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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

Calling 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 di-



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gov. Tim Pawlenty presents his proposal to solve the state's \$356 million budget shortfall for this fiscal year during a Jan. 14 news conference at the State Capitol. Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau and Finance Commissioner Dan McElroy listen to the proposal. The governor's plan calls for a combination of structural budget reductions and the use of one-time monies.

rect care — Department of Human Services, Veterans Home Board, etc. — took less of a hit while others, such as Minnesota Planning, took more.

A number of programs were not cut for 2003 because they have already received their full biennial funding. Ingison said that does not mean those groups won't be cut in future years.

The reductions are not specific, thereby allowing department heads and commissioners to decide where the cuts take place.

McElroy refused to rule out job losses for some state employees, saying, "I'd imagine it will be hard to do this without some loss of jobs."

The governor said he would like the Legislature to enact a mandatory salary savings for state employees, meaning an employee might not work or get paid for a full week, but would not lose their benefits. For example, one's unpaid lunch break could be expanded or someone may also choose to work only one half-day per week.

"We're doing this to give our managers in state agencies the flexibility to have this tool available to them," he said. "This would be available in order to avoid larger, more massive layoffs."

The plan further restricts out-of-state travel for state employees, unless in "emergency or extremely important" situations. The flexible hiring freeze imposed by the Ventura administration will continue, and perhaps be tightened further.

Pawlenty will also ask the Legislature to remove the law that prohibits the state from finding private sector outlets to perform work. "It is in outdated, archaic law. It is overly protectionist and we need to be able to outsource as a tool for saving money in these tough times," he said.

As for the \$77 million in state agency grant and program reductions, the largest, by far, is \$26.8 million in ethanol production subsidies for Minnesota farmers. Sviggum suggested possibly delaying payments to later years instead of cutting.

"To take 50 percent of the ethanol budget away does not pass the fairness test," said Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), the lead DFL member on the House Agriculture Finance Committee. "I suggest we take our time because ethanol is part of a larger view of building an energy program in this state. We should not cause ethanol to collapse. We've made commitments to our farmers."

The reductions could also affect the way farmers and other Minnesotans watch the Legislature because a \$418,000 grant reduction to legislative television could disappear, money used to pay for airtime on Channel 17 in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and on cable channels in Greater Minnesota.

Other planned reductions include: \$1.32 million in contaminated site cleanup grants, \$750,000 from the sale of the state jet, and \$300 for the state band.



Space limitations

Growing population forced expansion of state's first prison

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," Ingison 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, businesspeople 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.

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 a chapel, dining hall, kitchen, and administrative offices. A hospital wasn't added until 36 years later.

Incidentally, women were also interned at the Stillwater prison until the Shakopee State Reformatory for Women opened in 1920.

When the Stillwater inmate population threatened to outgrow the facility, lawmakers appropriated \$2.43 million between 1905 and 1909 for a new prison. It was set to be located on 160 acres two miles south of the Stillwater prison on the former Oak Park Village site (formerly called Baytown).

The new prison opened in 1912 with five cell buildings, a greenhouse, two factory buildings, and two warehouses. (To accommodate an additional 400 prisoners, an addition was opened in 1982 in Oak Park Heights, one mile south of Stillwater).

The second city to host a state prison was St. Cloud. The prison opened in 1889 with the transfer of 77 inmates from the Stillwater prison. It was built on 240 acres with the idea that area granite quarries could provide inmate employment opportunities.

Since its construction, the St. Cloud prison has housed younger offenders that would eventually return to civilian life, and

prison industries have been an integral part of its programming.

After the turn of the century, numerous vocational departments were created, including construction, clothing and shoe manufacturing, printing, farming, and greenhouse production. Inmates also performed farming duties at work camps in East Grand Forks and Moose Lake, as well as logging duties at a camp in Walker.

Until 1895, the corrections commissioner was allowed to lease prisoners to

work for private businesses. At that time, the Legislature decided that only finished goods could be sold from prison shops. Twine, shoes, high school scientific apparatus, and farm machinery and equipment were produced at prison shops. According to Minnesota Historical Society records,

the prison industries program continues to manufacture twine and farm machinery.

Today, the Department of Corrections — created by merging three departments in 1959 — manages 10 correctional facilities. They are located in Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, St. Cloud, Rush City, Faribault, Lino Lakes, Shakopee, Red Wing, Togo (Thistledeew Camp), and Moose Lake/Willow River.

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)



The dormitory above the twine factory at Stillwater Prison in 1910.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

★ 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 Minerals 21st Century fund, which provides loans and investments to iron production facilities.

The jobs and economic development finance general fund budget for 2003 is \$381 million. It provides for the Department of Trade and Economic Development, Department of Economic Security, Housing Finance Agency, Labor and Industry Department, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

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



Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, left, and Capt. Stacy Altonen, a commander in the Minneapolis Police Department's Special Investigation Division, testify before the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 15 about the city's gang problem and the importance of continued funding for the Minnesota Gang Strike Force.

\$14.5 million from various environment-related funds to the state's general fund.

The reductions would total some \$4 million for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), \$1.9 million for the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), \$1.2 million for the Board of Water and Soil Resources, \$409,000 for the Office of Environmental Assistance, and \$270,000 for the Minnesota Zoological Garden.

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 Adelman, 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.

"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.

CIRCLE OF PEACE



PHOTO BY KRISTINE LARSEN

Members of the St. Louis Catholic Church in St. Paul gathered Jan. 15 at the Capitol Rotunda to show their unity and vision for peace.

★ HIGHER EDUCATION

Limiting student aid

Students yet to submit financial aid materials will likely not receive state grant funds 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 part of permanent law. The bill (HF1), sponsored by Rep. Rich Stanek (R-Maple Grove), 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 only is 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 Sheriff's 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 cancelled 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,



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Hassan Mohamad of the Legal Aid Society and the Muslim American Society testifies against changing the standards for driver's licenses as proof of identity and residency during a hearing of the House Transportation Policy Committee Jan. 14.

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 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.

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ETHANOL PRODUCER PAYMENTS



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

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.

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. N.W.

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



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

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.

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-Minnetrissa), awaits a hearing in the Senate Education Committee.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

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 5 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

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 moved 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. ■



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Assistant Commissioner Dan Storkamp, left, and Deputy Commissioner Dennis Benson discuss the Department of Corrections bed space projections budget impact with the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 14.

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

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 experience is 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 deliberate diversity of 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.



House Minority Leader Matt Entenza is serving in his first term as leader for the House DFL caucus. He was first elected to the House in 1994.

Among the assistant leaders is Minority Whip Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls). With a small minority, she agrees that the most important work of the party will be to take their case to voters. "Talking to the public is clearly where we'll be at," she said. "Winning votes and playing a floor strategy of catching people really isn't possible. I think there will be a much more public face to our caucus."

Kelliher calls Entenza "a bright and articulate leader who really can bring people together to see a vision and have focus."

Entenza, who was the minority whip last session, may be best known as the House sponsor of Minnesota's "Do Not Call List" legislation. An attorney with degrees from Oxford University and the University of Minnesota, Entenza first took on telemarketers as an assistant attorney general and prosecuted white-collar felonies in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office before being elected to the House in 1994.

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 State Capitol and met with his legislator. Now he is taking "his life's biggest field trip" as the new DFL representative from District 6A.



Rep. David Dill

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

"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

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."

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.



Rep. Doug Magnus

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

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

"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

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.

competing with Argentina and Brazil. Considered the two biggest international agricultural competitors, they are spending billions on infrastructure, said Magnus.

With a goal of keeping Minnesota agriculture in the forefront, Magnus advocates continued international trade missions, such as the venture to Japan he took in 1999 with then-Gov. Jesse Ventura. And, trade teams should continue to be invited to Minnesota.

Said Magnus, "Personal relationships are key and those buyers want to see the farmers."

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 MICHELLE KIBIGER

When Rep. Stephanie Olsen (R-Brooklyn Park) imagined how the new legislative districts would be drawn last spring, she never



Rep. Stephanie Olsen

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.

As a legislator, Olsen said she hopes to bring her positive attitude and knowledge of both government in general and the education system in particular to the challenge of the looming budget deficit.

"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."

Being a teacher, 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

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

Olsen said she will also turn her attention to the pressing needs of the north suburban communities she represents: transportation and transit options.

In addition to continued improvements in traffic flow along highways 252 and 610, Olsen said she hopes to see continued improvement to U.S. Highway 10, which runs through her district. In recent years, projects have increased the number of lanes through the growing communities of Coon Rapids, Anoka, and Andover.

With respect to transit, Olsen said she will explore expanding options for residents in the communities of the northern Twin Cities metropolitan area. In addition to the immediate needs for roads, she said busways should be examined as a flexible option for commuters. Currently, she said, residents of her district don't have as many options to get to St. Paul on the transit system without first going

through Minneapolis, which isn't convenient.

She said she's also interested in expanding suburb-to-suburb transit options in the northern metropolitan area and improving transportation options along Highway 10.

While living in Coon Rapids, Olsen traveled Highway 10 each day to attend college at St. Cloud State University. She said she hopes to bring that experience to the table when discussing transportation and transit options.

"I'm interested in the cost side of it," she 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

without cutting resources — essential services, which there are. Government has a purpose."

Says family friend and Coon Rapids resident, Will Erickson, who has known Olsen and her family for many years, Olsen's energy and willingness to work hard will serve her well as a representative.

"She's a hard worker and an honest girl, and I think she'll do a great job for us," Erickson said. "In fact, I know she will."

DISTRICT 47B

2002 population: 36,543

Largest city: Brooklyn Park

Counties: Hennepin, Anoka

Location: northern Twin Cities suburbs

Top concern: "I do want to see some education reform, and we may see some substantial finance reform, depending on how the budget plays out and if we can find a better way to fund our schools."

— Rep. Stephanie Olsen

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. 



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

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

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

Members: 14

Chair: Harder-R

Vice Chair: Penas-R

DFL Lead: Juhnke-DFL

Blaine-R	Marquart-DFL
Dill-DFL	Peterson-DFL
Finstad-R	Swenson-R
Heidgerken-R	Urdahl-R
Koenen-DFL	Westrom-R
Magnus-R	Knoblach-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Craig Clark 296-1540

Committee Legislative Assistant

Dave Easterday 296-9463

Agriculture Policy

517 State Office Building 296-8634

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

Members: 19

Chair: Swenson-R

Vice Chair: Blaine-R

DFL Lead: Otremba-DFL

Cornish-R	Koenen-DFL
Demmer-R	Lindgren-R
Dill-DFL	Magnus-R
Eken-DFL	Marquart-DFL
Finstad-R	Penas-R
Harder-R	Peterson-DFL
Heidgerken-R	Urdahl-R
Juhnke-DFL	Westrom-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Mary Cummins 296-3244

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebecca Lowden 296-4230

Capital Investment

453 State Office Building 296-6316

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

Members: 19

Chair: Krinkie-R

Vice Chair: Fuller-R

DFL Lead: Hausman-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Mahoney-DFL
Bradley-R	Murphy-DFL
Eastlund-R	Olson-R
Gerlach-R	Solberg-DFL
Howes-R	Stang-R
Jaros-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Kelliher-DFL	Urdahl-R
Knoblach-R	Wasiluk-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Craig Stone 296-5367

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathy Heimeel 296-3367

Civil Law

545 State Office Building 296-9188

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

Members: 12

Chair: Smith-R

Vice Chair: DeLaForest-R

DFL Lead: Biernat-DFL

Atkins-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Borrell-R	Stanek-R
Kohls-R	Swenson-R
Latz-DFL	Wardlow-R
Lipman-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dennis Virden 296-6860

Committee Legislative Assistant

Scott Wiggins 296-5356

Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy

379 State Office Building 296-9278

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

Members: 26

Chair: Davids-R

Vice Chair: Gerlach-R

DFL Lead: Rukavina-DFL

Atkins-DFL	Mullery-DFL
Brod-R	Nelson, M.-DFL
Clark-DFL	Osterman-R
Davnie-DFL	Pugh-DFL
Dorman-R	Sertich-DFL
Goodwin-DFL	Simpson-R
Gunther-R	Stang-R
Johnson, J.-R	Sykora-R
Kohls-R	Vandever-R
Lanning-R	Walz-R
Lindner-R	Wilkin-R
Mahoney-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

Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 10

Chair: Lindner-R

Vice Chair: Walz-R

DFL Lead: Mahoney-DFL

Clark-DFL	Gunther-R
Davids-R	Sertich-DFL
Dorman-R	Simpson-R
Goodwin-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Brian McDaniel 296-4283

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kelly Tungland 296-5355

Education Finance

477 State Office Building 296-7803

Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 21

Chair: Seagren-R

Vice Chair: Kielkucki-R

DFL Lead: Greiling-DFL

Abeler-R	Johnson, J.-R
Bernardy-DFL	Klinzing-R
Biernat-DFL	Krinkie-R
Buesgens-R	Mariani-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

Meets: 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	Mariani-DFL
Davnie-DFL	Meslow-R
Demmer-R	Nelson, C.-R
Eastlund-R	Olsen-R
Eken-DFL	Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Erickson-R	Seagren-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

Meets: 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
Hackbarth-R	McNamara-R
Holsten-R	Penas-R
Hoppe-R	Wasiluk-DFL
Kahn-DFL	Knoblach-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Marilyn Brick 296-8893

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Telega 296-5994

Environment and

Natural Resources Policy

409 State Office Building 296-2439

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 22

Chair: Hackbarth-R

Vice Chair: Cox-R

DFL Lead: Clark-DFL

Cornish-R	Nelson, M.-DFL
Dill-DFL	Olson-R
Haas-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	Wasiluk-DFL
McNamara-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dave Chura 297-5723

Committee Legislative Assistant

Shelley Peterson 296-3641

Ethics

289 State Office Building 296-4277

Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 6

Chair: Erickson-R

Vice Chair: Pugh-DFL

Davids-R	Mahoney-DFL
Murphy-DFL	(alternate)
	Rhodes-R
	(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

Meets: 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
Ellison-DFL	Lesch-DFL
Erickson-R	Olsen-R
Haas-R	Samuelson-R
Hilty-DFL	Seifert-R
Jacobson-R	Solberg-DFL
Johnson, S.-DFL	Strachan-R
Kielkucki-R	Thissen-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Laurie Esau 296-4112

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rory Koch 296-5394

Health and Human Services Finance

563 State Office Building 296-9249

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 11

Chair: Bradley-R

Vice Chair: Wilkin-R

DFL Lead: Huntley-DFL

Abeler-R	Otremba-DFL
Boudreau-R	Samuelson-R
Finstad-R	Thao-DFL
Nornes-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

Meets: 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	Samuelson-R
Dempsey-R	Smith-R
Finstad-R	Soderstrom-R
Huntley-DFL	Thao-DFL
Nornes-R	Walker-DFL
Opatz-DFL	Wilkin-R
Otremba-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andy Gildea 296-5065

Committee Legislative Assistant

Cassi Holmstrom 296-5489

Higher Education Finance

375 State Office Building 296-4373

Meets: 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	McNamara-R
Cox-R	Meslow-R
Dorn-DFL	Nelson, C.-R
Fuller-R	Knoblach-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

Meets: 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
Dauids-R	Sertich-DFL
Gerlach-R	Severson-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

Meets: 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
Fuller-R	Smith-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Soderstrom-R
Hilty-DFL	Strachan-R
Johnson, S.-DFL	Thao-DFL
Lesch-DFL	Walz-R
Lipman-R	Knoblach-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

Meets: 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	Klinzing-R
Blaine-R	Lanning-R
Brod-R	Lenczewski-DFL
Eken-DFL	Lesch-DFL
Ellison-DFL	Nelson, C.-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Severson-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

Meets: 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
Dauids-R	Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Gunther-R	Simpson-R
Hackbarth-R	Vandever-R
Hoppe-R	Wagenius-DFL
Johnson, S.-DFL	Walker-DFL
Juhnke-DFL	Westrom-R
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

Meets: 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
Erickson-R	Pelowski, Jr.-DFL
Fuller-R	Solberg-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Sviggum-R
Hoppe-R	Tingelstad-R
Howes-R	Wagenius-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Georgie Hilker 296-4276

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lesley Hinz 296-9183

State Government Finance

569 State Office Building 296-5513

Meets: 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	Strachan-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

Meets: Mondays, 12:30 p.m.; Tuesdays,
Wednesdays, 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	Magnus-R
Dempsey-R	Marquart-DFL
Dorman-R	Mullery-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

Meets: 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

Meets: 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	Lenczewski-DFL
Anderson, B.-R	Lieder-DFL
Beard-R	Nelson, P.-R
DeLaForest-R	Olson-R
Hausman-DFL	Ruth-R
Holberg-R	Seagren-R
Hornstein-DFL	Severson-R
Kelliher-DFL	Sieben-DFL
Kuisle-R	Slawik-DFL
Larson-DFL	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

Meets: 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
Krinkie-R	Walker-DFL
Kuisle-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Chas Anderson 296-8875

Committee Legislative Assistant

Shirley Koderick 296-4999

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.

Visiting the Minnesota State Capitol complex can be a rewarding and educational experience for everyone. There are buildings to explore and tours to take almost any time you choose to visit. And when the Legislature is in session during the first part of every year, there are floor sessions to observe, committee meetings to attend, and legislators to meet. Remember that this is your state Capitol, and you are always welcome.

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 easier. 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 Mondays 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 4 p.m. (last tour leaves at 3 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.

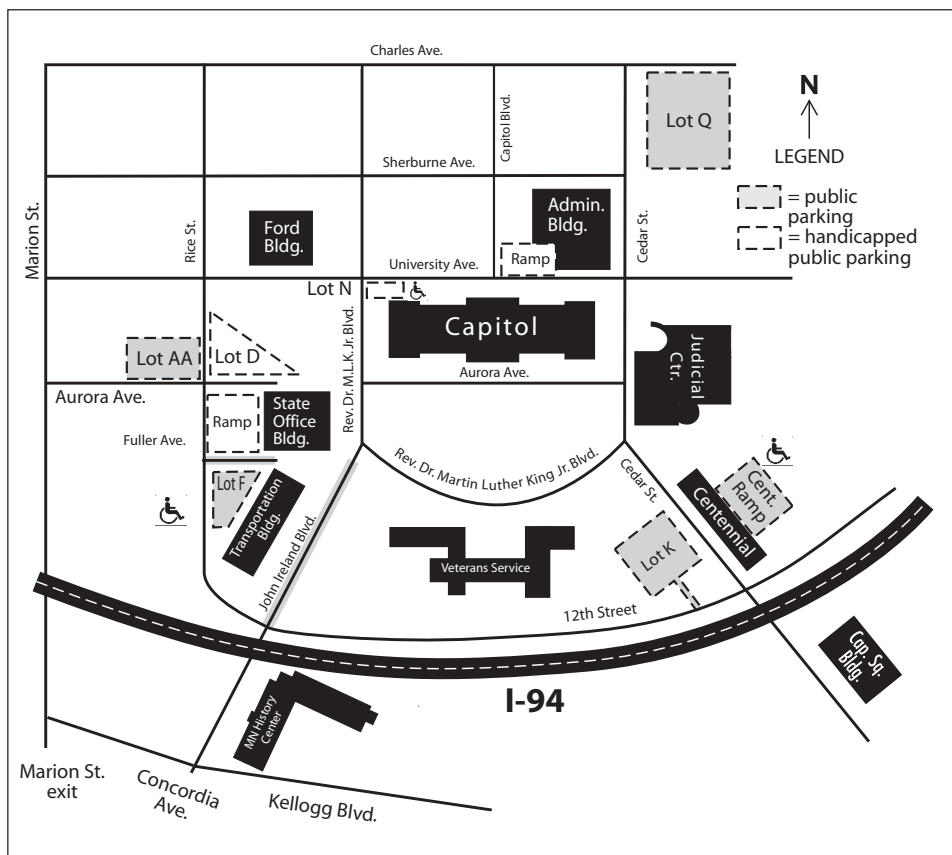
The society offers "Voice of the People: Your Role in Minnesota Government," a half-day session for students in grades 9-12.

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 when unexpected issues appear on the committee schedule. A brochure containing tips on testifying at legislative committee hearings is available from the House Public Information Services Office.

Dining

Cafeterias are located in most state buildings. The small State Office Building cafeteria is 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 also are 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.

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/listerv.htm> and fill out the subscription form.

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* newsmagazine, 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/hvtv/liveweb.htm> for more information.

All televised floor sessions and committee hearings are close-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.

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.

8:30 AM

Education Policy

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Barb Sykora

Agenda: To be determined.

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 (Seifert) Administrative rules proposal statement of need and reasonableness contents specified.

Agriculture and Rural Development Finance

Room: 5 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Elaine 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

THE HOUSE MEETS IN SESSION

15 minutes after session

State Government Finance

Room: 500N State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Bill Haas

Agenda: Finalization of committee supplemental budget bill.

30 minutes after session or at the call of the chair

Ways and Means

Room: 200 State Office Building

Chair: Rep. Jim Knobloch

Agenda: Consideration of matters regarding revised 2003 budget legislation. Other business to be announced.

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

Agenda: Fiscal year 2003 budget reductions. Testimony from affected agencies. Committee recommendations. Passage of fiscal year 2003 budget bill.

Education Finance
Room: 10 State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Alice Seagren
Agenda: 2003 budget reconciliation.

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: HF1 (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.

2:30 PM

State Government Finance
Room: 500N State Office Building
Chair: Rep. Bill Haas
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. Mark Holsten
Agenda: Energy and Telecommunications agency overviews: Public Utilities Commission, Department of Commerce, Attorney General's Office, and Environmental Quality Board.

Capital Investment
Room: Basement Hearing Room
Chair: Rep. Phil Krinkie
Agenda: HFXXXXX (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

8:15 AM

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.

10:15 AM

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 Hackbarth
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.

12:30 PM

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—Borrell (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
Office of Lieutenant Governor abolished, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF66—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.

HF67—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
City council members election required after reapportionment.

HF68—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Election pilot project authorized to register voters and conduct absentee voting via the Internet.

HF69—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.

HF70—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—Knoblach (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.

HF84—Opatz (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Capital improvements bill authorizing spending to acquire and better public land and buildings, issuing bonds, and appropriating money.

HF85—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

St. Cloud State University facility renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF86—Marquart (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

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

HF87—Howes (R)**Transportation Policy**

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

HF88—Solberg (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Post-secondary work study and child care grant programs funding restored, and money appropriated.

HF89—Rukavina (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Northeast Higher Education District-Virginia science laboratories and other facilities funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF90—Rukavina (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development**

Unemployment insurance pension deductibility provisions modified.

HF91—Rukavina (DFL)**Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Eveleth; retired police officers and firefighters and surviving spouses provided increased pension and retirement benefits.

HF92—Hausman (DFL)**Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Absentee ballot eligibility provided.

HF93—Lesch (DFL)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

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

HF94—Seifert (R)**Agriculture Policy**

Circus prohibition around state fair time repealed.

HF95—Seifert (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development**

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

HF96—Stanek (R)**Judiciary Policy & Finance**

Public safety officer health insurance benefit reimbursement policy modified, and specified claims reimbursed from available funds.

HF97—Stanek (R)**Judiciary Policy & Finance**

DWI; alcohol concentration level reduced to .08 for impairment offenses involving a motor vehicle, criminal vehicular homicide, operating recreational vehicles, hunting, and operating military vehicles.

HF98—Opatz (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

St. Cloud Civic Center finding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF99—Opatz (DFL)**Education Policy**

High school graduation projections required.

HF100—Hausman (DFL)**Capital Investment**

Capital improvements bill authorizing spending to acquire and better public land and buildings, issuing bonds, and appropriating money.

HF101—Mariani (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

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

HF102—Rukavina (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development**

Minimum wage increased.

HF103—Larson (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs, & Economic Development**

Unemployment insurance benefit extension provided.

HF104—Juhnke (DFL)**Taxes**

Medical service vehicle tax exemptions provided.

HF105—Paymar (DFL)**Health & Human Services Policy**

Denturist licensure provided, licensure and examination requirements established, denture technology advisory council created, fees imposed, rulemaking authorized, and penalty provided.

HF106—Wilkin (R)**Governmental Operations &****Veterans Affairs Policy**

Litigation and settlement proceeds deposited in the general fund.

HF107—Kahn (DFL)**Civil Law**

Marriage between first cousins prohibition repealed.

HF108—Opatz (DFL)**Civil Law**

Joint and several liability apportionment regulated.

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211 Capitol 296-2314

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Information, Senate

231 Capitol 296-0504

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645 State Office Building 296-3398

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102 Capitol 296-6196

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180 State Office Building 296-2803

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Protecting 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 father(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.

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 edict: "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.

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Date

September 27, 2002

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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 plan: 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.



Wabasha Street in St. Paul, looking north from 13th Street, toward the State Capitol, right, in 1949. On the left is the spire of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, torn down in 1952.

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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magazine, educational brochures for all ages, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE: STEVE SVIGGUM
MAJORITY LEADER: ERIK PAULSEN
MINORITY LEADER: MATT ENTENZA

MINNESOTA INDEX

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 80 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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired.
To ask questions or leave messages, call:
TTY Line (651) 296-9896 or
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Check your local listings to watch House committee and floor sessions on TV.

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