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In this issue:

TRIBAL-STATE GAMING COMPACTS

CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES, AND MORE

HF1915-HF2104

Session Weekly

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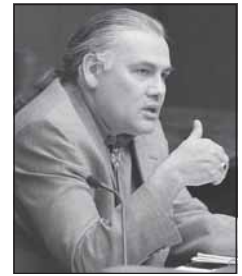
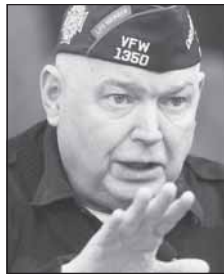
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CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture • 5
Business • 5
Crime • 5
Education • 6
Elections • 7
Environment • 7

Family • 8
Game & Fish • 8
Government • 9
Health • 9
Higher Education • 10
Human Services • 10

Law • 10
Local Government • 11
Military • 12
Recreation • 13
Safety • 13
Transportation • 14

FEATURES

AT ISSUE: GAMBLING — Minnesota is one of six states that neither share gaming revenue with American Indian tribes nor do their tribal-state gaming compacts have built-in expiration dates, members of a House committee learned this week. • 15

DEPARTMENTS/RESOURCES

It's a Fact: Tough on crime • 4
2004 House Standing Committee
Schedule • 16

2004 House of Representatives and Senate
members • 17, 18
Bill Introductions (HF1915-HF2104) • 19
Minnesota Index: Young smokers • 24

On the cover: Members of the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee enter the round tower at historic Fort Snelling as part of a legislative bonding tour Feb. 10. The tower is the oldest building in Minnesota, constructed in 1820 and restored in 1966.

— Photo by Andrew VonBank

Remedial lessons

Discussion on classroom improvement addresses access to testing information, school calendar, and teacher retention

By TOM LONERGAN

The test-based, results-oriented emphasis on public education will be wasted if teachers can't obtain better access to test data to improve instruction, say education researchers at the University of Minnesota.

That critique of the stringent test and reporting requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act — and of the standardized tests and other reform measures many states have adopted in the past 15 years — topped a Feb. 10 discussion about ways to better support teachers before the House Education Policy Committee. Three University researchers appeared at the hearing to discuss the issue with committee members.

Legislators in both the House and Senate are grappling with issues surrounding the implementation of the federal act, including Education Department efforts to develop new standards to replace the Profile of Learning, repealed in 2003.

Two years after the federal act was signed into law, teachers and school principals don't have access to good test data, said Scott McLeod, an assistant professor and director of the university's School Technology Leadership Initiative.

Committee members also heard from Jennifer York-Barr and Karen Seashore, both professors in educational policy, about teacher professional development, attrition of early career teachers, and conditions that will help

improve instruction.

The state now requires eighth- and 10th-grade public school students to pass reading, math, and writing basic skills tests as a condition of high school graduation. The state also administers comprehensive assessments in reading, math, and writing in grades three, five, seven, 10, and 11.

McLeod said the data from these tests, which have been in place for more than a decade, isn't necessarily helpful to teachers.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

University of Minnesota professors, *from top*, Scott McLeod, Karen Seashore, and Jennifer York-Barr, along with University President Robert Bruininks, *bottom*, discuss issues affecting teachers with the House Education Policy Committee during an informal meeting Feb. 10.

annual reading and math testing of third- through eighth-grade students and one time testing in grades 10 through 12 beginning in the 2005-06 school year. Science tests will be required in the 2006-07 school year.

The No Child Left Behind Act also requires

the state to prepare annual school "report cards," which include test scores to measure a child's annual progress, and make them available to the public. Schools are also required to report test scores for large groups of students by grade and also separately by such categories as race/ethnicity, disability, socioeconomic level, and gender.

McLeod said requiring the test data to be reported in this fashion "assumes that will be the driver of systemic change." However, he said, the data is not currently at a detailed enough level to help teachers and local school officials adapt and respond.

Value-added assessment programs are expected to provide better student performance data for teachers. The House Education Finance Committee considered a bill Feb. 10 to begin a state pilot program for such a system.

HF1792, sponsored by Rep. Alice Seagren (R-Bloomington), would direct the state Education Department to contract with a private provider of a value-added testing model to assist schools in assessing and reporting growth in students' academic achievement. The pilot program would include urban, suburban, and rural school districts that cumulatively represent 25,000 students.

"Growth over time is a fairer way of looking at student achievement," Seagren said. The bill, which was held over for technical revision, would appropriate \$250,000 from the state's general fund for the program.

Patricia Olson, assistant state education commissioner, said value-added assessments would provide "a new way of looking at the achievement of schools."

The assessment method would identify a school's contribution to student achievement, she said, effective instruction practices, and "help in delivering better instruction."

A number of school-based organizations representing districts, administrators, and teachers testified in support of the value-added testing model.

"This is another tool for evaluating new education programs and curriculum," said Grace Schwab, director of government affairs for the Minnesota School Board Association. "The current snapshot (based on the state's existing test results) does not adequately address the need."

Jan Alswager, manager of government relations for Education Minnesota, the state teachers union, said testing expertise in education is underdeveloped. "Not a lot of people know

about testing," she said. "The test should be to educate and improve student performance, not just to audit it."

Access to "good data" is one of several important factors in improving classroom instruction and student performance, said Seashore.

If policymakers at the state and district levels want to support teachers, Seashore suggested, "change teachers' working conditions." More time for professional development, influence in school decision-making, and smaller, less complex schools are among the factors she said will help teachers improve.

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R-Princeton), a retired teacher, asked about changing the traditional September to June school year. Seashore said there are not a lot of year-round schools in the country, but those that have been studied show "enormous effects" on the most disadvantaged students.

Research has shown that the achievement gap between minority and white students in public schools "is almost entirely due to summer learning loss," Seashore said. "We are, in fact, increasing the learning gap (with the three-month summer break), particularly in the high school years."

Rapid attrition of teachers early in their careers continues to be high. Up to 30 percent of public school teachers nationwide leave the profession within the first three years, according to university research. Teachers quit, Seashore said, because of low starting salaries in many states (excluding Minnesota) and working conditions.

York-Barr, who leads a university collaborative on schools and families, said new teachers need help with the "reality shock" of managing a classroom, organizing instruction, and dealing with a variety of student behaviors.

Rep. Randy Demmer (R-Hayfield), a former school board member, said teachers understand the conditions and starting salaries when they decide to enter the profession. He suggested the university give prospective teachers "an expectation of what it's really going to be like in that classroom."

York-Barr said expectations for a new teacher can be the same as those for one with 25 years of experience. "In medicine, doctors wouldn't think of going in green, but we (teachers) work with small children and they don't have clout." 🐼

Correction

A story in the Feb. 6, 2004 issue of *Session Weekly* identified the Crosswinds Arts and Science Middle School in Woodbury, part of the East-Metro Integration District, incorrectly. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.



Tough on crime

National and state reforms changed law enforcement focus in late 1960s

The volatility of the nation in the late 1960s, following such events as the historic race riots in California and the public murders of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy, federal and state officials were feeling compelled to do something about what they perceived as a "challenge of crime in a free society."

In response, Congress passed the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968, which contained funding for law enforcement efforts, as well as a call for jurisdictions to fundamentally change the concept of law enforcement.

Mobilized to respond was the Governor's Commission on Crime Prevention and Control, appointed in 1968 by Gov. Harold LeVander. In its initial report released the following year, the commission called for more coordinated law enforcement efforts among jurisdictions and a comprehensive planning effort.

"The act is the first major federal aid program for social action placing primary responsibility for allocation of resources on state and local governments," said the report. "The act is a test of their ability to deal with their own problems at the local level. 'How well they accept this responsibility could have significant influence on the future developments in federal grant-in-aid programs.'"

The law established a "block grant" format for distributing law enforcement funds. Initially, the state commission was charged with disbursing those grants and determining criteria for grant awards.

But the federal law went significantly beyond granting money to local jurisdictions. It also noted the following needs:

- a more broad definition of law enforcement to include the court proceedings, corrections, and crime prevention efforts;
- establishing regional planning councils for law enforcement activities throughout the state;
- research and development into the applications of modern technology to law enforcement, including more standard data collection and statistical measures; and

- facilitating better communication and collaboration among law enforcement agencies.

"Traditionally, we have waited for the criminal act and focused our preventive efforts on the events that follow," said LeVander in a special message to the 1969 Legislature. "Too often we have acted only when the need for action has been made glaringly clear – when the crime has been committed. 'We must change this view. ... If we are to successfully prevent crime, we must understand and confront these factors and consequences before they reach fruition.'"

LeVander proposed a new Department of Public Safety, incorporating the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Highway Patrol, and a number of other law enforcement-oversight functions. He also advocated for a



Gov. Harold LeVander

stronger radio communication system between agencies.

In his speech, he suggested updating certain court procedures, particularly in the lower courts, and a review of the process an individual goes through within the justice system, particularly juveniles.

Said LeVander, "Corrections, courts, and police can no longer be viewed as separate entities. ... They are and must be part of a unified comprehensive front against crime. Success in one system means success for the others. Failure in one means greater burdens on the others."

Other groups, including the Citizens League, urged that the governor's commission serve more of a planning role in addition to administering the nearly \$500,000 initially appropriated under the federal act. Specifically, the league suggested the commission should prepare legislative proposals for improving the system and strengthening the planning process for law enforcement in the state.

The modern-day Public Safety Department, created in 1970, grew out of those efforts. Today, the department provides direct services to local law enforcement and coordinates such collaborative efforts as the gang and narcotics strike forces.

(M. KIBIGER)

★ AGRICULTURE

Grief over grain carts

Nicollet County commissioners and highway engineers are struggling with the conflicting priorities of keeping farmers free from potentially burdensome regulations while maintaining the very roads those farmers need to bring their product to market.

Certain oversized vehicles used for transporting grain in the fields have the potential to wreak havoc on county roads, county officials told the House Agriculture Policy Committee Feb. 11.

A bill (HF1914) sponsored by Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester) would restrict loaded grain carts from streets and highways unless absolutely necessary during inclement weather. The bill defines a grain cart as a vehicle that is "designed and manufactured exclusively for collection and transportation of grain in the field during harvest operations."

Grain cart manufacturers would be required to affix stickers to the front of the vehicles listing the restrictions, under the bill.

It's a matter of vehicle engineering and weight distribution, said county engineer Mike Wagner. While some farm implements such as tractors and combines have multiple axles to spread weight evenly across the roadway, grain carts distribute too much weight per axle.

Other agricultural states are also examining the issue, he said.

"The vehicles which carry heavy loads on a limited number of axles – one- and two-axle grain carts, grain wagons and liquid manure tanks – are creating significantly more stress on roadways," according to the Iowa Department of Transportation. "As a result, the vehicles carrying heavy loads on a limited number of axles are using up the life of the pavement with significantly fewer passes."

Iowa has begun phasing in farm implement weight restrictions.

Kuisle, who chairs the House Transportation Finance Committee, said he brought the bill before the agriculture committee, rather than introducing it in his own venue, to maximize media exposure in farm publications. He said that as a former farmer he is sensitive to agricultural concerns, and he hopes to see the matter resolved through public education rather than legislation.

The bill was reviewed for informational purposes only and the committee took no action. It has no Senate companion.

★ BUSINESS

Online filing approved

Corporate businesses, nonprofit corporations, and limited liability companies would be required to register online with the office of the secretary of state, according to a bill approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 9.

Under HF1798, sponsored by Rep. Paul Kohls (R-Victoria), online filing for certain businesses would be required by law. Currently, such registrations can be done in person, by mail, or online.

The bill, which makes a variety of changes to the business services functions of the office, would also reduce the \$20 fee now required for requesting information from the filing office and initial filing to \$15 for records delivered electronically.

Bert Black, state planning director for the office, said that in the past five weeks the department has had more than 35,000 online filings after sending out postcards encouraging businesses to use online capabilities.

Rep. Carl Jacobson (R-Vadnais Heights) said some small businesses may not have Internet access and asked if there would be a process in place for those without the technology.

Black said those without access could go to a county or local library to use the Internet. The process takes "literally a minute," Black said, and will help the department reduce paper filings.

Other changes proposed in the bill include that:

- employment agency surety bonds and bonds required for a high pressure piping license be filed with the Department of Labor and Industry, instead of the secretary of state's office,
- surety bonds required of invention developers be filed with attorney general's office, instead of the secretary of state's office,
- bonds required for those contracting plumbing

work be filed with the health commissioner, instead of the secretary of state's office, and

- the secretary of state's office perform duties necessary to appoint notaries public on the governor's behalf, instead of the commerce commissioner.

The bill next goes to the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee. A companion bill, SF1836, sponsored by Sen. David Knutson (R-Burnsville), awaits committee action.

★ CRIME

More prison beds proposed

The Faribault state prison would be expanded and a new 150-bed segregation unit would be built at the Stillwater prison, under Gov. Tim Pawlenty's bonding proposal.

Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian presented the proposal Feb. 11 to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee,

SUITE MUSIC



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Cellist Ashley Montebello and the Robbinsdale Cooper High School Chamber Strings perform "Water Music Suite" Feb. 12 in the Capitol Rotunda.

which will form a recommendation at a later date.

The proposal requests a total of \$105.5 million for four projects:

- \$74.9 million to expand the Faribault prison, and to increase security and operational efficiencies;
- \$19.2 million to create a 150-bed segregation unit at the Stillwater prison, the state's largest maximum-security institution;
- \$11 million to replace and repair walls, windows, and roofs at numerous correctional facilities throughout the state, and
- \$350,000 to expand the minimum-level security Challenge Incarceration Program at Willow River by 24 beds.

Fabian said the prison population is growing due to changes in sentencing, aggressive prosecution, and advances in technology that are leading to convictions. New court admissions have increased 34 percent since 2000, she said.

In total, Minnesota prisons house about 7,600 inmates.

The Faribault prison houses 1,225 men. However, officials estimate that 1,400 additional beds may be needed by 2007. The Corrections Department has proposed constructing new housing units in two phases: 701 beds from 2004-2006 and 359 beds between 2006 and 2008. The governor's proposal addresses the first phase.

Because it originally functioned as a state hospital, the Faribault prison presents special security issues. Cell doors cannot be locked systemwide, said Deputy Commissioner Dennis Benson. Cells are not equipped with toilets and sinks, creating another reason why doors can't be locked overnight.

Fewer employees would be required during nighttime hours if cell doors could be locked, officials said. The expansion may decrease per-prisoner, per-day expenses by \$20, according to department documents.

The proposed Stillwater expansion would create a high-security 150-bed segregation unit for high-risk, violent offenders committing serious offenses while in prison. A current segregation unit housing 110 inmates, described by officials as substandard, would be converted to a living unit.

Officials expect that inmate violations necessitating segregation-unit punishment will increase due to double-bunking of prisoners. Currently, about six Stillwater rooms are being double-bunked due to capacity issues, Benson said.

The project could lower Stillwater per-prisoner, per-day expenses by more than \$6, according to department documents.

A proposed 24-bed addition at the Challenge Incarceration Program in Willow River

would be housed in a prefabricated building. A boot-camp style program for non-violent offenders, it prepares offenders for re-introduction to society and aims to reduce recidivism rates. More than 200 inmates are on its waiting list.

Requests to improve emergency lighting, roofs, windows, brick exterior surfaces, and to remove asbestos, stand at \$11 million. However, needs total \$20.8 million.

Many corrections facilities in Minnesota are between 80 and 100 years old, according to department officials.

Falsely reporting misconduct

Lying to and about police officers would become a crime under a bill presented Feb. 10 to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee.

HF1661, sponsored by Rep. Carla Nelson (R-Rochester), would establish crimes for falsely reporting police misconduct, as well as for providing false information to a police officer.

Under the bill, a person could be charged with reporting police misconduct if the reporting party knew the allegation to be false.

In a separate provision related to crimes by individuals, a person could be charged with false reporting for knowingly providing false information to an on-duty police officer in hopes that the officer would rely on that information. This expands on current law, which makes it illegal to falsely report a crime.

In each case, the crime would be deemed a gross misdemeanor, subject to a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$3,000 fine.

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association supports the bill and asked that it be brought forward, according to the group's director.

"It has become a common defense ploy to accuse the accuser and to allege that police officers have been involved in allegations of misconduct, or even criminal actions," wrote William Gillespie, the group's executive director, in a letter to Nelson that she distributed to the committee.

Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL-Mpls) questioned why police officers need protection from false misconduct accusations when other professionals have no such recourse. Ellison also questioned whether the proposed legislation would make people afraid to report police misconduct.

"So, what are we really solving with this bill?" Ellison asked.

Police officers deserve the same fundamental fairness they're trying to provide the community, replied Steve Johnston, Rochester's deputy police chief.

Duluth Police Chief Roger Waller said allegations of police misconduct are expensive to investigate, can destroy an officer's and a department's morale, and can interfere with police-community relations.

Waller said his department received 46 complaints of police misconduct between 2000 and 2002. Forty-one cases were unfounded; five were unsubstantiated, lacking evidence to prove either innocence or guilt.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

A companion bill (SF1727), sponsored by Sen. Mike McGinn (R-Eagan), awaits committee action.

★ EDUCATION

Rewards for success

Public schools where students are showing the highest measures of educational progress would compete for \$50,000 state grants, under a bill heard Feb. 5 by the House Education Finance Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Olsen (R-Brooklyn Park), HF1790 would establish an annual state grant program to recognize and reward public schools that provide excellent language arts and math teaching in grades three to eight.

The committee took no action on the bill.

Olsen said the "school recognition bill" is linked to testing requirements schools must meet under the federal No Child Left Behind law. Beginning with the 2005-06 school year, schools and school districts must annually assess students' performance in reading/language arts and math in grades three to eight. The state currently tests third-, fifth-, and seventh-grade students annually in reading, writing, and math.

Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL-Dilworth), who is sponsoring a bill (HF1295) to create ongoing set-aside funding for schools showing educational excellence, supported Olsen's bill.

"We have to begin creating rewards for the outputs," Marquart said. "The number one goal is student achievement and learning." Marquart's bill was included in the omnibus education finance bill last session, but no money was appropriated to begin a fund.

Olsen said the application criteria for the grants would include improved attendance rates as well as educational progress.

The bill would allow the education commissioner to annually award up to 10 grants of \$50,000 each to schools that are the most successful in improving students' performance and show high or improved attendance rates. Up to \$500,000 would be appropriated from the general fund beginning in fiscal year 2005, under the bill.

Eighty percent of the grant, or \$40,000, would go to the school's teaching staff to spend on classroom and instruction related to required state academic standards. The remaining \$10,000 would go to the school for use in similar areas. Money could not be used to increase teacher salaries.

To qualify for the \$10,000 portion of the grant, schools must raise an equal amount from local, nonpublic sources, which can be in-kind contributions of services valued at that amount.

The bill has no Senate companion.

Proposed academic changes

Public high school students would have a lighter social studies course load under a bill approved Feb. 10 by the House Education Policy Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), the committee chair, HF1789 would reduce the state graduation requirement from three-and-one-half social studies credits to three for students beginning the ninth grade in the 2004-05 school year.

The bill also covers a number of technical and language update changes in administrative laws governing school districts and the state Department of Education. It was referred to the House Civil Law Committee.

The credit requirement change was recommended by Education Commissioner Cheri Pierson Yecke to allow school districts more flexibility in meeting the state's proposed academic standards in social studies. Officials expect to present the standards to the Legislature for approval this session.

Graduation requirements were included in a 2003 law that repealed the Profile of Learning and directed the commissioner to draft new standards.

The bill would also amend the law to restore a waiver from the academic standards for high achieving secondary school students, such as those taking advanced placement or international baccalaureate classes in high school or college courses under the state's postsecondary enrollment options program. The course work they pursue must meet or exceed the grade-level benchmarks of the state's academic standards.

The waiver was inadvertently removed from law when the profile was repealed, Sykora said.

The bill would also create seven parameters for schools to use in assessing and placing gifted and talented students and would declare test results and other information used to compile school performance report cards "non-public data" until the Education Department posts the information on its Web site. The bill would require that the annual

posting of school performance report cards be no later than Sept. 1.

The public reporting requirement of test scores and other school information, such as safety statistics and teacher qualifications, is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The bill has no Senate companion.

ELECTIONS



Alternative voting

A bill that would give one city the option of using an alternative voting system in an upcoming election was approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 11.

Rep. Jim Rhodes (R-St. Louis Park), the sponsor of HF1719, said that if more than two candidates were to run in an April 20 city council special election, the city of Roseville has requested a one-time sanction to use a different ballot system.

The bill would allow for the city to adopt either cumulative voting, ranked-order voting, or another method of voting that is different from what current Minnesota statutes designate.

The city, under the bill, would be required to report on its experience to the committee and the Senate Elections Committee within 30 days after the opening of the first legislative session following the city's first use of the alternative voting method.

The measure now moves to the House Floor. A Senate companion, SF1613, sponsored by Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville), awaits action on the Senate floor.

ENVIRONMENT



Lingering landfills

A state landfill cleanup program, recently named as a semifinalist for a nationwide innovative government award from Harvard University, is seeking \$14 million in bonding funds to keep on track with remedial design and construction work at 11 sites.

The 1994 Legislature created the Closed Landfill Program within the Pollution Control Agency in an attempt to protect groundwater and air quality and reduce liability exposure for landfill owners, operators, and waste generators.

Under the program, the state assumes responsibility for the cleanup process at qualified closed, publicly owned, solid waste landfills.

Cathy Moeger, the agency's chief financial officer, presented to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee

Feb. 10 the request for the second-to-last installment in the remedial construction stages of the closed landfill program.

Remedial construction work includes designing and building covers, gas release prevention systems, and ground water treatment systems.

Ten years ago, \$90 million in incremental bonding authority was granted to fund the program design and construction work in its entirety, Moeger said. A 2001 law, changing the timeline for bond authorizations, altered this long-term funding plan. Consequently, she said, the agency has returned to the Legislature to request general obligation bond sales in stages, and most recently received approval for \$30.5 million through fiscal year 2004.

If the full amount is approved, agency officials expect to return with a potential \$12.1 million request in 2006, Moeger said, to complete the design phase, and then move onto the operation and maintenance stage of the program.

Without legislative support this year, there is no immediate public health risk because the sites are monitored for gas and water contamination, Moeger later explained, but a delay would extend the goal of completing remedial work beyond 2008.

The proposal will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's 2004 bonding recommendations.

Bucks for buckthorn

Aliens have invaded the Minnesota landscape, said a nursery owner, municipal horticulturist, and state agency experts in testimony to the House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Feb. 5. And it's difficult and expensive to get rid of them.

These aliens are non-native invasive species, defined by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as "plants, animals, or diseases that are non-native to the ecosystem, cause or are likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health."

The increase in global trade has opened up new pathways for invasive species to enter the state, said Geir Friisoe, department plant protection section manager.

Gypsy moths, emerald ash borers, soybean rust, and invasive plants such as buckthorn, currently pose the biggest threat to the state's ecosystem, according to the department.

The most prolific buckthorn species in Minnesota is Common Buckthorn. It was introduced from Europe in the 1800s as a hardy hedge option but this hardness has become problematic. Between the dense foliage and the natural release of a suppressive natural compound, buckthorn essentially chokes other flora.

Although it has been banned from commercial sale since the 1930s, when it was identified as an oat disease host, buckthorn flourishes in many native woodlands and wetlands.

Mary Maguire Lerman, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board horticulturist, suggested a state matching grant program to fund buckthorn eradication.

"It's a problem plant and it's not just a metro area issue," she said.

Master and community gardeners are ready and willing to lead buckthorn abatement efforts, Lerman said, but they need financial support from the state.

Lerman suggested seeking donations from a "Buckthorn Box" on tax forms or Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources grant dollars as possible funding sources.

FAMILY

Protection orders

Domestic violence victims could have another legal means of extending orders for protection against their abusers, under a bill approved Feb. 11 by the House Civil Law Committee.

HF1944, sponsored by Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), would allow courts to extend protection orders for victims when their abusers are about to be released from jail or prison or have been recently released.

If approved, the bill would alleviate a Catch-22 situation for victims.

Vanessa Ray of Echo said she thought her order for protection against her abuser was valid for two years. However, two weeks before his release she learned that the order had expired. She was unable to renew it because she had not had contact with her abuser while he was incarcerated.

Ray said she feared he would seek her out and harm her as punishment for his incarceration.

"I'm here to ask you not to put other women through such a hard time," Ray said.

According to attorney Joel Carlson, a volunteer advocate for the bill, protection orders may only be extended for three reasons: violation of a past order, fear of physical harm, or actual acts of harassment or stalking. Orders are valid for a set period of time, which is often one year, and on occasion two years.

However, he said, courts cannot extend orders indefinitely. And they are limited in extending or granting orders when the abuser is released from jail or prison because the victim can't establish that there has been contact necessitating protection.

"Allowing victims of crime the ability to protect themselves through no-contact orders for protection is one means to help," wrote Carlson in a letter to the committee.

Smith said the bill has no known opposition and is supported by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

A companion bill (SF1797), sponsored by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), awaits committee action.

Obtaining police reports

Domestic violence victims and their attorneys would be entitled to copies of police reports detailing the domestic violence incidents committed against them, under a bill heard by the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 11.

Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) said his bill (HF1945) would amend the Minnesota Data Practices Act to allow such procedures. Victims often need police reports to gain orders for protection against their abusers, he explained.

Attorney Joel Carlson, a volunteer advocate for the bill, said current law allows the release of such police reports, provided written consent is provided by the victim. However, this is not understood by all law enforcement agencies, nor by many victims, he said.

The bill would clarify the matter.

"The legislation will allow victims to defend and protect themselves in our justice system," Carlson wrote in a letter to the committee.

Smith said the bill is supported by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in a larger data practices omnibus bill.

A companion bill (SF1785), sponsored by Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley), awaits committee action.

★ GAME & FISH

Capital for critical habitat

Flood mitigation, critical habitat acquisition, and state parks building repairs are among the capital investment priorities identified by the Department of Natural Resources, and recommended by the governor, this year.

Deputy Commissioner Mark Holsten presented those projects to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 11 and Feb. 12.

In total, the department requested \$101.2 million for 27 projects.

Some of the larger capital outlays in the governor's \$67 million proposal are, as follows:

- \$20 million for state cost-sharing grants to local governments to reduce or eliminate flood damages. The greatest portion, approximately \$16 million, would be earmarked for the cities of Montevideo, Breckenridge, East Grand Forks, and Ada;
- \$12 million to acquire 11,000 acres of new Wildlife Management Area lands, the majority of which are located in southwestern and central Minnesota;

VICTIMS' MEMORIAL



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Regine Prenzel-Guthrie, an advocate for survivors of sexual assault from the Hope Center in Rice County, places a yellow rose on a victims memorial in the Capitol Rotunda that was part of the Feb. 11 event to end violence against women. A rose was placed on the memorial for each woman who was a victim of violence in 2003. The hands traced on the table were made by children and advocates from around the state to raise awareness for the "Hands are not for Hitting and Words are not for Hurting" campaign.

- \$4 million to acquire 4,000 acres of critical fish, wildlife, and native plant habitat under the Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Match Program. The money would match another \$4 million from private donors including conservation groups, corporations, and individuals;
- \$3.5 million to acquire and repair boat access sites, build fishing piers, and improve shore fishing locations across the state, as well as \$2 million for Lake Superior safe harbors and access points at the McQuade Road in St. Louis County, Knife River in Lake County, and Grand Marais in Cook County;
- \$3 million for state parks building rehabilitation;
- \$3 million for reforestation projects on state lands;
- \$2.3 million to repair the Glenwood consolidated field office;
- \$2 million for the acquisition of seven parcels of land within state park boundaries; and
- \$2 million for state trail acquisition and development.

Other capital expenditures would be directed toward native prairie and trout stream restoration, state park road and bridge upgrades, state forest and scientific and natural area land acquisition, and fish hatchery improvements.

The department's request will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding recommendations.

★ GOVERNMENT

Expenditure reduction plan

The Minnesota Department of Administration has reduced the number of telecommunication devices and is working on eliminating some fleet vehicles as requested by the Legislature last session, the department commissioner testified Feb. 10.

Commissioner Brian Lamb told the House State Government Finance Committee that reductions so far include 7 percent fewer mobile devices, such as cell phones, pagers, and personal digital assistants (PDAs) since March 2003 and an 11 percent overall reduction since fiscal year 2002.

Lamb explained several changes implemented for cell phone usage, such as employees and supervisors signing off on a phone bill before it's paid. Also being considered are new technologies that can combine a cell phone, pager, and digital assistant into one device. The cost for an employee to have all three devices is around \$1,800 per year. Lamb said a "smart phone" would cost \$600 per year.

The agency is also exploring the option of large volume state contracts, instead of individual plans.

Fleet vehicle usage will be examined under a three-year plan, including creating an inventory database, Lamb said. The goal is a 5 percent expenditure reduction by 2006.

Rep. Bill Haas (R-Champlin), the committee chair, said the 5 percent reduction was "conservative" and in "a lot of cases we can reduce the fleet" even more by analyzing where the cars are being used.

Lamb said that once the department has an inventory database in place, assessments can be made on where vehicle reductions are needed. A department report states, "The strategy will ensure agencies and the enterprise are making smarter, more informed business decisions related to vehicles."

The report shows that in 2002 \$29 million was spent on 6,646 light duty vehicles, which include automobiles, vans, sports utility vehicles, and light trucks.

The 2003 state government finance omnibus law required the commissioner to identify all telecommunication devices and vehicle usage that are not cost-efficient and to implement policies to reduce usage found to be inefficient.

★ HEALTH

Empowering consumers

Health care costs are rising five times faster than the rate of inflation, according to the Minnesota Medical Association, but a bill aims to put the brakes on these soaring costs.

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee heard testimony Feb. 5 on the potential benefits of two measures in HF1681, sponsored by Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester): best practices and health savings accounts. The committee took no action.

A best practices benchmark is a standard of health care based on scientific research and medical experience. Advocates say use of standards would encourage high performance by allowing consumers to make comparisons of clinics and hospitals based on the level of care they provide and their rate of success.

The bill would require all clinics and physicians' offices to report adverse events, a requirement currently imposed only on hospitals. This reporting is critical for gathering data.

"We want to eliminate the waste that occurs when technology is used inappropriately or ineffectively," said Dr. Richard Migliori, chief executive officer of United Resource Networks. "When you have visibility of performance in

the eyes of patients, it is an incentive to do better."

Physicians face two challenges, he said — keeping up with expanding knowledge and translating that knowledge into practice. He believes the use of best practices standards would aid physicians in both areas.

Minnesotans want to make their own health care decisions, according to a report released Feb. 6 by Gov. Tim Pawlenty's panel on health care. Health savings accounts, which allow individuals to set aside money for various qualifying health care expenses, are another tool to help people do that.

When used in combination with catastrophic medical insurance, the accounts will confer substantial tax advantages on individuals and businesses, under a federal law that took effect this year.

The new law allows annual account deposits to equal the deductible in a health insurance plan. Individuals will continue to own their accounts regardless of changes in employment. The account balances earn interest and can grow tax-free.

According to Jim Priebe, executive vice president of Sheffield, Olson, and McQueen, Inc., such accounts change the "use it or lose it" of traditional health insurance to "use it or keep it."

EMPOWERMENT ZONES



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Speaking Feb. 11 before the House Jobs and Economic Development Finance Committee, Minneapolis City Councilor Natalie Johnson Lee, right, and Darrell Washington discuss the a plan for a Minneapolis Empowerment Zone to develop the Heritage Park project.

Reason for hope

A drug treatment trial study conducted at the University of Minnesota shows promise in helping people who suffer from impulse-control disorders, such as problem gambling, alcoholism, and kleptomania.

Four men who have struggled with these disorders spoke anonymously before the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee Feb. 11 about their cravings, their efforts to stop their destructive behaviors, and their experiences as participants in the study.

The treatment interests legislators not only because it has shown impressive results, but also because it costs far less than traditional treatments.

All four men had experienced serious consequences to their addictions: loss of significant relationships, loss of employment, arrests, and/or jail. None of them found help through other treatment programs.

"I was driven daily by this huge urge that took over my life," said one witness who suffered from kleptomania. He told the committee he had seen up to 10 different doctors and therapists. "One would think you could get help with all those resources," he said. "Unfortunately, there was no help."

He said he found the help he needed by enrolling in the clinical trial conducted by Dr. S. W. Kim, associate professor of psychiatry at the university. The others concurred.

"I have my life back," a second witness said. "I might not be sitting here today if I hadn't met Dr. Kim and gotten on this wonderful medicine."

While addictions may differ, Kim said, scientists have learned the brain can't tell the difference between a drug addiction and a behavior addiction. The brain rewards the satisfaction of either with pleasure, regardless of how the urge is satisfied.

Kim said his research has found that opiate antagonists, such as naltrexone, are highly effective in controlling cravings triggered by a potential reward, shopping, for example, or winning at a casino.

He said people who drink because they are lonely might be better served by group treatment, but those who drink because they crave alcohol do very well when treated with opiate antagonists.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the use of naltrexone in 1995, however, the approved dosage is too low to be effective, said Kim. The next step in gaining administration approval for the university regimen would be a large-scale study. However, the patent on naltrexone has expired, so pharmaceutical companies have no incentive to test that particular drug.

HIGHER EDUCATION



Bonding recommendation rationale

Higher education bonding occupies a lower percentage of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's overall bonding package than in previous years because the governor has placed a higher priority on other, more compelling interests, said a senior policy advisor.

Speaking Feb. 9 before the House Higher Education Finance Committee, Susan Heegaard said the governor's bonding package calls for \$165.2 million for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system and the University of Minnesota. The institutions are requesting a combined \$430.4 million.

The committee took no action, but will use the information in crafting its bonding bill.

MnSCU officials seek \$274.9 million; Pawlenty is recommending \$88.6 million.

Under that proposal, \$100 million would be designated for infrastructure repair and revitalization across MnSCU's 53 campuses. The governor is recommending \$49 million.

"This amount puts us further behind in the maintenance of our buildings," said Linda Baer, MnSCU senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs.

The remainder is comprised of 31 capital improvement projects across its campuses. Among the projects recommended by Pawlenty is science building renovations at Winona State University (\$10.2 million) and Minnesota State, Moorhead (\$9.6 million), \$4.5 million for a technology center renovation at Century College in White Bear Lake, and \$2.9 million for a Centennial Hall renovation at St. Cloud State University.

Presidents from three colleges spoke about projects that MnSCU leaders deemed especially important but were omitted by the governor: an academic and student services addition at Lake Superior College, a classroom addition and workforce center renovation at St. Cloud Technical College, and a student services renovation and addition at Inver Hills Community College.

In each case, school leaders said attendance is rising dramatically and the upgrades are necessary to help meet that demand.

University officials also reiterated their concerns about the \$76.6 million the governor is proposing for their institution, including \$38 million for asset preservation. They wanted a total of \$155.5 million.

HUMAN SERVICES



Housing sex offenders

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee heard details Feb. 10 on bonding requests totaling \$14.2 million from the Department of Human Services. The committee will consider the requests among those it recommends for the larger bonding bill.

The top priority from the department is \$3 million for new facilities for the sex offender program at the Minnesota Security Hospital, a maximum-security psychiatric hospital located in St. Peter. The program provides treatment to people who are committed by the court as sexual psychopaths or sexually dangerous.

Human Services Commissioner Kevin Goodno said the department is very concerned with public safety, in light of events of the past several months, which includes the disappearance of University of North Dakota college student Dru Sjodin. A recently released sex offender from Minnesota is accused of kidnapping Sjodin. He was not considered for civil commitment prior to release.

This event "has changed our ideas of who should be civilly committed," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), the committee chair.

"It appears that in the future there will be far more people who will be civilly committed," Goodno said. His department estimates that if the law were changed, the increase in civil commitments for sexual offenders would reach 300 by March 2006 and 500 by October 2011. Previously, officials anticipated this population would grow by 15 to 18 offenders per year.

A 2000 bonding appropriation to add secure facilities at St. Peter for sex offenders is no longer deemed adequate by the department to complete the necessary improvements.

In addition to the \$3 million requested in 2004, the department plans to seek almost \$40 million in 2006 for new facilities, including a 150-bed capacity on the St. Peter campus.

LAW



Jail booking fee changes

All people booked into Minnesota jails could be charged a \$10 fee, regardless of whether they are subsequently held, under a bill approved Feb. 10.

HF1721 was presented by its sponsor, Rep. Steve Strachan (R-Farmington), to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee.

Under current law, a county may charge a booking fee to any person booked and held in jail. The county sheriff must return the fee, however, if the person is not charged, is

acquitted, or the charges are dropped.

In allowing counties to charge the fee of all people booked, the bill would initially have required a written request from those seeking to gain back their money. However, Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL-Mpls) said people who are arrested without cause only to have the charges dismissed may be unaware of the system and incapable of writing a letter. Many people who are arrested, he said, are impoverished and could use their \$10.

As such, the committee amended the bill to state that the person must be informed in writing at the time of their release that they may receive their \$10 if they are not charged, acquitted, or if charges are dismissed.

Olmsted County Sheriff Steve Borchardt testified in support of the bill. The \$10 fee does not cover the expense of booking individuals, but, he said, it is a symbolic fee sending a message that criminal justice is not free.

"Most folks have at least \$10 in their pocket," Borchardt said.

The bill now moves to the House floor.

A companion bill (SF1809), sponsored by Sen. Leo Foley (DFL-Coon Rapids), awaits committee action.

★ LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Liquor license overview

A 2003 law scales back, though does not eliminate, state purview over municipal on-sale liquor licenses.

That may be the last change for some time. On Feb. 10, the Liquor Subcommittee of the House Regulated Industries Committee examined the effects of the new law on public safety and public sentiment regarding the changes.

After hearing from a legislative analyst and state liquor enforcement officials, the subcommittee determined it's premature to recommend further legislative action.

State law restricts the number of on-sale licenses municipalities may grant based on population and type of establishment; however, the limits no longer apply to hotels, restaurants, and bowling centers.

Historically, most special liquor bills were generated by cities seeking licenses beyond their statutorily allotted number to accommodate for new hotels and restaurants.

Though local governments have always been exempt from limits if voters approved more licenses, many found it was easier and cheaper to go to the Legislature than hold referenda, according to nonpartisan House research staff.

Over the years, the number of requests has grown, prompting debate over the appropriate role of the Legislature in these matters.

The 2003 law does not eliminate the need for special liquor bills altogether. Still under



Frank Ball, director of the Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement Division of the Department of Public Safety, testifies Feb. 10 before the Liquor Subcommittee of the House Regulated Industries Committee.

state control are the types of establishments eligible for licenses, limits on temporary licenses, and eligibility criteria such as the proximity to state university campuses.

"Is it kind of archaic?" asked Rep. Dan Larson (DFL-Bloomington) of legislative involvement in certain local license particulars, echoing sentiments that spurred this debate last year. "I just wonder if those decisions aren't better made at the local level."

Public safety officials defended state regulation, citing a direct link between local liquor decisions and criminal activity, car crashes, underage exposure to alcohol, and health problems, in general. The Public Safety Department would like to see hard data that reflects statistical changes in these areas, said Marlene Kjelsberg, alcohol enforcement division supervisor, and she suggested the Legislature could order a study.

Contracting and purchasing changes

Municipalities could use the Internet to seek vendor bids, as well as purchase equipment, materials, and supplies under a bill approved

Feb. 10 by the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Morrie Lanning (R-Moorhead), HF1717 would also allow city managers in council-manager local governments to make purchases or permit contracts unilaterally if the amount were \$25,000 or less. State law currently limits a city manager to purchases not exceeding \$15,000.

The bill, which now moves to the House floor, would also remove a lower threshold for bids that applies to local governments with populations of less than 2,500. They are now required to seek bids on purchases of more than \$35,000. The bill would set a uniform bid threshold for all municipalities at \$50,000.

Lanning said the bill would help local units of government "become more efficient and save money." The bill was supported by a number of local government associations, including the League of Minnesota Cities.

Former Roseville Mayor John Kysylczyn opposed increasing the limit of city managers' purchasing authority. "This would benefit the managers at the expense of elected officials and citizens of Plan B cities," he said.

Plan B cities are defined in state law as any statutory city with more than 1,000 population which provides for a council-manager form of government. The bill would allow city councils to set a lower purchasing limit for city managers.

Linda Camp, manager of contract services for St. Paul, said allowing electronic bidding "will give us more flexibility." It will enhance cities' options, she said, because not all businesses will choose to bid electronically.

Allowing local governments to use online reverse auctions — where vendors see each other's pricing and may bid down — will not work for services, said Chuck Gonderinger, president-elect of the Minnesota branch of the American Council of Engineering Companies.

"It's a bad idea to buy the cheapest brain power you can get," Gonderinger said.

Lanning said he would oppose amendments that would add services for purchase through reverse auctions.

The state Department of Administration has used reverse auctions on some state contracts since 2000 and the Minnesota Department of Transportation offers two-way electronic bidding for construction contracts.

A companion bill (SF1790), sponsored by Sen. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls), awaits committee action.

If you have Internet access, visit the Legislature's web page at:
<http://www.leg.mn>

Recovering costs of litigation

Landowners whose land is taken by a local government to make way for a public project could be awarded attorney fees if the matter reaches court, under a bill approved by the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 11.

HF1901, sponsored by House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie), would allow attorney fees to be awarded in eminent domain proceedings if the final judgment exceeds the original compensation offer by 20 percent.

Eminent domain proceedings can occur, for example, when a city needs to extend a stormwater sewer pipe, create a walking trail, or build a road. The local government entity has the right to condemn the property for public projects, but fair market value must be paid to the owner. Major court cases have resulted on occasion, such as when the Minnesota Department of Transportation has condemned land for major highway expansions.

Paulsen said questions have arisen about the proper use of eminent domain powers. He distributed a recent *StarTribune* story stating that all of Minnesota's neighboring states make it easier for property owners to negotiate a price with the state.

Private appraiser John Schmick said the government knows how expensive it is to contest the offering price and uses this knowledge "as a weapon."

"Right now the law is broken and people

are getting hurt financially," Schmick said.

Several groups supported the measure, including the National Federation of Independent Businesses of Minnesota, the Business Owners Group, and the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association.

The latter noted that land near the Interstates 494 and 35W intersection in Richfield occupied by two automobile dealerships was condemned for Best Buy's corporate headquarters. It is unfair for the government to favor one private business over another, said the group's lobbyist, Alyssa Schlender.

However, League of Minnesota Cities attorney Roger Knudson said most cases involve less than \$1,000. The bill would encourage property owners to seek an appraiser that will declare a higher property value, he said.

"It changes the playing field in an unfair way for the government," Knudson added.

Opposition also came from the Anoka County Attorney's Office, the Minnesota County Engineers Association, and the St. Cloud Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

The bill moves to the House Transportation Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

MILITARY

Disclosing status

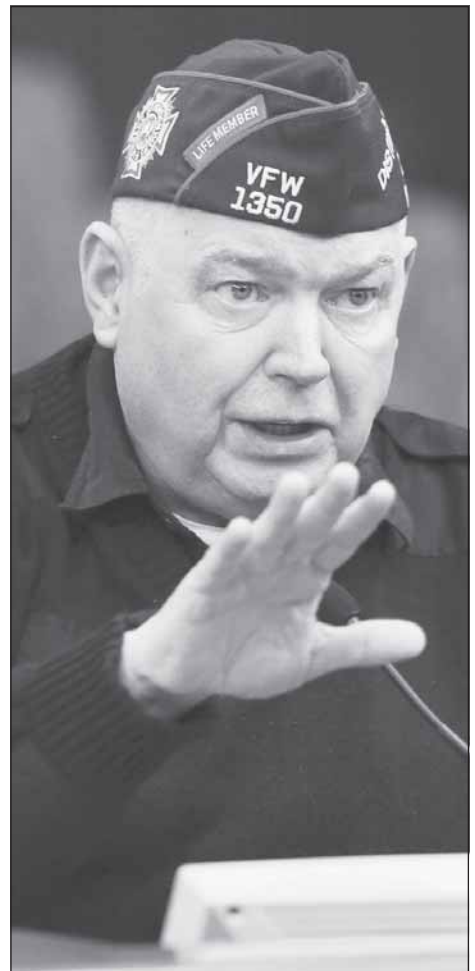
At its Feb. 10 meeting, the House Committee on Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development approved a bill (HF1783), sponsored by Rep. Bruce Anderson (R-Buffalo Township), that would prohibit employers from inquiring about the military status of a prospective employee.

Peggy and Dave Peterson of White Bear Lake told the committee their son was turned down several times when he told employers he was in the Reserves. Finally, he ignored a question on an application asking about his military status and was hired.

When the time came for their son to go for training, the Petersons said his employer told him, "If we'd known you were in the Reserve, we wouldn't have hired you."

With the federal government relying more on reservists and the National Guard for deployments to Iraq and other places around the globe, more people are affected by this often-subtle discrimination in hiring, the committee was told. However, no statistics are available as to the extent of the problem.

"It's more critical for these young people who are being called up today," said Mike Kodluboy, legislative officer for the Minnesota Veterans of Foreign Wars' fourth district. Employers don't want to put up with the absences



Mike Kodluboy, Minnesota VFW district 4 legislative officer, testifies in support of a bill that would prohibit employers from asking job applicants if they are members of the National Guard or Reserve. His testimony came during a Feb. 10 hearing of the House Commerce, Jobs, and Economic Development Policy Committee.

required for training, he said.

"We would hope this law would not have to be passed," said Gen. Denny Schulstad, state chair of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "Unfortunately, there are a few employers who would choose not to employ young men and women in the Guard or Reserves."

The idea behind the bill is to make sure employers adhere to federal law, said Schulstad, who is retired from the U.S. Air Force. "We're looking for compliance, not punishment."

Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) said he found it "bizarre" that employers would not want employees with the kind of work ethic instilled in the armed services.

The bill now goes to the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee.

A companion bill, SF1609, sponsored by Sen. Mady Reiter (R-Shoreview), awaits committee action.



John Schmick, a commercial real estate appraiser for the Minneapolis area, testifies in front of the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 11 in support of a bill that would award attorney's fees to landowners under certain circumstances when eminent domain is used.

★ RECREATION

Expanding snowmobiling

Two-way snowmobiling could be allowed along major state highways under a bill approved by the House Transportation Policy Committee Feb. 10.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker), the sponsor of HF532, said the bill was approved by the committee last year but was stripped from a larger omnibus bill. The bill now heads to the House floor.

Current law restricts snowmobile travel along highways and roads to the same direction as road traffic.

Doug Franzen, lobbying on behalf of the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association, said that generally two-way snowmobiling is not a good idea. However, he said, it can enhance public safety in select cases, particularly when poor lighting is the concern.

Under the bill, two-way snowmobiling would not be allowed along major state highways without approval from the Minnesota Department of Transportation commissioner. The safety of motorists and snowmobilers would be considered.

Howes said that law enforcement agencies are not opposed to the bill, nor is the transportation commissioner. Last year, the Department of Natural Resources said it would not protest the proposed legislation.

A companion bill (SF522), sponsored by Sen. Steve Murphy (DFL-Red Wing), awaits committee action.

Trail inventory

Among the many all-terrain vehicle management provisions approved by the 2003 Legislature is a requirement for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to complete an inventory of state forest roads and access routes, including designated off-highway vehicle routes and all motorized and non-motorized trails.

The House Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee received an update Feb. 10 on department efforts to complete this trail inventory and the accompanying state forest motorized use classification. Testimony was followed by comments and criticisms from frequent trail users and organizations concerned with any potential trail damage.

The department has logged 25,000 hours by 16 employees during the first six months of work on the project, said Laurie Martinson, trails and waterways division director. They hope to complete the trail inventory by October in order to meet the Jan. 15, 2005, deadline, she said.

Plans for six state forests currently are open to public review, including Chengwatana near Hinckley, Foot Hills west of Pine River, General C.C. Andrews near Willow River, Nemadji in Pine County along the Wisconsin border, Pillsbury west of Brainerd, and St. Croix just south of the Nemadji forest.

Though most commended the DNR on its hard work, both sides expressed concerns with agency procedures thus far.

The designation process does not take into account the administrative capacity of the department to manage the enforcement component, said Matt Norton, forestry and wildlife advocate for the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.

The department should set a realistic “eye-balls to acres” ratio for conservation officers, Norton said. “Good trails without proper enforcement and maintenance can go bad really, really quickly.”

Some off-road aficionados said they feel snubbed altogether by the process.

Lois Campbell and Mike Sullivan of the Minnesota Four-Wheel Drive Association said they are frustrated that zero miles have been reserved for four-wheel drive vehicles in the six forests completed under the inventory.

“What have we done to get this kind of treatment?” Sullivan said, pointing out that there are three trail user groups: motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and trucks.

The committee took no action on the preliminary update at the hearing.

Outlay for open spaces

Parks and open spaces are the Twin Cities metropolitan area’s most attractive features, according to a recent Metropolitan Council survey, and the regional parks system is requesting \$7 million from the state to keep them that way.

Arne Stefferud, Metropolitan Council parks planning analyst, presented the Metropolitan Regional Parks System bonding request to the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee Feb. 10.

In accordance with the governor’s recommendations, the plan would set aside \$4.6 million for parks and trail rehabilitation, \$1.5 million for land acquisition, and \$894,000 for parks and trail development.

The parks are owned, operated, and maintained by Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington counties; the Three Rivers Park District of Hennepin and Scott counties; the cities of Bloomington and St. Paul; and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The system consists of 51,785 acres, including 46 regional parks and park reserves, and

22 regional trails. It serves an estimated 30 million annual visitors, Stefferud said.

The capital request to improve and expand the parks system assumes a 60 percent-40 percent funding split between the state and the Metropolitan Council.

Stefferud said \$1 of state investment leverages \$1.54 in Metropolitan Council bonds and federal grants.

The request will be considered for possible inclusion in the committee’s bonding recommendations.

★ SAFETY

Fostering greater road safety

There are more traffic jams in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, but most fatal traffic accidents in Minnesota occur in rural locations. A group of county engineers has a plan to diminish the number of such accidents on rural roads.

The Minnesota County Engineers Association is seeking \$50 million in bond proceeds to create the rural road safety account. Members made their case before the House Transportation Finance Committee Feb. 10 and Feb. 11.

“While true most accidents are due to driver error, most deaths are due to out-of-date rural road designs,” said Sue Miller, Freeborn County engineer.

Cited were narrow roads that get narrower with each maintenance resurfacing, limited shoulders, and steep ditch in-slopes. Power poles are often located close to rural roads, creating high-impact collision risks.

Don Theisen, Washington County engineer, said three young people were killed in separate accidents in a two-week period in his county. “All these kids did wrong was go off the road,” he said.

According to the association, 184 of the 231 people killed in vehicle accidents in 2002 in Minnesota died on rural roadways.

The safety program would provide road improvement grants to counties to reduce accidents, injuries, and death. Half of the money would be for county state-aid highways in the seven metropolitan counties and Chisago County, the rest to the remaining 79 counties.

The request is part of HF1850, sponsored by Rep. Howard Swenson (R-Nicollet). The bill would authorize \$125 million in state general obligation bonds for a larger local road improvement program. Created in 2002, the program is designed to provide funds for local roads unqualified for other government funds. However, former Gov. Jesse Ventura vetoed project funding.

The bill would give \$50 million each to the

proposed rural road safety account and the local road account for "routes of regional significance," as well as \$25 million to the trunk highway corridor account.

The bill will be considered for inclusion in a possible omnibus bill. It lacks a Senate companion.

★ TRANSPORTATION

Bridge support

Regional corridors and state highways have been the focus of state funding appropriations in past years, but now counties are seeking attention for their failing bridges.

About a dozen people testified Feb. 11 before the House Transportation Finance Committee in support of HF1849, sponsored by Rep. Connie Ruth (R-Owatonna). The bill would provide \$83.5 million in general obligation bond proceeds for grants to local governments for bridge replacements and repairs.

Ruth said 17 percent of the 15,000 bridges in Minnesota's 87 counties are deemed deficient.

Nearly 400 bridges are on a funding waiting list with a total construction cost of \$161.5 million. Gov. Tim Pawlenty recommended \$28 million in his 2004 bonding proposal for local bridge replacement. In addition, \$40 million in federal bridge replacement funds, state-aid funds, and local funds would be available, according to budget documents.



Waseca County Engineer Jeff Blue, *right*, and Lake County Engineer Al Goodman testified for local bridge replacement, rehabilitation, and repair funding during a Feb. 11 hearing of the House Transportation Finance Committee.

In all, 98 local government entities in 84 counties are requesting state bond proceeds, said Jeff Blue, Waseca County engineer.

With the average life of a bridge at 50 years, it is expected that an additional 550 bridges will become deficient in the next 10 years, he

added. About \$50 million is required in the next 20 years to address such problems.

"The window of time we have to address these long-term unmet needs is shrinking," said Jim Waffler, president of the Highway Construction Industry Council.

Many county and township bridges were built in the 1920s and are insufficient for today's farm equipment and grain-hauling trucks, said Richard Sanders, Polk County engineer.

Of special note in the bill is a \$13.5 million appropriation for a Sauk Rapids bridge connecting Stearns County State-Aid Highway 1 with First Street South. It is the only bridge mentioned directly, with other appropriations left to the discretion of the state transportation commissioner.

Mitch Anderson, Stearns County engineer, said the county has spent six years planning the project and will solicit bids in March 2005. The bridge crosses one of the more dangerous railroad crossings in the state, he added.

Rep. William Kuisle (R-Rochester), the committee chair, said no bridge has been specified in a bill previously. The bill could be addressed, he said, without delineating the Sauk Rapids bridge. However, he added, the matter will be addressed at a later date.

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

The bill has no Senate companion.



Education for all

University plans to pick up the tab for low-income students

In the heart of Tobacco Road, a public university recently decided to forgo the costs of education for one group of students.

Officials at the University of North Carolina announced a plan Oct. 1, 2003 that will cover the tuition costs for students from low-income families, thereby eliminating the need for student loans.

"College should be accessible for everyone who can make the grade, regardless of family income," said James Moeser, chancellor at UNC-Chapel Hill, the nation's first state university. "With the (so-called) Carolina Covenant, we are telling students that, despite what you may see in the news, college is affordable, no matter how much money your family makes."

Added Matt Tepper, student body president: "This is the best news college students have heard in a long time."

Beginning with the freshman class of 2004, students at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level – about \$28,000 for a family of four – are eligible for the program that allows them to graduate debt-free provided they work on campus for 10-12 hours weekly in a federal work-study job throughout their four years.

According to university officials, funding for the remainder of college costs will come from a modest reallocation of funds in the Office of Scholarship and Student Aid and the pledging of private gifts dedicated to low-income students. When fully

implemented with the freshman class of 2007, the program is expected to cost \$1.38 million annually.

Of students in the 2003 freshman class at UNC-Chapel Hill, 8 percent came from low-income families. Of those, 89 percent were state residents and more than half were minorities. Overall, it is estimated that one in four North Carolina children live in poverty.

The university is believed to be the first public university to offer such a program, although, according to *The New York Times*, Princeton University "offers full financial aid to needy students without recourse to student loans."

(M. Cook)

Tribal relations

Minnesota 1 of 6 states with no revenue sharing and expiration date for gaming compacts, renegotiation requires all sides

By PATTY JANOVEC

Of the 28 states that allow American Indian gaming, six states, including Minnesota, have gaming compacts with American Indian tribes in the state that provide no revenue sharing and contain no specific expiration date, according to information presented at a House committee.

The House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee began initial discussions about Minnesota's tribal-state gaming compacts with informational hearings Feb. 10 and Feb. 11 about the history of the state's gaming compacts. The hearings came just days after Gov. Tim Pawlenty indicated in his State of the State speech that he would consider revisiting the compacts, if necessary.

Only the governor or the affected tribes may request that the tribal-state gaming compacts be renegotiated. The state may not compel tribal leaders to the negotiation table, and neither party may unilaterally terminate a compact, under Minnesota law.

Though some officials have indicated the tribes may not be interested in renegotiation, other states have successfully done so by finding mutual benefit for all parties involved.

For example, Wisconsin recently negotiated a new agreement with tribes, where the tribes agreed to increase payments to the state, but they are permitted to expand their gaming options.

Others also suggest that Minnesota's compacts have worked more effectively than agreements in other states.

Tribal gaming in Minnesota

According to information provided by nonpartisan House researchers, Minnesota has 17 tribal casinos, and there are 22 tribal-state compacts with 11 tribes across the state. Each tribe signed identical compacts allowing for two types of gambling: blackjack and slot machines.

The compacts allow for the Department of Public Safety to inspect and approve the machines, perform background checks and license casino employees, and regulate blackjack play. For this, the department annually receives

\$150,000 collectively from the tribes.

Other state rules that tribes must follow, under the compacts, include providing between 83 percent and 98 percent payout on games, such as video poker, where the result somewhat depends on player skill. For non-skill games the payout rate must be between 80 percent and 95 percent.

Gambling on American Indian lands began in Minnesota in 1982 with bingo parlors. Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act six years later to allow additional gaming for tribes across the country. Nationally, there are 281 tribal gaming facilities operated by 184 tribes.

The federal legislation allowed for American Indian tribes to conduct any form of gambling on reservation land, if that form already existed in the state. Bingo and some poker games would be regulated by tribal ordinance,

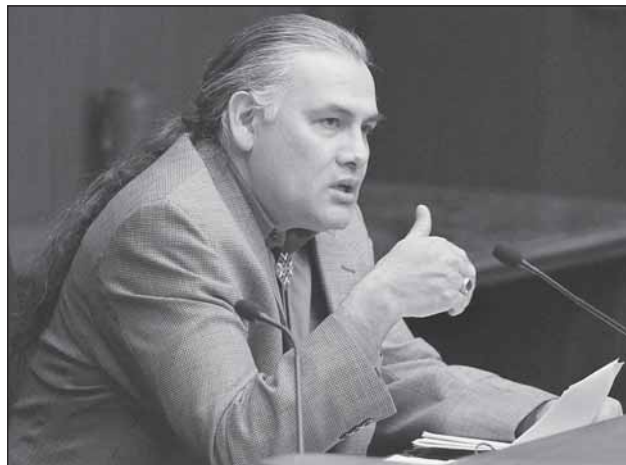


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Attorney Henry Buffalo testifies before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee Feb. 11 as part of an informational presentation on American Indian gaming compacts.

and compacts between tribes and state government would determine casino gambling.

Minnesota gaming vs. other states

Two points of interest to some legislators were how Minnesota's compacts have no expiration date and that tribes are not required to share revenues with the state.

Currently 10 states have compacts without

expiration dates, and 15 states have compacts containing no revenue sharing.

Five states (Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Nevada) are like Minnesota with neither expiration dates nor revenue sharing, said John McCarthy, executive director of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association.

In addition, several states participate in revenue sharing between tribes and either state or local governments, ranging in contributions from 1 percent to 8 percent of gaming revenue. They are Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

McCarthy said comparing Minnesota's compact's conditions to other states is like comparing "apples and oranges." While other states, such as Wisconsin, are constantly in lawsuits over gambling, McCarthy noted that Minnesota is a model to other states in how smoothly the process has continued over its 15-year history. The state has also not experienced problems with organized crime related to legal gambling.

"Don't be fooled by those who say that Minnesota got a bad deal with these compacts," McCarthy said, referring to criticism that Minnesota does not benefit as much as other states via revenue. He listed advantages the state has received: 14,000 jobs that the state didn't have to pay to create, \$2.8 billion in direct payroll to Minnesotans, and \$1.9 billion for state vendors.


McCarthy said the compacts were "well-guided and well-executed" when they were created in 1989, and are still a "good deal."

Revenue stream

Tribes are not required to report their gross revenues to the state, but the Ninth District Federal Reserve Board estimates that proceeds ranged from \$800 million to \$900 million in 2000. In 2004 the number is expected to increase to \$1.3 billion.

Federal law prohibits states from taxing proceeds of American Indian gaming but does allow for agreements when an economic benefit is given voluntarily

in return, such as the payments Minnesota tribes make to the state to fund enforcement and regulation. Some states give tribes exclusivity for particular types of gambling, and they return a portion of revenue to the state. Such an agreement must receive Department of Interior approval.

No proposals for adjusting the compacts were considered by the committee. 

Minnesota House of Representatives

2003-04 Standing Committee Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:15 to 10 a.m.		Education Policy Environment & Natural Resources Finance Health & Human Services Finance Jobs & Economic Development Finance Transportation Finance 200 5 10 B 500S	Environment & Natural Resources Finance Health & Human Services Policy Jobs & Economic Development Finance Transportation Finance 5 10 B 200	Education Policy Environment & Natural Resources Finance Health & Human Services Finance Jobs & Economic Development Finance 200 5 10 B	
10:15 a.m. to 12 noon		Education Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Judiciary Policy & Finance Taxes 10 5 B 200	Education Finance Judiciary Policy & Finance Taxes 10 B 200	Education Finance Environment & Natural Resources Policy Judiciary Policy & Finance Taxes 10 5 B 200	No regular meetings are scheduled on Fridays.
12:30 to 2:15 p.m.	Education Finance Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Health & Human Services Policy Higher Education Finance Taxes 5 B 10 300S 200	Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Commerce Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Transportation Policy 5 10 B 200	Agriculture Policy Commerce Policy Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Higher Education Finance Transportation Policy 5 10 B 300S 200	Agriculture & Rural Development Finance Commerce Policy Higher Education Finance Ways and Means 5 10 300S 200	
2:30 to 4:15 p.m.	HOUSE IN SESSION (3 p.m.)	Capital Investment Civil Law Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Regulated Industries State Government Finance B 10 200 5 500S	Capital Investment Civil Law Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Regulated Industries State Government Finance B 10 200 5 500S	HOUSE IN SESSION (3 p.m.)	

Rules & Legislative Administration and Ethics meet at the call of the chair.

1/17/03

B - Basement Hearing Room
All rooms in State Office Building

2004 Minnesota House of Representatives Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
48B Abeler, Jim (R)	369	1729	44B Latz, Ron (DFL)	225	7026
43B Abrams, Ron (R)	585	9934	40B Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	237	4218
42A Adolphson, Peter (R)	597	3964	66A Lesch, John (DFL)	223	4224
19A Anderson, Bruce (R)	437	5063	1B Lieder, Bernie (DFL)	323	5091
3A Anderson, Irv (DFL)	321	4936	2B Lindgren, Doug (R)	523	4265
27B Anderson, Jeff (R)	583	4193	32A Lindner, Arlon (R)	417	7806
39B Atkins, Joe (DFL)	221	4192	56A Lipman, Eric (R)	567	4244
35A Beard, Michael (R)	451	8872	22A Magnus, Doug (R)	515	5505
51B Bernardy, Connie (DFL)	337	5510	67A Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	289	4277
59A Biernat, Len (DFL)	303	4219	65B Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
12B Blaine, Greg (R)	387	4247	9B Marquart, Paul (DFL)	311	6829
19B Borrell, Dick (R)	545	4336	57B McNamara, Denny (R)	577	3135
26B Boudreau, Lynda (R)	559	8237	53B Meslow, Doug (R)	377	5363
29B Bradley, Fran (R)	563	9249	58A Mullery, Joe (DFL)	209	4262
25A Brod, Laura (R)	581	4229	6B Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
35B Buesgens, Mark (R)	445	5185	30A Nelson, Carla (R)	571	0573
45B Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)	283	4255	46A Nelson, Michael (DFL)	231	3751
61A Clark, Karen (DFL)	307	0294	17B Nelson, Peter (R)	433	5377
24B Cornish, Tony (R)	487	4240	18A Newman, Scott (R)	367	1534
25B Cox, Ray (R)	413	7065	10A Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
31B Davids, Gregory (R)	379	9278	47B Olsen, Stephanie (R)	531	4280
62A Davnie, Jim (DFL)	241	0173	16B Olson, Mark (R)	501	4237
49A DeLaForest, Chris (R)	503	4231	15B Opatz, Joe (DFL)	277	6612
29A Demmer, Randy (R)	371	9236	45A Osterman, Lynne (R)	431	4176
28A Dempsey, Jerry (R)	575	8635	11B Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)	247	3201
6A Dill, David (DFL)	315	2190	52B Otto, Rebecca (DFL)	393	3018
27A Dorman, Dan (R)	579	8216	37B Ozment, Dennis (R)	479	4306
23B Dorn, John (DFL)	201	3248	42B Paulsen, Erik (R)	459	7449
17A Eastlund, Rob (R)	449	5364	64B Paymar, Michael (DFL)	253	4199
2A Eken, Kent (DFL)	329	9918	31A Pelowski, Gene (DFL)	295	8637
58B Ellison, Keith (DFL)	229	8659	1A Penas, Maxine (R)	553	9635
64A Entenza, Matt (DFL)	267	8799	20A Peterson, Aaron (DFL)	313	4228
41A Erhardt, Ron (R)	591	4363	40A Powell, Duke (R)	411	4212
16A Erickson, Sondra (R)	407	6746	39A Pugh, Thomas (DFL)	273	6828
21B Finstad, Brad (R)	353	9303	44A Rhodes, Jim (R)	443	9889
4A Fuller, Doug (R)	525	5516	5A Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	279	0170
37A Gerlach, Chris (R)	533	5506	26A Ruth, Connie (R)	415	5368
50A Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)	331	4331	50B Samuelson, Char (R)	423	0141
54A Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	259	5387	41B Seagren, Alice (R)	477	7803
24A Gunther, Bob (R)	485	3240	21A Seifert, Marty (R)	357	5374
47A Haas, Bill (R)	569	5513	5B Sertich, Anthony (DFL)	233	0172
48A Hackbarth, Tom (R)	409	2439	14A Severson, Dan (R)	389	7808
22B Harder, Elaine (R)	509	5373	57A Sieben, Katie (DFL)	211	4342
66B Hausman, Alice (DFL)	245	3824	10B Simpson, Dean (R)	473	4293
13A Heidgerken, Bud (R)	359	4317	55B Slawik, Nora (DFL)	317	7807
46B Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	239	3709	33A Smith, Steve (R)	543	9188
8A Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	8B Soderstrom, Judy (R)	439	0518
36A Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	349	6926	3B Solberg, Loren (DFL)	309	2365
34B Hoppe, Joe (R)	537	5066	14B Stang, Doug (R)	375	4373
60B Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	227	9281	36B Strachan, Steve (R)	345	1069
4B Howes, Larry (R)	351	2451	28B Sviggum, Steve (R)	463	2273
7A Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	335	2228	23A Swenson, Howard (R)	517	8634
54B Jacobson, Carl (R)	429	7153	33B Sykora, Barb (R)	403	4315
7B Jaros, Mike (DFL)	291	4246	65A Thao, Cy (DFL)	215	5158
43A Johnson, Jeff (R)	401	5511	63A Thissen, Paul (DFL)	301	5375
67B Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	243	4201	49B Tingelstad, Kathy (R)	507	5369
13B Juhnke, Al (DFL)	281	6206	18B Urdahl, Dean (R)	521	4344
59B Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	255	4257	52A Vandever, Ray (R)	529	4124
60A Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)	261	0171	62B Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	251	4200
56B Klinzing, Karen (R)	539	1147	61B Walker, Neva (DFL)	213	7152
15A Knoblach, Jim (R)	453	6316	12A Walz, Dale (R)	527	4333
20B Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	327	4346	38B Wardlow, Lynn (R)	491	4128
34A Kohls, Paul (R)	421	4282	55A Wasiluk, Scott (DFL)	217	1188
53A Krinkie, Philip (R)	365	2907	51A Westerberg, Andrew (R)	549	4226
30B Kuisle, William (R)	565	4378	11A Westrom, Torrey (R)	381	4929
9A Lanning, Morrie (R)	593	5515	38A Wilkin, Tim (R)	551	3533
63B Larson, Dan (DFL)	287	7158	32B Zellers, Kurt (R)	557	5502

2004 Minnesota Senate Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone (651) 296-
66 Anderson, Ellen (DFL)	120 Cap.	5537	54 Marty, John (DFL)	323 Cap.	5645
52 Bachmann, Michele (R)	141 SOB	4351	38 McGinn, Mike (R)	G-19 SOB	7-8073
6 Bakk, Thomas (DFL)	301 Cap.	8881	39 Metzen, James (DFL)	322 Cap.	4370
40 Belanger, William (R)	113 SOB	5975	41 Michel, Geoff (R)	151 SOB	6238
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL)	309 Cap.	4261	67 Moua, Mee (DFL)	235 Cap.	5285
51 Betzold, Don (DFL)	111 Cap.	2556	28 Murphy, Steve (DFL)	306 Cap.	4264
50 Chaudhary, Satveer (DFL)	317 Cap.	4334	25 Neuville, Thomas (R)	123 SOB	1279
64 Cohen, Richard (DFL)	121 Cap.	5931	17 Nienow, Sean (R)	105 SOB	5419
26 Day, Dick (R)	147 SOB	9457	33 Olson, Gen (R)	119 SOB	1282
60 Dibble, D. Scott (DFL)	111 Cap.	4191	34 Ortman, Julianne (R)	G-21 SOB	4837
18 Dille, Steve (R)	103 SOB	4131	19 Ourada, Mark (R)	145 SOB	5981
14 Fischbach, Michelle (R)	129 SOB	2084	65 Pappas, Sandra (DFL)	120 Cap.	1802
47 Foley, Leo (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	4154	36 Pariseau, Pat (R)	117 SOB	5252
21 Frederickson, Dennis (R)	139 SOB	8138	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence (DFL)	235 Cap.	7809
43 Gaither, David (R)	107 SOB	4314	63 Ranum, Jane (DFL)	120 Cap.	7-8061
42 Hann, David (R)	G-27 SOB	1749	53 Reiter, Mady (R)	132D SOB	1253
58 Higgins, Linda (DFL)	328 Cap.	9246	45 Rest, Ann (DFL)	205 Cap.	2889
23 Hottinger, John (DFL)	317 Cap.	6153	35 Robling, Claire (R)	143 SOB	4123
13 Johnson, Dean (DFL)	208 Cap.	3826	24 Rosen, Julie (R)	G-23 SOB	5713
49 Johnson, Debbie (R)	135 SOB	3219	4 Ruud, Carrie (R)	109 SOB	4913
48 Jungbauer, Michael (R)	115 SOB	3733	11 Sams, Dallas (DFL)	328 Cap.	7-8063
44 Kelley, Steve (DFL)	205 Cap.	7-8065	3 Saxhaug, Tom (DFL)	124 Cap.	4136
31 Kierlin, Bob (R)	127 SOB	5649	46 Scheid, Linda (DFL)	303 Cap.	8869
30 Kiscaden, Sheila (IP)	G-15 SOB	4848	29 Senjem, David (R)	G-17 SOB	3903
15 Kleis, Dave (R)	G-25 SOB	6455	2 Skoe, Rod (DFL)	124 Cap.	4196
37 Knutson, David (R)	133 SOB	4120	62 Skoglund, Wesley (DFL)	124 Cap.	4274
12 Koering, Paul (R)	131 SOB	4875	7 Solon, Yvonne Prettnier (DFL)	303 Cap.	4188
20 Kubly, Gary (DFL)	306 Cap.	5094	27 Sparks, Dan (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	9248
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL)	122 Cap.	3205	1 Stumpf, LeRoy (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	8660
10 Larson, Cal (R)	153 SOB	5655	5 Tomassoni, David (DFL)	321 Cap.	8017
56 LeClair, Brian (R)	149 SOB	4166	22 Vickerman, Jim (DFL)	226 Cap.	5650
32 Limmer, Warren (R)	121 SOB	2159	16 Wergin, Betsy (R)	125 SOB	8075
8 Lourey, Becky (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	0293	55 Wiger, Charles (DFL)	226 Cap.	6820
57 Marko, Sharon (DFL)	G-24 Cap.	7-8060			

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
For phone numbers, contact Senate Information at 651-296-0504

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2 A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. Doug Lindgren-(R) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16 A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mark Olson-(R) Sen. Betsy L. Wergin-(R)	30 A Rep. Carla Nelson-(R) B Rep. William Kuisle-(R) Sen. Sheila M. Kiscaden-(IP)	44 A Rep. Jim Rhodes-(R) B Rep. Ron Latz-(DFL) Sen. Steve Kelley-(DFL)	58 A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Keith Ellison-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
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5 A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep. Anthony (Tony) Seritch-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Dick Borrell-(R) Sen. Mark Ourada-(R)	33 A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. Barb Sykora-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47 A Rep. Bill Haas-(R) B Rep. Stephanie Olsen-(R) Sen. Leo Foley-(DFL)	61 A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas M. Bakk-(DFL)	20 A Rep. Aaron Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary Kubly-(DFL)	34 A Rep. Paul Kohls-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne E. Ortman-(R)	48 A Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) Sen. Michael J. Jungbauer-(R)	62 A Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B Rep. Neva Wagenius-(DFL) Sen. Wesley J. Skoglund-(DFL)
7 A Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Jaros-(DFL) Sen. Yvonne Prettnier Solon-(DFL)	21 A Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B Rep. Brad Finstad-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	35 A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	49 A Rep. Chris DeLaForest-(R) B Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	63 A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL) Sen. Jane B. Ranum-(DFL)
8 A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Judy Soderstrom-(R) Sen. Becky Lourey-(DFL)	22 A Rep. Doug Magnus-(R) B Rep. Elaine Harder-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	36 A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Steve Strachan-(R) Sen. Pat Pariseau-(R)	50 A Rep. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL) B Rep. Char Samuelson-(R) Sen. Satveer Chaudhary-(DFL)	64 A Rep. Matt Entenza-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
9 A Rep. Morrie Lanning-(R) B Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	23 A Rep. Howard Swenson-(R) B Rep. John Dorn-(DFL) Sen. John C. Hottinger-(DFL)	37 A Rep. Chris Gerlach-(R) B Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) Sen. David L. Knutson-(R)	51 A Rep. Andrew Westerberg-(R) B Rep. Connie Bernardy-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	65 A Rep. Cy Thao-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
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11 A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Dallas S. Sams-(DFL)	25 A Rep. Laura Brod-(R) B Rep. Raymond Cox-(R) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	39 A Rep. Thomas W. Pugh-(DFL) B Rep. Joseph Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzen-(DFL)	53 A Rep. Philip Krinkie-(R) B Rep. Doug Meslow-(R) Sen. Mady Reiter-(R)	67 A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Mee Moua-(DFL)
12 A Rep. Dale Walz-(R) B Rep. Greg Blaine-(R) Sen. Paul E. Koering-(R)	26 A Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B Rep. Lynda Boudreau-(R) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	40 A Rep. Duke Powell-(R) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. William V. Belanger Jr.-(R)	54 A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Carl Jacobson-(R) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
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Monday, Feb. 9

HF1915—Klinzing (R)

Education Policy

Epinephrine; students allowed to carry non-syringe injectors of epinephrine.

HF1916—Klinzing (R)

Education Policy

Secondary students authorized to carry and use nonprescription pain relief.

HF1917—Greiling (DFL)

Education Policy

No Child Left Behind Act; resolution memorializing Congress to amend the No Child Left Behind Act to provide more flexibility and to include waivers for states that have increased achievement through their own standards and reforms.

HF1918—Carlson (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Municipalities authorized to use reverse auction and electronic bidding.

HF1919—Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Physician assistant registration provisions modified, and physician assistants authorized to perform radiography to administer anesthetic agents in emergency situations.

HF1920—Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Essential community provider application authorized.

HF1921—Klinzing (R)

Education Finance

Charter school board of directors modified, charter school student participation in school district extracurricular activities provided, eligible sponsors increased, and charter school calendar submitted to the Department of Education.

HF1922—Demmer (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Olmsted County municipal solid waste combustor upgrade and expansion grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1923—Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Finance

Children with mental retardation service cost parental contribution modified.

HF1924—Paymar (DFL)

Education Finance

Early childhood education program funding restored, and money appropriated.

HF1925—Kahn (DFL)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Minnesota Twins community ownership process provided.

HF1926—Seifert (R)

Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy

Presidential electors designated, and duties specified to include proportional selection.

HF1927—Seifert (R)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Workers' compensation special compensation fund assessments periodic payments provided.

HF1928—Howes (R)

Education Finance

Regional public library system increased staff hours funding requirements specified.

HF1929—Kohls (R)

Civil Law

Mental health center data disclosure provided to law enforcement under specified circumstances.

HF1930—Kohls (R)

Civil Law

Mental health center data disclosure provided to Criminal Mental Health Courts under specified circumstances.

HF1931—Bernardy (DFL)

Education Policy

Health and physical education required as an academic standard.

HF1932—Anderson, J. (R)

Education Policy

Children under the age of seven required to complete kindergarten prior to being admitted to the first grade, and waivers provided.

HF1933—Rhodes (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

St. Louis Park flood hazard mitigation grant authorized, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1934—Rhodes (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

St. Louis Park pedestrian and trail crossing funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1935—Hornstein (DFL)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Storm and sanitary sewer authorization provisions modified.

HF1936—Finstad (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Assisted living facility term designated in statute as a formal means of referring to registered housing with services establishments.

HF1937—Seagren (R)

State Government Finance

Bloomington ski jump funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1938—Abeler (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Speech-language pathology assistant certification established, and speech-language pathology and audiology provisions modified.

HF1939—Paulsen (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Wildlife management area land acquisition funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1940—Kelliher (DFL)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

J. D. Rivers Urban Agricultural Awareness Center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1941—DeLaForest (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Anoka County Personnel Board of Appeals authorized.

HF1942—Nornes (R)

Taxes

Cruelty to animals prevention funding limits increased for cities and counties, and property tax levy to fund the appropriation exempted from levy limits.

HF1943—Johnson, S. (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy

Health care provider kickbacks and conflicts of interests prohibited, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

HF1944—Smith (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Domestic abuse orders for protection grounds expanded to include imminent or recent release from incarceration.

HF1945—Smith (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Domestic abuse police reports released upon request to victims and their attorneys.

HF1946—Haas (R)

State Government Finance

State employees required to reimburse employer for personal use of state vehicles.

HF1947—Buesgens (R)

Education Finance

Online learning funding provided at same rate for specified students.

HF1948—Greiling (DFL)

Education Finance

Open enrollment student referendum aid adjustment modified, and statewide property tax altered.

HF1949—Opatz (DFL)

Civil Law

Plaintiffs in civil actions required to provide security to pay judgments against them.

HF1950—Kahn (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Great Lakes; International Joint Commission urged by resolution to maintain its vigilance in opposing diversion of Great Lakes waters and to support the prompt resolution of all issues related to finalization of Annex 2001.

HF1951—Anderson, I. (DFL)

Taxes

Education reserve account established, and state property tax portion dedicated to the account.

HF1952—Nornes (R)

Higher Education Finance

Fergus Falls campus of Minnesota State Community and Technical College funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1953—Opatz (DFL)

Civil Law

Prevailing party in summary judgment actions awarded costs.

HF1954—Wasiluk (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Policy

Smoke detectors containing radioactive material prohibited from being placed in mixed municipal solid waste.

HF1955—Wasiluk (DFL)

Agriculture Policy

Animal protections required for transport in specified vehicles.

HF1956—Cox (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Mill Towns State Trail segment funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1957—DeLaForest (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Interfering with ambulance service personnel who are providing emergency care established as a crime.

HF1958—Johnson, S. (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Mississippi River metropolitan land acquisition funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1959—Johnson, S. (DFL)

Agriculture Policy

Forest protection municipal grants program established, and money appropriated.

HF1960—Atkins (DFL)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Inver Grove Heights flood hazard mitigation grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1961—Meslow (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Child abuse causing death murder in the first-degree crime expanded.

HF1962—Meslow (R)

Transportation Finance

Lake Links Trail development and roadway rehabilitation funding provided for Ramsey and Washington counties, and money appropriated.

HF1963—Meslow (R)

Higher Education Finance

Century College capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1964—Simpson (R)

Higher Education Finance

Central Lakes College, Staples campus, capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1965—Knoblach (R)

Health & Human Services Policy

Service cooperatives authorized to provide group health coverage to private employers.

HF1966—Powell (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Burnsville water treatment facility funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1967—Anderson, J. (R)

Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Shooting Star Trail segment construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1968—Kohls (R)

Taxes

Long-term care insurance credit adjusted.

HF1969—Krinkie (R)

Education Policy

Summer school required for students not passing basic skills test required for high school graduation.

HF1970—Knoblach (R)

Ways & Means

Net unrestricted budgetary general fund balance priorities expanded.

HF1971—Knoblach (R)

Ways & Means

State budget process technical and clarifying changes provided.

HF1972—Pugh (DFL)

Transportation Policy

Removal and disposal of unauthorized vehicles provided on private, nonresidential property used for servicing vehicles.

HF1973—Pelowski (DFL)

Transportation Policy

Supervision required for children under age nine left in a passenger vehicle, and petty misdemeanor penalty imposed for leaving a child unattended under age nine.

HF1974—Knoblach (R)

Transportation Policy

Public safety radio communication system products and services sales tax exemption expanded and made permanent, system revenue bond uses expanded, and money appropriated.

HF1975—Dempsey (R)

Governmental Operations &

Veterans Affairs Policy

Public employee retirement plan for police and firefighter members continued service authorized.

HF1976—Wilkin (R)

Taxes

Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 partial conformity provided.

HF1977—Brod (R)

Governmental Operations &

Veterans Affairs Policy

Compulsive gambling prevention and education funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF1978—Beard (R)

Transportation Policy

Truck driver hours law; technical corrections provided to conform to amended federal regulations.

HF1979—Beard (R)

Transportation Policy

Trailers with lifetime registration required to display license plate and sticker.

HF1980—Beard (R)

Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs

Watershed district officers conflict of interest clarified.

HF1981—Otto (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Drug rebate program interest on rebates collection authorized.

Thursday, Feb. 12

HF1982—Sykora (R)

Education Finance

Basic community education program funding restored, and money appropriated.

HF1983—Pugh (DFL)

Commerce, Jobs &

Economic Development Policy

Uniform Commercial Code revisions enacted.

HF1984—Gunther (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

University of Minnesota funding provided for purchase of a medical research facility in Rochester, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF1985—Meslow (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Audiovisual recording devices prohibited in motion picture theaters.

HF1986—Johnson, J. (R)

Education Policy

Minors under 18 required to attend school as a requirement to possessing a driver's permit or license.

HF1987—Mariani (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

St. Paul Community and Technical College capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

<p>HF1988—Abeler (R) Health & Human Services Policy Podiatric medicine license requirements and definitions clarified.</p>	<p>HF2001—Beard (R) Taxes Electric generation facility property tax exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF2015—Smith (R) Judiciary Policy & Finance Bullet resistant vests for peace officers increased reimbursement provided.</p>
<p>HF1989—Fuller (R) Judiciary Policy & Finance Methamphetamine precursor drug sale regulated, reporting of transactions authorized, education program for retailers required, criminal penalties expanded and increased, methamphetamine lab cleanup fund established, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2002—Knoblach (R) Civil Law Attorney fee award amount determination factor provided.</p>	<p>HF2016—Holberg (R) Transportation Policy Bus driver duty of care to passengers specified.</p>
<p>HF1990—Clark (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Minneapolis; East Phillips cultural and community center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2003—Erickson (R) Education Policy School districts authorized to teach full range of scientific views.</p>	<p>HF2017—Brod (R) Commerce, Jobs & Economic Development Policy Joint Underwriting Association regulated and coverage modified.</p>
<p>HF1991—Latz (DFL) Education Finance Perpich Center for Arts Education funding provided for capital improvements, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2004—Buesgens (R) Regulated Industries Elko Speedway on-sale license specifications provided.</p>	<p>HF2018—Anderson, B. (R) Transportation Finance Personal rapid transit demonstration project bonds authorized and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1992—Juhnke (DFL) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy State agencies required to use E85 fuel in flexible-fuel vehicles, and periodic reports required.</p>	<p>HF2005—McNamara (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Phosphorous use in fertilizers restriction extended.</p>	<p>HF2019—Erickson (R) Education Finance Independent School District No. 51, Foley, fund transfer authorized.</p>
<p>HF1993—Kuisle (R) Taxes Biomass or mixed municipal solid waste energy resource recovery facilities materials and supplies sales tax exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF2006—Fuller (R) Higher Education Finance Bemidji State University hockey arena bonds authorized and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2020—Walker (DFL) Civil Law Relative search pertaining to child protection services requirements modified.</p>
<p>HF1994—Larson (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Physician assistant registration requirements exemption provided.</p>	<p>HF2007—Nelson, C. (R) Education Policy Reading record reflecting student strengths and weaknesses in reading provided.</p>	<p>HF2021—Buesgens (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipal interim zoning ordinance limitations provided.</p>
<p>HF1995—Knoblach (R) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs Municipalities authorized to require direct deposit of all employee payroll.</p>	<p>HF2008—Mullery (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Nontraditional careers for women encouragement funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2022—Lanning (R) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Moorhead Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center bonds authorized and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1996—Pugh (DFL) Environment & Natural Resources Finance South St. Paul; landfill reclamation and conversion to parkland funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2009—Mullery (DFL) Taxes Electronic filing requirements for income taxation modified.</p>	<p>HF2023—Lanning (R) Judiciary Policy & Finance Drug paraphernalia violation penalties increased.</p>
<p>HF1997—Clark (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Emergency assistance and transitional housing funding provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2010—Buesgens (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Gambling activities at a Class A licensed racetrack facility provided.</p>	<p>HF2024—Beard (R) Transportation Policy Certificate of title provisions affecting motor vehicle dealers modified.</p>
<p>HF1998—Rukavina (DFL) Health & Human Services Policy Prescription drug bulk purchasing provided.</p>	<p>HF2011—Buesgens (R) Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs Policy Card club maximum table requirement eliminated.</p>	<p>HF2025—Kahn (DFL) Jobs & Economic Development Finance Minneapolis; University Research Park capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.</p>
<p>HF1999—Cornish (R) Education Finance School innovation and cooperative planning grants provided, and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2012—Fuller (R) Environment & Natural Resources Finance Paul Bunyan State Trail rehabilitation bonds authorized and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2026—Wilkin (R) Health & Human Services Finance Human embryo and stem cell research funding restrictions provided.</p>
<p>HF2000—Tingelstad (R) Environment & Natural Resources Policy Water table level analysis clarified for purposes of individual sewage treatment system design.</p>	<p>HF2013—Swenson (R) Education Finance Gaylord multicultural and lifelong learning center construction bonds authorized and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2027—Anderson, J. (R) Health & Human Services Policy Nursing home construction moratorium exemption provided, and money appropriated.</p>
	<p>HF2014—Anderson, J. (R) Higher Education Finance Riverland Community College bonds authorized and money appropriated.</p>	<p>HF2028—Smith (R) Judiciary Policy & Finance Predatory offender screening committee established to make recommendations regarding referral of sex offenders to civil commitment proceedings, and data access provided to make determinations.</p>

HF2029—Anderson, J. (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Manufacture of controlled substances in the presence of a child defined as a crime of child endangerment.

HF2030—Smith (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Minneapolis Firefighters Relief Association authority to set executive secretary salary revised.

HF2031—Dempsey (R)
Education Finance
Independent School District No. 256, Red Wing, levy authorized for construction deficit for building the community ice arena.

HF2032—Anderson, I. (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
International Falls chemical assessment team funding provided, and money appropriated.

HF2033—Solberg (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Townships authorized to make payments and accept payments by electronic transfer.

HF2034—Haas (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
State contract labor agreements and compensation plans ratified.

HF2035—Sertich (DFL)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development Policy
Vocational rehabilitation and supported employment regulated, and qualifying supported employment activities expanded.

HF2036—Smith (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Correctional state employees retirement plan membership provisions revised.

HF2037—Fuller (R)
Education Finance
Health and safety revenue expanded to cover the costs of replacing certain school buses.

HF2038—Bradley (R)
Civil Law
Medical malpractice liability reforms provided.

HF2039—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Fishing; special seasons authorized for persons with a physical disability to take fish by angling.

HF2040—Olson, M. (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Wastewater treatment technology certification program created, and money appropriated.

HF2041—Holberg (R)
Civil Law
Orders for protection vacation provided upon request of the petitioner.

HF2042—Olson, M. (R)
Education Policy
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 implemented only upon enacting legislation specifically affirming the implementation.

HF2043—Gunther (R)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Broadband infrastructure grant program established, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2044—Davids (R)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development Policy
Tourism functions transferred from the Department of Employment and Economic Development to Explore Minnesota Tourism, and money appropriated.

HF2045—Newman (R)
Education Finance
Independent School District No. 2859, Glencoe-Silver Lake, levy authorized.

HF2046—McNamara (R)
Higher Education Finance
Inver Hills Community College capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2047—Mahoney (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
St. Paul; grant provided to acquire land for right-of-way and to complete contamination remediation on Phalen Boulevard, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2048—Paulsen (R)
Taxes
Organ donation expenses income tax deduction provided.

HF2049—Kahn (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Stem cell research state policy established and criminal penalties provided.

HF2050—Finstad (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Foreign medical school graduates required to use a credentials verification service.

HF2051—Harder (R)
Agriculture Policy
County and regional fair provisions modified.

HF2052—Abeler (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Supportive housing and managed care pilot project sunset date extended.

HF2053—Kelliher (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
Minneapolis; Lake of the Isles flood mitigation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2054—Penas (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Roseau County private sale or conveyance of certain tax-forfeited land bordering public water authorized.

HF2055—Severson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Deer carcass importation by prearrangement with state taxidermists or meat processors permitted.

HF2056—Walz (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Paul Bunyan Trail extension bonds authorized and money appropriated.

HF2057—Abrams (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Continuance of certain nonconforming zoning uses or occupancies provided.

HF2058—Meslow (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board membership and staff expanded, administrative remedy for violations of fair campaign practices created, investigation mandate repealed, and money appropriated.

HF2059—Ellison (DFL)
Transportation Policy
Driver's license reinstatement provisions modified.

HF2060—Hilstrom (DFL)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
911 emergency telephone service fee increased; Metropolitan Radio Board sunset repealed, and membership and jurisdiction expanded; bonds issued; and money appropriated.

HF2061—Hilstrom (DFL)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Polygraphic examinations for sex offenders under community supervision authorized, protocol for use of polygraph examinations development requested, and money appropriated.

HF2062—Bradley (R)
State Government Finance
Rochester National Volleyball Center Phase II expansion bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2063—Hilty (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Services for children with special health care needs program reinstated, and money appropriated.

HF2064—Hilty (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Minnesota State Retirement System service credit purchase authorized for a former driver with the Department of Administration.

HF2065—Seifert (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Redwood County surplus state land conveyance authorized.

HF2066—Fuller (R)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities internal funds allocation specified.

HF2067—Jacobson (R)
Taxes
Flea markets and similar selling events sales tax exemptions provided.

HF2068—Greiling (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Voting age lowered to 17 through proposed constitutional amendment.

HF2069—Erickson (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Mille Lacs Lake; 1837 Ceded Territory Fisheries Committee meetings required to be open to the public.

HF2070—Mahoney (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Development Finance
St. Paul Bioscience Corridor bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2071—Simpson (R)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development Policy
Employment agency provisions re-enacted.

HF2072—Nelson, C. (R)
Taxes
Rochester sales tax revenue usage specified.

HF2073—Cox (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation cost division modified.

HF2074—Knoblach (R)
Taxes
Waite Park local sales tax authorized.

HF2075—Opatz (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities doctoral degree provisions modified.

HF2076—Nelson, C. (R)
Higher Education Finance
Rochester University Center health sciences center bonds authorized and money appropriated.

HF2077—Nelson, C. (R)
Higher Education Finance
Rochester Community and Technical College capital improvement funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2078—Holberg (R)
Transportation Policy
Railroad grade crossing requirements and crimes involving public transit clarified, and penalties provided.

HF2079—Lindgren (R)
Agriculture Policy
Animal possession restrictions imposed, and license and registration required.

HF2080—Lindgren (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Big Bog State Recreation Area development bonds authorized, and money appropriated.

HF2081—Ozment (R)
Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Minnesota Zoological Garden capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2082—Diill (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Trapping non-resident license fees specified, and snares required to be tended every three days.

HF2083—Diill (DFL)
Taxes
Direct reduced ore production tax rate clarified.

HF2084—Paymar (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources Policy
Cities authorized to suspend operations of a stationary source of major hazardous air pollutants.

HF2085—Severson (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Hospital moratorium exceptions review provided.

HF2086—Paymar (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Prescription drug marketing expense reporting required, and penalties and remedies provided.

HF2087—Borrell (R)
Civil Law
Service cooperative claims data, inactive investigative data maintained by the Office of Health Facility and Complaints, and appraisal data classified as private and nonpublic.

HF2088—Finstad (R)
Agriculture Policy
Board of Water and Soil Resources executive director appointed by the governor.

HF2089—Bradley (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Rochester Regional Public Safety Training Center funding provided for a live burn training simulator, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2090—Boudreau (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Faribault state correctional facility expansion funding provided, Rice County jail construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF2091—Meslow (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Ramsey County criminal surcharge collection provided to fund petty misdemeanor diversion program.

HF2092—Carlson (DFL)
Higher Education Finance
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities demonstration project expanded to provide college readiness information to high school students, and report to legislature by P-16 partnership required.

HF2093—Holberg (R)
Civil Law
Public bodies authorized to close a meeting to negotiate the purchase or sale of real or personal property.

HF2094—Nornes (R)
Health & Human Services Finance
Child care center licensing fees modified.

HF2095—Thao (DFL)
Civil Law
Mortgage foreclosure re-conveyance regulation provided, licensure established for foreclosure purchasers, and notice to homeowners in foreclosure added.

HF2096—Thissen (DFL)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
State bond financed property sales proceeds division clarified.

HF2097—Thissen (DFL)
Health & Human Services Policy
Conversion health care coverage provided at a more affordable rate as a bridge to Medicare for persons 60 to 65 years of age.

HF2098—Lanning (R)
Commerce, Jobs &
Economic Development Policy
Oxygenated gasoline regulated, and certain requirements and powers of the Department of Commerce abolished relating to utility measuring equipment.

HF2099—Nornes (R)
Education Finance
School board member authorized contract amount increased.

HF2100—Cornish (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Real property recording and registration fees provided.

HF2101—Seifert (R)
Governmental Operations &
Veterans Affairs Policy
Local government impact notes provided, and legislative approval required for specified rulemaking.

HF2102—Vandever (R)
Health & Human Services Policy
Adult foster care licensure provisions modified.

HF2103—Nelson, C. (R)
Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs
Municipalities authorized to require the dedication of land for public purposes.

HF2104—Strachan (R)
Judiciary Policy & Finance
Predatory offenders without a primary address required to register, and community notification law information disclosure clarified.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Young smokers

Minnesotans ages 18 to 24 surveyed between November 2002 and June 2003 that smoked cigarettes in the previous 30 days, as percent	39
National percentage in 2002	31
Percent of young Minnesota smokers that smoke every day	65
Percent smoking up to five days of the previous 30 days	19
Percent of Minnesota adults in 2003 that smoked cigarettes	18
In 2002	21.7
University of Minnesota students who smoked during one 30-day period in 2001, as percent	29.3
Of smokers aged 18-24, percent enrolled in college	37
Percent that is female	45
Percent living in the 11-county Twin Cities metropolitan area	58
Percent of young smokers that did not try their first cigarette until they were at least 18	8
Estimated number of Minnesota children exposed to secondhand smoke at home	280,000
Money spent by the six largest cigarette manufacturers for advertising and promotion in 2001, in billions	\$11.2
Money spent in 2000, in billions	\$9.6
In Minnesota for 2001, in millions	\$196
Percent of young smokers reporting their health was "excellent" or "very good"	55
Non-smokers, as percent	76
Young smokers saying their mental and emotional health was "not good" on at least three of 30 days prior to the survey, as percent	50
Percent of non-smokers	26
Young smokers, as percent, who stopped smoking at least one day in previous year because they were trying to quit	60
Those that tried to quit at least once in the past year, as percent	63
Of those, percent using medication to assist them	16
Young Minnesotans health officials predict will die prematurely from cigarette smoking	47,000
Approximate number of Minnesota deaths each year attributed to smoking	5,600
Percent of all state deaths	14.3
Estimated cost of smoking in lost productivity in Minnesota each year, in millions	\$996

Sources: *Patterns of Smoking Among Minnesota's Young Adults and Quitting Smoking, 1999-2003; Nicotine Addiction in Minnesota*, both by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco, and University of Minnesota, January 2004; *Results from the 2001 Student Health Assessment Survey*, University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System; Federal Trade Commission.

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