Session Weekly is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Services office. During the 2005-2006 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions, and provides other information. No fee.

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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 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 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.

Chief sponsor is passionate about HF1

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

Like Sjoedin 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 Sjoedin worked. He knows many people who knew Sjoedin. 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. Sjoedin’s family may also be involved.

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


PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

First READING
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)
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 total amount it borrows and a 1 percent limit on the annual increase in each year’s debt load.

Currently, the state has $3.46 billion in debt 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 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 Knoblach (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.

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 Gillaspy, 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.

**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

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**PROUD PORTRAIT**

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.

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**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 Gillaspy, state demographer.
(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.


**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 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.
PROCESS

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 development 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, go 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 gavelled 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-income 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?”
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 temperament 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/l884comchairs.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

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| 101 Capitol .............................. 296-6196 |
| Sergeant-at-Arms, Senate |
| Senate Chamber .............................. 296-7514/296-1119 |
| Committee Hotline, Senate .............................. 296-8088 |
| Legislative Reference Library .............................. 296-3398 |
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Committee Information
2005-06 Minnesota House of Representatives
Assignments as of 1/12/05

Agriculture and Rural Development
477 State Office Building .......... 296-9278
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 Clark .............................. 296-1540
Committee Legislative Assistant
Denise Berger ......................... 296-8857

Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance
479 State Office Building .......... 296-4306
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
Hackbart-R .......................... Peterson, A.-DFL
Hoppe-R ............................ Urdahl-R
Johnson, S.-DFL ................... Knoblach-R**
Magnus-R .........................

Staff
Committee Administrator
Marilyn Brick ......................... 296-8893
Committee Legislative Assistant
Rebecca Lowden ..................... 296-4230

Capital Investment
517 State Office Building .......... 296-8216
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
Kellicher-DFL ..................... Tingelstad-R
Knoblach-R ......................

Staff
Committee Administrator
LaRissa Pelto .......................... 296-8875
Committee Legislative Assistant
Rory Koch ............................... 296-5394

Civil Law and Elections
401 State Office Building .......... 296-5511
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 Virden ....................... 296-6860
Committee Legislative Assistant
Joyce Rogers ....................... 296-9710

Commerce and Financial Institutions
551 State Office Building .......... 296-3533
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 ........................... Vandeveer-R
Liebling-DFL ..................... Zellers-R
Loeffler-DFL ......................

Staff
Committee Administrator
Andy Gildea ......................... 296-5065
Committee Legislative Assistant
Robert Freeman ..................... 296-5994

Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division
421 State Office Building .......... 296-4282
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 Gildea ......................... 296-5065
Committee Legislative Assistant
Robert Freeman ..................... 296-5994

This list is subject to change.
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Assignments as of 1/12/05 *Rooms in State Office Building **-Non-voting member All area codes are 651
Tourism Division
451 State Office Building 296-2451
Meet: 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 Freeman 296-5994

Education Finance
485 State Office Building 296-4315
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

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 Johnson 296-7167

Education Policy and Reform
445 State Office Building 296-7185
Meet: 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 Graeling-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 Building 296-2439
Meet: Call of the Chair*

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
Horton-DFL Wagenius-DFL
Kelliher-DFL Wetli-DFL
McNamara-DFL Westrom-R
Nornes-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jacob Hamlin 297-5723
Committee Legislative Assistant
Joan Harmon 296-3641

Health Policy and Finance
563 State Office Building 296-9249
Meet: 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: Otremba-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 Geroux 296-7185
Committee Legislative Assistant
Cheryl Burke 296-4375

Ethics
473 State Office Building 296-6746
Meet: Call of the Chair*

Members: 4
Chair: Erickson-R
Vice Chair: Carlson-DFL
Atkins-DFL Newman-R (A)
Emmer-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Becky Girvan 296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
Mary Telega 296-5992

Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs
403 State Office Building 296-5369
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 22
Chair: Tingelstad-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 Neske 296-4283
Committee Legislative Assistant
Alicia Davis 296-1544

Assignments as of 1/12/05
*Rooms in State Office Building
**-Non-voting member
All area codes are 651

January 14, 2005
Health Care Cost Containment Division  
509 State Office Building ..............296-1729  
Meet: Call of the Chair*  

Members: 11  
Chair: Abeler-R  
Lead-DFL: Thissen-DFL  
Bradley-R Otrema-DFL  
Brod-R Peppin-R  
Goodwin-DFL Powell-R  
Grieling-DFL Westerberg-R  
Huntley-DFL  

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Brian Steinhoff ...............................296-5069  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Kitty Musty .................................296-3316  

Local Government  
501 State Office Building ..............296-4237  
Meet: 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 Cummins ..............................296-3244  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Dale Easterday ..............................296-9463  

Public Safety Policy and Finance  
543 State Office Building ..............296-9188  
Meet: 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  
Haussman-DFL Soderstrom-R  
Hilstrom-DFL Knoblauch-R**  
Johnson, J.-R  

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Open  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
David Anderson ............................296-4119  

Regulated Industries  
533 State Office Building ..............296-4929  
Meet: 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 Fahey .................................296-9302  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Kathleen Anderson ........................296-8871  

Gaming Division  
549 State Office Building ..............296-4226  
Meet: 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 Fahey .................................296-9302  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Kathleen Anderson ........................296-8871  

Higher Education Finance  
471 State Office Building ..............296-4946  
Meet: 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 Knoblauch-R**  

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Mike Miller .................................296-7168  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Telega .................................296-5992  

Jobs and Economic  
Opportunity Policy and Finance  
559 State Office Building ..............296-3240  
Meet: 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 Knoblauch-R**  
Sertich-DFL  

Assignments as of 1/12/05  
*Rooms in State Office Building  
**-Non-voting member  
All area codes are 651 

January 14, 2005
Rules and Legislative Administration
459 State Office Building ..........296-7449
Meet: Call of the Chair*

Members: 23
Chair: Paulsen-R
Vice Chair: Samuelson-R
Lead-DFL: Carlson-DFL
Abrams-R Magnus-R
Anderson, B.-R Moed-DFL
Bernardy-DFL Ozment-R
Hoppe-R Poppe-DFL
Hosch-DFL Sailer-DFL
Johnson, J.-R Seifert-R
Juhnke-DFL Sertich-DFL
Kellihier-DFL Smith-R
Kohls-R Sviggum-R
Loeffler-DFL Tinglestad-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Laurie Esau .................................296-4112
Committee Legislative Assistant
Lesley Hinz .................................296-9183

State Government Finance
381 State Office Building ..........296-5374
Meet: 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 Knoblauch-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jared Jordal ...............................296-5318
Committee Legislative Assistant
Dan Miller .................................296-5336

Taxes
365 State Office Building ..........296-2907
Meet: 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 | Anderson, I.-DFL | Knoblauch-R |
| Atkins-DFL | Bernardy-DFL | Koenen-DFL |
| Brod-R | Davids-R | Kohls-R |
| Davnie-DFL | DeLaForest-R | Lanning-R |
| Dill-DFL | Dornan-R | Lesch-DFL |
| Erhardt-R | Howes-R | Marquart-DFL |
| Jaros-DFL | Knoblauch-R | Mullery-DFL |

Property and Local Tax Division
583 State Office Building ..........296-4124
Meet: Call of the Chair*

Members: 10
Chair: VanDeveer-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 Stone ............................296-5367
Committee Legislative Assistant
Jeremy Estenson ........................296-4295

Transportation
591 State Office Building ..........296-4363
Meet: 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
Gazela-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 Holmstrom ........................296-5489

Transportation Finance
443 State Office Building ..........296-6926
Meet: 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 Knoblauch-R**

Staff
Committee Administrator
Becky Girvan ............................296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
Joyce Vogt ...............................297-8407

Ways and Means
453 State Office Building ..........296-6316
Meet: Mondays, 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 38
Chair: Knoblauch-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
Dornan-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 VanDeveer-R
Holberg-R Wagenius-DFL
Huntley-DFL Walker-DFL
Kellihier-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Kevin Matzek .........................296-4110
Committee Legislative Assistant
Shirley Koderick .......................296-4999
### Minnesota House of Representatives
#### 2005-06 Standing Committee Schedule

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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:15</td>
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<td>to</td>
<td>Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance 5</td>
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| 10:15 a.m. to noon |           |           |          |        |
|                   | Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs 5 | Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs 5 | Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs 5 | No regular meetings are scheduled on Fridays. |
|                   | Health Policy and Finance 10 | Health Policy and Finance 10 | Health Policy and Finance 10 |                  |
|                   | Taxes 200 | Taxes 200 | Taxes 200 | |

| 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. |           |           |          |        |
| Civil Law and Elections B | Commerce and Financial Institutions 200 | Civil Law and Elections B | Commerce and Financial Institutions 200 |
| Higher Education Finance 300S | Education Finance 5 | Education Finance 5 | Education Finance 5 |
| Local Government 10 | Environment and Natural Resources B | Higher Education Finance 300S | Environment and Natural Resources B |
| Ways and Means 200 | Transportation Finance 10 | Local Government 10 | Transportation Finance 10 |

| 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. |           |           |          |        |
|                   | Agriculture and Rural Development B | Agriculture and Rural Development B |          |
|                   | Capital Investment 200 | Capital Investment 200 |          |
|                   | Regulated Industries 5 | Regulated Industries 5 |          |
|                   | Transportation 10 | 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

“T”he 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 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.
• 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.”
• Rep. Neil W. Peterson (R-Lindstrom) 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.

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.

“If 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; Biauswah 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 Bluff 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
Mill Towns State Trail segment 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 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  
Healthcare premium rate restrictions, cost containment provisions, loan forgiveness programs, medical assistance, general assistance medical care, and MinnesotaCare programs modified; bonds issued and money appropriated.

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  
Lake Pepin marriage 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 and 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**  
World War II veterans memorial bonds issued.

HF203—Sailer (DFL)  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
South Central Technical College capital improvement 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 reallocated 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 bluffslands 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—Vandeveer (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 re-certification 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 extended.

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
President 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.
**Frequently asked questions**

*Legislative information is just a few keystrokes away*

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**Who are my representative and senator?**

The easiest way is to look this up online at [http://www.leg.mn/leg/Districtfinder.asp](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](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).

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**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](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.

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**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/ccojournals/journl.htm](http://www.house.mn/ccojournals/journl.htm) or [http://www.senate.mn/journals](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](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.

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**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](http://www.leg.mn/leg/trackbil.asp).

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**Where can I obtain a copy of a bill?**

Copies may be downloaded by going to [http://www.leg.mn/leg/legis.asp](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.

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**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](http://www.house.mn/leg/bill-sublogin.asp).

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**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](http://www.metrotransit.org) for more information.

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

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**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.
### 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: 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

Proosed 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