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SESSION Weekly

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In this issue:

THE 2004 LEGISLATURE CONVENES

BONDING PROPOSAL, STATE OF THE STATE, AND MORE

HF1659-HF1914

Session Weekly

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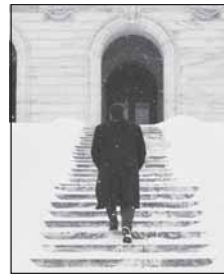
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On the cover: House Speaker Steve Sviggum gavels the House to order Feb. 2 as lawmakers begin the 2004 legislative session.

— Photo by Tom Olmscheid

Short and sweet

House members commence 2004 session and begin work of compiling bonding bill, other policy measures

By MICHELLE KIBIGER

The 2004 Legislative Session began Feb. 2 without much fanfare as members of the House convened. Groundhog Day brought nearly a foot of snow with it to the State Capitol, but members got right down to business with a short session and only a few jokes about the length of the session lasting another 16 weeks – the maximum length it could be constitutionally.

They welcomed a new member, acknowledging Rep. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson) who was elected Dec. 30 to replace former Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie). Kielkucki resigned during the interim to take a position with the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office.

They received a request from Gov. Tim Pawlenty to deliver his State of the State address before a joint session of the House and Senate, and they extended an invitation to him in response.

They noted the absence of Chief Clerk Edward Burdick, who missed only his second opening day of session since 1941 due to an illness.

And they observed a moment of silence for the late director of the Minnesota Lottery, George Andersen, who died in late January.

The relatively brief session lasted just over 20 minutes. Members then dispersed to attend various committee meetings and other special events planned for the first day. Members have until the May 17 constitutional deadline to finish work on a bonding bill and any other policy-related initiatives and budget adjustments they might take up.

Bonding year

Traditionally, the second year of a legislative biennium is called the bonding year – legislators consider capital improvement

projects that are funded by selling state bonds. Those bonds are backed by the general fund, from which debt service (payments and interest) on the investments is paid.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty has recommended \$760 million in total bonding, \$689 million of which would be general obligation bonding. Included in the recommendations are \$37.5 million for the Northstar commuter rail line.

Committees have already begun reviewing proposals from different state agencies and local government units for ultimate recommendation to the House Capital Investment Committee, which compiles the final bill. A similar process will take place in the Senate.

Other initiatives

House committees held a number of hearings during the interim months that provide a preview of the topics members will debate



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Tom Rukavina, left center, and Rep. Mary Murphy, right center, share a light moment on the first day of the 2004 Legislative Session. Also pictured are Rep. Jean Wagenius, left, and Rep. Tom Huntley, right.

this session. Below is a preview of the items the Legislature might consider in 2004, based on some of the interim hearings conducted. No official decisions may be made at interim hearings, since the Legislature is technically not in session.

- **SEX OFFENDERS:** The House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee met Jan. 27 to review sex offender sentencing guidelines and civil commitment procedures in

light of the abduction of University of North Dakota college student Dru Sjodin. The accused kidnapper is a recently released sex offender from Minnesota.

- **SAME-SEX MARRIAGE:** Following a recent decision by the Massachusetts Supreme Court regarding the recognition of same-sex unions, the House Civil Law Committee met Jan. 28 to examine the history and roots of marriage in the United States.
- **HEALTH CARE COSTS:** A joint hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy; Health and Human

To our readers:

Welcome to the 2004 Legislative Session and *Session Weekly*! We're very grateful to be printing and mailing the magazine to our subscribers again this year. During the interim, we were able to secure funding for 2004, and the status of the magazine will be evaluated annually going forward. We'll be sure to let you know what the future holds.

You will find a number of new features and changes in this year's magazines. First, in order to accommodate our budget constraints, we are limiting the size of the magazine to 24 pages each week. Still, we will continue to do our best bringing you as much information as we can about what the House is doing each week.


However, we will no longer be publishing the Committee Schedule in the magazine. Readership surveys for the past several years have indicated that the schedule information is out of date by the time most readers receive their magazines. As a result, we have chosen to save the space for highlights and bill-related content. If you have any comments, please feel free to contact me the office.

In addition, we will be expanding our coverage of the Legislature on the Internet. Topics may occasionally require more in-depth treatment than we can accommodate in the regular magazine. We will provide a spot for that information on the House Web site so that anyone interested in more background information can find it there. Look for "*Session Weekly EXTRA*" icons in the magazine to indicate when additional content is available online.

On behalf of the *Session Weekly* and House Public Information Services staff, we are looking forward to this session and continuing to provide readers with credible and timely non-partisan information about the Legislature. Please contact me at anytime throughout the year if you have any questions or concerns about the magazine.

— MICHELLE KIBIGER, EDITOR
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Services Finance; and Health and Human Services Policy committees examined health care cost drivers and proposed strategies to contain them Jan. 15. Witnesses representing more than 20 organizations on both sides of the issue testified regarding a bill (HF1681), sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester). Members are already deliberating the merits of the bill in additional hearings.

- **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:** The Department of Finance released its November budget forecast, showing a projected deficit of \$185 million by the end of June 2005. A revised forecast will be released at the end of February. Legislators may choose to adjust the budget to resolve the deficit, but such adjustments are not necessarily an immediate concern until the 2005 Legislative Session.
- **K-12 EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS:** Members of the House Education Finance and Education Policy committees met to discuss different assessment techniques for K-12 students. In addition, the committees met several times to discuss developing social studies and science standards that will be considered this session.
- **CASINO GAMBLING:** The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee met with the House State Government Finance Committee on Jan. 22 to discuss several bills proposing additional casino licenses in the state that would not be located on American Indian reservations, though revenue may be shared with the tribes. One proposal would also provide stadium funding for the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings, and the University of Minnesota.
- **STADIUMS:** Pawlenty appointed a committee to review stadium proposals for the Twins, Vikings, and University of Minnesota. The committee forwarded its recommendation to the governor, who may make a funding proposal to the Legislature.
- **DATA PRACTICES:** The House Civil Law Committee met Jan. 22 to discuss how the state's data practices law relates to information in the developing CriMNet system, which will integrate information from criminal justice system databases statewide.
- **CHILD SUPPORT:** The House Civil Law and Judiciary Policy and Finance committees met in October to discuss child-support collections guidelines and possibly changing to an income-shares model that takes both the income of the custodial and the non-custodial parents into account. 

IT'S A FACT



A cold creation

Land near capitol grounds featured a frozen palace 67 years ago

The Ice Palace erected outside the Xcel Energy Center for the St. Paul Winter Carnival is just the latest cold creation in the Capital City. Since 1886, 17 other palaces of various shapes and sizes have been constructed.

Included in that group is the 1937 structure, located on land across from the State Capitol, which is now part of the Capitol Mall. The castle is the only one ever situated on or near the Capitol grounds.

After many years without a festival, the event was revived that year "on a large scale by a group of enthusiasts who sought to instill life in a city recovering from the Great Depression," according to the carnival Web site.

At the centerpiece was the palace that measured 193 feet long, 86 feet at its widest point and approximately 60 feet high. An elevator was included in the palace, designed by city architect Charles A. Bassford and his assistant C.W. Wigington, the first registered African-American architect to practice for any substantial length of time in Minnesota.

By comparison, the tallest center turret in the 2004 palace is 75 feet.

"The walls changing width created dramatic effects of translucency, opacity, and shadow," wrote Fred Anderes and Ann Agranoff in their book, *Ice Palaces*. "It varied in thickness from 6 feet, 5 inches to 2 feet, 9 inches, except at the main entrances, where it swelled to 15 feet, 7 inches." Fifteen-foot tall flagpoles capped the peaks supported by the entrance blocks. At night, electric lights illuminated the palace in patterns of changing color.

Inside the frozen walls were three chambers: an approximately 7,000-square foot Central Hall and two antechambers that measured 22 feet square. Approximately 30,000 ice blocks were used for the palace, compared to about 27,000 for the current structure.

Like today's palace, construction of the 1937 fortress went down to the wire.

Crews put in 16-hour days to finish while a crowd of 100,000 gathered around the site and 20,000 automobiles "choked the approaches to the palace," according to the Anderes and Agranoff book. Much like the current palace, reports from 1937 indicate "people traveled hundreds of miles

for the sole purpose of seeing the building."

Unlike technology used today to keep workers warm and aid in construction, things were far more primitive in 1937.

Due to subzero weather, large log fires burned inside the palace during construction. The heat generated was used to warm water stored in eight 50-gallon oil drums and later used to cement the ice blocks together. "In the extremely cold weather, the water had to be kept near the boiling point or it would freeze as it was hoisted to the top of the wall," wrote Anderes and Agranoff.

Like those constructed before, some viewed the palace as a short-lived architectural treasure.

"These structures were built with the intention of lasting probably three months at the most, and yet rivaled the most prominent buildings in the world in style, form, and engineering, if not surpassing them in sheer beauty," Robert Olsen wrote in his book, *A history of St. Paul Ice Palaces*.

After the carnival, dynamite was used to bring the palace down and the ice was left to wait for the spring melt. "It would be dangerous to allow the palace to melt by itself, as it would be impossible to keep watch continuously to prevent visitors going into the building while it was weakened by thawing," Bassford said.

(M. COOK)



The St. Paul Winter Carnival brought an ice palace to the State Capitol area in 1937.

Photo courtesy of the Craighead family

★ BUSINESS

Protecting viability

A bill that some private business owners believe would protect them from being run out of business by the government was heard by the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 3.

HF898, sponsored by Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls), allows a business to bring legal action against the state or any political subdivision if that government entity enters into the same business venture and consequently obstructs the private business's viability.

As an example, testifiers cited the garbage industry. The bill would apply if, for example, a municipality decided to start collecting garbage on its own, therefore prohibiting private haulers from doing business as usual. "It's really an issue of basic fairness," Thissen said.

However, the bill would not apply if any city entering into a business venture did not prohibit competition from a private business. The bill also would not apply to utilities, such as water and electricity services; separate statutes govern such operations. The bill also would exempt corrections facilities.

In cases where a business is operating under a government license or contract, the provisions of the license or contract would have precedence. For instance, a taxi cab driver given a one-year license would only have a claim if the city decided to begin offering the same service within that time period. Beyond that, the driver wouldn't have a claim because, presumably, the city simply wouldn't renew the license.

Mark Stoltman, general manager of Randy's Sanitation in Delano, supported the bill. If a city decided it wanted only one private garbage hauler, for example, he said he couldn't compete due to the exorbitant expense of upgrading his equipment fleet to serve 20,000 to 25,000 homes.

"Frankly, competition is good," Stoltman said. "It keeps prices stable."

Keith Carlson, executive director of the Metropolitan Inter-County Association, testified against the bill, as did representatives of the Association of Minnesota Counties and the League of Minnesota Cities. The bill would prohibit counties from offering services, such as in-home health care, when third-party efforts don't rise above mediocrity, Carlson said.

At Thissen's request, action on the bill was deferred for fine-tuning and amendments.

A companion bill (SF1233), sponsored by Sen. Julianne Ortman (R-Chanhassen), awaits committee action.

★ CRIME

Doing time

Drug offenders are keeping Minnesota's prisons full, and more so than ever, according to a new report presented to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 4 by the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

The report indicates that the number of drug offenders admitted to Minnesota prisons was never higher than in 2002. Drug offenders accounted for 11.8 percent of prison admissions in 1990. By 2002, that number grew to 30.1 percent, according to Barbara Tombs, executive director for the commission.

The presentation followed a visit by committee members to the Capitol Rotunda for a methamphetamine awareness event. Professionals working to combat methamphetamine use presented literature and displays on the popular illegal drug.

Tombs highlighted a number of other statistics in the report.

- The number of felony drug offenders sentenced to Minnesota prisons in 1981 was 801, and at 3,425 in 2002, with an increase of 32 percent between 2001 and 2002 alone.
- Across all crime categories, the number of drug offenders sentenced in 2002 increased more than any other group.
- Drug offenders represented 9 percent of the

prison population in 1990, and 23 percent in 2002.

Tombs said it takes a lesser amount of drugs for a person to be sentenced to prison in Minnesota than in other states. At the same time, Minnesota has higher maximum sentences, making sentence lengths disproportionate to other states.

The minimum drug possession amounts, set by the Legislature in 1989, have contributed to longer average sentences. The average sentence has risen from nearly 23 months in 1988 to about 50 months in 2002.

No one factor can be cited for the increase in drug offenders in state prisons, the report stated. Rather, the situation is a result of a "combination of intended and unintended consequences."

Options for the Legislature to consider, as highlighted in the report, include the following: expanding prisons, re-examining the minimum drug possession amounts, creating a comprehensive drug treatment program to reduce repeated offenses, and developing a statewide sentencing policy targeting drug offenders.

The committee took no action at the hearing.



For information on sex offender sentencing and the civil commitment process from a January committee hearing, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

SNOWY VISITOR



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Duane Arens, community development coordinator for Connexus Energy in Minneapolis, makes his way up the snowy steps of the State Capitol Feb. 2 to deliver a letter to Gov. Tim Pawlenty's office. Legislators were greeted with nearly a foot of snow upon their return to the State Capitol.

★ EDUCATION

Social studies, science standards

One year after state lawmakers repealed the controversial Profile of Learning, they need to create new state standards as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

Last year content standards were established in math and reading. Science and social studies are up for review this year, although social studies testing is not required under the federal law.

Members of the House Education Policy Committee heard about the proposed standards from both sides of the issue Jan. 27. No action was taken, but Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), the committee chair, said another hearing is scheduled for Feb. 12.

Education Commissioner Cheri Pierson Yecke said that in response to concerns addressed throughout the five-month drafting process, the number of standards and benchmarks were greatly reduced. (Benchmark is a formal term for ways to measure standards and quality.) The final social studies standards number 211 with 541 benchmarks, reductions of 10 percent and 36 percent respectively. There are now 100 science standards (down from 127) and 300 benchmarks (down from 459).

Still, some people expressed concern that in each case there are too many.

"At the high school level, students must master 265 benchmarks in four years. Assuming 175 days in a school year, that means completion of one benchmark every 2.6 days," said Sandra Peterson, vice-president of Education Minnesota. "This is hardly conducive to a deep understanding of any topic."

District officials are also worried about implementation costs.

"Availability and/or cost of materials to support the documents continue to be problematic, particularly at the elementary and early middle levels," said Jenni Norlin-Weaver, Edina director of teaching and learning.

Social studies standards comprise five areas: U.S. history, world history, government and citizenship, geography, and economics.

As younger students are introduced to social studies they will receive information in all areas, but beginning in grade four the standards and benchmarks are focused on specific areas. This continues through eighth grade. Standards for high school students again cover all areas.

Yecke said the science area is divided into four categories: history and nature of science, physical science, earth and space science, and life science. Elementary students are to be introduced to all areas, while the standards and benchmarks are organized so that middle



Education Commissioner Cheri Pierson Yecke makes a presentation to the House Education Policy Committee Feb. 3 on compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind law.

school students can spend a full year on one subject area: physical, life, and earth and space science. High school standards revert to all four areas.

Four science committee members were among a handful of testifiers to submit written testimony expressing concern about one aspect of the standards.

"We remain deeply concerned that the proposed standards fail to require students to learn enough information about evolution to be able to understand the theory's weaknesses as well as its strengths," they wrote.

Magnet school funding

A court-mandated mediation settlement could mean House members have little choice but to approve another \$1 million in bonding money for a Woodbury middle school.

Officials of the East Metro Integration District – a state-created district to support voluntary school integration between St. Paul schools and nine suburban districts – appeared before the House Education Finance Committee Feb. 3 to explain their funding request to complete land acquisition for the 400-student Crossroads Arts and Science Middle School. The school began operating in 2001, and,

according to Principal Anne Andersen, 45 percent of the student body are students of color.

Sponsored by Rep. Karen Klinzing (R-Woodbury), HF1638 would appropriate the \$1 million needed to settle a land purchase dispute that began in the late-1990s. The district's request is included in Gov. Tim Pawlenty's bonding proposal.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in the committee's bonding recommendations.

The owner of the former Jordan ranch in Woodbury appealed a condemnation award for the 37-acre school site. Court-supervised mediation established a \$4 million property value for the land in 2003. The mediation settlement added \$980,000 plus interest to the land's condemnation value. The district had previously paid \$2.8 million for the property.

The Legislature appropriated \$22.8 million in bonding since 1999 for land acquisition, site preparation, design, and construction of the school. The latest request is the fourth time district officials have returned to the state for more construction funding.

"We're in a difficult position," said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), citing the court mediation settlement. Krinkie chairs the House Capital Investment Committee.

"This school was started at the direction of the state," said Rep. Mindy Greiling (DFL-Roseville). "This could heat up a lot more in court costs if we want to renege on that promise."

As a specially created school district, the East Metro district has no taxing authority to raise capital funds for school construction, said Carl Wahlstrom, district superintendent.

A companion bill (SF1566), sponsored by Sen. James Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul), awaits action in the Senate Finance Committee.

Federal funding for reform

There hasn't been a windfall of federal dollars to help the state meet required school reforms mandated by the No Child Left Behind law, Education Commissioner Cheri Pierson Yecke told the House Education Policy Committee Feb. 3.

Yecke said the state expects \$223 million during calendar year 2004 to help the state meet requirements of the federal law, including supplemental tutoring services for underperforming students, transportation to new schools, and improving teacher development. The estimate includes \$119 million in long-established Title I grants to school districts for economically disadvantaged students.

"It looks like a wash," Yecke said in response to a question if the state was gaining or losing federal dollars because of the law.

There was no mention about any potential additional state costs to comply.

While writing new academic standards for

public K-12 students to comply with the federal law have been funded by the state, Yecke said the development and implementation of new tests to measure student achievement, which follows implementation of the new standards, is expected to have more federal funding support.

The federal education department's Web site shows an estimated \$8.5 million reduction in federal dollars for 2004 to Minnesota for programs falling under the No Child Left Behind law, from \$231.5 million in 2003 to an estimated \$223.1 million for 2004.

Those estimates don't include federal dollars for special education, estimated at \$174 million for Minnesota for 2004, a \$10.2 million increase over 2003 funding.

Yecke said there is more discretionary grant money for education available under the No Child Left Behind law that states may compete for. Minnesota expects \$59 million for a reading program for kindergarten to third grade students and nearly \$8 million for a teacher recruitment and advancement program, she said.

The federal law, which took effect in January 2002, requires states to measure "adequate yearly progress" for public school and charter school students. Schools and school districts that don't show academic improvement on an annual basis could lose students to other schools, be required to shift some Title I funding to provide supplemental tutoring services and transportation to new schools, or after five years of insufficient progress, could be forced to change the school's governance structure.

ELECTIONS



Statewide election uniformity

Minnesotans would use a uniform statewide voting system during elections, under a bill approved Feb. 4 by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

HF1703, sponsored by Rep. Eric Lipman (R-Lake Elmo), would appropriate federal funds to the Minnesota secretary of state to develop the system.

The new machines would allow individuals to verify their votes, change or correct votes before ballots are counted, produce a permanent paper record of a ballot, and preserve the records in case of a recount.

Other measures in the bill include providing the same accessibility to individuals with disabilities in the election process as individuals without. Currently those visually impaired must vocally cast their vote to an election judge who then aids them in filling out the ballot. New machines would give voters independence and

privacy using alternative voting technology.

The federal funds come from the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002, enacted to eliminate punch card voting systems.

Lipman said the new system would "inspire public confidence" by giving voters the ability to verify and change their ballots before casting them.

Rep. Bill Hilty (DFL-Finlayson) expressed concern about post-election security measures, and he said the bill doesn't address appropriate action should a major technical problem occur.

The use of optical scan ballots, as required in the bill, also raised concern among several committee members. While problems have previously occurred using the voting system, Lipman said that the new technology lowers error rates compared to hand counting votes.

Kevin Corbid, director of Washington County Taxpayer Services, expressed concern over long-term funding of the voting machines. While the state will provide the initial purchasing of the machines, the ongoing maintenance responsibility remains with municipalities. Corbid said the bill language should allow for more municipal flexibility.

Lipman acknowledged that upgrades could be necessary for machines every six to eight years.

Tony Kielkucki, deputy secretary of state, warned that if the Legislature waits to act on the changes, the new voting machines would not be in place by the 2006 election, when the next statewide elections, for such positions as governor, will take place.

The bill now moves on to the State Government Finance Committee.

A companion bill (SF1666), sponsored by Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin), has been referred to the Senate Elections Committee.

ENVIRONMENT



'Conservation catalyst' seeks capital

The Minnesota Zoo has some grand ideas but needs a little help from the state to accomplish them. Zoo officials are seeking \$48 million from the Legislature for new capital projects, including a Biodiversity Center that will jazz up the zoo's entrance, add retail space, and expand classroom options and a Gateway to the North exhibit featuring creatures that roam the territory near the Ussuri River in Eastern Russia.

They also hope to generate excitement over conservation and environmental education by adding Siberian grizzly bears, sea otters, and Amur leopards, along with interactive activities, such as woolly mammoth fossil digs, to their offerings.



Rachael Kroog, naturalist with the Minnesota Zoomobile, introduces a red-tailed hawk to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 4 as part of the zoo's capital investment request.

Additionally, the zoo is asking for \$10 million to catch up on some deferred asset maintenance and \$9.2 million for the state to assume debt service on bonds that funded the Discovery Bay exhibit.

Some feathered and furry creatures helped officials present their \$67.2 million appeal to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 4.

"The key component of the request is the \$48 million," Director Lee Ehmke said, because attendance levels are directly proportional to new investment in facilities and exhibits.

Zoo attendance, though currently at 1 million visitors per year, has leveled off and even waned slightly in recent years, according to Ehmke.

"The Bears of the Ussuri exhibit brings in 'charismatic megavertebrates' and world class exhibit design," said Susan Palumbo, a Minnesota Zoo Foundation trustee. When it comes to fundraising and building visitor enthusiasm, "you really need something to create some momentum to move forward."

Palumbo assured committee members there is "enthusiastic private support that is just waiting for a public commitment." Over the years, the foundation has contributed \$18 million to the zoo, she said, and the trustees are poised to begin another major campaign after a capital investment nod from the state.

The governor is recommending \$34.2 million for the zoo: \$19 million for capital projects, \$6 million for asset preservation, and

\$9.2 million for debt relief payments. Ehmke said those figures are the largest ever recommended by a governor in the history of the zoo.

The zoo's request will be considered for inclusion in the committee's overall bonding recommendations.

Clean water initiative

The House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee leapt into legislative business Feb. 3 with an overview of the governor's \$26.4 million bonding recommendation for the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Under the plan, \$20 million in general obligation bonds and \$2 million from the general fund would be directed toward a so-called second generation Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The program is a combination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Conservation Reserve Program and the state Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve. Both are voluntary programs aimed to reduce sedimentation and soil erosion by encouraging landowners to set aside or retire marginal or environmentally sensitive agricultural land along waterways.

"CREP is the centerpiece of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative," said Ron Harnack, board director.

The state has successfully enrolled 100,000 acres along the Minnesota River watershed in the program, and this new initiative proposes another 100,000 acres from three watersheds across the state.

The overall cost is \$226 million through December 2007, with the state eventually contributing \$46.4 million. The program leverages \$4 from the federal government for every \$1 spent by the state, Harnack said.

The board request also includes \$4.4 million in funds for local government road wetland replacement projects. Wetland replacement efforts improve water quality, flood mitigation, and wildlife corridor enhancement, Harnack said.

The implications for not funding the wetland replacements could reduce or delay completion of local public road projects, Harnack said. "It's critical for the city, county, and township road authorities."

Session initiatives outlined

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee conducted a session preview Feb. 3. Chair Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar) laid out his expectations for the 2004 session, including his hopes to revive mourning dove hunting season and shooting range legislation.

The first priority, Hackbarth said, will be reviewing bills sent back to committee at the close of the 2003 session, including an omnibus game and fish bill. There are unintentional consequences from new all-terrain vehicle provisions in law that should be corrected, as well, he added. For example, language added in a conference committee restricted ATV use on specific categories of wetlands, even frozen wetlands on private lands. Some riders have questioned the environmental impact the machines have and asked for a review.

There have been some discussions during the interim of blending the Pollution Control Agency and the Office of Environmental Assistance, Hackbarth said, which may reach the committee this year.

There are more hunting and fishing issues on the radar. For example, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) has requested a hearing on the Department of Natural Resources' Lake Mille Lacs management plan.

Rep. David Dill (DFL-Crane Lake) expressed eagerness to discuss hunter recruitment in general. In addition to a youth deer hunting measure, Dill said he intends to introduce a bill removing a requirement for youngsters between the ages of 12 and 17 to provide their social security numbers on hunting license applications. The measure is apparently part of a child-support collection initiative, Dill explained, but he questions the number of potential offenders under the age of 18.

"We should be introducing the kids to the great outdoors – not to adult bureaucracy."

Another topic still in play is a phosphorus study ordered by the 2003 Legislature.

The Pollution Control Agency was asked to examine acceptable levels of this nutrient in cleaning agents such as dishwasher detergents, how to best remove it at the wastewater treatment stage, and what effects do decreased phosphorus levels have on overall water quality.

Rep. Ray Cox (R-Northfield) sponsored a bill last year that would have limited the amount of phosphorus in dishwasher detergents sold in Minnesota. The proposal was scaled back to a study and included in the 2003 omnibus environment bill. He said he expects the results later this month.

Rep. Jean Wagenius (DFL-Mpls) requested hearings on the effects of climate change on Minnesota ecology – specifically the state's forests and fish population – and an overview of statewide water monitoring efforts.

"Right now Minnesota monitors its lakes and stream at the rate of once every 67 years," Wagenius said. "I think the public expects better."

GAMBLING



Betting on change

Minnesotans are not purchasing as many lottery tickets as they did in the mid-1990s; however, things may be turning around.

The late State Lottery Director George Andersen, who died Jan. 27, told a joint meeting of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy and State Government Finance committees Oct. 29 that \$352 million of tickets were sold in fiscal year 2003, the lowest amount since 1995, and a \$25 million (7 percent) drop from one year prior.

However, projections for the current fiscal year show a 6.1 percent sales increase, and a 19 percent revenue increase to nearly \$94.6 million. That is due in part to a 70.2 percent increase in Powerball sales through late-October. Andersen's presentation came two days after a group of school workers from Holdingford claimed \$95.5 million in Powerball winnings. The game also had a \$261.3 million jackpot in July 2003, meaning another surge in ticket buyers.

Andersen's presentation was merely informative. No votes were taken because the Legislature had not yet reconvened.

He also updated legislators on cost-saving changes at the lottery.

Last year the Legislature reduced the lottery's annual operating budget to \$43.5 million, a drop from \$46.6 million in fiscal year 2003 and \$50 million the previous year. Additionally, all unclaimed lottery prize money must be returned to the state's general fund. Previously, 42 percent went to the general fund, 30 percent went back into the prize pool, and 28 percent went to the environment and natural resources fund.

The lottery now has 35 fewer employees than in it did in June 2003, vehicles are not replaced until they reach 150,000 miles, the toll-free player hotline has been eliminated, and the amount spent on advertising, primarily through print and radio, is down 7 percent from 2002 and 32 percent from 1992.

Additionally, the lottery promotional budget has been cut 76.5 percent, including the cutting of ties to a number of events, such as the Bayfront Blues Festival in Duluth, WE Fest in Detroit Lakes, and all four major professional sports teams.

Instead of reducing its promotional activities, Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin) said the lottery should have further reduced its advertising. Even though some consider the ads to be "corny," Andersen said they are effective.

An April 2003 report by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy showed that

lottery operations are costlier in Minnesota compared to eight other states with similar populations and lottery sales and thereby curtail funds to the Environmental Trust Fund. In response, Andersen said each lottery is run differently and Minnesotans play more scratch-off games, which have a lower profit margin.

★ GOVERNMENT

Reorganizing state government

A major change in state government structure would occur if a bill introduced last session, and heard in the interim, became law.

Sponsored by Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls), HF1210 would establish eight secretary positions, instead of the current commissioner structure.

By definition the secretaries would be:

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

Each would oversee from three to more than a dozen state departments, agencies, and boards. Currently, state departments have their own commissioner and agencies and boards have an executive director. "There is nothing in the bill to eliminate state agencies," Thissen said.

Instead, at an Oct. 29 joint meeting of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy and State Government Finance committees, he said, "This is a proposal to reorganize the executive branch." Thissen said that a common theme he has heard from constituents is that government needs to work more effectively and efficiently.

No votes were taken because the Legislature had not yet reconvened its regular session.

A fiscal note attached to a companion bill (SF1106), sponsored by Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls), indicates a nearly \$1.88 million savings annually through 2007. The money would come from a reduction "in managerial, supervisory, and other positions in executive branch agencies," according to the bill. Thissen said that more positions could be eliminated in the future as things become more efficient.

Some questions were raised about the assigning of departments and boards under a particular secretary. Thissen said a task force called for in the bill would ultimately make that decision. The task force would be comprised of four to six heads of state agencies, and one member from

the majority and largest minority caucuses in the House and Senate.

Thissen said that various reorganizations of state government have been proposed since 1913, but most proposals have not gone very far.

The most recent change to Minnesota government was the January 2003 abolishment of the state treasurer position by constitutional amendment. Those duties were transferred to the Department of Finance.

★ HEALTH

Malpractice awards discussed

If a bill under consideration by the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee were to become law, jury awards for non-economic damages in medical malpractice suits could not exceed \$250,000.

The committee heard testimony Feb. 4 on HF1681, sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), intended to lower the cost of health care and health insurance. The bill would provide changes in laws that relate to insurance, tort reform, and taxes.

In addition to imposing limits on medical malpractice damages, the bill would limit attorney fees paid in medical malpractice suits, and grant permission to the Board of Medical Practice to approve "best practice" guidelines, adherence to which would be an "absolute defense" in the case of an allegation of medical malpractice.

Other measures of HF1681 would:

- permit for-profit health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to operate in Minnesota;
- require outpatient-surgical centers, clinics, and physician offices to report adverse health events, a requirement that currently applies only to hospitals;
- establish an information and referral center for interpreter services; and
- amend Minnesota law to conform to federal tax law changes that encourage the use of health care savings accounts.

Of the bill's provisions, the issue packing the most emotional punch is a proposed \$250,000 cap on certain medical malpractice awards. Rep. Lynda Boudreau (R-Faribault), the committee chair, emphasized the bill addresses only non-economic and punitive damages. There would be no cap on economic damages.

Impassioned testimony was given on both sides of the issue.

"The proposed cap bears no relation to reality," said James Williams, a Plymouth resident whose family has been severely affected by medical malpractice. "You simply cannot predict economic costs down the road." He

said the cost of caring for his injured wife exceeds \$400,000 per year.

Dr. David Ketrosier, a physician and medical malpractice attorney, urged the committee to eliminate the cap from the bill, saying there is no evidence that caps reduce the cost of medical malpractice insurance.

Other physicians called the need for medical malpractice adjustments "critical."

Dr. Mary Braddock, a pediatrician with Children's Hospitals and Clinics, said medical malpractice premiums are becoming unaffordable, while at the same time becoming less available.

"We are definitely in crisis in Minneapolis," said Dr. Gary Gosewisch, an emergency room physician. "We need significant tort reform at both the state and federal levels."

According to David Feinwachs, general counsel for the Minnesota Hospital Association, statistics show that states with caps have premiums 17.1 percent lower than states without caps.

The committee is scheduled to continue discussing the bill Feb. 9. It has no Senate companion.

The cost of care

Since Sept. 11, 2001, insurance rates have risen sharply in all areas. Nowhere has this had a greater impact than in the field of long-term health care, where liability insurance premiums have risen as much as 340 percent in the past year alone, those in the industry told the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee Feb. 3.

Nazneen Khatoon, an administrator for Best Care Home Health of Minneapolis, said her organization's premiums have increased from \$6,000 to \$23,000 per year since 2001, a period during which the state reimbursement rate has not changed. She said more than 85 percent of the firm's clients are Medicaid recipients.

"Out of control premium increases are especially burdensome to adult care providers," said Michael Klatt, CEO of the Lutheran Home Association, who voiced concerns that some organizations are choosing to go without liability insurance.

Testifiers agreed that premium increases are occurring without regard to the claims history of an organization. Khatoon said her organization has never filed a claim.

Bob Johnson, executive vice president for the Insurance Federation of Minnesota, said premium increases are driven, in part, by the increasing costs of the United States tort system.

"The insurance payout from 9/11 was over \$40 billion and is still growing," Johnson said. The result is that insurance company capital has decreased dramatically, he said, and,

despite recent premium increases, the financial rankings of insurance companies are in "a persistent, accelerating decline."

Insurance and health care representatives seemed to agree that tort reform, placing some restrictions on lawsuit awards, is crucial to solving the problem of increasing insurance costs. Representatives of the Long-Term Care Imperative also called for insurance reform and an expansion of liability coverage available to them through the Minnesota Joint Underwriting Association. Johnson expressed concern that too much reliance on the association could displace private sector insurance companies.

Both the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy committees plan additional hearings on the topic.

HIGHER EDUCATION



Governor's recommendation

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said Gov. Tim Pawlenty's bonding recommendations for the institution are "not enough to maintain the university, let alone move it forward."

The university request is \$155.5 million; Pawlenty is recommending \$76.6 million.

Speaking to the House Higher Education Finance Committee Feb. 3, Bruininks said, "This is a work horse proposal, not a show horse." No committee action was taken.

Bruininks said that \$90 million of the "modest request" is for asset preservation and replacement, \$49 million would fund four major building renewals, and nearly \$16.5 million would finance new construction.

"We want to get full use out of our structures," he said of the preservation portion. "This request will help prevent costly downstream problems because of neglect."

The governor's plan calls for \$38 million in campus-wide asset preservation and funding for three of six major building projects the university requested: \$16.8 million for renovation of Kolthoff Hall, home to the chemistry department on the Minneapolis campus, \$13.3 million to convert a vacant building into a new Education Sciences Building on the Minneapolis campus, and \$9.3 million to renovate the life science building on the Duluth campus to house the College of Pharmacy program. Designed to train and place needed pharmacists in Greater Minnesota, the program expanded to the Duluth campus in the fall of 2003.

Rejected requests were business school expansions at the Duluth and Minneapolis campuses, a biomass heating plant addition in

Morris, and medical classroom upgrades in nine Academic Health Center buildings on the Twin Cities campus.

With the 15 percent operating budget reduction last session, Rep. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park) said the Legislature has an "opportunity to show that we are not against higher education." He plans to introduce a bill to fully fund the university's bonding request and the \$275 million appeal from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) noted there was \$48.7 million in last year's bonding bill for the university, but Bruininks said much of that restored what Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed in 2002.

University officials say higher education usually receives 15 percent to 18 percent of state bonding dollars. Under Pawlenty's recommendation higher education concerns would receive about 10 percent of the total package.

HOUSING



Verifying home ownership

Homeowners paying off mortgages would be assured that the proof of their efforts – the certificate of satisfaction – would in fact list them as the owner, despite any occurrence of multiple refinancing efforts.

HF1805, introduced by Rep. Thomas Pugh (DFL-South St. Paul), addresses a problem stemming from today's climate in which finance companies repeatedly change names, and homeowners refinance mortgages multiple times in search of lower interest rates. As mortgages are reassigned, the homeowner frequently goes unlisted on the mortgage when it is paid in full.

The bill would require that the satisfaction certificate list the name of the broker, the mortgage provider, the property owner, the date of the mortgage, the date of the recording of the document, and the volume and page number or document number of the mortgage in the real property records where the mortgage is recorded. It would apply only to mortgages with principles of \$500,000 or less.

Chuck Parson, head of the real estate section of the Minnesota State Bar Association, said the association favored the bill.

Approved by the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 3, it now moves to the House floor.

A Senate companion bill (SF1621), sponsored by Sen. Thomas Neuville (R-Northfield), awaits committee action.

LAW



Initiative and referendum advances

If a bill approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 3 becomes law, voters could get the opportunity to enact new laws and repeal laws without legislative approval.

"True grassroots support," is how House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) described his bill (HF250) that would propose changing Minnesota's Constitution to allow for the initiative and referendum process. The amendment would be placed on the 2004 general election ballot for voter approval.

Paulsen said the change would, "empower and energize voters in the political process" by bringing more accountability to government.

According to the bill, a proposal would be placed on the ballot if a petition were signed by 5 percent of the voters in the previous gubernatorial election in at least six of the eight congressional districts in the state.

The plan calls for the initiated or referred law or constitutional amendment to take effect 30 days after approval by the voters. The governor could not veto an initiative.

In the state of Minnesota, 80 cities already use the process. Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer said the initiative and referendum process "gets more people involved in a real, more purposeful way." While we have a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people," those same people make good decisions about the individuals on a ballot, and should be allowed to weigh in on policy matters.

While in favor of the proposed legislation, Nick Raleigh, chair of the Green Party of Minnesota, said legislators should be careful with the bill's language to ensure that corporations and industrial lobbying groups are excluded. He argued those organizations with large purse strings have the manpower to organize



As House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen, left, listens, Brandon Rettke, right, a political action specialist for Education Minnesota, testifies before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 3 in opposition to a Paulsen-sponsored bill that would provide a proposed constitutional amendment on initiative and referendum procedures.

statewide campaigns to gather enough signatures to get a question on the ballot.

Brad Lehto, legislative director for the Minnesota AFL-CIO, added that influence comes from "few rather than many."

Opposing the measure, Bill Blazer, senior vice president of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, argued it puts businesses and organizations at a disadvantage because they no longer become involved in the process.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) unsuccessfully attempted to amend the provision in the bill granting authority to determine whether two or more initiatives on a ballot conflict to the secretary of state. Kahn said a more non-partisan authority would be the chief justice of Minnesota's Supreme Court.

Approved by the committee, the bill now goes to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee.

A companion bill (SF1565), sponsored by Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud), awaits action by the Senate Elections Committee.



For information from a January committee hearing about the legal definition of marriage, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

SAFETY



For information on the data practices concerns surrounding the CriMNet system from a January committee hearing, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

TRANSPORTATION



Financing road construction

Fourteen road and highway projects would be constructed earlier than scheduled through bond financing, under a proposal offered Feb. 4 by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Of the 14 projects presented to the House Transportation Finance Committee, nine are in Greater Minnesota.

The labeling of a proposed Highway 212 expressway as a rural project renewed the longstanding debate regarding equitable transportation funding between rural and metropolitan areas. The project would create an expressway between the area just west of Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie and the city of Carver. The entire highway, however, runs between Montevideo and the Twin Cities.

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) said that

western Minnesota residents who favored expressway bonding didn't realize that their support would come at the expense of other rural projects.

"To say that 212 is your rural project is far-fetched," Juhnke said.

Al Schenkelberg, director of MnDOT's Office of Investment Management, said the criteria included safety, travel times, traffic signal proliferation, and congestion. Highway 212 is now handling more volume and more heavy commercial vehicles, and it varies between two and four lanes, he said.

Rep. Alice Hausman (DFL-St. Paul) also had concerns about the project. Instead of continuing to allow the highway to intersect with the congested Interstate 494, it could be diverted south to join Highway 13, she said.

"I wish somehow we could force going back to the drawing board," Hausman said.

Other projects on the proposed bonding list and the accelerated dates include:

- Highway 371: four-lane expressway from Highway 10 to County Road 48 north of Little Falls, accelerated from 2006 to 2005.
- Highway 52: reconstruction at Oronoco, accelerated from 2005-2009 to 2005.
- Highway 14: four-lane expressway from Janesville to Waseca, accelerated from 2005-2010 to 2004.
- Interstate 694: reconstruction at the junction of Interstate 35E in Vadnais Heights, accelerated from 2008 to 2005.
- Interstate 494: construction of one lane in each direction from Interstate 394 to Highway 212 in Eden Prairie and Minnetonka.

The 14 projects are estimated to cost \$824.9 million, with \$424.9 million coming from the federal government and the remainder in trunk highway bonds.

Cost estimates, stations reduced

Members of the House Transportation Finance Committee received revised plans and cost estimates for the Northstar commuter rail line, a high-speed rail system that would extend from Minneapolis north and west along U.S. Highway 10, at a meeting Jan. 20.

Initially, the line would have extended from Minneapolis to Rice, just north of St. Cloud. However, five stations and 42 miles were eliminated to bring costs in line with federal guidelines, which saves \$53 million in project costs.

The project is again competing for federal funds. This time, Gov. Tim Pawlenty has recommended that the state borrow \$37.5 million to provide matching funds to begin final planning stages of the project.

The line would operate on existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway tracks, between Big Lake and Minneapolis, during

REP. CHUCK BROWN REMEMBERED



The House approved a resolution Feb. 5 memorializing former Rep. Chuck Brown who passed away unexpectedly in August 2003 at age 52.

Brown, of Appleton, served in the House from 1985-1996. His legislative district included Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Swift, and Traverse counties.

He was remembered on the House floor for his quick wit, love of family, bipartisan approach, and dedication to rural Minnesota, particularly his work to ease farmers' financial burdens during the troubled economic times of the late-1980s.

Brown is survived by a wife and four daughters.

peak morning and evening commute times. Estimates say enough riders would use the line to reduce round trips on the corresponding highways by 2,800 per day.

Costs associated with building the line involve improvements necessary along the tracks and construction of stations and park and ride facilities and right-of-way acquisition.

The Federal Transit Administration has initiated new guidelines for evaluating projects seeking federal funding, prompting completely new and incomparable projections for the line's ridership and costs. The administration evaluates the dollar value of travel-time savings to determine whether a project is cost-effective. Officials at the meeting were careful to note that a cost-effectiveness standard is not the same as a cost-benefit analysis, which has not yet been performed on the Northstar project.

The cost-effectiveness indicators suggest the line will save commuters 892,000 hours per year.

Preliminary plans show improvements, complete by 2008, would cost \$265 million to begin the line, with the federal government picking up 50 percent, the state 33 percent, and local entities 17 percent, under the governor's proposal.

In addition, officials said that initial operation of the Northstar line would not eliminate the need for expanding Highway 10 if anticipated growth continues.

Setting the bar

Governor's bonding proposal offers mix of new construction, asset preservation

By MARY KAY WATSON

Gov. Tim Pawlenty is backing a variety of projects in his 2004 capital budget that taken together equal \$760 million.

If the Legislature were to pass a bonding bill reflecting the governor's priorities, the state would borrow \$688.7 million in general obligation bonds for projects ranging from construction of new schools to fish hatchery improvements. The remainder of the bonds would be funded through other sources.

Not all projects involve new construction; some aim to preserve or improve current assets. The decision as to which of these projects to fund will be at the heart of legislative debate this session, as is always the case in even-numbered years. The total amount requested by agencies and local governments was nearly \$1.6 billion.

Newly appointed Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison presented the governor's proposals to the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 3.

She said that Pawlenty's recommendations fall into the following areas:

- Education: \$195.6 million,
- Economic development, housing, and transportation: \$194 million,
- Environment: \$172.4 million,
- Prisons: \$108.4 million,
- Public services: \$89.3 million.

Ingison said the governor's proposal adheres to a guideline mandating that no more than 3 percent of general fund revenue be used for debt service. What follows is a breakdown of key portions of his recommendations.

Education

The governor's plan calls for \$76.6 million for the University of Minnesota, and \$88.6 million for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system. It addresses the need for science and technology projects and renovations, including science facilities for Winona State University (\$10.2 million) and Minnesota State University, Moorhead (\$9.6 million).

A research facility planned as a joint project

between the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic is slated to receive funding of \$20 million.

Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the committee chair, asked Ingison who the fiscal agent would be for that facility. She said that funds for the building would be appropriated by the Department of Employment and Economic Development, but the building would be owned by the university. She acknowledged the partnership between the university and the Mayo Clinic is "a complex arrangement."

The Department of Education would receive \$24.2 million for projects that include construction of a new middle school at Red Lake for \$22.1 million.

In addition, the Minnesota state academies are earmarked to receive \$4.3 million for asset preservation.

Prisons

The Department of Corrections would receive \$105.4 million for prison projects, including nearly \$74.9 million for the expansion of space at Faribault. A 150-bed segregation unit at Stillwater would be funded at \$19.2 million.

New facilities for a sex offender program, to be administered by the Department of Human Services, would be built in St. Peter at a proposed cost of \$3 million.

Agriculture and environment

Among Pawlenty's bonding recommendations for natural resources are habitat acquisition, reforestation, and metro greenways, some of the projects for which the Department of Natural Resources would receive a total of \$67 million, including grants of \$20 million for flood hazard mitigation.

The Minnesota Zoo would receive \$25 million for a combination of asset preservation and for implementing phase one of a redesigned master plan that includes building a new exhibit called "Gateway to the North."

The Water and Soil Resources Board would receive \$22 million for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Reinvest in

Minnesota projects and \$4.4 million for road wetland replacement projects.

The Department of Agriculture is slated to receive \$18 million for Rural Finance Authority loans and \$570,000 for the Agriculture Water Management Research Partnership.

Public services

The governor's plan designates grants of \$10 million for infrastructure repair and improvements in Roseau related to 2002 flooding, \$4.2 million for the Colin Powell Youth Leadership Center in Minneapolis, and \$635,000 for a maintenance garage and street repair in Buffalo Lake.

It also includes \$39 million for the Department of Administration, \$15 million of which is for the Cooperative Local Facility Grant Program to encourage, enable, and support local units of government to develop innovative methods to deliver public services better, faster, and cheaper through increased cooperation and consolidation.

Much of the other funding for public services focuses on asset preservation, renovation, and general improvement. Among areas targeted are historic sites and parking improvements.

Housing, development, transportation

The Department of Transportation would receive funding amounting to \$92.3 million, which would cover such projects as Northstar Commuter Rail (\$37.5 million), local bridge replacement (\$28 million), and local road improvement grants (\$10 million).

Redevelopment grants, which help local communities renew properties for industrial, commercial, or residential purposes, totaling \$25 million are earmarked by the proposal for the Department of Employment and Economic Development, along with the \$20 million discussed under education for the University/Mayo Clinic research facility.

The Housing Finance Agency would receive \$20 million for permanent supportive housing loans.

All these proposals will be addressed in various committees in the coming weeks. Ingison said the governor would release supplemental recommendations the first week of March.



Mid-term replacement

Rural jobs, transportation, education, taxes are top issues for newest House member, elected in December to fill vacancy

By PATTY JANOVEC

Minnesota's newest House member has a simple explanation for why he sought the role of legislator.



Rep. Scott Newman

"It's a matter of serving my community," said Rep. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson), who won a Dec. 30 special election to earn a seat in the House chamber.

Newman replaces former Rep. Tony Kielkucki (R-Lester Prairie), who became a

deputy secretary of state late last year. "I fully intend to do at least as good a job as Tony," Newman said, complimenting his predecessor.

Said Kielkucki, Newman will represent the area well because he's "very easy to talk to, communicates well with his constituents, knows the needs of his constituents, (and) has a great legal mind. I'm very glad he got elected to replace me."

Newman assumes Kielkucki's role on the Education Finance, Education Policy, Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy, and State Government Finance committees.

An attorney by trade, Newman has practiced law for nearly 30 years and is a certified civil trial specialist. "I've worked both sides of the fence," he said.

It's the challenge of the position that attracts people to the Legislature, he said. "I think it's going to be difficult and that's part of why I want to do this."

The learning curve has been steep, Newman said, but he looks forward to the entire experience of being a representative. "I'm going to personally see how a bill actually gets passed into law."

Newman said that members from his community encouraged him to run. So did the views of leaders in his party. "I like the

direction the speaker is going, I like the direction the governor is going, and that had a great deal of influence on me."

With his three children grown and married, he said he discussed the idea of running for office with his wife, Ginny, and came to the conclusion that it was important for him to do. "I can tell you, I'm not doing it for the money," he added with a laugh.

"There are issues that are facing us as a state, and within my county, and within my district that I think are really important," he said, citing rural jobs, transportation, education, and taxes as examples.

While his hometown of Hutchinson and

Gambling issues are a priority this session, said Newman. Feedback from his constituents included opposition to using gambling proceeds to possibly fund sports stadiums. Many of his constituents oppose gambling morally and philosophically, and proceeds are "not for general balancing of the budget," he said.

Another issue on the Republican agenda is tort reform, said Newman. As an attorney, he brings a unique perspective to the issue and said two broad issues important to him are caps and unnecessary lawsuits.

"To me the jury is pure grassroots of America," he said, comprised of members of the community evaluating a dispute as peers. Putting caps on awards allows the government to tell a jury what they will decide. "I don't think government should do that," he said.

When he looks back on his legislative days years from now, he said he hopes to be able to say, "I did a good job, and did the best job that I can, and I don't believe this is going to be

"I'm very happy to be here, I'm very proud to be here. I have a strong faith in America and it's values. And this in reality is what it's all about."

— Rep. Scott Newman

Glencoe, also in his district, faced major local government aid cuts following the 2003 session, other smaller towns are experiencing loss of funding from declining enrollment in local schools.

Even as he deals with those issues, he said, he plans to maintain a balance between Hutchinson, which he described as a "progressive, solid town" and the more rural towns in the district facing issues such as farming and value-added products, feedlots, and permits. "I've got kind of a unique district ... and I have to balance the needs in my district."

Transportation issues are at the forefront, said Newman, with "significant accidents" happening on U.S. Highway 212 and state highway 7. With bonding measures up for discussion this session, he said he promises to keep a constant eye on funding to take care of the problems in district 18A.

one of those experiences in life unless I work hard."

"I'm very happy to be here, I'm very proud to be here. I have a strong faith in America and its values. And this in reality is what it's all about."

DISTRICT 18A

2002 Population: 36,487

Largest City: Hutchinson

Counties: McLeod, Meeker

Location: west of the Twin Cities metropolitan area

Top concern: "(Graduation) Standards - I am on that committee and it is an important topic at the moment."

— Rep. Scott Newman

2003 Minnesota State Fair poll results

More than 7,300 fairgoers sound off

1. Under current law, child support payments are based on a noncustodial parent's income. Should both custodial and noncustodial parents' income be taken into account in calculating child support payments?

Yes	77.1%	(5,654)
No	13.4%	(982)
Undecided/No Opinion	8.3%	(609)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.1%	(84)

2. Education (not including higher education) funding makes up about 40 percent of the state's overall general fund budget. Should education funding — including funding for public schools, after-school programs, early childhood, and adult basic education — be subject to budget cuts during times of economic distress?

Yes	34.3%	(2,517)
No	60.8%	(4,457)
Undecided/ No Opinion	3.8%	(276)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.1%	(79)

3. From 1913 until 1973, legislators were elected in Minnesota on nonpartisan ballots, meaning there was no political party designation for individual members. Nebraska is the only state currently with a nonpartisan legislature. In addition, candidates for most local government offices (i.e. city councils and school boards) are not elected according to party designation. Do you support the practice of electing legislators according to political party designation?

Yes	48.9%	(3,581)
No	38.5%	(2,820)
Undecided/No Opinion	11.4%	(835)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.3%	(93)

4. Mourning dove hunting has been banned in Minnesota since 1947. Should state law be changed to allow a mourning dove hunting season?

Yes	18.8%	(1,380)
No	56.5%	(4,139)
Undecided/No opinion	23.2%	(1,697)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.5%	(113)

5. Should employers be allowed to pass along certain employment information, such as job references, wages, job description, or written disclosures of any instances of theft, harassment or other illegal conduct in a current and previous employee's record without the employee's consent?

Yes	34.7%	(2,541)
No	58.9%	(4,319)
Undecided/No Opinion	5.1%	(372)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.3%	(97)

6. A bill that would have changed the statute of limitations for civil suits related to childhood sexual abuse stalled in the Legislature in 2003. According to a Minnesota Supreme Court ruling, individuals have six years to file suit, beginning when a person turns 18. Should the statute of limitations be extended?

Yes	58.5%	(4,288)
No	32.7%	(2,397)
Undecided/No Opinion	7.7%	(562)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.1%	(82)

7. The speed limit on rural, two-lane state highways is now 55 miles per hour. A bill to raise the limit to 65 mph and keep the nighttime limit at 55 mph was introduced in 2003. Should the daytime speed limits on Greater Minnesota highways be raised?

Yes	53.4%	(3,911)
No	42.9%	(3,145)
Undecided/ No Opinion	2.9%	(210)
Left blank/vote not tallied	1.0%	(63)

8. In Minnesota, children between the ages of 12 and 16 may operate all-terrain vehicles, including four-wheelers and off-road motorcycles, on public lands if they possess a vehicle safety certificate and are accompanied by someone 18 or older operating another vehicle. Should young people under the age of 16 be allowed to drive all-terrain vehicles, including four-wheelers and off-road motorcycles, on public lands?

Yes	22.6%	(1,608)
No	73.4%	(5,219)
Undecided/ No Opinion	4.0%	(288)

9. During the 2003 Legislature, a plan to allow state-owned gaming machines at Canterbury Park was considered. Portions of the additional revenue created would have been dedicated to the state's general fund. Do you support a state-operated casino?

Yes	52.8%	(3,764)
No	43.6%	(3,107)
Undecided/ No Opinion	3.6%	(255)

10. In 2000, license tab registration fees were reduced to their current levels, including a \$99 fee from the time a car is three years old, until it is 10 years old. Several bills discussed during the 2003 legislative session proposed increasing those fees to fund transit and additional road construction projects. Should license tab fees be increased?

Yes	36.5%	(2,598)
No	59.3%	(4,219)
Undecided/ No Opinion	4.2%	(300)

11. Minnesota has a bicameral legislature, which means that it has both a House and Senate, like the U.S. Congress and 48 other states. One state, Nebraska, has a unicameral legislature, where there is a single lawmaking body. Would you support making Minnesota's Legislature unicameral?

Yes	31.0%	(2,200)
No	60.7%	(4,312)
Undecided/ No Opinion	8.3%	(592)

12. Should the Legislature increase cigarette taxes?

Yes	70.7%	(4,963)
No	22.8%	(1,599)
Undecided/ No Opinion	6.5%	(454)

13. During 2003, a new law was enacted changing the way handgun permits are issued in the state, requiring permits to be granted to individuals who meet a set of criteria, including a gun safety course. Do you plan to apply for a handgun permit or have you already applied for one?*

Yes	12.3%	(881)
No	84.2%	(6,011)
Undecided/ No Opinion	3.4%	(243)

14. In general, the 2004-05 budget passed by the Legislature reflected reductions to 2002-03 levels and some fee increases to accommodate for a projected budget shortfall. Do you support budget cuts during times of economic distress as opposed to increasing certain taxes?

Yes	44.9%	(3,186)
No	47.4%	(3,359)
Undecided/ No Opinion	7.7%	(544)

*Question 13 does not attempt to measure support for the law passed during the 2003 session which changes the way handgun permits are issued in the state. It is merely an opportunity to see how many polltakers are planning to apply for a handgun permit.

(All percentages are rounded off to the nearest one-tenth. Percent total votes left blank or not tallied are included for those above 1 percent. On questions 8 through 14, percentages are based on the number who actually voted on the question, because those questions appeared on the back side of the ballot and may have been inadvertently skipped.)

Note: The Minnesota House of Representatives' survey is informal and unscientific. It is simply a measurement of the opinions expressed by those who took the time to complete the poll while visiting our booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Our main purpose in conducting this opinion poll was to familiarize fairgoers with some of the issues that have recently been discussed by the Legislature and issues that may be debated during the 2004 legislative session.

Biosciences 101

Legislators sponsor symposium in hopes Minnesota can benefit from an emerging industry

By NICOLE WOOD

Nanotechnology, advanced bioinformatics, “biopharming,” bioremediation, and xenotransplantation might not yet be household words to the average Minnesotan, but they reflect an essential part of a scientific and economic revolution, that many say the state is poised to capitalize on.

Biosciences are basically the application of human, plant, and animal biological knowledge and processes across a range of industries, including agriculture, health care, and manufacturing.

Examples of Minnesota bioscience products include:

- plastics and biosynthetic fabrics made from corn rather than petroleum by Cargill Dow, a Minnetonka-based company;
- gene sequencing, animal disease diagnostics, and system specific vaccines provided by Newport Laboratories in Worthington; and
- Gore-Tex coated pace-maker lead wires produced by Guidant Corporation in Arden Hills that can easily be repositioned or removed.

Policymakers have caught on in the last year to the buzz the biosciences are generating and they have begun looking for ways to support industry growth.

The 2003 Legislature approved a bill, sponsored by Rep. Lynne Osterman (R-New Hope), that allowed the designation of one biotechnology and health science zone in the state. Businesses within the zone can qualify for sales, corporate franchise, and property tax exemptions, among other incentives.

“The goal is to cluster existing and startup bioscience companies and help them gain access to U of M and Mayo researchers and to provide tax incentives to help them lower their overall costs and facilitate their growth,” Gov. Tim Pawlenty said recently when designating Rochester, St. Paul, and Minneapolis as sub-zones within a zone under the new law.

Osterman accompanied the governor last



PHOTO BY ANDREW VON BANK

Robert Elde, dean of the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences, gives a biosciences primer Feb. 4 as part of a legislative conference on the topic.

September on a trade mission to Quebec, a region with one of the highest concentrations of biotechnology research firms in North America.

“We don’t have a collective knowledge base among the legislators on this topic,” Osterman said she realized on the trip. “We’re going to get back home and nobody’s going to push yes” when it comes time to vote on additional bioscience initiatives.

Her wish for a primer for lawmakers resulted in “Biosciences 101...from value-added agriculture to improving human health,” a Feb. 4 symposium held at the Minnesota History Center.

Osterman, who co-hosted the event with Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins), said she hopes legislators gained a working definition of bio-

sciences and an understanding of how industry growth translates to jobs.

“Minnesota has unbelievable potential and it’s up to them to plot the course,” she said.

The public policy arena must support universities and industry in their endeavors, Kelley told attendees. “Consider the event ‘Biosciences Recruitment 101,’” he said. “We need more champions on this subject.”

Robert Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota, elucidated the connection between biology and the economy.

“The economy that’s coming is a molecular and cellular economy,” he said.

The industrial and information revolutions have passed and this revolution in biosciences has developed on the backs of the projects to decode the human genome, Elde explained.

“When we have the entire parts list for every living organism, this type of science becomes engineerable,” he said. Physics and chemistry have gone through this process and now biology has cellular and molecular engineering.

There is no doubt these engineering capabilities raise social and ethical concerns. While state and national leaders will certainly grapple with questions surrounding certain stem cell research, cloning practices, and crop engineering, the biosciences hold more promise, presenters said, including great strides in regenerative medicine, food safety, nutrition, and pharmaceuticals.

Products and commercial opportunities emerge from these engineering advances, Elde said.

A strong bioscience sector takes engaged universities, specialized facilities, access to capital, and supportive tax policies, said Mitchell Horowitz, director of strategy for a Columbus, Ohio biotech advocacy group. “Ultimately it takes leadership, it takes patience, it takes that long-term commitment.”

“It is expensive,” he conceded. “You have to be able to justify to yourself that bioscience is an investment in K-12, infrastructure, and job development.”

Dr. Stephen Oesterle, senior vice president for medicine and technology at Medtronic in Fridley, was perhaps the most candid about the urgency of public investment.

“This is not a catch-up industry,” he warned.

Oesterle participated on the Minnesota Bioscience Council, an advisory group of 25 members from industry, academia, state government, and the community at large that convened in 2003.

He did have one criticism of the governor’s support of biotechnology, saying his bonding recommendations, which included slightly more than \$21 million in the area, didn’t go far enough. Oesterle said investment in university research, which generates the ideas in this arena, is important to developing industry in Minnesota.



Pawlenty's vision

State of the State address calls for revival of death penalty, offers other policy initiatives

By MIRANDA BRYANT

Gov. Tim Pawlenty pushed for the return of the death penalty in Minnesota and lauded the Legislature for standing by his 2003 no-new-taxes pledge in his second State of the State address Feb. 5.

To one of many standing rounds of applause from House and Senate Republicans, the governor asked the Legislature to allow the death penalty issue a spot on the November general election ballot.

"It's time to give the people the chance to speak on the death penalty for those who commit unspeakable crimes, such as the murder of a child," Pawlenty said.

Special guests in attendance included the parents of two Minnesota soldiers killed in Iraq, a teacher who saved students' lives during last year's Cold Spring school shooting, and the son of famed hockey coach Herb Brooks.

While honoring the guests for their "Minnesota Spirit," Pawlenty reminded observers of the problem the state faced a year ago.

Last year Pawlenty called the projected \$4.5 billion state shortfall the "Incredible Hulk" of budget deficits. This year he said he expects a pending budget forecast will reveal that \$4 billion in projected debt was eliminated, and that \$600 million in reserves were gained.

"And we did it without raising taxes," the Republican governor said, to a robust cheer from his party members. Disapproving DFL members remained seated on this issue, as they did on most occasions throughout the speech.

The wide-ranging speech repeated many themes from last year's address and added

topics of homelessness, the environment, farming, timber trades, mining, and gambling.

Acknowledging his previous opposition to expanding gambling in Minnesota, the governor announced a significant change of mind, putting tribal governments on notice that he will be working for a "better deal for Minnesotans."

"We need to recognize times have changed," he said. "The compacts negotiated with the American Indian tribes almost 15 years ago do not reflect current circumstances."

The first matter of business, the governor said, is ensuring that the state never again faces such an immense budget deficit. The other categories in his long "to do" list consisted of education, jobs, health care, and Minnesota's quality of life.

Addressing the rising costs of prescription drugs, Pawlenty noted that the state unveiled a Web site Jan. 30 that allows people to purchase pharmaceuticals from Canada. The governor asked for help in fending off the "powerful forces" against Minnesota Rx Connect Online, the first such program offered by a state in the country.

In coming weeks the governor's office will announce a package designed to reform long-term care for the elderly, he said. The idea is to create a report card enabling consumers to evaluate nursing home care.

"We owe it to our seniors, some of our most vulnerable Minnesotans, to have the best possible care available," Pawlenty said.

One issue members from both sides appear to agree on is longer sentences and civil commitments for high-level sex offenders.

The issue was raised last fall when a



University of North Dakota student was abducted and feared murdered. Charged in the case is a high-risk sex offender from Crookston who was released from prison last May.

Dangerous sex offenders need to be locked up longer, and those who are released should be monitored through Global Positioning System devices, Pawlenty said to a unanimous standing ovation.

In addition, the governor said he is proposing bond financing for the expansion of prisons and the addition of 875 beds.

"In order to maintain 'Minnesota Nice' for everybody, we need to get 'Minnesota Tough' on criminals," he said.

Turning to the topic of education, Pawlenty said Minnesota is no longer on the leading edge, a statement also made in last year's address. He cited a need to reverse the situation and to reform education financing. In 2002 the state took over the full responsibility of funding education, allowing local governments to cut commercial and industrial property taxes.

"The current formula is too complex and that breeds lack of accountability," he said.

Fostering job growth, said Pawlenty, is dependent upon keeping taxes in check.

He called for selling bonds to finance a research partnership between the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota, a collaboration mentioned in the 2003 address, as well. He also stressed the continuation of last year's bioscience tax zone initiative to promote growth in this leading-edge scientific field.

To further save money, a large-scale cargo distribution center in Minnesota would give area businesses access to the global market



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gov. Tim Pawlenty discussed a number of topics, including education, jobs, health care, and Minnesota's quality of life, during his Feb. 5 State of the State address.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Gov. Tim Pawlenty, state officers, and legislators gave a standing ovation to Caroline and Larry Erickson and Karen and Arland Panchot, who were seated in the House gallery during the governor's Feb. 5 State of the State address. Their sons, Brian Hellerman and Dale Panchot, were killed during combat in Iraq.

without shipping goods to Chicago, he added.

Habitat and water quality together could be helped, Pawlenty said, through the set-aside of 100,000 acres of marginal farmland. The land could act as a buffer between runoff areas and environmentally sensitive waterways.

Addressing traffic congestion in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, the governor said the state is moving forward with plans to construct special lanes to handle high traffic flows. MnPass would convert high-occupancy vehicle lanes on Interstate 394 into pay-per-use lanes, allowing drivers to speed up their commute.

"If you notice, Minnesotans kind of like the idea," Pawlenty said.

The Northstar Corridor commuter rail line and the high-speed Cedar Avenue bus line would both be funded through bond sales. The former would connect downtown Minneapolis and Big Lake; the latter, Bloomington's Mall of America with Lakeville.

Pawlenty concluded his speech by again praising the "Minnesota spirit."

"It's the spirit that makes us dance in the snow near castles made of ice.

"It's the spirit that raises an army of friends to walk the frozen, snow-covered ditches of Polk County in search of a missing friend. It's the Minnesota spirit.

"It's our legacy. It's our tradition." 🐻



House Minority Leader Matt Entenza shares his thoughts with the media following the governor's State of the State address.

'Recycled' message

The reaction of several DFL House members to Gov. Tim Pawlenty's State of the State address Feb. 5 was mixed, ranging from encouragement on education finance reform to comments that the speech was little more than a rehash of previously announced proposals.

"It was mostly recycled pilot programs," said House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul). "We need jobs during a time of recession."

The governor highlighted a series of K-12 education initiatives in his speech, asking legislators to work with him to change the state's basic education funding formula. A task force the governor appointed last summer will soon bring recommended changes to the Legislature.

"I do feel there is a need for significant reform on education funding," said Rep. Kent Eken (DFL-Twin Valley). "The per pupil basis is not good for rural schools."

Rep. Rebecca Otto (DFL-Marine on St. Croix) said she was interested in learning more details about Pawlenty's education reforms because, "I'm unclear on what he's shooting for."

"I was a teacher," she said. "Our schools are very high performers."

However, she said that health care costs need to be addressed because they're "driving the bottom line of education funding."

Eken said he was "tired of the line" that the state didn't increase taxes in 2003. "Taxes were increased if you look at surcharges (on nursing home residents) and fees (for a number of state services)," he said. "The burden was shifted to local governments and school districts."

The governor included "a few tidbits for rural areas," said Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), citing a proposal for low-interest loans for farm modernization, support of the livestock industry and increased set-asides of marginal farmland under a federally supported conservation program.

"Last year, he didn't even mention agriculture," Juhnke said. "Other than changing his approach to gambling, there wasn't a lot new."

Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) said she "welcomes (Pawlenty's) strong endorsement of the (proposed) Northstar commuter rail line." She agreed with the governor that public safety is a top priority, but also agreed with half-a-dozen other DFL representatives interviewed that his proposal for a death penalty referendum would not pass the Legislature.

"My priority is that we not let dangerous people out on the street for budget reasons," Bernardy said, in reference to a proposal to keep sex offenders likely to reoffend in custody.—Tom Lonergan



House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen answers questions from reporters after the governor's State of the State address.

'A wonderful message'

Republicans offered frequent applause during Gov. Pawlenty's State of the State speech.

"The governor had a wonderful message based on a spirit of hope," said House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "We have managed the budget and can look forward to the challenges ahead."

Most popular with Republicans seemed to be the governor's promise of no new taxes. They gave a standing ovation, while Democrats remained silent.

Sviggum said that lack of enthusiasm surprised him. "A show of applause would have given due and proper credit to the governor's vision," he said. "Their silence was deafening."

"We've done phenomenally well," said House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie). "We have \$630 million in reserve and are chipping away at the remainder of the deficit."

Pawlenty said he wanted to boost the state's economy and encourage business by being more competitive on things like taxes. Sviggum sees the governor's message as a commitment to businesses that taxes will be no higher in Minnesota than elsewhere.

Pawlenty's willingness to revisit Minnesota gambling prompted some enthusiasm, but many were restrained. "They are clearly waiting to see what happens," Paulsen said.

Sviggum gave Pawlenty credit for his willingness to be open to changes on the issue. "I think the governor said 'times have changed, it's time to take another look at the tribal compacts.'"

Paulsen said he's glad that the governor is also taking a look and offering ways to contain health care costs. "Everywhere I go in the state, people are expressing concern about increasing health care costs," he said, while cautioning, "There is no magic bullet."

Traffic congestion is another top concern of many. His plan to make progress in new and refurbished roads and bridges brought applause from his own party, and applause from both sides of the aisle greeted Pawlenty's announcement that his budget contains funding for the Northstar commuter rail line.

"I believe transit has to be a part of our transportation answer," Sviggum said. "Sure it's controversial, but we need a balanced transportation approach and if commuter rail is part of the answer, I'll support it."

Overall, the Republicans were very pleased with what the governor had to say. "Let's be positive," Sviggum said. "We've done some good things; let's be willing to try some new things; let's not put our feet in cement." —Mary Kay Watson

Thursday, Dec. 11

HF1659—Severson (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Criminal gang strike force grant funding restored, and money appropriated.

HF1660—Kuisle (R)
Transportation Policy
Property owners provided with copies of all appraisals in eminent domain actions.

HF1661—Nelson, C. (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Police misconduct false reporting misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor penalties provided.

HF1662—Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Collaborative parent-infant services conditions specified for hospital licensure.

HF1663—Kahn (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Seat belt violation primary offense established, seat belt violation fines increased.

HF1664—Lieder (DFL)
Education Policy
Independent School District No. 595, East Grand Forks, authorized to exercise remaining levy authority for disability access projects.

HF1665—Urdahl (R)
Agriculture & Rural
Development Finance
Dairy development and profitability enhancement program funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1666—Urdahl (R)
Agriculture & Rural
Development Finance
County extension work funding provided, statewide county extension advisory board established, and money appropriated.

HF1667—Urdahl (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance
Dairy equipment modernization grant program established.

HF1668—Urdahl (R)
Taxes
Dairy operation investment individual income and corporate franchise tax credit provided for qualifying investments.

HF1669—Urdahl (R)
Taxes
Dairy producer tax credit provided for operators that achieve superior herd health and high quality milk.

HF1670—Urdahl (R)
Agriculture & Rural
Development Finance
Manure digester loans interest-free status extended.

HF1671—Rukavina (DFL)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance
Virginia central steam heating system capital repairs funding authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1672—Mullery (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy
Federal new source emission rules rejected.

HF1673—Solberg (DFL)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance
Minnesota Historical Society funding restored, and money appropriated.

HF1674—Juhnke (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Willmar airport extension and railroad bypass funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1675—Juhnke (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance
Glacial Lakes Trail and Lake Koronis Trail improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1676—McNamara (R)
Jobs & Economic
Development Finance
Hastings river flats interpretive facility funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1677—Marquart (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Community collaborative childcare provider license included under non-residential childcare programs.

HF1678—Marquart (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Assault of a peace officer with feces or bodily fluids felony penalty provided.

HF1679—Dill (DFL)
Environment &
Natural Resources Policy
Off-highway vehicle operation restrictions modified for wetlands areas.

HF1680—Anderson, I. (DFL)
State Government Finance
World War II veterans memorial funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1681—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Health care malpractice, administrative, and health plan competition reform provided.

HF1682—Strachan (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
School safety patrol rules required to allow Sam Browne belts and school safety patrol flags to be certain colors.

HF1683—Strachan (R)
Transportation Policy
Traffic signal-override device sale and possession restricted.

HF1684—Davids (R)
Taxes
Tax increment financing authority to extend districts to offset deficits modified, state grant program established to offset deficits caused by the 2001 property tax reform, and money appropriated.

HF1685—Slawik (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Absentee balloting by military and overseas voters allowed by facsimile.

Friday, Jan. 9

HF1686—Olson, M. (R)
Transportation Finance
Duluth personal rapid transit demonstration project funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1687—Olson, M. (R)
Taxes
Personal rapid transit systems exempted from property and income taxes.

HF1688—Olson, M. (R)
Taxes
Motor vehicle sales tax revenue attributable to sale of new vehicles dedicated to public transit purposes, all other motor vehicle sales tax revenue dedicated to highway user tax distribution fund, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1689—Powell (R)
Taxes
Ambulance service personnel longevity awards excluded from state income tax.

HF1690—Brod (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Department of Veterans Affairs commissioner authorized to access taxpayer identification information to notify veterans of possible health hazards and benefits.

HF1691—Brod (R)
Transportation Policy
Local government road construction and improvement contract provisions modified.

HF1692—Vandever (R)
Regulated Industries
Wireless consumer protections provided.

HF1693—Urdahl (R)
Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2887, McLeod West, fund transfer authorized.

HF1694—Cornish (R)
Environment &
Natural Resources Finance
Blue Earth County Rapidan Dam renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1695—Cornish (R)
Agriculture & Rural
Development Finance
Farmamerica interpretive center in Waseca repair and remodeling funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1696—Howes (R)
Transportation Finance
Trunk Highway 64 bridge construction provided, and money appropriated.

HF1697—Howes (R)
Education Finance
Crosslake library design and construction grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1698—Stang (R)
Education Finance
Independent School District No. 739, Kimball, fund transfer authorized.

HF1699—DeLaForest (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Anoka County; public employee pension coverage specified for certain former Anoka County employees.

HF1700—DeLaForest (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Anoka County; public employee pension coverage specified for certain former Anoka County employees.

HF1701—Larson (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Physician assistant registration requirement exemption provided.

HF1702—Powell (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board membership, registration, training, and reporting provisions modified.

HF1703—Lipman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Voting system; uniform statewide voting system acquisition provided through appropriation of remaining funds in the Help America Vote Act account.

HF1704—Erickson (R)
Education Finance
Maximum effort capital loan tax rate lowered.

HF1705—Dempsey (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Red Wing correctional facility vocational education building construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1706—Knoblach (R)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud Technical College capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1707—Knoblach (R)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud State University Riverview Hall renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1708—Knoblach (R)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud State University Centennial Hall renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1709—Knoblach (R)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud State University Brown Hall renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1710—Osterman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Minnesota Humanities Commission employees provided state employee insurance and benefits.

HF1711—Dill (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Cook County land exchange authorized.

HF1712—Dill (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Game and fish license social security number requirements eliminated for minors.

HF1713—Dill (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Lake Superior safe harbors funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1714—Dill (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Gitchi-Gami State Trail development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1715—Osterman (R)
Taxes
Capital equipment sales tax exemption made an up-front tax exemption.

HF1716—Hackbarth (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Casino license authorized; taxation and regulation provided; bonds issued; construction of stadiums for the Twins, University of Minnesota, and Vikings provided; tax rates adjusted; money appropriated; and constitutional amendment provided.

HF1717—Lanning (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local government contracting flexibility increased, purchasing authority of plan B city managers increased, competitive bidding threshold increased, and use of reverse auction and electronic bidding authorized.

HF1718—Hackbarth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Off-highway vehicle operation restrictions modified, grant program provided, decal requirements for off-highway motorcycles modified, ATV provisions modified, fees provided, and report required.

HF1719—Rhodes (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
City election alternative voting methods authorized.

HF1720—Seagren (R)
Education Policy
Perpich Center for Arts Education added to list of eligible charter school sponsors.

HF1721—Strachan (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Collection of criminal booking fees expanded, and procedures modified for return of booking fees.

HF1722—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud Technical College capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1723—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud State University Centennial Hall improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1724—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud State University Riverview Hall improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1725—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
St. Cloud State University capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1726—Carlson (DFL)
Regulated Industries
Identification information privacy protection provided for consumers of telecommunications, cable, and Internet services.

HF1727—Carlson (DFL)
Education Policy
State board of education established.

HF1728—Nelson, C. (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Crime victim service grant increases and reductions capped at 10 percent per judicial district, and task force established to develop recommendations for a formula for distribution of grants.

HF1729—Nelson, C. (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Childcare assistance provisions modified relating to military personnel.

HF1730—Nelson, C. (R)
Higher Education Finance
Rioting penalties provided for postsecondary students.

HF1731—Lipman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Judicial selection procedure modified, and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF1732—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
Exposure of animals to disease intentionally criminal penalty provided, trespass on agricultural land prohibited, civil remedies provided, and criminal penalties imposed.

HF1733—Magnus (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development Finance
Biodiesel fuel processing plant economic impact tool development grant provided, and money appropriated.

HF1734—Harder (R)
Regulated Industries
Small wind energy facilities additional renewable production incentives authorized.

HF1735—Lipman (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Judicial appointment and reappointment by the governor with advice and consent of the Senate established, recommendation procedure provided, and constitutional amendment provided.

HF1736—Wardlow (R)
Higher Education Finance
Higher education lottery scholarship program established.

HF1737—Lipman (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Lake Elmo long-term comprehensive plan authorized.

HF1738—Greiling (DFL)
Education Policy
Uniform statewide public school grading scale policy advisory task force established.

HF1739—Carlson (DFL)
Education Finance
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding established, and money appropriated.

HF1740—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Natural resources land payments to counties modified.

HF1741—Lenczewski (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Casino; state-operated or state-owned gambling facility prohibited in a city unless approved by public referendum, payment of referendum costs provided, and money appropriated.

Monday, Feb. 2

HF1742—Knoblach (R)
Taxes
Federal tax updates provided to encourage consumer-driven health plans.

HF1743—Westrom (R)
Regulated Industries
Public utility performance-based regulation plan sunset repealed, reporting requirement eliminated, and technical correction provided.

HF1744—Westrom (R)
Transportation Finance
Metro Mobility taxi fare subsidy expenditure required.

HF1745—Westrom (R)
Transportation Policy
Highway rest areas required to have at least one toilet useable by either gender if constructed or remodeled after Aug. 1, 2004.

HF1746—Westrom (R)
Transportation Policy
Driver's license suspension made effective only after proof of delivery of notice, and expired license conviction prohibited if certain conditions are met.

HF1747—Jaros (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Lake Superior Zoo exhibit and improvement funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1748—Jaros (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Duluth aerial lift bridge restoration funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1749—Huntley (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center grant provided for design of a new arena, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1750—Huntley (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Duluth sanitary sewer overflow storage facilities funding provided, matching requirement provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1751—Ozment (R)
Education Policy
Environmental review provisions clarified relating to proposed action on public waters bordering more than one county.

HF1752—Solberg (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
North Central Research and Outreach Center at Grand Rapids new building construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1753—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Nursing facility private pay resident rates modified.

HF1754—Samuelson (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Planned nursing facility closures required to be budget neutral.

HF1755—Samuelson (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Human Services Department required to adjust nursing facility payment rates under specified circumstances.

HF1756—Swenson (R)
Agriculture Policy
Veterinary practice requirements modified, and licenses provided.

HF1757—Thissen (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Medical assistance coverage clarified for skilled nursing facility and hospice services for dual eligibles.

HF1758—Erhardt (R)
Transportation Policy
Traffic signal changing devices sale, unauthorized use, and ownership prohibited.

HF1759—Erhardt (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Local government employee compensation limit repealed.

HF1760—Solberg (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Aitkin County Great River Road completion funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1761—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Lanesboro fish hatchery construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1762—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Deer hunting nonresident archery license fees modified.

HF1763—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Lower Mississippi River CREP program funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1764—Davids (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Bluffland Trail System Forestville segment development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1765—Davids (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Regional adult detention facility construction grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1766—Davids (R)
Agriculture Policy
Ethanol producer payment ownership disclosure requirement eliminated.

HF1767—Marquart (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Limousine drivers held to per se standard imposed on commercial motor vehicle operators for driving while impaired.

HF1768—Bradley (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Counties required to process medical assistance applications within established timelines.

HF1769—Erickson (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Charitable organization compensation increases reporting requirements imposed.

HF1770—Strachan (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy
Marriage dissolution decree annuity bounce-back provided.

HF1771—Tingelstad (R)
Education Policy
Mold abatement repairs authorized as a use of school health and safety revenue.

HF1772—Westrom (R)
Education Finance
Independent School District No. 771, Chokio-Alberta, fund transfer authorized.

HF1773—Solberg (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Aitkin County public and private land sales authorized.

HF1774—Mariani (DFL)
Education Finance
After-school enrichment grant program reinstated, and money appropriated.

HF1775—Slawik (DFL)
Education Policy
School readiness advisory board established.

HF1776—Slawik (DFL)
Taxes
Education expense credit and deduction applied to certain expenditures for pre-kindergarten expenses and museum memberships.

HF1777—Slawik (DFL)
Education Policy
Education of young children through age five provided through proposed constitutional amendment.

HF1778—Slawik (DFL)
Education Finance
Early childhood education program funding restored, and money appropriated.

HF1779—Slawik (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Provisional driver's license use restricted.

HF1780—Slawik (DFL)
Transportation Policy
School bus driver's license endorsement grounds for cancellation expanded.

HF1781—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Long-term care insurance coverage definitions modified.

HF1782—Solberg (DFL)
Taxes
Taconite aids offset eliminated for computation of city formula aid in the local government aid formula, additional aid finding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1783—Anderson, B. (R)
Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy
Employers prohibited from asking applicants about National Guard or reserve status.

HF1784—Thissen (DFL)
Taxes
Transition payments provided for property tax base loss.

HF1785—Thissen (DFL)
Transportation Finance
Transportation utility fee authorized, and proceeds use specified.

HF1786—Jacobson (R)**Taxes**

Ramsey County authorized to separately state library levies on tax statements and notices of proposed taxes.

HF1787—Greiling (DFL)**Education Policy**

Nonpublic schools subjected to the state's high school graduation requirements, the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, and criminal background checks if families claim a tax reimbursement for education-related expenses.

HF1788—Greiling (DFL)**Education Policy**

World languages required as an academic standard.

HF1789—Sykora (R)**Education Policy**

Pre-kindergarten through grade 12 general education, special programs, libraries, state agencies, and rulemaking provided.

HF1790—Olsen, S. (R)**Education Finance**

Accountability measures implemented to recognize excellent language arts and mathematics teaching in schools.

HF1791—Dempsey (R)**Transportation Finance**

Port development assistance funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1792—Seagren (R)**Education Finance**

Value added assessment academic achievement program provided and money appropriated.

HF1793—Seagren (R)**Education Finance**

Department of Education basic system support and library telecommunications aid payments modified.

HF1794—Beard (R)**Transportation Finance**

Airport federally funded projects minimum required local contribution decreased.

HF1795—Swenson (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Public Employees Retirement Association joint and survivor optional annuity survivor designation change following marriage dissolution authorized.

HF1796—Hackbarth (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Oliver Kelley Farm land acquisition funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1797—Hackbarth (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Oliver Kelley Farm funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1798—Kohls (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Secretary of State filing procedures simplified, certain filing requirements eliminated, electronic registration required, and money appropriated.

HF1799—Erickson (R)**Transportation Policy**

Blue light display by volunteer firefighters on private motor vehicles authorized under certain circumstances.

HF1800—Erickson (R)**Environment & Natural Resources Policy**

Tribal agreement-related costs report related to the management of game, fish, or other natural resources required.

HF1801—Klinzing (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Homeowners protection act established; residential home building contractor regulations, building code enforcement reporting, and continuing education requirements modified; and attorney fee recovery provided.

HF1802—Thissen (DFL)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Organization, structure, and governance of business and nonprofit corporations and limited liability companies regulated.

HF1803—Lipman (R)**Civil Law**

Trust law provisions modified, procedures and terms clarified, and technical changes to guardianship and conservatorship law provided.

HF1804—Samuelson (R)

Health & Human Services Finance Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase provided.

HF1805—Pugh (DFL)**Civil Law**

Mortgage satisfaction certificate provided.

HF1806—Vandever (R)**Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy**

Electronic real estate recording task force uncoded laws amended, period of existence and surcharge on task force filings extended, and money appropriated.

Thursday, Feb. 5**HF1807—Goodwin (DFL)****Education Policy**

Family service cooperatives administrative efficiency directive provided, and report required.

HF1808—Penas (R)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Roseau flood damage infrastructure and municipal complex relocation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1809—Lieder (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Crookston emergency riverbank protection funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1810—Erickson (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Child care assistance military exception established, and money appropriated.

HF1811—Rukavina (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Laurentian Energy Authority wood yard construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1812—Howes (R)**Civil Law**

Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act county review and approval of subdivisions required.

HF1813—Dill (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Development Finance**

Two Harbors wastewater treatment plant equalization basin and chlorine-contact tank grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1814—Erickson (R)**Education Policy**

Teacher training program for qualified professionals established.

HF1815—Olsen, S. (R)**Education Finance**

Public schools efficiency reviews established.

HF1816—Huntley (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

State agency contracts for services required to be performed by United States citizens or by individuals authorized to work in the United States.

HF1817—Kohls (R)**Judiciary Policy and Finance**

Service animals; restitution required for harm done by dogs to service animals.

HF1818—Hilstrom (DFL)**Education Policy**

School board election districts established for specified school districts.

HF1819—Brod (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

Civil and criminal protections clarified for National Guard or other armed forces personnel who apply reasonable force under official military orders.

HF1820—Brod (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy**

National Guard member tuition reimbursement increased, and money appropriated.

HF1821—Buesgens (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Military service refundable income tax credit provided.

HF1822—Buesgens (R)**Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**

Metropolitan Council government electronic funds transfer use authorized.

HF1823—Brod (R)**Taxes**

Income tax credit provided for specified military service.

HF1824—Lipman (R)**Civil Law**

Uniform limited partnership act of 2001 adopted.

HF1825—Wardlow (R)**Taxes**

National Guard members permitted to be considered nonresidents for income tax purposes while in active service.

HF1826—Howes (R)**Judiciary Policy & Finance**

Cass County regional and county jail funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1827—Kohls (R)**Taxes**

Long-term care insurance tax credit increased, employer provided long-term care insurance tax credit created, long-term care credit availability publicized, and money appropriated.

<p>HF1828—Samuelson (R) Health & Human Services Finance Minnesota Family Investment Program eligibility income exclusions expanded to include county adoption assistance payments.</p>	<p>HF1838—Cornish (R) Transportation Policy Articulated bus up to 60 feet permits authorized when operated by a motor carrier of passengers.</p>	<p>HF1850—Swenson (R) Transportation Finance Local road improvement program funding provided, program funding of loans abolished, rural road safety program established in the local road improvement fund, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1861—Davids (R) Civil Law Recreational purpose definition modified relating to liability on land used for recreational purposes.</p>
<p>HF1829—Lipman (R) Judiciary Policy & Finance Controlled substance offenses expanded to include six degrees, loitering with intent to purchase violation created, drug treatment diversion program established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1839—Juhnke (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Adult foster care residents allowed to execute health care directives.</p>	<p>HF1851—Adolphson (R) Transportation Finance State transportation fund project approval by regional development commission or Metropolitan Council requirement repealed.</p>	<p>HF1862—Erickson (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Off-highway vehicle operation in wetlands restriction modified.</p>
<p>HF1830—Westrom (R) Regulated Industries Low-income electric rate discount program modified.</p>	<p>HF1840—Lesch (DFL) Transportation Policy Law enforcement vehicle regulations modified relating to operation of vehicles out of service.</p>	<p>HF1852—Knoblach (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance State regional park funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1863—Lieder (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Red Lake River watershed improvement bond sale authorized, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1831—Demmer (R) Education Policy School district board powers and duties clarified relating to teacher assignment.</p>	<p>HF1841—Boudreau (R) Education Finance Minnesota state academies capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1853—Howes (R) Education Policy School start date postponed for the 2004-2005 school year only.</p>	<p>HF1864—Juhnke (DFL) Agriculture Policy Home canned food sale at farmers markets and similar venues authorized, and disclosure statement and labeling required.</p>
<p>HF1832—Dill (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Snowmobile trail grants-in-aid eligibility modified, and certain immunity provided.</p>	<p>HF1842—Boudreau (R) Education Finance Minnesota state academies grant provided for phase two of the Noyes Hall renovation, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1854—Howes (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Walker area community center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1865—Lieder (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Red River State Recreation Area development bond sale authorized and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1833—Dill (DFL) Transportation Finance Lake County forest highway 11 funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1843—Kuisle (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Town annual audit threshold increased.</p>	<p>HF1855—Cornish (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipality definition modified to include counties for purposes of removal of hazardous buildings or hazardous property.</p>	<p>HF1866—Jaros (DFL) Regulated Industries Duluth authorized to issue an on-sale liquor license for Wade Municipal Stadium.</p>
<p>HF1834—Dill (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Grand Portage State Park visitor center and maintenance shop funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1844—Davids (R) Health & Human Services Policy Ovarian cancer monitoring coverage required for high-risk patients.</p>	<p>HF1856—Gerlach (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Minneapolis Teachers Retirement Fund Association service credit purchase authorized for wrongly reported leave of absence.</p>	<p>HF1867—Ozment (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance State and local trails funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1835—Seifert (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Lawful gambling; lawful purpose expenditures expanded to include sending certain veterans to national World War II memorial dedication events.</p>	<p>HF1845—Dempsey (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Red Wing solid waste facility grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1857—Meslow (R) Civil Law Paternity presumptions modified.</p>	<p>HF1868—Buesgens (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Uniform election days for state and local elections provided.</p>
<p>HF1836—Rukavina (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Mineral tailing deposition into mine pits permitting clarified.</p>	<p>HF1846—Olsen, S. (R) Education Policy School turn-around specialist development working group established.</p>	<p>HF1858—Erickson (R) Education Finance Library capital improvement grants authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1869—Jaros (DFL) Judiciary Policy & Finance Parental notification required before child taken into custody by a peace officer may be interviewed or interrogated, and limitations for parental waiver provided.</p>
<p>HF1837—Howes (R) Judiciary Policy & Finance DUI; blood alcohol level lowered to .08 for impairment offenses involving operation of a motor vehicle or watercraft and other offenses; first-time offense provisions modified; and surcharge amounts modified.</p>	<p>HF1847—Dempsey (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Goodhue Pioneer Trail development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1859—Greiling (DFL) Education Finance Education commissioner's role in recommending school finance changes modified.</p>	<p>HF1870—Jaros (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy Carnival and show regulation rules required, and license fee established.</p>
	<p>HF1848—Kuisle (R) Transportation Finance Road authority reimbursement limited for public utility infrastructure displaced by highway construction.</p>	<p>HF1860—Swenson (R) Higher Education Finance South Central Technical College capital improvements bond issuance authorized and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1871—Jaros (DFL) Taxes Memorial stones exempted from sales tax.</p>

<p>HF1872—Opatz (DFL) Higher Education Finance Tuition reciprocity program requirements modified, and data collection provided.</p>	<p>HF1883—Rukavina (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Town and statutory city annual audit threshold amount increased.</p>	<p>HF1894—Pelowski (DFL) Higher Education Finance Winona State University capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1905—Latz (DFL) Higher Education Finance Higher education capital improvement spending authorized with certain conditions, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1873—Dorn (DFL) Transportation Finance Mankato road extension project bonding authorized, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1884—Solberg (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Grand Rapids; Children's Discovery Museum funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1895—Solberg (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Itasca County Canisteo Mine flooding proposals evaluated, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1906—Bernardy (DFL) Education Policy Gifted and talented student program guidelines established, and permanent funding for gifted and talented student programs provided.</p>
<p>HF1874—Cornish (R) Higher Education Finance Minnesota State University, Mankato capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1885—Dorn (DFL) Higher Education Finance Minnesota State University, Mankato capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1896—Solberg (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Hospital construction moratorium exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF1907—Hilstrom (DFL) Taxes Brooklyn Center tax increment expenditure duration extended.</p>
<p>HF1875—Rukavina (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy No-fault auto insurance benefit terminations or denials regulated.</p>	<p>HF1886—Dorn (DFL) Transportation Finance Department of Transportation headquarters building in Mankato construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1897—Osterman (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Ground water consumptive use provided.</p>	<p>HF1908—Hilstrom (DFL) Judiciary Policy & Finance Non-vehicular evasive flight from peace officer prohibited and penalties provided.</p>
<p>HF1876—Vandever (R) Transportation Finance Toll road construction authorization repealed, collection of tolls for single-occupant vehicle use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes repealed; and imposition of tolls on existing roads prohibited.</p>	<p>HF1887—Solberg (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Itasca County land sale authorized, and previous land sale authorization provisions modified.</p>	<p>HF1898—Erhardt (R) Transportation Policy Natural preservation routes on county state-aid highways review by advisory committee requirement repealed.</p>	<p>HF1909—Hilstrom (DFL) Judiciary Policy & Finance Police misconduct false reporting prohibited, and penalties provided.</p>
<p>HF1877—Vandever (R) Transportation Finance Tolls on highways and bridges prohibited through proposed constitutional amendment.</p>	<p>HF1888—Pelowski (DFL) Taxes Winona sales and use tax authorized.</p>	<p>HF1899—Larson (DFL) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy Collision repair of motor vehicle airbags and seat belts regulated, and criminal penalty prescribed.</p>	<p>HF1910—Wardlow (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy Employers prohibited from inquiring about National Guard or military reserve status.</p>
<p>HF1878—Vandever (R) Transportation Finance Tolls on public highways discontinued upon payment of original construction costs, and constitutional amendment proposed.</p>	<p>HF1889—Pelowski (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Winona; Great River Shakespeare Festival Theater pre-design grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1900—Pugh (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Child care providers licensing and background fee dispute fair hearing allowed.</p>	<p>HF1911—Kohls (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy Class actions against insurance entities regulated, and stay required when Commerce Department jurisdiction is involved.</p>
<p>HF1879—Wasiluk (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Maplewood; Bruentrup farm restoration funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1890—Pelowski (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Winona riverfront revitalization plan funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1901—Paulsen (R) Civil Law Attorney fees awarded to landowner when damage award exceeds original offer by certain percentage, and primary necessity required before property may be taken for public purpose.</p>	<p>HF1912—Anderson, I. (DFL) Education Finance School district employee recognition programs authorized.</p>
<p>HF1880—Lenczewski (DFL) Transportation Policy Bloomington and Burnsville authorized to restrict or prohibit engine brakes on motor vehicles.</p>	<p>HF1891—Pelowski (DFL) Higher Education Finance Minnesota State College, Southeast Technical capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1902—Anderson, I. (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Minnesota Historical Society prohibited from charging fees for tours of the Minnesota State Capitol.</p>	<p>HF1913—Kuisle (R) Transportation Policy County board approval of certain preliminary plats and initial plat filings provided.</p>
<p>HF1881—Sykora (R) Education Finance School district referendum ballot questions clarified.</p>	<p>HF1892—Pelowski (DFL) Transportation Finance Winona port development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1903—Fuller (R) Higher Education Finance Bemidji State University and Bemidji Technical College funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF1914—Kuisle (R) Agriculture Policy Grain cart operation on public streets and highways restricted, and use restriction required on new grain cart sales.</p>
<p>HF1882—Rukavina (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Prescription drug program applicant referral requirement eliminated.</p>	<p>HF1893—Pelowski (DFL) Taxes Winona sales and use tax authorized.</p>	<p>HF1904—Goodwin (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Local political campaign disclosure of contributions and expenditures increased.</p>	

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

Session 2004

Number of legislative days in a biennium	120
Number available for this year	61
Legislative days used in the previous bonding year, 2002	56
In 2000	51
Days before constitutional deadline in which members adjourned in 2002	2
Days between adjournment on May 29, 2003, and the first day of the 2004 session	249
Date by which members must have their work complete	May 17
House members that were excused on day one	7
Number of new House members elected since the end of last session	1
House members who are Republican	81
DFL House members	53
Members having announced that this will be their final session	1
Bonding request submitted Jan. 14 by Gov. Tim Pawlenty (in millions)	\$760
Millions proposed in general obligation bonding	\$689
Percentage of bonding request for projects in Greater Minnesota	60
Millions in 2002 bonding bill passed by Legislature	\$979.1
Amount remaining after vetoes by former Gov. Jesse Ventura, in millions	\$626.9
Amount from general obligation bonds, in millions	\$586.6
Total bonding package in 2000, in millions	\$684.3
Millions in 1998 (largest in state history)	\$999
Members in each body that must vote to pass a bonding bill, as percent	60
Percentage of each body needed to override any gubernatorial veto	66.67
Anticipated state general fund shortfall at the end of the 2004-05 biennium, in millions	\$185
House bills introduced during the 2003 regular session	1,658
Senate bills	1,576
House bills introduced in 2002, the last bonding year	1,176
Senate bills	1,075
House bills introduced in the 2003 interim and on the first day of the 2004 session	148

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