Administrator
Chuck Noerenberg ....................... 296-5533
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kevin Matzek ............................. 296-4119

Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs
575 State Office Building .......... 296-8635
Meet: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. in Room 200*
Members: 19
Chair: Dempsey-R
Vice Chair: Buesgens-R
DFL Lead: Mariani-DFL
Abrams-R Hornstein-DFL
Adolphson-R Klinking-R
Blaine-R Lanning-R
Brod-R Lenczewski-DFL
Eken-DFL Lesch-DFL
Ellison-DFL Nelson, C.-R
Hilstrom-DFL Severyn-R
Holberg-R Soderstrom-R
Staff
Committee Administrator
Lindsay Wallace .......................... 296-5376
Committee Legislative Assistant
Clayton Helmer ........................... 296-5998

Regulated Industries
381 State Office Building .......... 296-3018
Meet: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. in Room 5*
Members: 20
Chair: Holsten-R
Vice Chair: Westerberg-R
DFL Lead: Anderson, I.-DFL
Beard-R Osterman-R
Cox-R Ozment-R
Davids-R Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Gunther-R Simpson-R
Hackarh-R Vandevere-R
Hoppe-R Wagenius-DFL
Johnson, S.-DFL Walker-DFL
Juhnie-DFL Westrom-R
Kariva-DFL Larson-DFL
Staff
Committee Administrator
Brian Fahey ............................... 296-9302
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kathleen Anderson ..................... 296-8871

Rules and Legislative Administration
459 State Office Building .......... 296-7449
Meet: Call of the Chair*
Members: 21
Chair: Paulsen-R
Vice Chair: Seifert-R
DFL Lead: Entenza-DFL
Abrams-R Johnson, J.-R
Anderson, B.-R Kelliher-DFL
Boudreau-R Olsen-R
Dorn-DFL Ozment-R
Ercikson-R Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Fuller-R Solberg-DFL
Grelling-DFL Svigum-R
Hoppe-R Tingelstad-R
Howes-R Wagenius-DFL
Staff
Committee Administrator
George Hilti .............................. 296-4276
Committee Legislative Assistant
Lesley Hinze ............................. 296-9183

Assignments as of 1/09/03 *Rooms in State Office Building **-Non-voting member
State Government Finance
569 State Office Building .......... 296-5513
Meetings: Tuesdays and Wednesdays
2:30 p.m. in 500N*
Members: 11
Chair: Haas-R
Vice Chair: Jacobson-R
DFL Lead: Hilty-DFL
Cornish-R Rukavina-DFL
Kahn-DFL Seifert-R
Kielkucki-R Stranagan-R
Paymar-DFL Thissen-DFL
Rhodes- R Knoblach-R**
Staff
Committee Administrator
Jared Jordal .......................... 296-5318
Committee Legislative Assistant
Pat Carter ............................. 296-5399
Taxes
585 State Office Building .......... 296-9934
Meetings: M ondays, 12:30 p.m.; Tuesdays,
Wednesday, and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.
in Room 200*
Members: 25
Chair: Abrams-R
Vice Chair: Ruth-R
DFL Lead: Pugh-DFL
Anderson, I.-DFL Lanning-R
Atkins-DFL Lenczewski-DFL
Borrell-R Lindner-R
Brod-R M agnus-R
Dempsey-R Marquart-DFL
Dorman-R M ullery-DFL
Erhardt-R Nelson, P.-R
Harder-R Rukavina-DFL
Jacobson-R Sieben-DFL
Jaros-DFL Simpson-R
Kohls-R Knoblach-R**
Kuisle-R
Staff
Committee Administrator
Blair Tremere ....................... 296-8880
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kathy Kieffer ....................... 296-5991
Transportation Finance
565 State Office Building .......... 296-4378
Meetings: Tuesdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 500S*,
and Wednesdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 200*
Members: 20
Chair: Kuisle-R
Vice Chair: Westrom-R
DFL Lead: Lieder-DFL
Adolphson-R
Anderson, B.-R Magnus-R
Beard-R Nelson, M.-DFL
DeLaForest-R Nelson, P.-R
Erhardt-R Peterson-DFL
Hausman-DFL Ruth-R
Holberg-R Thissen-DFL
Hornstein-DFL Westerberg-R
Juhnke-DFL Knoblach-R**
Larson-DFL
Staff
Committee Administrator
Erik Rudeen ......................... 296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
JoAnn Overgaauw ................... 296-5336
Transportation Policy
591 State Office Building .......... 296-4363
Meetings: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12:30
p.m. in Room 200*
Members: 23
Chair: Erhardt-R
Vice Chair: Howes-R
DFL Lead: Opatz-DFL
Adolphson-R
Anderson, B.-R Magnus-R
Beard-R Nelson, P.-R
DeLaForest-R Olson-R
Erhardt-R Ruth-R
Hausman-DFL Seagren-R
Holberg-R Severson-R
Hornstein-DFL Sieben-DFL
Juhnke-DFL Slawik-DFL
Kuisle-R Westerberg-R
Staff
Committee Administrator
Margaret Amundson ............... 296-7427
Committee Legislative Assistant
Phyllis Brannan ................... 297-5603
Ways and Means
453 State Office Building .......... 296-6316
Meetings: Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*
Members: 28
Chair: Knoblach-R
Vice Chair: Holberg-R
DFL Lead: Solberg-DFL
Abrams-R Lenczewski-DFL
Adolphson-R Ozment-R
Anderson, I.-DFL Rukavina-DFL
Carlson-DFL Ruth-R
Dorn-DFL Seagren-R
Erhardt-R Seifert-R
Gunther-R Smith-R
Haas-R Stanek-R
Holsten-R Stang-R
Huntley-DFL Sviggum-R
Kelliher-DFL Wagenius-DFL
Krukva-DFL Walker-DFL
Kuisle-R
Staff
Committee Administrator
Chas Anderson ...................... 296-8875
Committee Legislative Assistant
Shirley Koderick ................... 296-4999

Assignments as of 1/09/03 *Rooms in State Office Building **-Non-voting member

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

Location

The Capitol complex is north of I-94, just minutes from downtown St. Paul. It is accessible from the east and west on I-94, and from the north and south on I-35E.

I-94 eastbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn left. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go nearly one block and enter parking lot AA on the left just before Rice Street.

I-94 westbound: Exit at Marion Street. Turn right. Go to Aurora Avenue and turn right. Go nearly one block and enter parking lot AA on the left just before Rice Street.

I-35E northbound: Exit at Kellogg Boulevard. Turn left. Go to John Ireland Boulevard and turn right. Metered parking spaces line both sides of the boulevard.

I-35E southbound: Exit at University Avenue. Turn right. Go to Rice Street and turn left. Go one block, turn right on Aurora Avenue and enter Parking Lot AA.

Parking

Public metered parking is available in Lot Q, north of the Capitol at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue; Lot AA, across Rice Street from the State Office Building on Aurora Avenue; Lot F, directly behind the Transportation Building; Lot K, across from the Armory on Cedar Street (enter from 12th Street); and on the orange level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp at Cedar Street and Constitution Avenue. All-day metered parking is available in Lot Q. Capitol Security personnel will issue tickets for expired meters.

All-day parking permits may be purchased for $3.50 from Plant Management on the third floor of the Ford Building. Cash or checks are accepted and correct change is appreciated. For more information, call (651) 297-3993.

Outdoor handicapped parking is available in Lot N, which is on the northwest side of the Capitol, and in Lot F. One spot is available in Lot AA.

Indoor handicapped parking is available on the lower level of the State Office Building Ramp (use the call box at the ramp entrance to gain entry); on the blue level of the Centennial Office Building Ramp; and on the entry level of the Administration Building Ramp (two stalls).

The main handicapped entrance to the Capitol is on the northwest side of the building, just off Lot N; there also are drop-off entrances on the south side under the front steps and on the northeast side of the building.

Since parking is limited during legislative sessions, busing may be necessary. Freeway express bus service is available. Bus number 94B takes you to the Capitol and the State Office Building. Call the Transit Information Center at (651) 349-7000 for schedule and route information.

What to do

Tours

Tours of the Capitol are offered through the Capitol Historic Site Program of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Tour guides lead the 45-minute tours on the hour Monday through Fridays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.); Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 p.m.); and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. (last tour leaves at 4 p.m.). The tours are free of charge and begin at the Capitol’s information desk at the end of the corridor to the right of the main entrance. Brochures in about 20 foreign languages also are available there.

Tour participants may request customized tours that emphasize either the building or state government.

Historical society officials ask that groups of 10 or more call at least two weeks in advance to reserve a tour time.

The society offers “Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government,” a half-day session for students in grades 9-12.

Also, special tour events are scheduled monthly throughout the year. Some of these events entail admission fees; others are free. A special events guide is available upon request.

For more information about the tours or to reserve a time, call the Capitol Historic Site Program, (651) 296-2881.

Legislative sessions

Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate debate bills when the Legislature is in session.
At the beginning of a legislative session, the pace of floor sessions is generally slow as new bills are assigned to committees and non-controversial items are discussed. At about the session’s midpoint, however, the legislative pace quickens.

The House usually meets at 3 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and the Senate meets at 11:30 a.m. Mondays and at 9 a.m. Thursdays during the first few weeks. House floor sessions are scheduled for the afternoon because committees meet in the morning and early afternoon. As the session nears the end, however, both bodies may meet several times a day, often into the night.

All House and Senate floor sessions are open to the public. Visitors interested in observing these sessions may call the House Chief Clerk’s Office, (651) 296-2314, or Senate Information, (651) 296-0504, with questions. Spectators may sit in the galleries of either chamber.

Committee meetings
Visitors wanting to attend a committee meeting may call the committee hotlines for prerecorded messages with the meeting times and agendas for each day: House, (651) 296-9283; Senate, (651) 296-8088. Printed agendas for the week also appear in each issue of the Session Weekly and the Senate Briefly.

Committee meetings are open to the public. When a public hearing is scheduled, the committee may listen to comments from the audience (when time permits) in addition to the scheduled speakers. Committees have different policies on hearing testimony depending upon their size and workload. Informational handouts that committee members receive during meetings or hearings are considered public information and are available to the audience on a first-come, first-served basis.

Major proposals often have several public hearings so committee members may listen to all arguments for and against a bill.

Each committee has a chair, vice chair, administrator, and legislative assistant. A list of committees and members is available in the House Public Information Office in Room 175, State Office Building, or the Senate Information Office in Room 231, State Capitol.

Groups and individuals wishing to testify before a committee should call the appropriate committee’s legislative assistant well in advance of the meeting and ask to be placed on the agenda. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification. Committees prefer requests one week in advance but will accept later notification. All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

E-mail schedules
Anyone with e-mail can receive both House and Senate committee schedules.
To sign up to receive the House committee schedule, direct your Web browser to http://ww3.house.leg.state.mn.us/scripts/lyris.pl?join=houseschedule and fill out the subscription form on the Legislature’s Web site.
You can also sign up for the Senate schedule on the Internet. Point your Web browser to http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/schedule/ listserv.htm. and fill out the subscription form.

Dining
Cafeterias are located in most state buildings. The small State Office Building cafeterias usually open only when the Legislature is in session. Large, year-round cafeterias are available in the State Capitol and the Transportation Building.

Also, there are many restaurants within walking distance. On Rice Street are the Lagoon Vietnamese Restaurant, White Castle, and El Bravo Mexican Restaurant. On University Avenue, you will find McDonald’s, Burger King, Mai Village, and other restaurants. There are also dozens of restaurants only minutes away in downtown St. Paul. Bus rides downtown cost 50 cents. You can catch the bus on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Group visits
Sometimes groups plan a “legislative day” at the Capitol in order to express a particular viewpoint to legislators.

Rooms for special conferences or speakers can be reserved by calling the State Office Building room scheduler at (651) 296-5408 or the Capitol room scheduler at (651) 296-0866.

If group members want to meet with their individual legislators or testify before a committee (see “Committee meetings”), arrangements should be made at least a week in advance.

Often such groups have members wear a distinctive name tag or badge to indicate their concern about a particular issue.

Groups planning a trip to the Capitol should remember that seating is fairly limited in some committee rooms— particularly when the topic is controversial.

About security
Visitors to the Capitol need not be concerned or postpone a visit following Sept. 11, 2001.

While security has been tightened, measures may not be obvious to the casual visitor. Remember only that you may need to identify yourself to a security officer stationed at a public entrance.

Where to find information
House Public Information Office
175 State Office Building
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

The House Public Information Office is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the Session Weekly newsletter, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature’s World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: http://www.leg.mn

House Television Services
216C State Capitol, (651) 297-1338

House Television Services is responsible for live coverage of House floor sessions and some committee hearings. Such coverage is aired in the Twin Cities area on KTCI-TV, Channel 17. The House also broadcasts via satellite statewide, available on local cable systems. Internet users can also view committee hearings and floor sessions via the House TV Web site. Refer to the site at http://www.house.mn/htv/liveweb.htm for more information.

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are closed-captioned for people with hearing impairments.

Chief Clerk’s Office
211 State Capitol, (651) 296-2314

The Chief Clerk’s Office provides copies of bills at no charge, all agendas for House sessions, and the Journal of the House.

House Index Department
211 State Capitol, (651) 296-6646

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

Senate Information Office
231 State Capitol, (651) 296-0504

The Senate Information Office is responsible for all information about the Senate, including the committee schedule, bill status, legislator information, and the distribution of bill copies.

Senate Media Services
B-44 State Capitol, (651) 296-0264

Senate Media Services, a bipartisan office, produces television programs, multi-media productions, scriptwriting, photography, and graphics. It offers live coverage of the Senate floor sessions and some committee hearings.

Session Weekly 21
MONDAY, January 20

HOUSE OFFICES CLOSED.

TUESDAY, January 21

8:15 AM
Health and Human Services Finance
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Fran Bradley
Agenda: Consideration and action on the fiscal year 2003 committee budget balancing bill. If necessary, this meeting will continue one hour after session in 10 State Office Building.

Transportation Finance
Room: 500S State Office Building
Chair: Rep. William Kuisle
Agenda: Budget solution bill.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: 2003 budget.

Jobs and Economic Development Finance
Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther
Agenda: To be announced.

9:15 AM
Environment and Natural Resources Policy
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. William Kuisle
Agenda: Overview presentations by the Metropolitan Airports Commission and Minnesota Association of Townships.

10:15 AM
Taxes
Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Ron Abrams
Agenda: Consideration of revisor bill regarding aspects of 2003 budget revisions related to revenue and taxation law. Other business to be announced.

Education Finance
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: Continuation of introduction to education finance.

Environment and Natural Resources Policy
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Tom Hackbarth
Agenda: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA) presentation and overview.

12:15 PM
Transportation Policy
Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt
Agenda: There will be no formal committee meeting. Members and staff will tour the Burnsville and Eden Prairie transit hubs. The tour is provided by the Suburban Metropolitan Transit Association. The bus will leave from in front of the State Office Building promptly at 12:15 p.m. and will return at 2:15 p.m.

12:30 PM
Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy
Room: Basement Hearing Room State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Jim Rhodes
*** Note: *** Change in Agenda
Agenda: Confirmation of Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board appointees, Terri Ashmore and Bob Milbert. HF64 (Siefert) Administrative rules proposal statement of need and reasonableness contents specified.

Agriculture and Rural Development Finance
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Elane Harder
Agenda: Mark-up and consideration of a committee bill relating to FY02-03 budget balancing efforts and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, and the Board of Animal Health.
Overview of Minnesota's dairy industry and presentation of legislative proposals by the Minnesota Milk Producers Association and dairy producers.

Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Greg Davids
Agenda: Department overviews from the Department of Economic Security and Housing Finance Agency.

2:30 PM
Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs
Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Jerry Dempsey
Agenda: Overview presentations by the Metropolitan Airports Commission and Minnesota Association of Townships.

3:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, January 22

8:15 AM
Transportation Finance
Room: 200 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. William Kuisle
Agenda: Overview of transportation financing.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance
Room: 5 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment
Agenda: To be announced.

Health and Human Services Policy
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Lynda Boudreau
Agenda: Presentation on medical data collection by Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Overview of opposition to MDH Plan. Concerns regarding: genetic research and informed consent; individual rights, technology and information security, the ethics of privacy, the impact on privacy laws, doctor-patient trust and confidentiality, and the impact on individuals and families.

Jobs and Economic Development Finance
Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther
Agenda: To be announced.

10:15 AM
Judiciary Policy and Finance
Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Rich Stanek
Education Finance  
Room: 10 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren  
Agenda: 2003 budget reconciliation.

12:30PM

Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy  
Room: Basement Hearing Room State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Jim Rhodes  
*** Note: *** Change in Agenda  
Agenda: HF 1 (Stanek) Anti-terrorism; driver’s license information regulation provided, and federal laws and regulations adopted.  
Other business to be announced.

Transportation Policy  
Room: 200 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Ron Erhardt  
Agenda: Overview of transportation financing.  
*Please note that the presentation in Transportation Policy on Wednesday afternoon will be the same presentation given in the Transportation Finance committee meeting in the morning.  
** Members who are on both committees do not have to attend both meetings.

Agriculture Policy  
Room: 5 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Howard Swenson  
Agenda: Overview of Minnesota Milk Producers Association, Greg Jans, dairy producer from Grove City and MMPA director; Lee Johnston, dairy producer from Swanville and MMPA director.  
Overview of Minnesota Dairy Producers Board, Jeff Kunstleben, president, Department of Agriculture Dairy Survey.

Economic Development and Tourism Division  
Room: 10 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Arlon Lindner  
Agenda: Presentation from the Department of Tourism.  
Overview of wastewater infrastructure issues.

State Government Finance  
Room: 500N State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Bill Haaas  
Agenda: To be announced.

Civil Law  
Room: 10 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Steve Smith  
Agenda: To be determined.

Regulated Industries  
Room: 5 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. M ark Holsten  

Capital Investment  
Room: Basement Hearing Room  
Chair: Rep. Phil Krinkie  
Agenda: HFXXXX (Krinkie) Fiscal year 2003 budget reconciliation committee bill.

Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs  
Room: 200 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Jerry Dempsey  
Agenda: Overview presentations by local government associations: League of Minnesota Cities; Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities; Minnesota Association of Small Cities; Association of Metropolitan Municipalities; Local Government Alliance; and Association of Minnesota Counties. Others may be added.

THURSDAY, January 23

8:15AM

Health and Human Services Finance  
Room: 10 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Fran Bradley  
Agenda: To be announced.

Jobs and Economic Development Finance  
Room: Basement Hearing Room  
Chair: Rep. Bob Gunther  
Agenda: To be announced.

Environment and Natural Resources Finance  
Room: 5 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Dennis Ozment  
Agenda: To be announced.

Education Policy  
Room: 200 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Barb Sykora  
Agenda: To be determined.

10:15AM

Taxes  
Room: 200 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Ron Abrams  
Agenda: Presentation by House Research and Fiscal Analysis tax staff.  
Other business to be announced.

Education Finance  
Room: 10 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren  
Agenda: To be announced.

Environment and Natural Resources Policy  
Room: 5 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Tom Haackbarth  
Agenda: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) agency introduction and program overview.

Judiciary Policy and Finance  
Room: Basement Hearing Room  
Chair: Rep. Rich Stanek  
Agenda: To be announced.

12:30PM

Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development  
Room: 10 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Greg Davids  
Agenda: Department of Commerce State Land Recycling Programs, Bonnie Balach, MN Solutions.

Agriculture and Rural Development Finance  
Room: 5 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Elaine Harder  
Agenda: To be announced.

Ways and Means  
Room: 200 State Office Building  
Chair: Rep. Jim Knoblach  
Agenda: To be announced.

FRIDAY, January 24

No meetings scheduled.
Monday, Jan. 13

HF49—Paymar (DFL)  
Jobs & Economic Development Finance  
St. Paul; Roy Wilkins Center asset preservation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF50—Opatz (DFL)  
Environment & Natural Resources Finance  
St. Cloud regional parks and trails coordinating board grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF51—Davids (R)  
Health & Human Services Policy  
Health insurance provisions clarified relating to long-term care insurance.

HF52—Davids (R)  
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development  
Insurers prohibited from charging membership fees or dues.

HF53—Opatz (DFL)  
Transportation Finance  
Northstar commuter rail system funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF54—Slawik (DFL)  
Education Policy  
School districts required to adopt policies on student-on-student abuse.

HF55—Mahoney (DFL)  
Jobs & Economic Development Finance  
St. Paul; Phalen corridor contamination remediation grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF56—Paymar (DFL)  
Judiciary Policy & Finance  
Domestic abuse testimony admissibility provisions modified.

HF57—Borell (R)  
Regulated Industries  
St. Michael on-sale liquor licenses authorized.

HF58—Severson (R)  
Jobs & Economic Development Finance  
St. Stephen municipal water and wastewater systems funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF59—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Independent expenditures by political parties prohibited as a condition of candidates receiving public subsidies.

HF60—Lipman (R)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Absentee ballot provisions modified.

HF61—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
House of Representatives organization provided in case of tie vote for a House officer.

HF62—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Veto override legislative sessions provided, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF63—Boudreau (R)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Prior service credit purchase authorized for specified Department of Transportation employee.

HF64—Seifert (R)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Administrative rules proposal statement of need and reasonableness contents specified.

HF65—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Instant runoff procedure provided for presidential, congressional, and statewide elections; and municipalities authorized to adopt the instant runoff for local offices.

HF66—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
City council members election required after reapportionment.

HF67—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Election pilot project authorized to register voters and conduct absentee voting via the Internet.

HF68—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Candidate affidavits required to include address of residence, and affidavits rejected which indicate candidate does not live in the district of election.

HF69—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Elections; uncontested judicial offices required to appear after all contested judicial offices on the canary ballot.

HF71—Kahn (DFL)  
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy  
Local units of government authorized to permit permanent resident non-citizens to vote in local elections, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF72—Dill (DFL)  
Higher Education Finance  
Vermilion Community College land acquisition authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF73—Anderson, I. (DFL)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
County emergency management plans required by January 2005.

Thursday, Jan. 16

HF74—Knoblauch (R)  
Ways and Means  
State government finance bill appropriating money and reducing appropriations for education, health, human services, corrections, economic development, transportation, environmental, and other purposes.

HF75—Johnson, J. (R)  
Civil Law  
Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

HF76—Davids (R)  
Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development  
Credit scoring prohibited for auto and homeowner’s insurance.

HF77—Opatz (DFL)  
Higher Education Finance  
Tuition reciprocity requirements modified.

HF78—Kahn (DFL)  
Regulated Industries  
Dairy mixed cocktail separate excise tax provided.

HF79—Stang (R)  
Transportation Finance  
Cold Spring traffic signal installed, and money appropriated.

HF80—Stang (R)  
Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development  
Farm labor housing exempted from manufactured home park regulation.

HF81—Jacobson (R)  
Transportation Policy  
Transportation Department directed to proceed with reconstruction of I-35E and I-694 interchange.

HF82—Abeler (R)  
Education Finance  
Career and technical programs levy made permanent.

HF83—Buesgens (R)  
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs  
Local governments prohibited from hiring lobbyists.
retirement benefits.

surviving spouses provided increased pension and

Eveleth; retired police officers and firefighters and

Veterans Affairs Policy

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Absentee ballot eligibility provided.

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

St. Paul Civic Center authority powers and duties technical changes provided.

Agriculture Policy

Circus prohibition around state fair time repealed.

Commercial, Jobs & Economic Development

Archaic prohibition on misrepresenting the size of certain items relating to wagons repealed.

Senior citizens health benefit fund established,

Health & Human Services Policy

Medicaid service vehicle tax exemptions provided.

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Minimum wage increased.

Community building funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

High school graduation projections required.

St. Paul; Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community building funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

Litigation and settlement proceeds deposited in the general fund.

Unemployment insurance benefits deductible provisions modified.

Unemployment insurance benefit extension.

Transportation Policy

Owner and operator of overweight implement of husbandry held liable for damage to roads and bridges.

Health & Human Services Policy

Senior citizens health benefit fund established, health endowment funds uses modified, prescription drug program eligibility expanded, and money appropriated.

Health & Human Services Policy

Health endowment funds uses modified, prescription drug program eligibility expanded, and money appropriated.

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Unemployment insurance benefit extension provided.

Health & Human Services Policy

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Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development

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Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

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Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) didn’t get away with pulling a fast one on newly elected House members Jan. 16, but he tried.

Among the list of rules Davids authored as chair of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee was this adict: “Freshman legislators should be seen and not heard.”

Offered in good humor by Davids, the rule was rejected following a motion by Rep. Laura Brod (R-New Prague), who herself is a first-time legislator. The remaining 16 rules, however, were approved.

**Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation**

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**Protesting fathers**

Law may require women to provide legal notice when putting child up for adoption

Six women are challenging a Florida law on the grounds that it involves an unconstitutional invasion of their privacy.

The law, part of revised Florida adoption standards, requires women who want to put a baby up for adoption to first conduct an exhaustive search for the biological father.

If the identity of the father is not known, the birth mother must place legal notices about the adoption in newspapers where the baby was conceived. The notice must include the mother’s name and description, the name and description of possible fathers(s), and the date and city or county of conception.

Lawmakers contend that the intent of the policy is to protect fathers and prevent overturned adoptions.

“Time after time we have joined adoptive parents, watching in helpless horror as confused and fearful children are taken from adoptive homes that they have known for months or even years to be returned to a birth parent whose constitutional rights were not properly addresses in the adoption process,” said Sen. Skip Campbell (D-Tamarac), the law’s sponsor.

“This can end these nightmares for everyone.”

Campbell said the Florida law is supported by a number of legal and adoption support agencies in the state.

But Charlotte Danciu, a Boca Raton attorney representing the six women, argues that the notification requirement presents a roadblock and an invasion of privacy.

“When women come into my office and find their whole lives have to be exposed in the newspaper, they are like ‘Forget it.’” Danciu told the Sun-Sentinel. “They can abort without consent, but they can’t give the child an opportunity to live without humiliating themselves.”

The requirement took effect in October 2001 but landed in the spotlight during the summer of 2002 when a Palm Beach County circuit judge declared the notification mandate unconstitutional in cases of forcible rape. The law was upheld under all other circumstances, but Danciu plans to appeal the decision.

**Editor’s Note:** This story was written by Tara Bergen, an intern in House Public Information Services during the 2002 interim. Bergen, a senior at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, is studying journalism and public policy.
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Reflections

The street that is home to the Legislature, the State Capitol, and the Minnesota Supreme Court is scheduled to get a new name at a dedication on Monday, Jan. 20, when it will be changed from Constitution Avenue to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

The idea of naming a St. Paul street in honor of the civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize recipient was approved in August 2002 by the St. Paul City Council. A number of streets were considered before the decision was made to pay tribute to Dr. King by renaming one of the city’s most distinguished streets in his honor.

During construction of the statehouse in 1903, Cass Gilbert, its architect and designer, was the first to suggest a very dignified setting for the Capitol that included a Capitol Mall and grand boulevards that lead out to the city and beyond. Over the years, many original streets in the Capitol complex have disappeared, while others were reconfigured, or names changed to conform to historical importance.

When the State Capitol was completed in 1905, nearby streets through the neighborhood remained a part of the overall city plat: Cedar, Park, and Wabasha streets and Aurora, Central, University, and Summit avenues.

When the Capitol opened in 1905, the neighborhood had well-preserved mansions, rental apartments, business structures, hotels, and working class residences. By 1945, stately homes across the street to the east and spired churches, handsomely built hotels, and businesses to the west had become part of a poor, rundown neighborhood of mostly dilapidated or boarded up buildings. Legislative approval in the early 1950s allowed for the neighborhood and Capitol complex to begin to take on the more distinguished look that Gilbert had in mind.

As the state government campus began to unfold, additions such as a new and grand boulevard was connected to Park Street (later known as Constitution Avenue south of University Avenue) and named for Archbishop John Ireland in 1958. The street helped provide a western edge to a mall leading from the Capitol between it and Cedar Street to the east.

Other changes include blocking off Aurora Avenue directly in front of the Capitol and renaming the U-shaped street in front of the State Capitol Constitution Avenue in 1987.

Once again through a process of connecting with the past to improve the future, a new address unfolds. On Jan. 20, the Capitol city’s Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard joins a list of more than 485 streets across the country that are named in his honor.

Often with dreams, change comes about.

—LeClair Grier Lambert

Photo from the book Twin Cities Then and Now, by Larry Millett

Where to find information

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175 State Office Building
(651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

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Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the Legislature’s World Wide Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: http://www.leg.mn

Session Weekly  27
Minnesota Voters

Percentage of eligible Minnesota voters who cast ballots in November 2002 ...... 61.4
National rank ................................................................. 1
Number casting ballots ......................................................... 2,282,860
Percentage voting in November 2000 ........................................ 69.3
Percentage in 1998 (last gubernatorial election) ................................................... 60.5
Voter turnout in Scott County in 2002 (state's highest), as percent ................. 89.46
Highest county in 2000 (Grant) ................................................................. 79.53
Counties (out of 87) with better than 90 percent voter turnout in 2002 ............ 33
Those with less than 71 percent turnout .................................................. 1
Minimum days one must be a Minnesota resident before the election to be
eligible to vote ...................................................................................... 20
Number of Minnesota voters registering on Election Day ................................. 342,978
Percentage of voters registering on Election Day ........................................ 15.02
Percentage in 2000 ................................................................. 18.88
In 1998 ................................................................................. 15.79
In 1986 ................................................................................. 9.46
In 1976 ................................................................................ 22.95
In addition to Minnesota, states that allow for voter registration at the polls ...... 4
States that have no voter registration ................................................................. 1
Minnesota counties that hand count all ballots .............................................. 8
Use optical scanners at the precinct ................................................................. 12
Central count ballots using an optical scan ...................................................... 28
Hand and precinct count ............................................................................... 14
Precinct and central count ............................................................................. 21
Hand, precinct, and central count .................................................................... 4
Number candidates that were on the ballot for House seats in 2002 ............... 305
Public subsidy payments given to eligible state candidates from the
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, in millions ............................ $4.44
Number of House candidates receiving money ............................................. 272
Amount each received .............................................................................. $2,608.51

Sources: Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, House Public Information Services Office, Minnesota Planning, Federal Election Commission, and Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

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