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This Week's Bill Introductions HF57-HF262



SESSION Weekly

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Correction

Rep. Connie Bernardy (DFL-Fridley) was elected minority whip as part of the DFL leadership for the coming session. Her name was inadvertently left out of last week's article on House leadership. We regret the error.

On the cover: The 2005-06 members of the Minnesota House of Representatives.

—Photo illustration by: Andrew VonBank

First in, first out?

House File 1 shows majority party's priorities

By RUTH DUNN

When you want to know the majority party's priorities for a legislative session, simply check out the first House files out of the chute at the start of each biennium.

The selection of bills to be first — especially House File 1 — is no accident because the leadership of the party in power determines which deserve to be among the first of the session.

Bills may be selected for many reasons. Perhaps it concerns a topic that has been in the news a lot. It might be a topic that has bipartisan support. Or it might simply be a subject that the party leadership feels strongly about.

A bill to toughen penalties for sexual predators was a natural to be House File 1 this year, according to House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) because the Republican caucus believes, "The first function of government is to provide safety."

The initiative, which includes mandatory life sentences in some instances, is sponsored by Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove).

"It's a huge honor to have your bill selected as House File 1," said Zellers, who says he presented a passionate argument to House leadership to let him be the chief author and to have the bill designated as an early House file. "I thought it would be among the first five for sure, but House File 1... wow."

Paulsen says the first House files are significant issues of importance and show his party's priorities. Other early House files this year include health plan efficiency encouragement and health care cost containment (HF2), capital improvements for state departments and higher education institutions (HF3), methamphetamine regulation and increased penalties (HF4) and a basic education formula increase (HF5).

If the DFL were in the majority, the first House file would be a bonding bill to match Senate File 1, according to House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul). "Our



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

Rep. Sheldon Johnson drops a proposal into the bill introduction basket on the clerk's desk in the House Chamber Jan. 12.

Amy Blom, whose former husband, Donald, is serving time for the murder of Katie Poirier, wants to testify on behalf of House File 1.

first order of business would be to get Minnesota back to work with 10,000 new jobs."

Entenza says the House File 1 designation brings attention to an issue and is important that way. He disagrees with the idea that House File 1 sets the tone for the biennium. "Tone depends more on how well members work together," he said.

Sometimes it even happens that the House, Senate and governor agree on what the top bill should be.

For example, in 1995 there was universal agreement on welfare reform. Twelve years

Chief sponsor is passionate about HF1

The murder in 2003 of 22-year-old Dru Sjodin of Pequot Lakes was very personal to Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) because they had so much in common.

Like Sjodin Zellers attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Although they were enrolled at different times, his fraternity and her sorority had a "brother-sister" relationship and worked together on many service projects.

At one time, Zellers had a part-time job at the Columbia Mall, the same mall where Sjodin worked. He knows many people who knew Sjodin. He has friends and family who still live in the area, which he said has been robbed of its innocence by the terrible crime. Zellers also has an even more personal reason for sponsoring the bill: his baby daughter, Reagan Hope.

That's why he felt strongly about being chief author of a bill calling for stronger penalties for sex offenders. He also wanted it to be among the first bills of session.


Zellers said he presented a passionate argument to House leadership in December. "I did the homework. I told them I wouldn't let them down." He must have been persuasive because not only is he the chief sponsor, but his bill was selected as HF1. "It's a huge honor," said Zellers, a second-term legislator.

With the designation, the bill becomes a top priority for House leadership.

HF1 contains the same language as a version overwhelmingly passed in the House last session, but did not go further. "We took out concerns people had with it, included amendments, and are now reintroducing it," says Zellers. He expects the bill will have a lot of bipartisan support this year, just as it did last time. That was evidenced when members from both sides of the aisle quickly signed up to be the 34 co-sponsors, the maximum number allowed.

Zellers said that Amy Blom, whose former husband, Donald, is serving time for the murder of Katie Poirier, wants to testify on behalf of the bill. Sjodin's family may also be involved.

(R. DUNN)

earlier both bodies placed a top priority on an Equal Rights Amendment to the state constitution. The first bill of the First Territorial Legislature in 1849 called for regulating grocery licenses. 

Restoring the past with tender care



Visitors to the State Capitol third floor this month will need to step lively around the scaffolding and drop cloths near the top of the cantilevered marble staircase.

Decorative plaster and paint specialists are hard at work restoring a sample area on the walls and ceiling.

Water damage, previous restoration attempts and an unfortunate coat of varnish in the 1960s have dulled the arabesque patterns of interlacing leaves, geometric shapes and symbols of Minnesota such as corn and wheat.

A storyboard posted near the scaffolding details the steps involved in the restoration process.

When completed, the work will juxtapose the current paint and plaster conditions versus how the Capitol could look if restored to its 1905 color scheme.

The Minnesota Historical Society is seeking state and private funds for a number of Capitol restoration efforts, including paint, plaster, mechanical upgrades and Civil War flag refurbishment.

The goal behind the sample area is to inform the public and lawmakers “how far from the original it really has drifted over the years,” said painter Bryon Roesselet. “If it can’t be a grand public space, then what can it be?”

Restoration work is being recorded by a Web cam and will be available for viewing on the Minnesota Historical Society State Capitol Site Web page (www.mnhs.org/places/sites/msc).

(N. WOOD)



Bryon Roesselet, left, traces a stencil Jan. 11 that will be used to restore the artwork of corn stalks, above, on the third floor of the Capitol.

Photos by Tom Olmscheid



Rick Dahm of Luczak Brothers, Inc., applies a layer of gypsum plaster to the ceiling on the third floor of the Capitol Jan.11.

(Information courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society State Capitol Historic Site)

A selected review of Jan. 6-13 committee hearings.

BONDING



Debt management

Because no bonding bill was approved last session, members of the House Capital Investment Committee may have to quickly make decisions in 2005 if they want to get projects started this year.

In preparation, they received a crash course in debt management Jan. 11.

The state's debt management policy has three goals: maintain a AAA bond rating, minimize state borrowing costs and provide a reasonable funding capacity with a prudent debt limit.

Two of the state's three scores from credit rating services show Minnesota receiving a top bond rating, while the other is one step below. That rating can be changed at any time, not just when bonds are sold. However, Peter Sausen, assistant commissioner with the Department of Finance, said the state is probably not in danger of any change through the end of this session.

A state's bond rating is determined by its economic condition, financial management, debt load and the tax ratio. Sausen said that the first two make up 90 percent to 95 percent of the state's rating.

The state's policy guidelines for debt management include a 3 percent limit on the general fund debt service ratio.

Currently, the state has \$3.46 billion in bonds that must be paid over the next 20 years.

According to the finance department's Web site: "General Obligation bonds carry the full faith and credit of the state. This means that the state has pledged to levy a statewide property tax to pay the debt service costs. Instead of levying the statewide property tax, the Legislature appropriates from the general fund and other funds an amount of money sufficient to pay the debt service on the bonds."

Under the state constitution, a project must meet four tests to receive bonding dollars: it must be publicly owned, it must be a capital expenditure, it must be for a public purpose, and the purpose must be clearly set forth in law.

"You can't just say that you're bonding \$100 million to the president of the University of Minnesota for buildings," said Sausen. "It must be specific building projects."

More information can be found at www.finance.state.mn.us/bonds/index.html.

BUDGET



Speedy stopgap spending

In an effort to avoid public defender layoffs, keep the Gang Strike Task Force operating and otherwise fill some budget holes before the dollars run out June 30, the House Ways and Means Committee began reviewing a nearly \$31.4 million deficiency spending measure Jan. 11. No vote was taken.

Sponsored by Rep. Jim Knobloch (R-St. Cloud), some of the larger shortfalls addressed in HF57 include:

- \$13.4 million for regional treatment centers for civilly committed sex offenders,
- \$7.7 million to offset the loss of public defender co-pay revenue after the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled that a 2003 law obligating defendants to pay \$50 for a public defender was unconstitutional,
- \$4.7 million for the Agriculture Department and Health Department relocation to a joint facility, and
- \$4.4 million to help offset corrections costs driven in part by more methamphetamine offenders resulting in an unanticipated prison population growth and rising health costs to combat tooth decay and Hepatitis C within that population.

Much of the discussion revolved around one of the revenue sources recommended by the governor to offset the cost of the bill: a \$25.1 million schedule shift in state payments to school districts.

"We're going to steal \$25 million from the schools," said Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

"It's simply a timing issue in terms of payment," said Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison. "We're not talking about cutting school districts — simply delaying the payment that they are entitled to."

The school payment schedule is tied to the projected end balance for fiscal years 2004-05 in the November forecast. In the event of a general fund reserve at the end of a biennium, state law lists the budget priorities as bolstering the cash flow and budget reserve accounts, and then raising the percentage of school district aid payments made as current payments (on or before June 30 of a fiscal year) from 80 percent to as high as 90 percent of the schedule.

If the Legislature had acted in 2004 on the issues within the deficiency bill, Ingison explained, the November forecast would not have contained a reserve and the school district aid payment schedule would not have been modified anyway.

Though not technically companion bills, a pair of Senate bills (SF128 and SF129), both sponsored by Sen. Jane Ranum (DFL-Mpls), await action in the Senate Finance Committee. Each deals with criminal justice system deficiencies.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Mary Ellison, right, deputy public safety commissioner, tells the House Ways and Means Committee Jan. 11 how the state's gang strike force would be affected if it were under funded in the proposed deficiency funding bill. Finance Commissioner Peggy Ingison, left, listens to the testimony.

★ EDUCATION

Changing times, changing needs

Demographics are changing the schools and the state. That's why the House Education Policy and Reform Committee heard from two experts on the subject at its first meeting, Jan. 11.

Committee Chair Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) said it is important to understand current demographics before a discussion of policy and reform begins.

The number of students of color in Minnesota school districts rose dramatically from 1989 to 2003, according to Dr. Bruce Vandal, associate executive director of Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, Inc.

The number of black students in the state has increased from approximately 24,000 to more than 62,000. Statewide, the total number of Hispanic students has nearly quadrupled from 9,000 to more than 35,000 and the number of Asian/Pacific Islander students has nearly doubled from 22,000 to more than 44,000. Enrollment of Native American students has increased from nearly 13,000 to more than 17,000.

It's not just in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, either. Cities like Willmar, Austin and Worthington have seen double-digit percent increases in their enrollments of students of color, according to Vandal.

Tom Gillaspay, state demographer, described three major demographic trends in Minnesota:

- The Twin Cities suburban ring and outer suburbs are growing rapidly while the population in many rural areas is growing slowly or declining;
- The middle-aged population is increasing rapidly while the school-age group is declining — a nationwide trend; and
- Minnesota is growing more diverse, especially among children, yet it is still one of the least diverse of the industrial states. Minneapolis and St. Paul have large percentages of non-English speaking students but smaller districts also have substantial proportions, including Worthington with 38.5 percent, Brooklyn Center with 32.8 percent and Madelia with 27.7 percent.

Minnesota from July 2003 to July 2004

69,300 babies were born
37,900 people died
13,900 people moved here from other countries
5,101,000 is now the state's total population.

* Statistics from Tom Gillaspay, state demographer.

★ HIGHER EDUCATION

Regent finalists named

Seventeen finalists have been selected for interviews as part of the process to fill the four vacancies on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Selected Jan. 7 by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council were:

- Second District: Dallas Bohnsack (incumbent), Bruce Endler and Leonard Pederson;
- Third District: Arlene Breckenridge, Scott Johnson, David Larson, Lawrence Laukka, Linda Mona and Kate Rubin;
- Eighth District: Anthony Baraga (incumbent) and Edward Borowiec; and
- At-Large: John Goldfine, Steven Hunter, Ramona Jones, Margaret Leppik, Roger McCannon and Michael Vekich.

Interviews will be held Jan. 24-26, with the final candidate recommendations going to a joint meeting of the House and Senate education committees.

State statute requires that at least two candidates, but no more than four, for each seat be forwarded to the joint meeting, which usually meets in late-February. All candidates recommended by the council will be allowed to testify before the joint education committees,

which will then nominate a slate of candidates to the Legislature for approval.

The 12-member Board of Regents is the university's governing body. One regent is elected from each of Minnesota's congressional districts and four are from the state at large. One of the at-large regents must be a university student at the time of election; however, that seat is not open this year. Regents serve six-year terms without pay. Terms are staggered, with one-third of the board elected every two years.

The council received 58 applications compared to 63 in 2003, 143 in 2001 and 78 in 1999.

★ TAXES

Tsunami tax break

Taxpayers who make contributions in January 2005 to tsunami relief in Asia would be permitted to deduct those contributions on their 2004 state income tax returns, under a bill approved Jan. 13 by the House Taxes Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Ron Abrams

PROUD PORTRAIT



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

House Minority Leader Matt Entenza presents a portrait of former Chief Clerk Ed Burdick during a Jan. 10 tribute for Burdick's 60-plus years of House service. Tom Olmscheid, the chief House photographer, took the portrait.

(R-Minnetonka), HF166 was approved unanimously and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

President Bush signed into law a federal bill Jan. 7.

A Dec. 26 earthquake in the Indian Ocean touched off a tsunami that heavily damaged coastal areas from Indonesia to Africa. Since then, money to help has poured in from all over the world. "The death toll is greater than the nuclear weapon that was detonated over Hiroshima," Abrams said. "There are literally millions of people without homes. They were washed away."

Ordinarily, people who make donations beginning Jan. 1, 2005, would not be permitted to deduct those donations until they complete their 2005 tax form next year. The bill applies only to donations for tsunami relief.

"Not only for the tax fairness and simplicity argument is it the right thing to do, it's the right thing to do period," Abrams said. "Our hearts have to go out to these people. Our response has to be to do what we can to help these people."

A native of Somalia, which has also been damaged, thanked the committee for its action and the people of Minnesota for their donations. "I want to express my appreciation to all of you for extending your hands to all corners of the globe," said Omar Jamal, executive director of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center in St. Paul. "Our office is receiving calls from the citizens all over the state."

The bill is expected to be financially negligible. According to estimates from the Department of Revenue, the bill would shift approximately \$35,000 from fiscal year 2005

to 2006. That could vary, depending on how many people make donations and how much they donate.

"We believe this bill will hopefully pass through both bodies and on to the governor in short order," said Rep. Phil Krinkie (R-Shoreview), the committee chair.

A companion bill (SF218), sponsored by Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope), awaits action on the Senate floor.

TRANSPORTATION



Funding package proposed

A 10-year, \$7.15 billion construction program that includes the state's highways, light rail and public transportation was shared with the House Transportation Committee Jan. 11.

Better known as Gov. Tim Pawlenty's 2005 Transportation Investment package, it proposes that a constitutional amendment be placed on the ballot in 2006, asking if 100 percent of the motor vehicle sales tax (MVST) should be dedicated to transportation. That money now goes to the state's general fund, and only 54 percent is used for highways and transit, said Bob McFarlin, assistant to the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Transportation. It is estimated that a change would equal an extra \$2.65 billion over 10 years. If voters approve the amendment, the change would be phased in over five years to lessen the impact to the general fund, McFarlin said.

Under the plan, 60 percent of the new

You should know
The average commuter is stuck in traffic for 42 hours a year compared to three hours in 1982.
— Peter Bell
Metropolitan Council chairman

money would go to the trunk highway system, county state aid roads and municipal state aid roads; 38 percent would go to the public transit system in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and 2 percent would go to public transit in Greater Minnesota.

"The MVST dedication is a new source of income to address growing needs of Minnesota highways," McFarlin said. "It recognizes the needs and provides the income to meet them."

If voters do not approve the amendment, the governor would try to accomplish the work through yearly appropriations.

Pawlenty is also proposing a 10-year, \$4.5 billion bonding package for improvement and expansion of the state's trunk highway system. A portion of the gas tax revenue, vehicle registration fees and federal funds for trunk highways would repay the bonds.

Peter Bell, chairman of the Metropolitan Council, said traffic congestion will continue to grow in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The average commuter is stuck in traffic for 42 hours a year compared to three hours in 1982.

"Traffic congestion is the region's No. 1 livability issue," he said.

A FRESH LOOK



It's all in the details. Just ask Johnson and Johnson. That's Jim and Bob, who are the short and the tall when it comes to Capitol painting, varnishing and refinishing. Before session began, the two plant management employees could be found touching up nicks on the walls and the desks in the House Chamber, a project they take on every three years, as well as refinishing the wood on each member's chair. Jim has been doing this work for more than 25 years and Bob joined him about six years ago. "It's an honor to be here at the Capitol and having a hand at keeping everything, especially the antiques, looking good," Jim said. For Bob, it is the instant gratification of taking something that is in sorry-shape and "making it look good."

PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Legislative jigsaw puzzle

Committee schedule, structure membership -
a complicated process

By **MATT WETZEL**

Putting together the committee schedule, structure and membership roster can be like working a jigsaw puzzle.

There are 134 members to place, while at the same time ensuring party representation that equates to the balance between DFLers and Republicans in the House, and still establishes a structure that would prioritize the majority party's top issues: job growth, health care reform and education.

"It ends up with one change creating a domino effect," said House Speaker Steve Svigum (R-Kenyon). "It takes some time to work things through." Member assignments were not first announced until just before session began, with some minor tweaking since.

When deciding committee structure, Svigum took the advice of Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), a key leader in the House on health issues, and merged the former House Commerce, Jobs and Economic Development Policy and Finance Committee with the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee to form the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee.

Responsibility for commerce has been assigned to the House Commerce and Financial Institutions Committee, and the House Health Policy and Finance Committee will assume health issues.

The scope of the jobs and economic opportunity committee includes economic de-

velopment and employment issues, affordable housing, social services, child support and protection, child care services and the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

Bradley, who served on the former health committee, said that it became apparent to him after 10 years in the Legislature that this is the way to go.

He believed the area of health was important enough to have one committee solely devoted to it, and he felt the issues of economic development, which includes jobs, goes well with welfare, where the clients often can't find a job.

"I felt, instead of pushing people (onto welfare) we should be pulling people (into) a job," he said.

"Why is it that the first thing we ask is what type of assistance can we get for you? Why can't we think about what we can do to get you a job," he said. "Why can't we better use our employers? If anybody can help someone with low skills enter the job market, they can."

"I'm excited about the committee," said Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) after he gaveled the first meeting to order Jan. 5. "The responsibility we have in state government is to make sure everybody in the state of Minnesota has the job they want to have. That includes people on MFIP."

Gunther said the goal is to take people who are MFIP clients and make them clients for job training programs. Most people on MFIP, the state's welfare reform program for low-in-

come families with children, must currently participate in a four-month diversionary work program.

Gunther is thinking of a program that would provide a job for longer than four months, one that would provide training, and provide a more efficient way of matching people with jobs. "We'll try to allocate their abilities, aptitudes and skills," he said.

House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) believes training is important, but knows that resources are limited.

"Ideally, we should have a system so people have good opportunities in education and jobs training, so they can realize their dreams," he said. "The key is, will there be a system with enough resources to make the opportunity a reality?"

Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) is the lead DFLer on the committee. "Maybe the emphasis from the other half of the committee (economic development) can positively impact the people on MFIP," she said.

Like Clark, Tonja Orr, assistant commissioner for housing policy at the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, believes the new committee is a positive step. "I think there's a lot of value in recognizing that we want to have healthy families. It brings together a lot of the issues and allows the committee to take a look at things holistically."

Entenza believes that can be accomplished because of good leadership in Gunther and Clark. "Each has a good understanding of the needs of the state at a time when economic security is eroding for many Minnesotans," he said.


"The concern," he said, "is will there be adequate resources to meet the very important needs of economic development and basic services for some of our very vulnerable citizens?" 



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Members introduced themselves at the first meeting of the House Health Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 11, before receiving a Department of Health overview. The committee is a merger of two former committees.

The committee process

It would be impossible for every member of the Legislature to become an expert on all the areas covered by the hundreds of bills introduced each session.

So to better deal with that volume, the House is divided into 22 topical committees (and five divisions), such as Agriculture and Rural Development, Civil Law and Elections and Regulated Industries. Those committees hear proposals and may recommend further action.

There is no requirement that committee names and scopes eternally remain the same. Years ago, there were committees on temperance and liquor control, state and county fairs and dairy products and livestock.

After members express interest in a particular committee by submitting a request

to their caucus, the House speaker appoints the chairs, vice chairs and members of each committee. Legislators usually serve on three or four committees.

After a bill is introduced on the House floor, it is assigned to a committee, where it may be given a hearing. If consideration is granted, the bill's chief sponsor appears before the committee to give an overview and answer questions. Others who have an interest in the bill may also testify. Those wishing to speak are encouraged to contact the committee administrator before the hearing to identify their desire.

Members probe, analyze and dissect the bill, sometimes offering amendments, before recommending that the bill pass and be sent to the floor, refer it to another committee or vote that the bill not pass.

There are also deadlines by which bills must be out of committees. For example, two years ago bills had to be out of the policy committee in its house of origin by April 4, and in the other body one week later.

House committees generally meet at least once a week in the State Office Building during the first few months of session, more often if necessary. All meetings are open to the public with seating and committee agendas available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact the House Public Information Services Office, 651-296-2146, or go to www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/abthcom.htm.

(M. WETZEL)

What's on the Web

Committee information available online

The House Web site features several options for keeping track of the more than two dozen standing committees and divisions.

Start at the main House page (www.house.mn) and look for the category labeled "House Committees."

Links to the following information are available:

- 2005-06 Committee Chairs – a listing of committee chairs including name, party designation, hometown and official headshot photograph (www.house.mn/hinfo/leginfo/ls84comchairs.pdf),
- Committee Information – a listing of committees in alphabetical order providing the name, office and phone number of the chair, as well as links to the committee members and schedule (www.house.mn/comm/commemlist.asp),
- Committee Roster - a four-page PDF document listing committee names, membership, meeting times, rooms and staff (www.house.mn/hinfo/leginfo/comroster.pdf),

- Standing Committee Schedule – a grid displaying the meeting times and hearing rooms of standing committees (www.house.mn/hinfo/leginfo/comgrid.pdf), and
- Hearing Room Audio – committee meetings and floor sessions are recorded and archived (www.house.mn/audio/default.asp).

Each House committee has an individual Web page that offers options to view the committee membership, look up the committee schedule, and subscribe to the committee's electronic mailing list.

Subscribe to the combined House committee schedule electronic mailing list at www.house.mn/list/join.asp?listname=houseschedule.



Frequently called numbers

(Area code 651)

Information, House

175 State Office Building 296-2146
Toll free 1-800-657-3550

TTY, House 296-9896
Toll free 1-800-657-3550

Chief Clerk of the House
211 Capitol 296-2314

Index, House
211 Capitol 296-6646

Sergeant-at-Arms, House
45 State Office Building 296-4860

Committee Hotline, House 296-9283

Information, Senate
231 Capitol 296-0504
Toll free 1-888-234-1112

TTY, Senate 296-0250
Toll free 1-888-234-1112

Secretary of the Senate
231 Capitol 296-2344
Voice mail/order bills 296-2343

Index, Senate
110 Capitol 296-5560

Sergeant-at-Arms, Senate
Senate Chamber 296-7514/296-1119

Committee Hotline, Senate 296-8088

Legislative Reference Library
645 State Office Building 296-3398

Governor's Office

130 Capitol 296-3391
Toll free 1-800-657-3717

Attorney General's Office
102 Capitol 296-6196
Toll free 1-800-657-3787

Secretary of State's Office
180 State Office Building 296-2803

Public Information: 1-877-551-6767

Capitol Security
B-5 Capitol 296-6741

Emergency 296-2100

Committee Information

2005-06 Minnesota House of Representatives

Assignments as of 1/12/05

Agriculture and Rural Development

477 State Office Building296-9278
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 14

Chair: Davids-R

Vice Chair: Blaine-R

Lead-DFL: Johnson, R.-DFL

Finstad-R	Moe-DFL
Hamilton-R	Otremba-DFL
Heidgerken-R	Penas-R
Juhnke-DFL	Urdahl-R
Koenen-DFL	Welti-DFL
Magnus-R	Ozment-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Craig Clark296-1540

Committee Legislative Assistant

Denise Berger296-8857

Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

479 State Office Building296-4306
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 12

Chair: Ozment-R

Vice Chair: Dill-DFL

Agriculture Lead-DFL: Juhnke-DFL

Environment Lead-DFL: Wagenius-DFL

Cornish-R	Penas-R
Hackbarth-R	Peterson, A.-DFL
Hoppe-R	Urdahl-R
Johnson, S.-DFL	Knoblach-R**
Magnus-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Marilyn Brick296-8893

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebecca Lowden296-4230

Capital Investment

517 State Office Building296-8216
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 22

Chair: Dorman-R

Vice Chair: McNamara-R

Lead-DFL: Hausman-DFL

Brod-R	Latz-DFL
Dean-R	Mahoney-DFL
Demmer-R	Murphy-DFL
Eastlund-R	Opatz-DFL
Garofalo-R	Pelowski-DFL
Howes-R	Peterson, N.-R
Jaros-DFL	Smith-R
Kahn-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Kelliher-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Knoblach-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

LaRissa Peltola296-8875

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rory Koch296-5394

Civil Law and Elections

401 State Office Building296-5511
Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 12

Chair: Johnson, J.-R

Vice Chair: DeLaForest-R

Lead-DFL: Slawik-DFL

Brod-R	Lesch-DFL
Dean-R	Nelson, P.-R
Ellison-DFL	Simon-DFL
Emmer-R	Westrom-R
Hilty-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Dennis Virden296-6860

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joyce Rogers296-9710

Commerce and Financial Institutions

551 State Office Building296-3533
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 26

Chair: Wilkin-R

Vice Chair: Gazelka-R

Lead-DFL: Mullery-DFL

Atkins-DFL	Moe-DFL
Clark-DFL	Peppin-R
Davids-R	Powell-R
Fritz-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Goodwin-DFL	Sailer-DFL
Gunther-R	Sertich-DFL
Hamilton-R	Severson-R
Howes-R	Simpson-R
Jaros-DFL	Soderstrom-R
Kohls-R	Vandever-R
Liebling-DFL	Zellers-R
Loeffler-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andy Gildea296-5065

Committee Legislative Assistant

Robert Freeman296-5994

Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division

421 State Office Building296-4282
Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 11

Chair: Kohls-R

Lead-DFL: Goodwin-DFL

Davids-R	Mullery-DFL
Fritz-DFL	Peppin-R
Hamilton-R	Severson-R
Liebling-DFL	Zellers-R
Loeffler-DFL	Wilkin-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andy Gildea296-5065

Committee Legislative Assistant

Robert Freeman296-5994

This list is subject to change.

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Tourism Division

451 State Office Building296-2451

Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 8

Chair: Howes-R

Lead-DFL: Jaros-DFL

- Davids-R Sailer-DFL
- Gazelka-R Simpson-R
- Moe-DFL Wilkin-R**
- Powell-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andy Gildea.....296-5065

Committee Legislative Assistant

Robert Freeman296-5994

Education Finance

485 State Office Building296-4315

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

Members: 14

Chair: Sykora-R

Vice Chair: Demmer-R

Lead-DFL: Greiling-DFL

- Bernardy-DFL Heidgerken-R
- Buesgens-R Johnson, R.-DFL
- Davnie-DFL Klinzing-R
- Dorn-DFL Meslow-R
- Eken-DFL Newman-R
- Erickson-R Knoblach-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Bret Walsh.....296-9468

Committee Legislative Assistant

Bethany Johnson296-7167

Education Policy and Reform

445 State Office Building296-5185

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:15 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 29

Chair: Buesgens-R

Vice Chair: Erickson-R

Lead-DFL: Dorn-DFL

- Abeler-R Dittrich-DFL
- Carlson-DFL Eastlund-R
- Charron-R Eken-DFL
- Cybart-R Greiling-DFL
- Davnie-DFL Heidgerken-R
- Dean-R Klinzing-R
- Demmer-R Lanning-R

- Latz-DFL Peterson, S.-DFL
- Mariani-DFL Ruud-DFL
- Marquart-DFL Sailer-DFL
- Nornes-R Severson-R
- Olson-R Sykora-R
- Pelowski-DFL Wardlow-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Erin Buie.....296-5376

Committee Legislative Assistant

Carmen Mayo.....296-7191

Environment and Natural Resources

409 State Office Building296-2439

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

Members: 20

Chair: Hackbarth-R

Vice Chair: Cox-R

Lead-DFL: Mariani-DFL

- Blaine-R Ozment-R
- Cornish-R Penas-R
- Dill-DFL Poppe-DFL
- Hansen-DFL Scalze-DFL
- Hoppe-R Tinglestad-R
- Hortman-DFL Wagenius-DFL
- Kelliher-DFL Welti-DFL
- McNamara-R Westrom-R
- Nornes-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jacob Hamlin.....297-5723

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joan Harmon.....296-3641

Ethics

473 State Office Building296-6746

Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 4

Chair: Erickson-R

Vice Chair: Carlson-DFL

- Atkins-DFL Newman-R (A)
- Emmer-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Becky Girvan296-5528

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Telega296-5992

Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs

403 State Office Building296-5369

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

Members: 22

Chair: Tinglestad-R

Vice Chair: Severson-R

Lead-DFL: Kahn-DFL

- Beard-R Loeffler-DFL
- Cybart-R McNamara-R
- Demmer-R Nelson, M.-DFL
- Dempsey-R Olson-R
- Hoppe-R Peterson, A.-DFL
- Hosch-DFL Peterson, N.-R
- Johnson, R.-DFL Seifert-R
- Johnson, S.-DFL Wardlow-R
- Liebling-DFL Welti-DFL
- Lillie-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Scott Neske296-4283

Committee Legislative Assistant

Alicia Davis.....296-1544

Health Policy and Finance

563 State Office Building296-9249

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

Members: 16

Chair: Bradley-R

Vice Chair: Finstad-R

Finance Lead-DFL Huntley-DFL

Policy Lead-DFL Otreмба-DFL

- Abeler-R Samuelson-R
- Dean-R Thao-DFL
- Eken-DFL Thissen-DFL
- Emmer-R Walker-DFL
- Goodwin-DFL Wilkin-R
- Peppin-R Knoblach-R**
- Powell-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Suzanne Geroux296-7185

Committee Legislative Assistant

Cheryl Burke296-4375

Health Care Cost Containment Division

509 State Office Building296-1729

Meets: Call of the Chair***Members:** 11**Chair:** Abeler-R**Lead-DFL:** Thissen-DFL

Bradley-R	Otremba-DFL
Brod-R	Peppin-R
Goodwin-DFL	Powell-R
Grieling-DFL	Westerberg-R
Huntley-DFL	

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Suzanne Geroux296-7185

Committee Legislative Assistant

Cheryl Burke296-4375

Higher Education Finance

471 State Office Building296-4946

Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays,
12:30 p.m. in Room 300S***Members:** 13**Chair:** Nornes-R**Vice Chair:** Opatz-DFL**Lead-DFL:** Pelowski-DFL

Abeler-R	Eastlund-R
Abrams-R	Latz-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Mariani-DFL
Cox-R	Urdahl-R
Dempsey-R	Knoblach-R**

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Mike Miller296-7168

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Telega296-5992

Jobs and Economic**Opportunity Policy and Finance**

559 State Office Building296-3240

Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays,
8:15 a.m. in Room 10***Members:** 11**Chair:** Gunther-R**Vice Chair:** Garofalo-R**Finance Lead-DFL:** Clark-DFL**Policy Lead-DFL:** Mahoney-DFL

Bradley-R	Slawik-DFL
Gazelka-R	Westerberg-R
Ruth-R	Knoblach-R**
Sertich-DFL	

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Brian Steinhoff296-5069

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kitty Musty296-3316

Local Government

501 State Office Building296-4237

Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays,
12:30 p.m. in Room 10***Members:** 19**Chair:** Olson-R**Vice Chair:** Lanning-R**Lead-DFL:** Hilstrom-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Marquart-DFL
Charron-R	Paymar-DFL
Cornish-R	Peterson, N.-R
Garofalo-R	Poppe-DFL
Holberg-R	Samuelson-R
Hornstein-DFL	Scalze-DFL
Hosch-DFL	Thao-DFL
Lenczewski-DFL	Wardlow-R

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Mary Cummins296-3244

Committee Legislative Assistant

Dave Easterday296-9463

Public Safety Policy and Finance

543 State Office Building296-9188

Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays,
10:15 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room***Members:** 12**Chair:** Smith-R**Vice Chair:** Eastlund-R**Finance Lead-DFL:** Murphy-DFL**Policy Lead-DFL:** Paymar-DFL

Cornish-R	Meslow-R
Ellison-DFL	Newman-R
Hausman-DFL	Soderstrom-R
Hilstrom-DFL	Knoblach-R**
Johnson, J.-R	

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Open

Committee Legislative Assistant

David Anderson296-4119

Regulated Industries

533 State Office Building296-4929

Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays,
2:30 p.m. in Room 5***Members:** 24**Chair:** Westrom-R**Vice Chair:** Beard-R**Lead-DFL:** Anderson, I.-DFL

Atkins-DFL	Lanning-R
Charron-R	Lesch-DFL
Emmer-R	Peterson, A.-DFL
Erickson-R	Powell-R
Gunther-R	Ruud-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Simpson-R
Hansen-DFL	Thissen-DFL
Hilty-DFL	Walker-DFL
Hoppe-R	Westerberg-R
Huntley-DFL	Zellers-R
Johnson, S.-DFL	

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Brian Fahey296-9302

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen Anderson296-8871

Gaming Division

549 State Office Building296-4226

Meets: Call of the Chair***Members:** 9**Chair:** Westerberg-R**Lead-DFL:** Atkins-DFL

Erickson-R	Huntley-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Lesch-DFL
Hilty-DFL	Zellers-R
Hoppe-R	

Staff**Committee Administrator**

Brian Fahey296-9302

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathleen Anderson296-8871

**Rules and
Legislative Administration**

459 State Office Building296-7449

Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 23

Chair: Paulsen-R

Vice Chair: Samuelson-R

Lead-DFL: Carlson-DFL

Abrams-R	Magnus-R
Anderson, B.-R	Moe-DFL
Bernardy-DFL	Ozment-R
Hoppe-R	Poppe-DFL
Hosch-DFL	Sailer-DFL
Johnson, J.-R	Seifert-R
Juhnke-DFL	Sertich-DFL
Kelliher-DFL	Smith-R
Kohls-R	Sviggum-R
Loeffler-DFL	Tingelstad-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Laurie Esau296-4112

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lesley Hinz296-9183

State Government Finance

381 State Office Building296-5374

Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8:15 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 11

Chair: Seifert-R

Vice Chair: Peppin-R

Lead-DFL: Hilty-DFL

Blaine-R	Krinkie-R
DeLaForest-R	Mullery-DFL
Finstad-R	Solberg-DFL
Kahn-DFL	Knoblach-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jared Jordal296-5318

Committee Legislative Assistant

Dan Miller296-5336

Taxes

365 State Office Building296-2907

Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 29

Chair: Krinkie-R

Vice Chair: Simpson-R

Lead-DFL: Lenczewski-DFL

Abrams-R	Knoblach-R
Anderson, I.-DFL	Koenen-DFL
Atkins-DFL	Kohls-R
Bernardy-DFL	Lanning-R
Brod-R	Lesch-DFL
Dauids-R	Marquart-DFL
Davnie-DFL	Mullery-DFL
DeLaForest-R	Nelson, P.-R
Dill-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Dorman-R	Sieben-DFL
Erhardt-R	Vandever-R
Howes-R	Westerberg-R
Jaros-DFL	Zellers-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Craig Stone296-5367

Committee Legislative Assistant

Jeremy Estenson296-4295

Property and Local Tax Division

583 State Office Building296-4124

Meets: Call of the Chair*

Members: 10

Chair: Vandever-R

Lead-DFL: Rukavina-DFL

Brod-R	Marquart-DFL
Krinkie-R	Nelson, P.-R
Lanning-R	Sieben-DFL
Lesch-DFL	Simpson-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Craig Stone296-5367

Committee Legislative Assistant

Jeremy Estenson296-4295

Transportation

591 State Office Building296-4363

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

Members: 22

Chair: Erhardt-R

Vice Chair: Nelson, P.-R

Lead-DFL: Larson-DFL

Anderson, B.-R	Lillie-DFL
Cox-R	Newman-R
Cybart-R	Olson-R
Dittrich-DFL	Peterson, S.-DFL
Fritz-DFL	Ruth-R
Gazelka-R	Severson-R
Holberg-R	Sieben-DFL
Hornstein-DFL	Simon-DFL
Hortman-DFL	Soderstrom-R
Lieder-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Margaret Amundson.....296-7427

Committee Legislative Assistant

Cassi Holmstrom296-5489

Transportation Finance

443 State Office Building296-6926

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

Members: 11

Chair: Holberg-R

Vice Chair: Ruth-R

Lead-DFL: Lieder-DFL

Abrams-R	Larson-DFL
Anderson, B.-R	Magnus-R
Erhardt-R	Nelson, M.-DFL
Hornstein-DFL	Knoblach-R**

Staff

Committee Administrator

Becky Girvan296-5528

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joyce Vogt297-8407

Ways and Means

453 State Office Building296-6316

Meets: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 38

Chair: Knoblach-R

Vice Chair: Dempsey-R

Lead-DFL: Solberg-DFL

Abeler-R	Klinzing-R
Abrams-R	Krinkie-R
Anderson, I.-DFL	Larson-DFL
Beard-R	Mariani-DFL
Bradley-R	McNamara-R
Buesgens-R	Nornes-R
Carlson-DFL	Otremba-DFL
Clark-DFL	Ozment-R
Dorman-R	Paymar-DFL
Dorn-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Erhardt-R	Ruth-R
Greiling-DFL	Seifert-R
Gunther-R	Smith-R
Hamilton-R	Sykora-R
Hilty-DFL	Vandever-R
Holberg-R	Wagenius-DFL
Huntley-DFL	Walker-DFL
Kelliher-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Kevin Matzek.....296-4110

Committee Legislative Assistant

Shirley Koderick296-4999

Minnesota House of Representatives 2005-06 Standing Committee Schedule

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

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

B - Basement Hearing Room
All rooms in State Office Building

1/7/05

A 'piercing' debate

Programs give students a legislative experience

By **PATTY JANOVEC**

"The session will now come to order," gaveled House Speaker John Hengen, a high school student standing at the podium in the House chamber in torn khakis, newly wrinkled shirt, and black tie.

No, it wasn't a new Abercrombie and Fitch commercial being created in the chamber Jan. 7, it was the YMCA's Youth in Government program infiltrating the capitol grounds. More than 1,400 students from throughout the state debated and participated in mock floor sessions, held committee meetings and passed bills on the House and Senate floors.

Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer opened the session by urging students to "reflect on the foundation of our government and how our founding fathers struggled to craft our U.S. Constitution, and how that document, in turn, became the foundation for state government."

Topics students debated this year included civil unions, the prohibiting of body piercing services to those under age 16 without parental consent, requiring the state to pay for 20 percent of medical expenses for people

on fixed incomes, and legalizing the right for a woman to impersonate Santa Claus.

Several student bills from previous years have led to actual legislation, which then became law.

Orville Lindquist, the state program director, recalls a young man whose efforts led to making state park trails accessible to physically disabled people. "The boy's mother had several handicaps and...it was hard for his family to visit state parks because they weren't handicapped accessible."

The student helped formulate a 1995 bill sponsored by Rep. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) that required the Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan to construct or modify trails in state parks to allow accessibility for people with physical disabilities. The measure eventually passed as part of an environment omnibus bill.

Started in 1946 with ideas of promoting responsible citizenship, the Youth In Government mission continues through today's generation.

"Young people are disengaged and we need



Thomas Richards and Nick Rau from Burnsville High School confer in the House chamber during Youth in Government Day at the State Capitol Jan. 7.

to get them into opportunities like Youth in Government so they can understand about their role as leaders and citizens," said Lindquist.

"There's also the soft learning of interpersonal relationship building, exchange of opinions, learning to respect other people," he added. Students are responsible for getting themselves up, getting food and water, and making it to places on time.

Nick Burkhart, a high school junior from Mankato, said he took part because there was really no other program like it in Minnesota that allows any student to be involved. "You get to meet people from all over the state, you get to hear all these great ideas, deal with all these bills, and I just realized that after my first year that it really is a valuable experience."

However, there is another program that promotes youth participation in government — the House High School Page Program.

"It's a great chance for a farm kid from southern Minnesota to meet another kid from Arrowhead who may be rooming with someone from inner city Minneapolis," said Chief Sergeant-At-Arms Shawn Peterson. His office oversees the program.

Students gain a "deeper understanding of the legislative process and state government, the kind of knowledge only hands-on experience can provide," said Jake Jewell, second assistant sergeant-at-arms and director of educational programs in the House.

Peterson, who once served as a page, said Minnesota is one of a few states with a high school page program that focuses on education. "It's been very helpful for me having been a page, to be in my position now."

Similar to Youth in Government, the page program promotes responsibility by developing leadership through mock committee sessions, debate, and teaching students how to make a positive difference in their schools and communities.



PHOTOS BY SARAH STACKE

Tiffany Smith, a senior at Fridley High School, tries to get the attention of the House speaker during Youth in Government Day at the State Capitol Jan. 7.

From page to professional

It is not uncommon for participants in the Youth in Government program to continue their public service as adults

- Jess Mingo, a fiscal service specialist in the House Administrative Services Department, said his involvement in the YMCA program was valuable because “the exposure to the atmosphere, the issues, and government as a whole” creates opportunities.
- Michael Speiker, Web manager in the House Chief Clerk’s Office, was active in Youth in Government and was also a page. “When I first walked into the chamber, I thought that’s where I want to work, that’s where I want to be.”

- Patrick D. Murphy, first assistant chief clerk, was turned down for the page program when he first applied. “It’s odd where you end up in life,” he said. Murphy was eventually hired as a page and has worked in the chief clerk’s office for 27 years.


For more information:
Youth In Government
4 West Rustic Lodge
Minneapolis, MN 55409
(612) 823-1381

1-800-372-0002
www.mnyig.org

Minnesota House of Representatives High School Page Program


G45A, State Office Building
100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-7452
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/edprog/over2p.htm

SPEAKING OF THE HOUSE

 In the midst of a re-election campaign, a beef carcass fell on **Rep. Peter Nelson (R-Lindstrom)** while he working at his Lindstrom butcher shop Sept. 21. The blow forced his right hand, which held a butcher knife, into his left arm, severely slicing an artery. He was rushed by helicopter to Region’s Hospital in St. Paul where he spent three days in the trauma center and received seven pints of blood.

Speaking Jan. 4 on the House floor, Nelson gave thanks for the hundreds of cards, flowers and prayers from his colleagues on both sides of the aisle and from staff. “Your support for me as an individual crossed party lines,” he said. “Your support shows we really do matter to each other as individuals. I hope that same degree of respect will continue as we proceed to do the people’s business.”


Nelson’s wife, Debra, said her husband has already used up several of his nine lives, including the defeat of a stage-four cancer in his neck.

 The first meeting of the House Capital Investment Committee Jan. 11 started about six minutes late.

When members took turns introducing themselves, first-term **Rep. Neil W. Peterson**

(R-Bloomington) said, “Obviously I’m a new kid because I showed up 15 minutes early.” Laughter then filled the room.


Despite best efforts by all, House meetings and floor sessions oftentimes start past their scheduled time.

 A moment of silence was held in the House chamber Jan. 12 for former four-term **Rep. John Burger (R-Long Lake)** who passed away earlier that day at age 88.

“He was residing with family in California at the time of his death,” said Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound), who replaced Burger in the House.

“I feel eight years is an adequate time for people to make whatever impact they can in the House,” Burger said upon his retirement in 1990 after four terms. “But I’m not yet satisfied with what I’ve been able to do... I have a number of ideas I want to continue to press and I thought finding another platform to speak from [as governor] would be the way to go.”

Burger ultimately ran for state treasurer, but was defeated by Michael McGrath.

 As members of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee introduced themselves Jan. 11, **Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls)** told of her personal interest in the committee.

Not only did her father serve as a doctor in World War II, but, she said, “I worked on the design of the M-16 rifle as a student intern in the summer at the Frankfurt Arsenal in Philadelphia, and every time one of those misfired in Vietnam I cringed and worried if it was some sort of miscalculation that I had done.” Kahn has degrees in both physics and biophysics.

Rep. Jerry Dempsey (R-Red Wing) also mentioned that he was in the infantry, and recalled a first week conversation with a first sergeant about how he often had just five minutes to eat because of long “chow lines.”

“I’m standing in line and standing in line and I said, ‘Haven’t you got a better system than that?’” The first sergeant responded, “Private, you don’t like to stand in the line?” Dempsey said he did not, to which the sergeant responded, “Well stand in a circle.”

“I got the information real quick as to not question what I was told to do,” he said with a laugh.

State of the State update

Gov. Tim Pawlenty will go on the road this year to deliver his annual State of the State address.

Traditionally delivered at the State Capitol, plans call for the speech highlighting the governor’s legislative vision to be given

at 11 a.m. Jan. 18 at the Mayo Clinic Superior Drive Support Center in Rochester.

Medical tests and blood and tissue testing are performed at the center, which is set to expand this year with the help of tax breaks under the state’s Job Opportunity

Building Zones program.

“By taking the State of the State out of the Capitol, I hope to encourage all Minnesotans to take a greater interest in the work that will be done in St. Paul over the coming months,” Pawlenty said.

Monday, January 10

HF57—Knoblach (R)

Ways & Means

Deficiency funding provided for specified state agencies and money appropriated.

HF58—Samuelson (R)

Education Finance

Early childhood family education program funding restored and money appropriated.

HF59—Hilty (DFL)

Transportation

Carlton County; Biauxwah Bridge over the St. Louis River and Roussain Cemetery in Jay Cooke State Park dedicated.

HF60—Greiling (DFL)

Education Policy & Reform

Education commissioner eliminated as an eligible charter school sponsor.

HF61—Thissen (DFL)

Health Policy & Finance

Caregiver sick leave benefits support provided, home care income tax credit established, and money appropriated.

HF62—Carlson (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

University of Minnesota capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF63—Carlson (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF64—Cornish (R)

Taxes

Local government aid formula for cities modified.

HF65—Cornish (R)

Transportation

Farm truck definition expanded to include trucks used to transport animal carcasses to places of rendering.

HF66—Otremba (DFL)

Health Policy & Finance

Medical assistance estate recovery provisions modified, alternative care costs recoveries eliminated, liens against life estates and joint tenant interests removed and money appropriated.

HF67—Opatz (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

Tuition reciprocity annual report and renegotiation of certain reciprocity agreements required.

HF68—Urdahl (R)

Education Policy & Reform

Coaching contract non-renewal timely notice and opportunity to respond required.

HF69—Urdahl (R)

Transportation Finance

World War II veterans exempted from veteran license plate fees.

HF70—Johnson, R. (DFL)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy and Finance

Gaylord multicultural and lifelong learning center construction funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF71—Seifert (R)

Transportation

Household goods movers exempted from varying charges prohibition while transporting goods at no cost for a nonprofit organization.

HF72—Dorn (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

Minnesota State University, Mankato science lab design funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF73—Westerberg (R)

Transportation Finance

Trunk highway 65 improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF74—Nornes (R)

Higher Education Finance

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

HF75—Nornes (R)

Health Policy & Finance

Veterans homes board funding provided for state's share of specified projects, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF76—Pelowski (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

Winona State University renovation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF77—Hausman (DFL)

Capital Investment

State agency and higher education capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF78—Davids (R)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Rushford Institute for Nanotechnology, Inc., funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF79—Davids (R)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Forestville historic site funding provided and money appropriated.

HF80—Davids (R)

Agriculture, Environment &

Natural Resources Finance

Forestville segment of the Bluffland Trail system development funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF81—Peterson, A. (DFL)

Agriculture, Environment &

Natural Resources Finance

Prairie Farm Preservation Education and Exhibit Center funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF82—Nornes (R)

Taxes

City population size increased for cities permitted to hold land for economic development purposes for 15 years.

HF83—Simon (DFL)

Agriculture, Environment &

Natural Resources Finance

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

HF84—Murphy (DFL)

Taxes

Hermantown sales tax authorization expanded.

HF85—Cox (R)

Agriculture, Environment &

Natural Resources Finance

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

HF86—Peterson, S. (DFL)

Transportation Finance

I-494 and Highway 169 median safety barriers construction funding provided and money appropriated.

HF87—Kahn (DFL)

Health Policy & Finance

Hospitals and outpatient surgical centers required to report acquired infections, and advisory committee established.

HF88—Thissen (DFL)

Regulated Industries

Lottery service businesses regulated.

HF89—Opatz (DFL)

Public Safety Policy & Finance

Methamphetamine precursor substances sales regulated.

HF90—Johnson, S. (DFL)

Public Safety Policy & Finance

Methamphetamine precursor drug sales regulated and criminal penalties imposed.

HF91—Bernardy (DFL)

Public Safety Policy & Finance

Predatory offender registration requirements enhanced, community notification law disclosure of information clarified and conforming changes provided.

HF92—Latz (DFL)**Education Policy & Reform**

Perpich Center for Arts Education charter school sponsorship and electronic board meetings authorized.

HF93—Lanning (R)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Moorhead; Heritage Hjemkomst Center asset preservation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF94—Rukavina (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Eveleth police and fire trust fund benefits ad hoc postretirement adjustment provided.

HF95—Solberg (DFL)**Civil Law & Elections**

Town election judge appointment provisions modified.

HF96—Huntley (DFL)**Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 709, Duluth, renovation funding provided for Grant Magnet School, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF97—Huntley (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota-Duluth capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF98—Murphy (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Duluth sanitary sewer overflow facilities funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF99—Jaros (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Duluth; Lake Superior Zoo improvements funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF100—Jaros (DFL)**Transportation Finance**

Duluth aerial lift bridge restoration funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

HF101—Jaros (DFL)**Taxes**

Duluth sales tax administration requirement by Department of Revenue delayed.

HF102—Huntley (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center arena design and construction funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated

HF103—Huntley (DFL)**Taxes**

St. Louis Bay waterfront dock facilities relocation sales tax exemption provided.

HF104—Rukavina (DFL)**Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Snowmobile insurance premium reduction required for snowmobiles installed with hazard lighting systems.

HF105—Dorman (R)**Transportation**

Persian Gulf War veterans motorcycle license plates authorized.

HF106—Latz (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

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

HF107—Fritz (DFL)**Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Faribault Minnesota Correctional Facility Phase 1 expansion and prison industries building funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF108—Severson (R)**Education Finance**

School bus purchase levy by certain school districts authorized.

HF109—Howes (R)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Mille Lacs wastewater treatment facility wastewater collection system connection funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF110—Charron (R)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Bayport sewer system project funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF111—Greiling (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Office of Educational Accountability funding provided through the University of Minnesota and money appropriated.

HF112—Kelliher (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Bidding exception for federally subsidized transit facilities provided.

HF113—Poppe (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

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

HF114—Poppe (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

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

HF115—Fritz (DFL)**Education Finance**

Minnesota state academies capital improvements projects funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF116—Seifert (R)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Legislative approval required for certain business rules to take effect.

HF117—Rukavina (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Virginia central steam heating system capital repair bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF118—Urdahl (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development**

Food manufacturers and sellers protected from legal actions taken against them to recover damages for alleged injury or weight gain resulting from consumption of food.

HF119—Gazelka (R)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Paul Bunyan Trail extension funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF120—Erickson (R)**Transportation Finance**

Mille Lacs County; recreational bridge over Highway 169 matching grant provided and money appropriated.

HF121—Smith (R)**Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Bullet resistant vests for peace officers monetary reimbursement provided.

HF122—Smith (R)**Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Correctional officer discipline procedures created.

HF123—Magnus (R)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Lewis and Clark Rural Water System connections funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF124—Magnus (R)**Transportation**

Pipestone County; Legislative Route No. 268 turn-back authorized.

HF125—Seifert (R)**Taxes**

Joint government facilities construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

HF126—Lieder (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

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

HF127—Abeler (R)**Health Policy & Finance**

Cancer drug repository program established.

HF128—Erickson (R)**Civil Law & Elections**

Funeral provider attorney fee recovery in actions to recover costs of services authorized.

HF129—Moe (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Paul Bunyan State Trail development funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF130—Seifert (R)**Education Policy & Reform**

Parent discretion in classroom placement of children of multiple birth authorized.

HF131—Sailer (DFL)**Health Policy & Finance**

Medical assistance estate recovery modified, alternative care cost recoveries eliminated, life estate and joint tenant interest liens removed and money appropriated.

HF132—Thissen (DFL)**Health Policy & Finance**

Children's health security account and program created; eligibility criteria, services, and administrative procedures specified; tobacco tax increased and money appropriated.

HF133—Demmer (R)**Taxes**

Economic development district revenue usage regulations modified to allow certain cities to act as small cities.

HF134—Demmer (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Rochester Community and Technical College funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF135—Knoblach (R)**Health Policy & Finance**

Consumer-driven health plans encouraged and federal tax conforming changes provided.

HF136—Slawik (DFL)**Taxes**

Education expense credit and deduction application to pre-kindergarten expenses and museum memberships authorized.

HF137—Slawik (DFL)**Education Finance**

Lease levy authority cuts restored.

HF138—Slawik (DFL)**Transportation**

Safe School Zone Law enacted.

HF139—Slawik (DFL)**Transportation Finance**

Ramsey County; interchange project for I-94 at Century Avenue and McKnight Road funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF140—Slawik (DFL)**Education Policy & Reform**

Early childhood education program advisory school readiness board established.

HF141—Slawik (DFL)**Education Finance**

Technology and transportation school district levies authorized.

HF142—Slawik (DFL)**Taxes**

Dependent care income tax credit modified.

HF143—Hosch (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Richmond; sanitary sewer facility upgrade and expansion funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF144—Hosch (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lake Koronis Recreational Trail bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF145—Solberg (DFL)**Ways & Means**

State budget reports and recommendations required to conform to generally accepted governmental accounting principles and disclosure of impact of inflation on state expenditures required.

HF146—Paymar (DFL)**Education Finance**

Early childhood education program funding restored and money appropriated.

HF147—Paymar (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Membership of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives reduced.

HF148—Greiling (DFL)**Education Finance**

Education finance funding for special education, LEP, early education, after-school, and adult basic education programs restored; basic formula allowance increased; levy authority restored and money appropriated.

HF149—Slawik (DFL)**Education Finance**

Special education program growth factors restored and money appropriated.

HF150—Peterson, S. (DFL)**Education Finance**

Principled pay practices and site-based achievement contracts provided and money appropriated.

HF151—Slawik (DFL)**Education Finance**

General education basic formula allowance increased.

HF152—Slawik (DFL)**Education Finance**

Early childhood education program funding restored and money appropriated.

HF153—Huntley (DFL)**Health Policy & Finance**

Health care premium rate restrictions, cost containment provisions, loan forgiveness programs, medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and MinnesotaCare programs modified; bonds issued and money appropriated.

Wednesday, January 12**HF154—Rukavina (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

WIC supplemental food home delivery federal approval required.

HF155—Hausman (DFL)**Regulated Industries**

Off-sale intoxicating liquor license issuance by city for establishment within one-half mile of University of Minnesota College of Agriculture permitted.

HF156—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Mine pit water level control bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF157—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Itasca County; Canisteo Mine flooding alleviation bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF158—Kahn (DFL)**Health Policy & Finance**

Cervical cancer elimination task force established.

HF159—Kahn (DFL)**Local Government**

Pension deficit bonding referendum and draft legislation for 2006 session required.

HF160—Kahn (DFL)**Environment & Natural Resources**

Outdoor light pollution restricted.

HF161—Peterson, A. (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Bonanza Education Center excursion boat and landing bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF162—Peterson, A. (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Lincoln County; Lake Benton improvement bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF163—Bradley (R)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Rochester Bioscience Core Area bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF164—Demmer (R)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Olmsted County; municipal solid waste combustor expansion grant bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF165—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Applied doctoral degrees at state universities authorized.

HF166—Abrams (R)**Taxes**

Charitable contribution income tax deductions relating to tsunami relief donations accelerated.

HF167—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

St. Cloud State University capital improvements bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF168—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

St. Cloud State University capital improvement design bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF169—Rukavina (DFL)**Taxes**

Homestead property tax exemption for permanently and totally disabled veterans or their spouses provided.

HF170—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

St. Cloud State University capital improvement design bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF171—Anderson, B. (R)**Transportation**

Special license plates for veterans of global war on terrorism authorized.

HF172—Opatz (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

St. Cloud Area Regional Parks and Trails Coordinating Board grant bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF173—Opatz (DFL)**Transportation Finance**

Northstar commuter rail system bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF174—Opatz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

St. Cloud Technical College capital improvement bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF175—Garofalo (R)**Transportation Finance**

Dakota County; highway overpass bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF176—Dempsey (R)**Taxes**

Wabasha redevelopment district extension authorized.

HF177—Moe (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

Bemidji State University and Northwest Technical College bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF178—Moe (DFL)**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Teacher benefit provided.

HF179—Huntley (DFL)**Regulated Industries**

Compulsive gambling prevention and education money appropriated.

HF180—Paymar (DFL)**Taxes**

Limited market value law permanence provided.

HF181—Solberg (DFL)**Transportation Finance**

Aitkin County; Great River Road money appropriated.

HF182—Solberg (DFL)**Taxes**

Aitkin County and Independent School District No. 1 joint hearings authorized.

HF183—Fritz (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

South Central Technical College capital improvements bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF184—Erickson (R)**Education Finance**

Onamia; cooperative joint community learning center and health and wellness center geothermal system bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF185—Blaine (R)**Transportation Finance**

Morrison County; Highway 10 Soo Line Corridor park-and-ride lot bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF186—Blaine (R)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy and Finance**

Little Falls; Pine Grove Park Zoo bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF187—Blaine (R)**Transportation**

Purple heart memorial highway designated.

HF188—Blaine (R)**Transportation Finance**

Crow Wing County; townline bridge bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF189—Blaine (R)**Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Privacy interference offense penalty increased and penalty for pattern of conduct involving interference with privacy established.

HF190—Anderson, I. (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Minnesota Steel Industries water and sewer infrastructure components bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF191—Hausman (DFL)**Transportation Finance**

Central Corridor transit way bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF192—Hausman (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

St. Paul; Como Park Zoo renovation bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF193—Solberg (DFL)**Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota; North Central Research and Outreach Center capital improvement bonds issued.

HF194—Anderson, I. (DFL)**State Government Finance**

World War II veterans memorial bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF195—Greiling (DFL)**Education Finance**

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

HF196—Solberg (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Mississippi Headwaters Board money appropriated.

HF197—Simpson (R)**Higher Education Finance**

Central Lakes College; Staples campuses bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF198—Erhardt (R)**Education Finance**

Referendum allowance limit eliminated.

HF199—Penas (R)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Flood hazard mitigation project bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF200—Howes (R)**Taxes**

Military pension income taxation subtraction allowed.

HF201—Kahn (DFL)**Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Minneapolis; University Research Park bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF202—Urdahl (R)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

University of Minnesota; joint plant pathology center bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF203—Sailer (DFL)**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Big Bog State Recreation Area development bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF204—Garofalo (R)**Transportation**

Traffic signal override device possession restricted and penalty provided.

HF205—Howes (R)**Education Policy & Reform**

Commencement of school year prior to Labor Day prohibited.

Thursday, January 13

HF206—Poppe (DFL) **Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Southern Minnesota; severe storms and flooding cleanup and relief funding provided for federally defined area DR-1569, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF207—Hamilton (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs
Sexual predator criminal penalties provided, indeterminate and mandatory life sentencing imposed, Sex Offender Review Board established, data access provided and Open Meeting Law exemption specified.

HF208—Gunther (R)
Public Safety Policy & Finance
Blue Earth fire and police station funding provided, bonds issued and money provided.

HF209—Blaine (R)
Local Government
Township levy and spending authority clarified.

HF210—Blaine (R)
Local Government
Fire departments reimbursed for expenses incurred in extinguishing motor vehicle fires, cities and towns authorized to collect unpaid bills for emergency services from nonresidents and money appropriated.

HF211—Lieder (DFL)
Taxes
Lawful gambling tax rate reduced and single occasion bingo session time restriction eliminated.

HF212—Dorman (R)
Transportation Finance
Two-wheeled vehicle license endorsement fees re-allocated to the motorcycle safety fund and funding cap removed.

HF213—Erickson (R)
Education Finance
Library accessibility and improvement grants provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF214—Lanning (R)
Health Policy & Finance
Medical assistance recoveries life estate and joint tenancy interests continuation provisions effective date modified and refunds of recovered money required.

HF215—Cornish (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Natural Resources Department volunteer instructor background checks provided and safety training provisions modified.

HF216—Davids (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development
Ethanol minimum content required in gasoline, renewable liquid fuel goal established and promotion activities required.

HF217—Kohls (R)
Civil Law & Elections
Seat belt and child passenger restraint system evidence admissibility prohibition repealed relating to civil actions.

HF218—Cornish (R)
Regulated Industries
Renewable energy production incentive eligibility extended.

HF219—Thissen (DFL)
Health Policy & Finance
Medical assistance spend down standard increased for persons who are aged, blind or disabled.

HF220—Thissen (DFL)
Commerce & Financial Institutions
Time-price doctrine abolished and business lending truth-in-lending compliance required.

HF221—Davids (R)
Civil Law & Elections
Recreational purpose land definition expanded to include land used for rock climbing and exploring caves relating to civil actions.

HF222—Johnson, S. (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development
Forest pest monitoring, detection and control grants program established for municipalities administered by the Department of Agriculture.

HF223—Davids (R)
Agriculture & Rural Development
Ethanol minimum content in gasoline increased.

HF224—Otremba (DFL)
Agriculture & Rural Development
Ethanol minimum content in gasoline increased.

HF225—Holberg (R)
Civil Law & Elections
Minnesota Government Data Practices Act technical, conforming and clarifying changes provided.

HF226—Smith (R)
Health Policy & Finance
Abortion notification data reporting required relating to abortions performed on a minor or specified other women.

HF227—Blaine (R)
Health Policy & Finance
Family planning grant funds use limited to exclude abortion services.

HF228—Paymar (DFL)
Local Government
Municipal prohibition on termination by amortization limited to exclude nonconforming billboards.

HF229—Newman (R)
Taxes
Income tax check-off provided to fund grants for members of the National Guard and reserves that have incurred financial need as a result of active service since 9/11, administration by the adjutant general authorized and money appropriated.

HF230—Johnson, S. (DFL)
Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Mississippi River; metropolitan area bluffs lands acquisition funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF231—Dill (DFL)
Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Quick-response fire suppression aircraft funding provided to the Department of Natural Resources, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF232—Bernardy (DFL)
Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance
Basic education formula allowance increased; special education, limited English proficiency programs, early education, after-school programs, and adult basic education funding restored; levy authority reinstated and money appropriated.

HF233—Thissen (DFL)
Regulated Industries
Lottery games authorized to support local parks.

HF234—Anderson, B. (R)
Education Finance
Wright Technical Center building lease levy use expanded.

HF235—Otremba (DFL)
Health Policy & Finance
Unborn child pain prevention act adopted and criminal penalties imposed.

HF236—Davids (R)
Regulated Industries
Caledonia on-sale liquor license authorized for events at the Four Seasons Center.

HF237—Juhnke (DFL)
Civil Law & Elections
State general election on questions permitted in odd-numbered years.

HF238—Rukavina (DFL)
Commerce & Financial Institutions
American flags sold required to be made in America.

HF239—Kelliher (DFL)
Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance
Minneapolis; planetarium and space discovery center development funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF240—Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs
Volunteer firefighter relief association consolidation provisions specified for Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes and Palo associations.

HF241—Vandever (R)
Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs
Public employers and contractors prohibited from forbidding employees from wearing an American flag patch or pin.

HF242—Anderson, I. (DFL)

State Government Finance

House of Representatives office building design funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF243—Simon (DFL)

Public Safety Policy & Finance

Electronic use of false pretense to obtain identity of another person prohibited and criminal penalties imposed.

HF244—Murphy (DFL)

Higher Education Finance

Lake Superior College academic and services addition funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF245—Peppin (R)

Health Policy & Finance

Abortion standard in the state required to match the United States Constitution.

HF246—Tingelstad (R)

Transportation Finance

Northstar commuter rail funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF247—Johnson, J. (R)

Education Finance

School district referendum allowance limit repealed.

HF248—Juhnke (DFL)

Education Finance

Common School District No. 815, Prinsburg, referendum authority converted; school levy recertification authorized and private school student exemption percentage modified.

HF249—Westrom (R)

Taxes

Special agricultural homestead property tax classification extended to include grandchildren.

HF250—Lanning (R)

Public Safety Policy & Finance

Corrections Department required to convene end-of-confinement review committee to assess the risk level of offenders from other states, assessment of offenders released from federal facilities clarified and community notification provided.

HF251—Lieder (DFL)

Education Finance

Health and safety revenue uses expanded to cover the costs of replacing certain school buses.

HF252—Lieder (DFL)

Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Red Lake River Joint Powers Board grants provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF253—Hansen (DFL)

Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

South St. Paul landfill reclamation and parkland conversion funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF254—Heidgerken (R)

Transportation

Legislative Route No. 143 description amended.

HF255—Lanning (R)

Transportation

Trunk highway 10 bridge between Moorhead and Fargo designated as Veterans Memorial Bridge.

HF256—Smith (R)

Public Safety Policy & Finance

Law enforcement agencies required to return personal property seized if criminal charges are not filed within 90 days.

HF257—Bernardy (DFL)

Transportation Finance

Northstar rail corridor funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF258—Lanning (R)

Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Oakport Township; flood hazard mitigation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF259—Poppe (DFL)

Civil Law & Elections

Presidential electors required to vote by public ballot and speak aloud the name of the candidates for whom they are voting.

HF260—Koenen (DFL)

Jobs & Economic

Opportunity Policy & Finance

Buffalo Lake; construction grant provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF261—Koenen (DFL)

Transportation

Transportation commissioner prohibited from requiring concrete suppliers to provide computerized certificates of compliance for highway construction contracts.

HF262—Koenen (DFL)

Transportation

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

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Frequently asked questions

Legislative information is just a few keystrokes away

Who are my representative and senator?

The easiest way is to look this up online at <http://www.leg.mn/leg/Districtfinder.asp>. One simply has to enter their address and zip code to access a list of state and federal representatives and senators along with their contact information. Please note that your browser must allow pop-ups for this to work.

The Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State also has a place on its Web site that allows users to determine their representation and where they can cast a ballot. At <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us> users enter their zip code or county of residency followed by their address. The site will then produce polling place information and the district numbers for both state and federal representation.

For those without Internet access, staff at the House Public Information Services Office and Senate Information Office can determine who represents you. They can be reached at (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550 (House) and (651) 296-0504 or 1-800-234-1112 (Senate). For TTY users the numbers are (651) 296-9896 or 1-800-657-3550 (House) and (651) 296-0250 or 1-888-234-1116 (Senate).

How do I contact my representative and senator?

All members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate can be reached by telephone, e-mail or regular mail. A House/Senate member roster containing addresses and phone numbers is available through the House Public Information Services Office at <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/publications.htm>.

Member e-mail addresses are either `rep.firstname.lastname@house.mn` or `sen.firstname.lastname@senate.mn`. For example: `rep.steve.sviggum@house.mn` or `sen.jim.metzen@senate.mn`. There is not one address that will get a message to all legislators.

How can I find out how my member voted on an issue?

There are three primary places: the House or Senate Journal or on the Web.

The daily journals, compiled by the House Chief Clerk's Office and the Secretary of the Senate, are the official records of legislative proceedings, including floor votes.

Journals are printed after each day's session

and made available to members, staff and the public. Following a legislative session the journals are compiled into permanent publications. Journals may also be accessed online at <http://www.house.mn/cc/journals/journal.htm> or <http://www.senate.mn/journals>.

On the Web, one can simply click on Legislation and Bill Status at <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp> and enter the file you are searching to begin the process. For House action, click status on the next screen, and click on Recorded Roll Call Floor Votes to get voting details. For Senate totals, enter the bill number and click status on the next page. At the bottom of the status page will be the passage total. Next to that will be a link to the journal page where the vote is recorded. Bill totals are available beginning with the 1993-94 biennium.

Is it possible to follow a bill online?

Yes. The best place to find out how is at <http://www.leg.mn/leg/trackbil.asp>.

Where can I obtain a copy of a bill?

Copies may be downloaded by going to <http://www.leg.mn/leg/legis.asp>, entering the bill number and then clicking on text of bill.

Copies are also available at the Chief Clerk's Office in room 211 of the State Capitol and at the Senate Information Office in room 231 of the State Capitol. Call (651) 296-2314, (651) 296-0504 or 1-888-234-1112 for more information.

Where can I get the status of a bill?

House Index Department staff can quickly determine where a bill is at in the legislative process. You can contact them at (651) 296-6646 or in room 211 of the State Capitol. They are part of the House Chief Clerk's Office.

Legislative followers can also use the MyBills program to receive personalized bill tracking for current legislation. The program allows a user to track House or Senate bills by bill number, subject, or author. MyBills can be accessed at <http://www.house.mn/leg/bill-sublogin.asp>.

If I want to come to the State Capitol, where should I park?

Public metered parking is available west of the State Office Building across Rice Street, in Lot F next to the Transportation Building, in Lot Q at Cedar Street and Sherburne Avenue about a block northeast of the Capitol, and in Lot K or the Centennial Building ramp, both near the intersection of Cedar and 12th streets in the southeast area of the Capitol complex.

Handicapped parking is available in most Capitol complex lots, and in Lot N directly behind the State Capitol.

All-day parking passes can be purchased for \$4 from Plant Management on the ground floor of the Administration Building at 50 Sherburne Ave., one block north of the Capitol. For more information call (651) 297-3993.

Many bus lines also serve the Capitol complex. Contact Metro Transit at (612) 373-3333 or www.metrotransit.org for more information.

A two-page document (<http://www.house.mn.us/hinfo/Cme2Cap.pdf>) produced by the House Public Information Services Office provides information to make your visit easier.

Can I testify at a hearing?

Usually. When a bill is heard before a committee both opponents and proponents are typically given the opportunity to testify. The chief author may invite witnesses to testify for the bill. Opponents may also organize interested people to testify. Legislators can question any testifiers.

When time is limited, a committee chair may limit testifiers to people who asked in advance to speak and then evenly divide the time among different points of view so a sampling of public opinion is heard.

It is recommended that people speaking before a committee keep their comments to the topic being discussed, and brevity is encouraged when many other people also wish to speak.

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

Call House Public Information Services at (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550

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

MINNESOTA INDEX

State constitutional amendments

Throughout statehood, constitutional amendments that Minnesotans have voted on	211
Number adopted	118
Amount, in millions of dollars, for a railroad loan that was subject of first state constitutional amendment in 1858	5
In 100 regular sessions between 1857 and 2004, number of times the Legislature has sent at least one constitutional amendment question to voters	68
Number of regular sessions since this last happened	6
Bills introduced in the 2004 session	1,554
Those that sought a constitutional amendment	23
Number of constitutional amendments sent to voters from 1910 to 1920	35
Those that were adopted	7
Percent of pre-1900 amendments going to voters that were adopted	72
Since 1900, as percent	49
Of those that failed during the 20th century, percent that had more actual "no" than "yes" votes	15
Year the state constitution changed so that an amendment must be ratified by a majority of all people voting, meaning nonvoters on the amendment question are counted as a "no" vote	1898
Percent of amendments proposed in presidential election years that have been adopted	54
Percent in non-presidential years	58
Elections that voters considered two state constitutional amendments	17
Three amendments	15
Four or more	12
Percent of constitutional amendments ratified when just one was on the ballot	43
Percent when two amendments	76
Percent when three amendments	69
Percent when four amendments	64
Proposed amendments submitted to voters in substantially the same form more than once	26
Those appearing three or more times	8
Ratification rate, as percent, of those appearing three or more times	75
Last year an amendment was ratified on its third try	1938
Lone year an amendment was ratified on its fourth try	1942

Sources: Minnesota State Constitutional Amendments, Frequency, Number and Ratification Rates, House Research Department, November 2004; Minnesota Legislative Manual 2003-2004, Office of the Secretary of State; House Public Information Services Office.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

Teletypewriter for the hearing impaired. To ask questions or leave messages, call:
 TTY Line (651) 296-9896 or
 1-800-657-3550

Check your local listings to watch television coverage of House committees and floor sessions.

Senate Information
 (651) 296-0504
 1-888-234-1112

Senate Index
 (651) 296-5560

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