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# SESSION Weekly

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INSIDE: STATE FACES A BUDGET CHALLENGE, FUND TAPPING, CAPITOL GUARDIANS, SAVING SOLUTIONS, AND MORE

This Week's Bill Introductions HF374-HF564

# SESSION Weekly

*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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**On the cover:** Members of the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee gather in the lobby of the Minnesota Science Museum Jan. 25 prior to a briefing and tour of the St. Paul facility.

—Photo by: Andrew VonBank

# Supervising sex offenders

Report details areas of concern, suggestions for improvement

By Ruth Dunn

More than 7,000 adults living in Minnesota communities are registered with the state as “predatory offenders” because of their crimes, mainly sex offenses, according to James Nobles, legislative auditor. “They create one of the state’s most difficult public safety challenges,” said Nobles while presenting his office’s latest evaluation report to the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee, Jan. 26.

According to the report, “Community Su-

pervision of Sex Offenders,” compiled by the Office of the Legislative Auditor, state and local governments have taken steps to lessen the risk, but more needs to be done, especially in the areas of assessment, supervision, caseloads, treatment, transition housing, victim protection, repeat offenders and agent training.

Building more prisons or increasing jail time won’t solve the problem of sex offenders. “You could do all that and still have thousands of sex offenders living in Minnesota communities,” said Nobles. “That is the hard reality: convicted sex offenders are living in Minnesota communities. They pose a risk — some of them pose a serious risk.”

Many of the issues have to do with the transition these offenders make from prison to the community, he said. Convicted sex offenders serve two-thirds of their sentences in prison then are released into the community, under supervision, for the remaining one-third of their sentences. A total of 4,500 adult sex offenders were under the supervision of state or county corrections as of June 2004, either on supervised release from prison or on probation. (Those who have completed their sentences or probation continue to be registered but are no longer supervised.)

Improvements have been made in recent years in some areas, according to the report. The Legislature has set stricter criminal sentences for convicted sex offenders, initiated a statewide registry of information about known sex offenders and established public notification procedures when sex offenders are released

## Areas of concern

**Assessments:** Courts are to receive assessments of offenders before sentences are issued, but often this doesn’t happen so judges are giving sentences without full knowledge of the offender. According to Joel Alter, project manager of the report, assessments help courts determine treatment needs, but also inform judges and corrections staff about offenders sexual and criminal histories.

**Supervision:** When sex offenders are first released from prison, they are under intensive supervised release for about the first year. Offenders receive a median of 70 home visits a year, 35 other face-to-face contacts and 44 drug or alcohol tests. When intensive supervised release ends, contacts dramatically drop, said Alter. In addition, sex offender supervision practices vary widely, reflecting a lack of statewide policies.

**Caseloads:** Sex offender agents should each be supervising no more than 35 to 40 sex offender who have completed the first year of intense supervision. Caseloads often exceed that limit, according to the report.

**Treatment:** State spending for treatment is at its lowest point in years, according to the report. Many inmates do not complete treatment before their release from prison and this jeopardizes public safety and shifts the cost burden to community agencies, according to the report.

**Transition housing:** There is a shortage of halfway houses, especially in Greater Minnesota. In 2004, state funding for halfway houses was one-third what it was in 2002, according to the report.

**Victim protection:** Additional protection is needed for potential sex offense victims. The report says it is critically important that child protection agencies be notified before sex offenders are released. Also, places with vulnerable adults, like nursing homes, need to be notified when a sex offender will be living there, even on a temporary basis.

**Repeat offenders:** Many repeat sex offenders have not been referred to the Minnesota State Security Hospital in St. Peter for assessments, contrary to state law.

**Training:** Special training is required for all agents who supervise sex offenders. Most, but not, all sex offender agents have completed the training. However some took the course several years ago.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Joel Alter, legislative auditor, presents a program evaluation report on “Community Supervision of Sex Offenders” during the Jan. 26 meeting of the Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee.

First Reading continued on page 4

from prison.

Corrections directors surveyed for the report would like to see more unannounced home visits, surveillance checks on offenders, reviews of offender computer use, and polygraph lie detector tests. All these tools help break through the “veil of secrecy” around sex offenses, according to the report.

The Community Supervision of Sex Offenders report is available at [www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us) or by calling 651-296-4708.

## You Should Know

Information about Minnesota adult sex offenders sentenced in 2003

- 98 % of sex offenders were men.
- Median age was 30.
- 88% of the victims were female and 12% were male.
- 32% of offenders were family members of the victims; 50% were acquaintances, 8% were in positions of authority, and 7% were strangers to victims.
- 84% of sex offenses involved children under age 18.
- Counties with the most registered adult sex offenders per 1,000 population (from highest to lowest): Kanabec, Cass, Pine, Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka.



Capitol Security, angels and eagles aren't the only ones guarding the Capitol. Just inside the front entrance is an Italian marble bench graced with griffins.

A griffin is a mythical composite creature with the head, wings and claws of an eagle and the body of a lion. It has been portrayed as a protector of kings and a master of both earth and sky in many versions of Greek and Roman mythology.

The bench and its companion seat were a gift to the state from John De Laittre, who served on the Board of State Capitol Commissioners that directed the building's construction.

According to Neil Thompson's book "Minnesota's State Capitol: The Art and Politics of a Public Building," De Laittre had "one of the more romantic backgrounds" of the men who served on the board. He left Maine in 1852 in search of California gold but instead landed in Minnesota. In 1865, he settled in Minneapolis and was a bank president by the time he was appointed to the Capitol project.

In a 1936 account of growing up surrounded by the Capitol construction, Edith Seabury Nye, daughter of De Laittre's fellow board member Channing Seabury, recalls De Laittre as "a man of the world, who brought back

## Capitol guardians



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

from his travels the two beautiful Italian marble benches he gave to the building, which are just inside, and on either side of the main entrance."

It's a bit more accurate to say that De Laittre brought the idea for the benches back from his travels.

The stone seats, older than the Capitol and European in origin, were already antiques by the time Capitol architect Cass Gilbert selected them in 1904 through a New York art dealer. A note from Gilbert to the dealer, dated April 8, 1904, confirms the purchase. "Send copy to Mr. John De Laittre. I will select the two best seats and have them shipped as soon as I can get around to it, probably next week — send him the bill."

(N. Wood)

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

For information about upcoming Capitol Centennial Celebration events:  
Minnesota Historical Society State Capitol Site, (651) 296-2881  
[www.mnhs.org/places/sites/msc](http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/msc)  
Minnesota State Capitol Centennial Celebration, (651) 203-7246  
[www.ourhouse100.com](http://www.ourhouse100.com)

A griffin stands guard inside the front entrance of the Capitol. The mythological sentry is carved in an ornate Italian marble bench that has greeted visitors since the doors first opened in 1905.

★ **BONDING**

**More beds, more space**

Converting a Silver Bay, Minn. school building from 1953 into a veteran's hospital has been a challenge, Stephen Musser, executive director of the Minnesota Veterans Homes Board told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 24.

The board is requesting \$1.3 million in bonding monies from the Legislature for renovation of additional clinic space and resident support and administration offices. Also, the lower level of the building would be renovated for vehicles, storage, a loading dock, and more.

Other bonding requests from the board total \$16.3 million and include:

- \$11 million for asset preservation for 50 buildings and five veterans home locations for maintenance,
- \$2.6 million for the Minneapolis Veterans Home for remodeling to provide adult day care services and renovation of a 30 year old kitchen area,
- \$282,450 for the Luverne Veterans Home for a building addition to house Alzheimer's/Dementia day programs with a walking area for residents, and
- \$2.3 million for the Fergus Falls Veterans Home to add 21 Alzheimer's/Dementia beds.

The governor's recommendations include \$6 million for asset preservation and \$306,000 for the Luverne facility.

Funding for veterans' homes also comes from state grants, totaling \$12.3 million.

The committee took no action on the bonding proposals.

The average veterans home resident is a 78 year old male, who is a WWII vet with either Alzheimer's disease, dementia or chronic organic brain syndrome.

The waiting list for a skilled care bed in the Minneapolis facility is 424 and includes a 2 to 4 month wait for limited assistance; higher assistance is a 10 to 12 month wait.

★ **DEVELOPMENT**

**Cities versus townships**

An ongoing battle between cities and townships over annexation continued in the House Local Government Committee Jan. 24.

Township representatives testified before the committee, saying Minnesota laws are currently stacked against them in favor of cities'

**VETERANS ISSUES**



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Larry Shellito, Adjutant General, Department of Military Affairs, testifies before the State Government Finance Committee Jan. 26. The committee heard from several veterans groups about military and veterans issues.**

developments. City representatives said townships agreed to changes in annexation laws in 1999, and now want laws in favor of them.

Around 83 percent of contested annexation cases between cities and townships are won by cities, said Christine Scottillo, executive secretary for Municipal Boundary Adjustments in the Department of Administration.

"Municipal boundary adjustment is designed to facilitate city growth, to unify all the statutory laws and get them into one uniform system so that we have boundary changes judged against the same legislative criteria, regardless of what part of the state they are in," she explained.

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville) questioned how many of the annexation cases involved a provision in statutes allowing a city to annex property of 60 acres or less. Scottillo responded, "The vast majority use the 60 acre or less provision...which are not contestable."

Annexation helps facilitate city growth, testified Kari Thurlow, representative for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. She said the coalition will be coming forward with suggested changes in legislation that include allowing cities more options to annex property.

What's wrong with the contested case proceedings is, "if you look at the percentage of acres filed from July 1, 1998 to Jan. 31, 2004, the townships agreed to about 28 percent of the acres filed, the cities unilaterally, or in conjunction with the property owner but without the townships agreement, filed 72 percent of the acres," said Michael Couri, a representative with the Minnesota Association of Townships.

The township association suggests examin-



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Michael Couri, center, of the Local Government Alliance testifies before the Local Government Committee about litigation. Robert Rippe, left, Local Government Alliance, and Kent Sulem, right, Minnesota Association of Townships, listen to the testimony.**

ing what services are needed and how they can be best provided. Another legislative proposal included focusing on the need to balance the rights of property owners versus the annexation rights of others.

The committee took no action, but chair Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake) said the committee will be looking into the issue in future meetings.

## ★ EDUCATION

### Testing changes

A state test used for many years as a requirement for high school graduation would be eliminated and other tests expanded under recommendations the Department of Education (DOE) presented to the House Education Policy and Reform Committee Jan. 25.

The eighth grade Basic Skills Test (BST) would be discontinued beginning in 2006, said Tim Vansickle, director of assessment and testing for the DOE. The BST sets minimum standards and is not the most effective test to use when the main goal is to prepare students for post-secondary education, he said.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) tests would take the place of the BST, and would be expanded to reading and math tests for students in grades three through eight. In addition, sixth and ninth graders would take a writing test, 10th graders would have a reading test, and 11th graders would have a math test. Tests would continue to be given in the spring each year. Testing recommendations would need approval from the Legislature to become reality.

Since the MCA tests would be given more often, parents and teachers will have a better picture of a student's progress, said Vansickle.

As another way to prepare students for post-secondary education, districts would have the option of giving eighth and 10th grade students a pre-ACT test, with the cost of testing paid by the state rather than the district. The ACT is the most widely used college entrance exam. "This test could be a wake up call to students and parents about what courses might need to be taken to prepare for college," said Vansickle.

By 2009, all state testing would be on computer. This would provide more timely results. A major complaint of MCA testing is that scores come back many months after testing, said Vansickle.

In 2005, testing will take 33 total hours for students in grades three through 11, but will increase to 46 and a half hours if testing is expanded in 2006.

## ★ ENERGY

### Wind energy producers seek extension

A bill to extend eligibility for wind incentive payments could decide whether some Minnesotans go forward with their plans to build wind turbines.

Rep. Tony Cornish (R-Good Thunder) is sponsoring HF218 that would extend until Dec. 31, 2005, the 18-month time frame in which a wind facility must begin operating or lose its eligibility for state incentive payments. He presented his bill to the House Regulated Industries Committee Jan. 25.

Cornish sponsored the legislation after the federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) was unavailable for part of the 18-month timeframe that wind producers were given to be operational. Some people relied on the tax credit for funding. Without it, they were unable to secure the loans they needed.

The Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) was created to support the development of wind energy. Owners of wind energy conversion systems could receive 1.5 cents for each kilowatt-hour (kWh) produced over a 10-year period. However, the incentive payments are available for only 200 megawatts (MW) of total capacity statewide. There are already enough subscribers for the 200 MW and others waiting.

Wind energy producers applied to the Department of Commerce to qualify for the incentive. Once they were approved, they had 18 months to be operational. HF218 would grant them an extension.

Dean Harder from southwestern Minnesota said 12 families in his community have invested tens of thousands of dollars in a dozen wind turbines. The families had everything ready, including power purchase agreements to sell the electricity, when the PTC delay stopped the project, Harder said.

"We've done everything we've been asked to do in a timely fashion," he said. "The only reason this stalled is because of tax credits."

Opponents say the 18-month deadline should not be extended because it's unfair to those on the waiting list.

"We relied on the state law, and we should not be penalized for it," said David Norgaard. "It would be a lot fairer to find common ground than to make big winners out of people in the box and big losers out of people outside the box."

The committee took no action on the measure. There is no Senate companion bill at this time.

## ★ HEALTH

### Smoking restrictions proposed

More than two dozen people testified before the House Health Policy and Finance Committee on Jan. 26 about a proposal that would require people to refrain from smoking in certain areas.

Rep. Doug Meslow (R-White Bear Lake)



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

**Bloomington resident Pat Reichert testifies in front of the Health Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 26 in support of a bill that would require persons to refrain from smoking in certain areas. Reichert is a former smoker.**

sponsored HF405 to create the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2005. The bill would eliminate smoking in public places, places of employment, including bars and restaurants, public transportation and public meetings.

Meslow said the bill would protect employees and the public from the hazards of secondhand smoke.

"Secondhand smoke is poisonous. Secondhand smoke is dangerous. Secondhand smoke kills people," Meslow said.

"With one policy initiative, you can do more to improve lives than I can as a doctor," said Dr. Ed Ehlinger, medical director for Boyton Health Services. "The government's role is to protect citizens. Now is the time to do something about the biggest killer of all: tobacco." Pat Reichert said she needs to carry portable oxygen at all times, and breathing secondhand smoke affects her health.

"I have to damage my health to go through smoking sections," she said. "It's not fair." Some opponents to the bill said the government should not dictate how bar and restaurant owners run their businesses.

"Nobody forces people to go to restaurants and bars," said D. Thomas Day, vice president of government affairs for Hospitality Minnesota. "Letting the consumer vote with their pocketbooks is more effective than any government mandate."

Day said the bill would deter patrons from frequenting bars and restaurants, which would force some establishments to close and people would lose their jobs.

"It's not fair to tie the hands of restaurants and alienate a portion of their clientele," he said.

On Jan. 27, the committee amended the bill to exempt some bars and restaurants and private clubs. The committee referred the bill to the House Commerce and Financial Institutions Committee without recommendation.

A companion bill, SF404, sponsored by Sen. D. Scott Dibble (DFL-Mpls), has been referred to the Senate Health and Family Security Committee.

## ★ HOUSING

### Help for homeless

A \$20 million proposal to provide housing and social services for the homeless was laid out before the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee on Jan. 20.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty's bonding bill includes funding for 4,000 new housing units over the next seven years, Tim Marx, commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency explained to the committee.

Marx estimates there are 4,000 households (3,300 individuals) in the state that have been homeless for the past 12 months, or had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

A Housing Finance Agency report shows a total of 52 percent of homeless as seriously or persistently mentally ill, 33 percent report a chemical dependency problem, 24 percent suffer from both, 48 percent suffer from a chronic health condition, 24 percent are victims of domestic abuse, 26 percent have a criminal history that affects their housing status and 16 percent are military veterans, some suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome.

The housing agency would facilitate the construction of the housing and connect clients with social service organizations such as the Catholic Charities, the Salvation Army or the Wilder Foundation.

The first phase of the governor's plan calls for funding between 260-530 housing units, with half of the money going to the Twin Cities metropolitan area and half to Greater Minnesota.

The housing would be a mix of new and rehabilitated units and duplexes, Marx said. "The individuals and families they will support are among our most vulnerable," he said.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



### Development on Lake Street

After more than 10 years, the city of Minneapolis is ready to proceed with the development of the old Sears building on Lake Street in South Minneapolis, and it's asking for some help to make that development happen.

HF343, sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) asks for a \$5 million grant from the Department of Employment and Economic Development to prepare the infrastructure for the \$180 million Midtown Exchange, which would include residential housing, a Sheraton hotel, the headquarters for Allina Hospitals and Clinics, a Hennepin County service center and a public market.

The bill, which Clark termed, "Fabulous," was heard in the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 27, and held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

The actual groundbreaking was last September, and Allina's headquarters will open next December or January, with the hotel scheduled to open this fall.

The city of Minneapolis is providing some help to Ryan, the lead developer, including tax increment financing, a grant and loan for the parking ramp and a loan for the rental housing. The ratio of private to public investment is

3.04 to 1, according to the project's Web site.

The new Allina headquarters, called the Allina Commons, will cover 250,000 square feet. There will be a six-story, 150-room hotel and more than 350 apartments, townhomes and condominiums. The site will include 1,600 parking spaces. A total of 120,000 square feet of office space has yet to be filled.

The public market, termed the Midtown Global Market, will cover 80,000 square feet on the first floor, and is being developed by the Neighborhood Development Center, a nonprofit organization in St. Paul that helps emerging entrepreneurs develop businesses.

The market will be similar to the farmers' markets popular in both St. Paul and Minneapolis, but will operate year-round, and feature fresh and prepared foods from around the world. There will also be an African American Development Center and Latino American Development Center to work with budding local entrepreneurs.

The project could bring more than 1,000 jobs to the Phillips neighborhood, one of the most economically disadvantaged areas in the state. The entire complex is expected to be completed in 2006.

The bill has no Senate companion yet.

### They need water

It's a chronic problem in southwestern Minnesota, turning down economic development projects because of the lack of water.

Rep. Doug Magnus (R-Slayton) told members of the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance committee Jan. 26 that the wells in the area are too shallow, and the aquifers are contaminated. "There just isn't enough water," he said.

Magnus is sponsoring a bill (HF123) that would help pay to run a 389-mile pipeline, called the Lewis and Clark Water System, from an aquifer next to the Missouri River near Vermilion, S.D., to a 5,000 plus square-mile area in southwestern Minnesota, northwestern Iowa and southeastern South Dakota.

The bill asks for \$2 million from the state to help pay for the first phase of the project. Total cost could be as much as \$400 million. Completion could take 12 years. The bill was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

The money would go to a public facilities authority in the region, which would provide grants to cities, public utilities and rural water systems Minnesota to help them connect to the pipeline. The project also includes 11 cities in South Dakota and six cities in Iowa.

Magnus said the project "will bring needed daily water into a deficit area. As we look at

our future in ag-processing, we're frankly stymied," he said. "We've looked at all the alternatives. This is the cheapest most economical water we could find."

The state legislatures of Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota have passed legislation authorizing their governments to pay a combined 10 percent of the project, but none have yet approved the actual money. Another 10 percent would come from local project members. The federal government would pay for the rest.

A companion bill (SF163), co-authored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) and Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples) has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

### Shelter for bears, bobcats and wolves

People in Little Falls are proud of their Pine Grove Park Zoo and its residents, which include black bears, bobcats and wolves.

Built in 1913, the municipal zoo is visited by about 100,000 families each year. The city wants to make the zoo more comfortable for the bears, their caretakers, and the people who come to see them, so it's asking for a little more than \$800,000 to do the work.

HF186, sponsored by Rep. Greg Blaine (R-Little Falls), was heard Jan. 26 by the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee. The committee held the bill over for possible inclusion in its bonding resolution.

"Many people don't realize we have another zoo in Minnesota," Blaine said. "The Pine Grove Zoo sits in one of the last stretches of virgin white pines in Minnesota. It's very safe, very accessible and open free to the public."

The city is asking for \$812,300 to build a black bear exhibit, and also provide handicapped-accessible ramps and viewing areas. The city is also asking for a multi-purpose building to house some animals during winter. Funds would also be used for lighted hard surface trails, allowing better access for the elderly, parents with strollers and those in wheelchairs.

Little Falls City Administrator Richard Carlson said the city, in partnership with local organizations, is preparing a 50 percent match for the project. So far, \$40,000 has come from the Little Falls Lindbergh Lions Club and \$100,000 from the Friends of Pine Grove Zoo. The zoo receives \$100,000 annually from the city for operation expenses, and it pays for capital improvements, Carlson said. Other civic groups have also pledged money.

A companion bill (SF39), sponsored by Sen. Paul Koering (R-Fort Ripley), has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

### Keep the lake great

Sewer overflow continues to be a problem in Duluth, and the sewage sometimes drains into Lake Superior, so the city of Duluth and the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) is under orders from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency to fix the problem.

"During a rainfall or snow event, the water collects in drains, and flows quickly into Lake Superior," said Mark Winson, chief administrative officer for the city of Duluth. That happens because the area's sanitary sewer systems don't have the capacity to handle the added volume of water, he said.

Two overflow basins would solve the problem, but that would cost around \$10 million. Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) is sponsoring HF98, which would provide \$4.9 million to the city to help with that project. The rest of the funding would come from the city of Duluth. The bill was heard Jan. 26 in the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity

Policy and Finance Committee, and was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's final bonding resolution.

"The bottom line is preserving, cleaning up and maintaining the great lake, Lake Superior," Murphy said. "We can't do it if we're putting raw sewage in it. Nobody wants to come to Lake Superior if they're told, 'you can't go to the beach.'"

The EPA could suspend development, said Kurt Soderberg, executive director of the WLSSD.

"It's not just jobs in Duluth," Murphy said. "It's jobs in Carlton. It's jobs in Esko. It's the whole region."

A companion bill (SF27), sponsored by Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon (DFL-Duluth), Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL-Grand Rapids), Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) and Sen. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

### Clean that water

The 40-year-old wastewater treatment facility in Richmond is "a disaster waiting to happen," according to a memo from a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) official.

"The plant is literally held together with duct tape and bailing wire and has outlived its useful life," continued the memo from Steve Duerre, who toured the plant when he was in the area. The city desperately needs a new plant."

So the city is asking for a \$6.05 million grant from the MPCA to improve and expand its wastewater treatment facility. HF143 is sponsored by Rep. Larry Hosch (D-St. Joseph), and was heard Jan. 26 by the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee, then held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

Brian Mehr, public works director for the city of Richmond, said. "It's in a state of disrepair. We're discharging into the Sauk River, which goes into the Chain of Lakes, affecting water quality in St. Cloud and Waite Park," he said.

He said there has been little desire on the part of the community to maintain the plant or fix it. "We are a conservative community," he said.

He said the cost to fix the problem would average \$6,650 per person if the city had to come up with the money itself. "That's really significant. It's not a matter of if the project is going to go, it's a matter of when," he said.

Chairman Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) said, "I don't think we want to see in the headlines, 'You can't drink the water in St. Cloud.'"

A companion (SF185), sponsored by Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

### BRILLIANT PRESENTATION



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Rep. Margaret Kelliher-Anderson models a pair of glasses that would be used to observe an eclipse of the sun. A presentation for the funding of the Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center that would be located in Minneapolis was given to the Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 27.**



# Big returns promised

## Minnesota Partnership funding could reap big dividends

By **BRETT MARTIN**

A \$70 million investment from the state could reap annual dividends of \$320 million within five years, according to the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics.

Speaking on Jan. 20 to the Division on Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products, a subcommittee of the House Commerce and Financial Institutions Committee, Dr. Eric Wieben, director of the Mayo Genetics Center, and Dr. Mark S. Paller, assistant vice president at the University of Minnesota, asked for state money. They said an investment of \$70 million over the next five years will help the Minnesota Partnership with programmatic needs, such as faculty and staff salaries, scientific infrastructure equipment and developmental funds to assure that technologies are effectively developed — and the return will be a \$320 million per year boon to the state's economy. "It's really a no lose proposition," Paller said.

The University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic have already invested nearly a half-billion dollars in biotechnology and medical genomics, according to the Partnership. Biotechnology capitalizes on the attributes of cells, such as their manufacturing capabilities, and biological molecules, such as DNA and proteins, according to the Partnership.

Medical genomics pinpoints the normal and abnormal functions of individual genes and uses the information to diagnose and treat diseases. In essence, it's medicine tailored to each individual.

Paller said the Partnership between the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic will create quality jobs, stimulate Minnesota's economy, increase National Institute of Health (NIH) funding to the state and further elevate Minnesota's status in health care. For every \$1 million in funding the Partnership receives, it creates 38 new jobs, he said.

"If we can figure out a way to make the state a bioscience destination, the state wins," said Rep. Paul Kohls (R-Victoria), chair of the House Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty has already pledged his support. In his State of the State address at the Mayo Clinic on Jan. 18, Pawlenty said \$20 million has been committed for the Partnership for this year, with \$15 million of that figure coming from the state and the remaining \$5 million from a private company.

Kohls said this private sector support could encourage other private monies.

"I think that other companies will get engaged on the funding side," Kohls said.

In addition to the \$70 million over five years, the Partnership is also seeking \$24.3 million in state bond financing to add three floors to the Stable Building at Mayo.

Wieben said they are already running out of space for new equipment and unless the bonding request is granted, it will impact the Partnership's ability to function.

Pawlenty said this year's bonding bill must include money for a new genomics lab in Rochester or he won't sign it.

Paller said a financial commitment by the state would allow Minnesota to compete as a world leader.

Four projects currently funded by the

Partnership are heart disease, prostate cancer, Alzheimer's disease and obesity. One of the goals is to diagnose diseases early, which can hopefully prevent the diseases and save money on treatment, Paller said.

The Partnership is also working to improve patient diagnosis and treatments, which will also lower healthcare costs, Wieben said. By understanding genomics, doctors can predict in advance who will respond favorably and unfavorably to treatments.

For more information on the Partnership, visit [www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org](http://www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org).

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***Medical genomics pinpoints the normal and abnormal functions of individual genes and uses the information to diagnose and treat diseases. In essence, it's medicine tailored to each individual.***

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### Senate leader's wife dies

Avonelle Johnson, 60, wife of Senate Majority Leader Dean Johnson, died Jan. 24 after a five-year bout with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband of 21 years; a son, Air Force Major Jeffrey Barnes of Montgomery, Ala.; his wife and two grandchildren.

To accommodate House and staff members wishing to attend the visitation in Willmar, the Jan. 27 House floor session was moved from 3 p.m. to noon. Avonelle Johnson's funeral is scheduled for 3 p.m. Friday at Calvary Lutheran Church in Willmar, where the Johnsons have been longtime

members and Sen. Johnson is a pastor. Burial will take place Saturday in the First Highland Lutheran Church cemetery in rural Lanesboro, Sen. Johnson's hometown.

Avonelle Johnson retired after 34 years of teaching in Ann Arbor, Mich., and the Willmar and New London-Spicer Minnesota school districts.

Rep. Al Juhnke, (DFL-Willmar) told Session Weekly that Avonelle Johnson was an advocate for a strong public education system. "She will best be known for her love of people. Her main focus was always

aimed at the kids she came to know in her classroom and in the community."

A memorial fund is being established in her name to help graduating seniors from New London-Spicer High School interested in pursuing a teaching degree. Memorials can be made out to the Avonelle Kay Johnson Scholarship Fund and sent to 1500 Country Club Drive NE - Willmar, MN 56201.

This is the second loss for Sen. Johnson in less than a month. His father, Erlyn Johnson, 92, died on New Year's Eve.

# Service, savings solutions

New initiative puts technology in the driver's seat

By **PATTY JANOVEC**

**W**ant to bid on former Gov. Jesse Ventura's china or furniture, anyone? Just like eBay, the state of Minnesota is auctioning off state goods online.

The Department of Administration has raked in \$276,000 on goods from the governor's residence alone, Commissioner Dana Badgerow told House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 12. The 68 auctions of state goods and services have resulted in \$1.9 million in savings so far in fiscal year 2005. A potential savings of \$4.6 million is projected with a total of 90 auctions scheduled, said Badgerow.

Technology is saving the state millions of dollars and Gov. Tim Pawlenty has announced "The Pawlenty-Molnau Plan: Minnesota's Drive to Excellence" which will integrate technology to offer better services to citizens.

"This is a shift in philosophy from agency centric to citizen centric," said Dennis Erno, deputy commissioner for the Department of Revenue, at the meeting. The Department has saved nearly 20,000-square feet of office space, just from tax returns being filed electronically versus paper form. For example, since 1998, the

number of business tax returns filed by paper has decreased from 92 percent to 1 percent. The total space saved so far is enough to accommodate another agency, emphasized Erno.

"Drive to Excellence" seeks to provide faster, more reliable and cost-effective services to citizens and businesses in the future, Badgerow said.

According to the governor's Web site, the measurable outcomes expected by the end of 2006 in initiatives include:

- creating more "one stop shop" opportunities for easy access to government services;
- reducing the cost of delivering government administrative services by 20 percent, while increasing the productivity of staff by 15 percent; and
- increasing the electronic delivery of government administrative services by 90 percent of citizen-to-government transactions, 70 percent of business-to-government transactions and 50 percent of government-to-government transactions.


Badgerow testified before the House State Government Finance Committee Jan. 19, and said a core team of 48 full-time employees from 18 state agencies has been working on

a "Transformational Roadmap" for the past four months as the initial step of the drive.

- Three phases of the "roadmap" include:
- taking a broad look at 72 agencies, commissions and boards, inventorying services and informational technology assets;
  - improving services, including deciding which opportunities meet the initiative goals; and
  - establishing a steering committee to make decisions on how implementation should take place and to develop recommendations on meeting the project goals.

The report, prepared by a consulting team at a cost of \$2.5 million, is due to be released soon.

"Do you feel we've got \$2.5 million out of this contracting?" asked Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall), chair of the House State Government Finance Committee. "It seems to be an enormous contract."

"It's a perfect and logical question...that the public is going to ask," responded Badgerow. "We have 25,000 vendors currently in state government...We are not leveraging the power of the state purchasing dollar." 

**For more information on the Department of Administration auctions, visit: <http://www.mmd.admin.state.mn.us/mn03001.htm> There you can view the live auction schedule, results from recent auctions, and state surplus updates.**

## Legislative library's mission to provide essential resources

Tweaking, adjusting and gaining some space has allowed the Legislative Reference Library to offer customers one-stop researching.

"Those people who come to the Capitol for legislative history materials now can enjoy longer hours and a more convenient place to do research with photocopiers on hand," said Library Director Robbie LaFleur.

Prior to the renovation, most materials were stored in the library on the sixth floor of the State Office Building, but some were in a ground floor location. By gaining access to a small room upstairs, the library consolidated and enabled access to a single location for legislative history materials.

Another change is that audiotapes are available for listening during normal library hours, instead

of the restricted four days a week in the past.

Audiotapes of House and Senate committee hearings, floor debates, and joint committees from the last decade are available, along with past committee minutes. An additional eight years of audio can be accessed at the Minnesota History Center.

According to its Web site, the nonpartisan library works to provide "essential information resources that support the legislative process and the understanding of state government."

The Legislative Reference Library collection includes:

- more than 40,000 books and reports including many state documents and those mandated by the Legislature;

- reference materials that include state statistics and comparisons;
- news clippings files from the 1970s to today;
- nearly 700 magazine and newsletter subscriptions; and
- Minnesota session laws since the late 1800s.

For more information contact the library at 651-296-3398 or visit the library's Web site at: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.asp>

**(P. JANOVEC)**

**Legislative Reference Library**  
645 State Office Building  
Reference: (651) 296-8338 Circulation: (651) 296-3398  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday- Friday  
Legislative Session Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday or later as needed.

# Facing a challenge

Gov. Pawlenty requests \$1.6 billion budget increase

By **BRETT MARTIN**

**G**ov. Tim Pawlenty's budget proposal — the largest in state history at \$29.6 billion — aims to balance the budget and control state spending. Unveiling the long anticipated numbers on Jan. 25, Pawlenty said his proposal would close the state's budget gap and make key investments.

"Today we are rising to the challenge facing Minnesota," Pawlenty said as he announced his budget for the 2006-07 biennium. "The budget I am submitting responds to our fiscal challenge and builds on the positive changes we've made in the last two years. It funds priorities important to Minnesotans and keeps government affordable and accountable. We've made tough choices, but this budget will put us on track to a better and more stable financial future."

The proposed budget, a 5.8 percent (\$1.6 billion) increase over the current budget, reflects Minnesota values, he said.

Included in the budget:

- \$656 million increase in General Fund spending for health and human services;
  - \$369 million to increase classroom funding and teacher improvement, and accountability reforms in K-12 education;
  - \$232 million to increase the quality and competitiveness of higher education institutions;
  - \$90 million for public safety programs to provide funding for prisons, courts and programs dealing with new criminal and security threats; and
  - \$11 million in military personnel benefits.
- Pawlenty has vowed not to raise taxes. One of his initiatives to pay for the budget increases is to collect money from a new state cooperative agreement for casino gambling. To this end, a \$200 million one-time casino license fee is included in the budget's revenue stream.

"We've seen explosive growth in Minnesota's tribal casino industry over the past 15 years," he said. "That growth has not benefited 85 percent of tribal members nor the state as a whole. Numerous other states have reex-



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Gov. Tim Pawlenty presents his budget proposal for the 2006-07 budget cycle during a news conference at the Department of Revenue Jan. 25.**

amined their gaming agreements to ensure greater fairness, and it's time for Minnesota to do the same."

The new casino arrangement is expected to generate more than \$100 million in state revenues beginning in 2008.

Other new General Fund revenues, in addition to casino money, include:

- \$168 million by increasing revenue compliance for payment of sales taxes on car and small truck leases and cigarette tax collections;
- \$104 million by maintaining alcohol and car rental taxes;
- \$40 million in one-time resources by transferring \$10 million from excess balances in special fund revenue funds and gaining \$30 million by reducing the holding period on securities in unclaimed

property;

- Redirecting \$287 million from existing medical assistance surcharges and current law transfers into the healthcare access funds; and

- Redirecting \$25 million from existing solid waste sales taxes into the environmental fund.

The House Republican caucus responded positively to the budget proposal. "He has the right priorities for Minnesotans," said Speaker of the House Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon). "He has done a marvelous job of setting the right priorities."

Sviggum said the state needs to achieve a better deal with regard to casinos.

"The status quo is unfair. It's a monopoly that goes on forever and they pay no tax," he said. "You can't support the status quo."

House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) called the budget proposal a "good blueprint," saying Pawlenty has protected jobs by not raising taxes and has provided the funding needed for education.

"We feel really, really good about this," Paulsen said.

Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), chair of the House Health Policy and Finance Committee, said the governor's budget is tough, yet doable.


"We can work within those boundaries," Bradley said.

Democrats did not share that sentiment. House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) called the budget proposal an attack on working people. He joined House and Senate Democrats in denouncing it as "disappointing and incomplete."

"I hear a lot of feet running away from this budget, and they are those of House Republicans," Entenza said. He promised to take the plan on the road for a series of town hall meetings beginning next week.

Entenza said the governor is "gambling with our children's future" with his proposal to raise \$200 million through gambling revenue. Assistant Senate Majority Leader Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) agreed. "We are concerned about the hole he is trying to fill with gambling revenue," she said.

Entenza accused Pawlenty of violating his no-tax pledge in the past budget cycle by raising fees and causing local property taxes to increase. He said the proposed budget would do more of the same.

Pawlenty's budget needs to be approved by the Legislature. 

# Which checkbook should we use?

When it comes to spending, the state has several funds to tap — 60% of the budget comes from the General Fund, 40% comes from the category tagged ‘other.’

By NICOLE WOOD

**T**he scope of the House Ways and Means Committee can quite literally be found in its title: What methods (ways) and resources (means) does the state have to pay for something? And the next obvious question committee members must ask, just like any family, is, “Hmmm, which checkbook should we use?”

House Chief Fiscal Analyst Bill Marx presented the committee with an overview of the state checkbooks, or funds, Jan. 24.

## General Fund versus other

A fund is the most basic unit of the state’s accounting system. Approximately 60 percent of state spending is paid from the General Fund. The majority of the money comes from individual income, retail sales, business and other taxes.

“Because the governor and Legislature have the greatest discretion over how General Fund revenues are spent, the General Fund budget is usually the primary focus of state budget deliberations,” according to the Department

of Finance budget primer “State Budget at a Glance: a 3 Minute Guide to the Minnesota State Budget.”

But 40 percent of state spending — a large chunk of change by anyone’s calculations — comes from the category often referred to as “other funds.” By definition, other funds are dedicated funds established by the Legislature as separate entities for a variety of reasons; including constitutional provisions, federal mandates, and general accounting practices. The Game and Fish Fund, Trunk

Highway Fund and Health Care Access Fund are examples of dedicated funds.

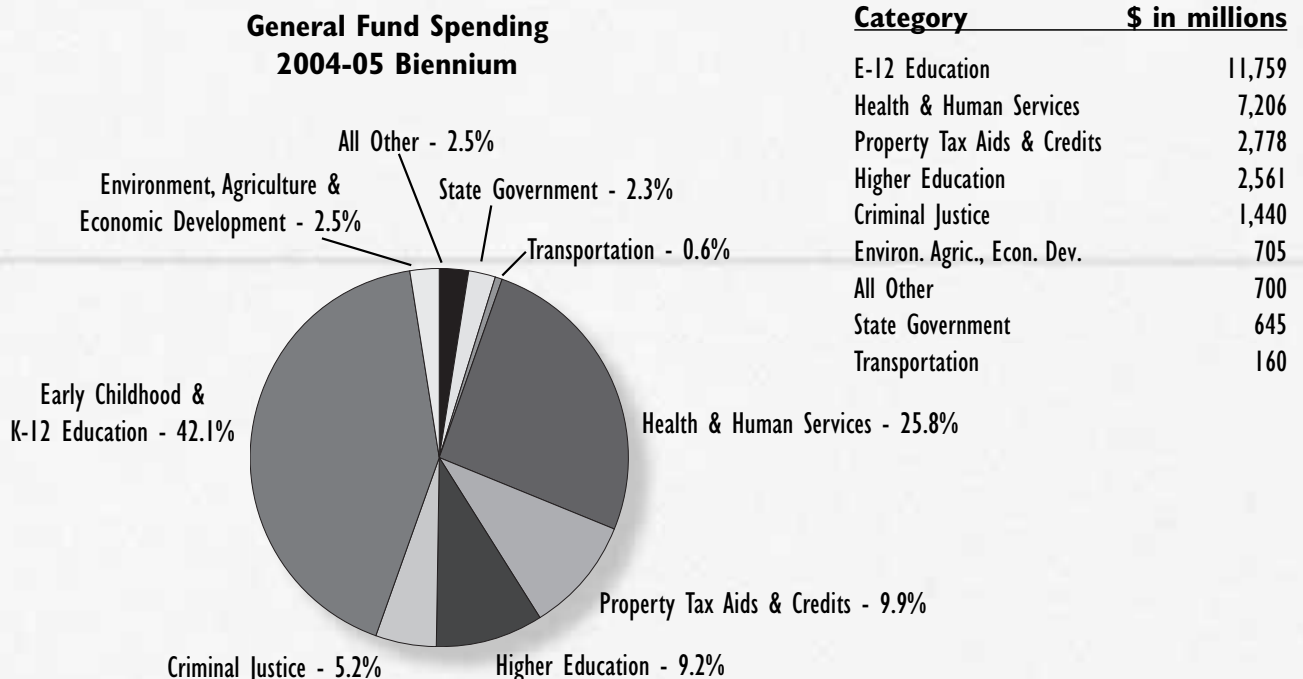
The revenue in dedicated funds comes from several sources, including motor vehicle sales taxes, hunting license fees, or constitutionally-dedicated lottery proceeds. According to Marx, most expenditures from funds other than the General Fund are limited to certain purposes that are usually related to the source of the fund’s revenues.

## The state’s separate checkbooks

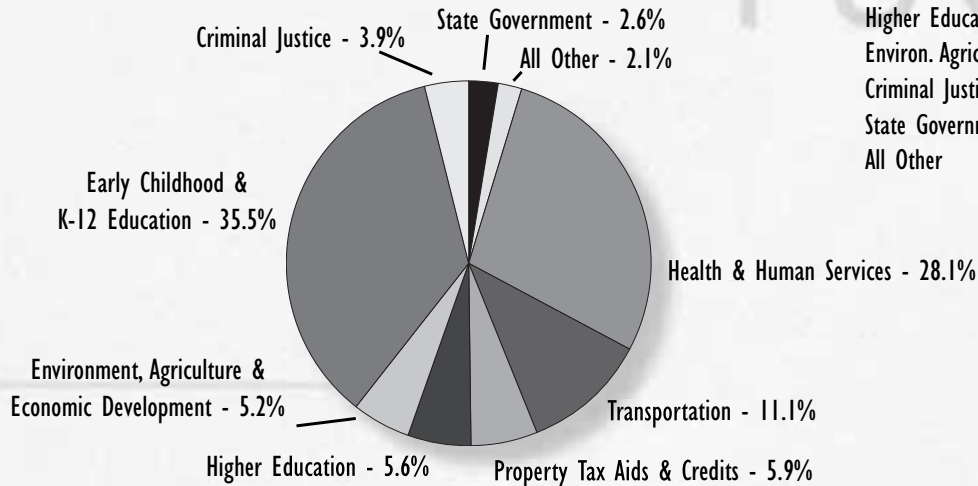
There are more than 130 funds in the state treasury and each one can be thought of as a separate checkbook.

If 130 seems a bit unwieldy, the Department of Finance “State Government Funds – What is a Fund?” ([www.budget.state.mn.us/budget/summary/fund\\_inventory/state\\_funds\\_101.pdf](http://www.budget.state.mn.us/budget/summary/fund_inventory/state_funds_101.pdf)) categorizes the funds into eight tidy types and purposes:

1) *General Fund* - to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund,



**Distribution of State Spending -  
All Operating Funds  
2004-05 Biennium**



Category	\$ in millions
E-12 Education	16,563
Health & Human Services	13,087
Transportation	5,197
Property Tax Aids & Credits	2,760
Higher Education	2,622
Environ. Agric., Econ. Dev.	2,417
Criminal Justice	1,819
State Government	1,191
All Other	963

2) *Special Revenue Funds* - to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes,

3) *Capital Projects Funds* - to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary funds or special revenue funds),

4) *Debt Service Fund* - to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal and interest,

5) *Permanent Fund* - to account for resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, may be used to support that program,

6) *Enterprise Funds* - to account for activities for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. Enterprise funds activities are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent of the governing body is to recover costs primarily through user fees,

7) *Internal Service Funds* - to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one agency to other agencies on a cost reimbursement or other basis, and

8) *Trust and Agency Funds* - to account for assets held by the state in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units, and/or other funds. These include pension, investment trust and agency funds.

**Percentages and pie charts**

Marx reminds members to exercise caution when quoting percentages of state spending by topic (i.e. education, transportation, environment). He says the percentages may change depending upon whether the figures are annual or biennial.

In a similar vein, state spending pie charts change, too, depending upon whether the figures are based on the General Fund or other dedicated funds. What appears to be a paltry sum under General Fund spending might be offset by dedicated fund expenditures.

Transportation financing is a perfect example. Under the distribution of state General Fund spending for the 2004-05 biennium, transportation receives a sliver, some 0.6 percent. But the majority of transportation funding comes from dedicated funds. Pull out the all-operating funds pie chart for the same biennium and transportation receives 11.1 percent.

**Future of dedicated funds**

Lawmakers have different opinions regarding the flexibility, accountability and efficiency of separate dedicated funds. State accounting practices and fund management are constantly under review and the number of dedicated funds likely will decrease under a recent law.

The 2004 Legislature authorized the Finance Department to eliminate small, inactive funds and accounts it deems unnecessary. The department also is required to annually review one-quarter of the accounts in the Special Revenue Fund and provide a rationale as to why those accounts are not in the General Fund.

**The pie charts represent state operating expenditures by category for the 2004-05 biennium. The chart on the facing page is based on the General Fund. The chart on this page is a distribution of state spending based on all funds. A complete fund inventory is available online at [www.budget.state.mn.us/budget/summary/fund\\_inventory/index](http://www.budget.state.mn.us/budget/summary/fund_inventory/index).**

**Source: Minnesota Department of Finance**

# Success the second time

Dean is lone Republican to unseat a DFL incumbent

By RUTH DUNN

Rep. Matt Dean (R-Dellwood) describes himself as a citizen legislator. He'd like to see more accountants, pipe fitters, physicians, plumbers, etc., in the House. "Each profession brings a set of skills that could benefit the Legislature."



Rep. Matt Dean

As an architect, Dean begins a project with the end result in mind. He works to bring people together to complete the task. "Those are skills easily transferable to being a legislator," he adds.

Dean first ran in a 2003 special election to fill the seat vacated by Mark Holsten who was appointed deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He lost by an 11 percent margin to Rebecca Otto,

a DFLer. However, Dean took the historically Republican seat away from her by a 3.3 percent margin in November. He was the only Republican to win a seat from the DFL in 2004.

Dean says his constituents are looking for productivity from this session. "The public wants us to move forward and get the job done," he said.

Jobs and the economy are big issues in his district. "You might not expect that in my district, which is fairly affluent, but many family budgets are based on two good incomes in a family," explains Dean. "There's a lot of apprehension about the economy; they want to know things are getting better."

Dean has been assigned to four committees: Capital Investment, Civil Law and Elections, Education Policy and Reform, and Health Policy and Finance.

Dean earned a bachelor of architecture at the University of Minnesota and has his own

**DISTRICT 52B**

2002 Population: 36,813  
 Largest city: Stillwater  
 County: Washington  
 Location: eastern Twin Cities metropolitan area  
 Top concerns: Economy, health care, education

***A leadership-training program helped Dean develop a fascination with the relationship between business and government.***

architecture firm in St. Paul.

A leadership-training program helped Dean develop a fascination with the relationship between business and government. He worked on several campaigns before stepping up to the plate himself.

Dean met his wife, Laura, when both were in kindergarten. She is an obstetrician who has delivered more than 1,000 babies. The couple has three children: Marta, 8, Jack, 6, and Jane, 2.

# Education advocate

Building good relationships produces legislative results

By PATTY JANOVEC

Rep. Denise Dittrich (DFL-Champlin) knows she can't accomplish anything by herself, and that cultivating good relationships produces positive results. She believes this philosophy helped her defeat five-term representative Bill Haas last November.



Rep. Denise Dittrich

Her background of community involvement includes seven years on the Anoka-Hennepin School Board, and 15 years as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher.

If she would have been given the opportunity to introduce the first bill of the session, Dittrich said it would have been related to busing issues in her district. Students within a two-mile radius of schools are not now provided busing unless they pay to ride. "I would

like to fix that, or give the school district some flexibility that they can provide more busing," she said.

Her goal during the next two years is "equitable, adequate, long-term, stable, school funding." Dittrich emphasized that schools spend a lot of time and money on responding to the Legislature, resources that could better be spent elsewhere.

One accomplishment while she served on the school board was the development of a five-year financial plan.

"The amount of flexibility that supplied our board and our staff...you can really focus then on change, improvements, climate, student safety...and concentrate on that instead of always responding to the funding levels and the Legislature."

Intimate with the topic of education with three boys in public schools, Dittrich said her first "wake up call" was when her oldest, Neal, went to kindergarten and was surprised by large class sizes.

**DISTRICT 47A**

2002 Population: 36,895  
 Largest city: Coon Rapids  
 Counties: Anoka, Hennepin  
 Top Concern: Quality education

***Dittrich's goal during the next two years is "equitable, adequate, long-term, stable, school funding."***

Even with excellent teachers, she said, there was a lack of communication and problems with how the money was flowing.

Dittrich became involved in a parent legislative team that started her on the path of being an advocate for education-related issues. The group studied education finance and took seminars on how to work with legislators.

The group was successful in seeing a one-time funding bill for the school district pass through the Legislature. That was the first time in 10 years the district didn't have to cut services to children, she said.

"Change can happen, but it's not always easy, and it takes a long time," she said. "And it takes perseverance and team work."

# Strong family ties

The Gazelka family goes to St. Paul

By RUTH DUNN

When Rep. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd) came to St. Paul to begin his House term, his family came with him — not just for the day, but for the entire session. The family has settled into a rental house and the children are enrolled in new schools.



Rep. Paul Gazelka

It's an unusual step but one that works for this family that puts a premium on togetherness.

"We talked about how to stay together as a family with me in the Legislature," he said, "This idea got the thumbs up." Gazelka's family includes wife Maralee, and their children: Jessica, 18, Genna, 16, Emily, 13, Joshua, 11 and Lydia, 3.

Gazelka was urged to run for the House seat by former Rep. Dale Walz who decided

not to seek re-election. Gazelka defeated Don Samuelson, a DFLer who served in the House and Senate for 32 years, by 3.6 percent. Gazelka believes the district that once leaned DFL has changed in recent years so that his political beliefs more accurately reflect the area, especially when it comes to supporting social issues like defense of marriage and pro-life.

An insurance agent and manager for 22 years, Gazelka hopes the common sense he's gained from his business experience will be something he can contribute to the legislative process. He's been appointed vice chair of the House Commerce and Financial Institutions Committee and serves on the committee's Tourism Division. His other committees are Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance, and Transportation.

Besides being a businessman, family man and legislator, Gazelka wrote a book, *Marketplace Ministers*, which arose from his interest in expressing Christian faith in the market-

**DISTRICT 12A**

2002 Population: 36,813  
Largest city: Brainerd  
County: Crow Wing  
Top concerns: Economy, education and affordable health insurance

***Gazelka authored a book, "Marketplace Ministers," which arose from his interest in expressing Christian faith in the marketplace.***

place. He and his wife previously served as state directors of Marriage Ministry International, a non-denominational Christian organization.

Several members of the family were involved in a Brainerd theater projection of "The Sound of Music" last fall but Gazelka preferred being in the audience. "Politics has plenty of its own drama. I will play my part there."

Gazelka wants to be considered a statesman rather than a politician and believes he must maintain integrity and strive for excellence to achieve that goal.

# Going the distance

Peppin hopes to be the 'new messenger' of change

By PATTY JANOVEC

Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) has run four Twin Cities marathons and used the same determination skills to win her legislative seat.



Rep. Joyce Peppin

Gaining the Republican endorsement over former Rep. Arlon Lindner, Peppin said competition "keeps legislators fresh. ... I, and many other people, felt like we needed a new Re-

publican messenger ... to change hearts and minds." Lindner was caught up in controversy over statements made on the House floor last legislative session.

"The voters spoke and were ready for change," she added.

Peppin's background includes degrees in political science and speech communications from

the University of Minnesota-Duluth. "I was very interested in politics and worked for five different campaigns, and then I worked at the House in the Republican media department," she said. Following the political work, she became vice president of public relations for US Bank.

From her political experience, she became cognizant of the incredible amount of work that legislative staff does. "They make the legislator," Peppin said.

Her district remains very conservative, a characteristic she learned on the campaign trail.

The same things that were hard were also easy, including the amount of time it took to door knock. "Most days it was physically challenging, but it was also invigorating meeting people and learning about the district," she said.

Her key issues include: completing and expanding transportation in the district, fair funding for schools, and lifting the moratorium on new hospital construction to enable a

**DISTRICT 32A**

2002 Population: 36,561  
Largest city: Maple Grove  
Counties: Hennepin, Wright  
Top concern: Hospital shortage in district

***"The northwest suburbs are among the fastest growing in the metro area, and the need for a new hospital is a key quality of life issue."***

— Rep. Joyce Peppin

facility to be built in Maple Grove. "The northwest suburbs are among the fastest growing in the metro area, and the need for a new hospital is a key quality of life issue," she said.

"People are trusting me to do this job, I have a lot of work to do," Peppin said. "Making sure, overall, that I'm reviewing budgets and making sure that taxpayers are getting the best return for their dollar."

She added, "When I was a child I learned how to ride the unicycle and juggle because I wanted to run away and join the circus, so I've changed my career goals considerably."

# 2005-06 Member Committee Assignments

(as of Jan. 24, 2005)

<b>Abeler, Jim (R)</b> 48B Education Policy and Reform; Health Care Cost Containment Division, chair; Health Policy and Finance; Higher Education Finance; Ways and Means.	<b>Cornish, Tony (R)</b> 24B Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; Public Safety Policy and Finance.	<b>Ellison, Keith (DFL)</b> 58B Civil Law and Elections; Public Safety Policy and Finance.
<b>Abrams, Ron (R)</b> 43B Higher Education Finance; Property and Local Tax Division; Rules and Legislative Administration; Taxes; Transportation Finance; Ways and Means.	<b>Cox, Ray (R)</b> 25B Environment and Natural Resources, vice chair; Higher Education Finance; Transportation.	<b>Emmer, Tom (R)</b> 19B Civil Law and Elections; Ethics; Health Policy and Finance; Regulated Industries.
<b>Anderson, Bruce (R)</b> 19A Local Government; Rules and Legislative Administration; Transportation; Transportation Finance.	<b>Cybart, Lloyd (R)</b> 37A Education Policy and Reform; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Transportation.	<b>Entenza, Matt (DFL)</b> 64A Not assigned to standing committees.
<b>Anderson, Irv (DFL)</b> 3A Regulated Industries, lead-DFL; Taxes; Ways and Means.	<b>Davids, Gregory M. (R)</b> 31B Agriculture and Rural Development, chair; Commerce and Financial Institutions; Taxes; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division; Tourism Division.	<b>Erhardt, Ron (R)</b> 41A Taxes; Transportation, chair; Transportation Finance; Ways and Means.
<b>Atkins, Joe (DFL)</b> 39B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Ethics; Gaming Division, lead-DFL; Regulated Industries; Taxes.	<b>Davnie, Jim (DFL)</b> 62A Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform; Taxes.	<b>Erickson, Sondra (R)</b> 16A Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform, vice chair; Ethics, chair; Gaming Division; Regulated Industries.
<b>Beard, Michael (R)</b> 35A Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Regulated Industries, vice chair; Transportation, ex-officio; Ways and Means.	<b>Dean, Matt (R)</b> 52B Capital Investment; Civil Law and Elections; Education Policy and Reform; Health Policy and Finance.	<b>Finstad, Brad (R)</b> 21B Agriculture and Rural Development; Health Policy and Finance, vice chair; State Government Finance.
<b>Bernardy, Connie (DFL)</b> 51B Education Finance; Rules and Legislative Administration; Taxes.	<b>DeLaForest, Chris (R)</b> 49A Civil Law and Elections, vice chair; State Government Finance; Taxes.	<b>Fritz, Patti (DFL)</b> 26B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division; Transportation.
<b>Blaine, Greg (R)</b> 12B Agriculture and Rural Development, vice chair; Environment and Natural Resources; State Government Finance.	<b>Demmer, Randy (R)</b> 29A Capital Investment; Education Finance, vice chair; Education Policy and Reform; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs.	<b>Garofalo, Pat (R)</b> 36B Capital Investment; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance, vice chair; Local Government.
<b>Bradley, Fran (R)</b> 29B Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance, chair; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Ways and Means.	<b>Dempsey, Jerry (R)</b> 28A Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Higher Education Finance; Ways and Means, vice chair.	<b>Gazelka, Paul (R)</b> 12A Commerce and Financial Institutions, vice chair; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Tourism Division; Transportation.
<b>Brod, Laura (R)</b> 25A Capital Investment; Civil Law and Elections; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Property and Local Tax Division; Taxes.	<b>Dill, David (DFL)</b> 6A Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance, vice chair; Environment and Natural Resources; Taxes.	<b>Goodwin, Barbara (DFL)</b> 50A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division, lead-DFL.
<b>Buesgens, Mark (R)</b> 35B Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform, chair; Ways and Means.	<b>Dittrich, Denise (DFL)</b> 47A Education Policy and Reform; Transportation.	<b>Greiling, Mindy (DFL)</b> 54A Education Finance, lead-DFL; Education Policy and Reform; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Ways and Means.
<b>Carlson, Lyndon (DFL)</b> 45B Education Policy and Reform; Ethics, vice chair; Higher Education Finance; Rules and Legislative Administration, lead-DFL; Ways and Means.	<b>Dorman, Dan (R)</b> 27A Capital Investment, chair; Taxes; Ways and Means.	<b>Gunther, Bob (R)</b> 24A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance, chair; Regulated Industries; Ways and Means.
<b>Charron, Mike (R)</b> 56A Education Policy and Reform; Local Government; Regulated Industries.	<b>Dorn, John (DFL)</b> 23B Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform, lead-DFL; Ways and Means.	<b>Hackbarth, Tom (R)</b> 48A Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Environment and Natural Resources, chair; Gaming Division; Regulated Industries.
<b>Clark, Karen (DFL)</b> 61A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance, Finance lead-DFL; Ways and Means.	<b>Eastlund, Rob (R)</b> 17A Capital Investment; Education Policy and Reform; Higher Education Finance; Public Safety Policy and Finance, vice chair.	<b>Hamilton, Rod (R)</b> 22B Agriculture and Rural Development; Commerce and Financial Institutions; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division; Ways and Means.
	<b>Eken, Kent (DFL)</b> 02A Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform; Health Policy and Finance.	<b>Hansen, Rick (DFL)</b> 39A Environment and Natural Resources; Regulated Industries.



<b>Hausman, Alice (DFL)</b>	<b>66B</b>	<b>Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)</b>	<b>59B</b>	<b>Magnus, Doug (R)</b>	<b>22A</b>
Capital Investment, lead-DFL; Transportation Finance.		Capital Investment; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs, lead-DFL; State Government Finance.		Agriculture and Rural Development; Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Rules and Legislative Administration; Transportation Finance.	
<b>Heidgerken, Bud (R)</b>	<b>13A</b>	<b>Kelliher, Margaret Anderson (DFL)</b>	<b>60A</b>	<b>Mahoney, Tim (DFL)</b>	<b>67A</b>
Agriculture and Rural Development; Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform.		Capital Investment; Environment and Natural Resources; Rules and Legislative Administration; Ways and Means.		Capital Investment; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance, Policy lead-DFL.	
<b>Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)</b>	<b>46B</b>	<b>Klinzing, Karen (R)</b>	<b>56B</b>	<b>Mariani, Carlos (DFL)</b>	<b>65B</b>
Local Government, lead-DFL; Public Safety Policy and Finance.		Education Finance; Education Policy and Reform; Ways and Means.		Education Policy and Reform; Environment and Natural Resources, lead-DFL; Higher Education Finance; Ways and Means.	
<b>Hilty, Bill (DFL)</b>	<b>8A</b>	<b>Knoblach, Jim (R)</b>	<b>15A</b>	<b>Marquart, Paul (DFL)</b>	<b>09B</b>
Civil Law and Elections; Gaming Division; Regulated Industries; State Government Finance, lead-DFL; Ways and Means.		Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance, ex-officio; Capital Investment; Education Finance, ex-officio; Health Policy and Finance, ex-officio; Higher Education Finance, ex-officio; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance, ex-officio; Public Safety Policy and Finance, ex-officio; State Government Finance, ex-officio; Taxes; Transportation Finance, ex-officio; Ways and Means, chair.		Education Policy and Reform; Local Government; Property and Local Tax Division; Taxes.	
<b>Holberg, Mary Liz (R)</b>	<b>36A</b>	<b>Koenen, Lyle (DFL)</b>	<b>20B</b>	<b>McNamara, Denny (R)</b>	<b>57B</b>
Local Government; Transportation; Transportation Finance, chair; Ways and Means.		Agriculture and Rural Development; Taxes.		Capital Investment, vice chair; Environment and Natural Resources; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Ways and Means.	
<b>Hoppe, Joe (R)</b>	<b>34B</b>	<b>Kohls, Paul (R)</b>	<b>34A</b>	<b>Meslow, Doug (R)</b>	<b>53B</b>
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Environment and Natural Resources; Gaming Division; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Regulated Industries; Rules and Legislative Administration.		Commerce and Financial Institutions; Rules and Legislative Administration; Taxes; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division, chair.		Education Finance; Public Safety Policy and Finance.	
<b>Hornstein, Frank (DFL)</b>	<b>60B</b>	<b>Krinkie, Philip (R)</b>	<b>53A</b>	<b>Moe, Frank (DFL)</b>	<b>4A</b>
Local Government; Transportation; Transportation Finance.		Property and Local Tax Division; State Government Finance; Taxes, chair; Ways and Means.		Agriculture and Rural Development; Commerce and Financial Institutions; Rules and Legislative Administration; Tourism Division.	
<b>Hortman, Melissa (DFL)</b>	<b>47B</b>	<b>Lanning, Morrie (R)</b>	<b>9A</b>	<b>Mullery, Joe (DFL)</b>	<b>58A</b>
Environment and Natural Resources; Transportation.		Education Policy and Reform; Local Government, vice chair; Property and Local Tax Division; Regulated Industries; Taxes.		Commerce and Financial Institutions, lead-DFL; State Government Finance; Taxes; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.	
<b>Hosch, Larry (DFL)</b>	<b>14B</b>	<b>Larson, Dan (DFL)</b>	<b>63B</b>	<b>Murphy, Mary (DFL)</b>	<b>6B</b>
Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Local Government; Rules and Legislative Administration.		Transportation, lead-DFL; Transportation Finance; Ways and Means.		Capital Investment; Public Safety Policy and Finance, Finance lead-DFL.	
<b>Howes, Larry (R)</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>Latz, Ron (DFL)</b>	<b>44B</b>	<b>Nelson, Michael (DFL)</b>	<b>46A</b>
Capital Investment; Commerce and Financial Institutions; Taxes; Tourism Division, chair.		Capital Investment; Education Policy and Reform; Higher Education Finance.		Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Public Safety Policy and Finance.	
<b>Huntley, Thomas (DFL)</b>	<b>7A</b>	<b>Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)</b>	<b>40B</b>	<b>Nelson, Peter (R)</b>	<b>17B</b>
Gaming Division; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance, Finance lead-DFL; Regulated Industries; Ways and Means.		Local Government; Property and Local Tax Division; Taxes, lead-DFL.		Civil Law and Elections; Property and Local Tax Division; Taxes; Transportation, vice chair.	
<b>Jaros, Mike (DFL)</b>	<b>7B</b>	<b>Lesch, John (DFL)</b>	<b>66A</b>	<b>Newman, Scott (R)</b>	<b>18A</b>
Capital Investment; Commerce and Financial Institutions; Taxes; Tourism Division, lead-DFL.		Civil Law and Elections; Gaming Division; Property and Local Tax Division; Regulated Industries; Taxes.		Education Finance; Ethics(Alt.); Public Safety Policy and Finance; Transportation.	
<b>Johnson, Jeff (R)</b>	<b>43A</b>	<b>Liebling, Tina (DFL)</b>	<b>30A</b>	<b>Nornes, Bud (R)</b>	<b>10A</b>
Civil Law and Elections, chair; Public Safety Policy and Finance; Rules and Legislative Administration.		Commerce and Financial Institutions; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.		Education Policy and Reform; Environment and Natural Resources; Higher Education Finance, chair; Ways and Means.	
<b>Johnson, Ruth (DFL)</b>	<b>23A</b>	<b>Lieder, Bernard (DFL)</b>	<b>1B</b>	<b>Olson, Mark (R)</b>	<b>16B</b>
Agriculture and Rural Development, lead-DFL; Education Finance; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs.		Transportation; Transportation Finance, lead-DFL.		Education Policy and Reform; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Local Government, chair; Transportation.	
<b>Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)</b>	<b>67B</b>	<b>Lillie, Leon (DFL)</b>	<b>55A</b>	<b>Opatz, Joe (DFL)</b>	<b>15B</b>
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Regulated Industries.		Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Transportation.		Capital Investment; Higher Education Finance, vice chair.	
<b>Juhnke, Al (DFL)</b>	<b>13B</b>	<b>Loeffler, Diane (DFL)</b>	<b>59A</b>	<b>Otremba, Mary Ellen (DFL)</b>	<b>11B</b>
Agriculture and Rural Development; Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance, Agriculture lead-DFL; Rules and Legislative Administration.		Commerce and Financial Institutions; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Rules and Legislative Administration; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.		Agriculture and Rural Development; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance, Policy lead-DFL; Ways and Means.	

<b>Ozment, Dennis (R)</b> 37B Agriculture and Rural Development, ex-officio; Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance, chair; Environment and Natural Resources; Rules and Legislative Administration; Ways and Means.	<b>Sailer, Brita (DFL)</b> 2B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Education Policy and Reform; Rules and Legislative Administration; Tourism Division.	<b>Thao, Cy (DFL)</b> 65A Health Policy and Finance; Local Government.
<b>Paulsen, Erik (R)</b> 42B Rules and Legislative Administration, chair.	<b>Samuelson, Char (R)</b> 50B Health Policy and Finance; Local Government; Rules and Legislative Administration, vice chair.	<b>Thissen, Paul (DFL)</b> 63A Health Care Cost Containment Division, lead-DFL; Health Policy and Finance; Regulated Industries.
<b>Paymar, Michael (DFL)</b> 64B Local Government; Public Safety Policy and Finance, Policy lead-DFL; Ways and Means.	<b>Scalze, Bev (DFL)</b> 54B Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government.	<b>Tingelstad, Kathy (R)</b> 49B Capital Investment; Environment and Natural Resources; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs, chair; Rules and Legislative Administration.
<b>Pelowski, Jr., Gene (DFL)</b> 31A Capital Investment; Education Policy and Reform; Higher Education Finance, lead-DFL.	<b>Seifert, Marty (R)</b> 21A Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Rules and Legislative Administration; State Government Finance, chair; Ways and Means.	<b>Urdahl, Dean (R)</b> 18B Agriculture and Rural Development; Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Higher Education Finance.
<b>Penas, Maxine (R)</b> 1A Agriculture and Rural Development; Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Environment and Natural Resources.	<b>Sertich, Anthony "Tony" (DFL)</b> 5B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Rules and Legislative Administration.	<b>Vandevor, Ray (R)</b> 52A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Property and Local Tax Division, chair; Taxes; Ways and Means.
<b>Peppin, Joyce (R)</b> 32A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance; State Government Finance, vice chair; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.	<b>Severson, Dan (R)</b> 14A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Education Policy and Reform; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs, vice chair; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division; Transportation.	<b>Wagenius, Jean (DFL)</b> 62B Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance, Environment, lead-DFL; Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means.
<b>Peterson, Aaron (DFL)</b> 20A Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Finance; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Regulated Industries.	<b>Sieben, Katie (DFL)</b> 57A Property and Local Tax Division; Taxes; Transportation.	<b>Walker, Neva (DFL)</b> 61B Health Policy and Finance; Regulated Industries; Ways and Means.
<b>Peterson, Neil W. (R)</b> 41B Capital Investment; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Local Government.	<b>Simon, Steve (DFL)</b> 44A Civil Law and Elections; Transportation.	<b>Wardlow, Lynn (R)</b> 38B Education Policy and Reform; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs; Local Government.
<b>Peterson, Sandra (DFL)</b> 45A Education Policy and Reform; Transportation.	<b>Simpson, Dean (R)</b> 10B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Property and Local Tax Division; Regulated Industries; Taxes, vice chair; Tourism Division.	<b>Welti, Andy (DFL)</b> 30B Agriculture and Rural Development; Environment and Natural Resources; Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs.
<b>Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)</b> 27B Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; Rules and Legislative Administration.	<b>Slawik, Nora (DFL)</b> 55B Civil Law and Elections, lead-DFL; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance.	<b>Westerberg, Andrew "Andy" (R)</b> 51A Gaming Division, chair; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Regulated Industries; Taxes.
<b>Powell, Duke (R)</b> 40A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Health Care Cost Containment Division; Health Policy and Finance; Regulated Industries; Tourism Division.	<b>Smith, Steve (R)</b> 33A Capital Investment; Public Safety Policy and Finance, chair; Rules and Legislative Administration; Ways and Means.	<b>Westrom, Torrey (R)</b> 11A Civil Law and Elections; Environment and Natural Resources; Regulated Industries, chair.
<b>Rukavina, Tom (DFL)</b> 5A Commerce and Financial Institutions; Property and Local Tax Division, lead-DFL; Taxes; Ways and Means.	<b>Soderstrom, Judy (R)</b> 8B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Public Safety Policy and Finance; Transportation.	<b>Wilkin, Tim (R)</b> 38A Commerce and Financial Institutions, chair; Health Policy and Finance; Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division, ex-officio; Tourism Division, ex-officio.
<b>Ruth, Connie (R)</b> 26A Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance; Transportation; Transportation Finance, vice chair; Ways and Means.	<b>Solberg, Loren (DFL)</b> 3B Capital Investment; State Government Finance; Ways and Means, lead-DFL.	<b>Zellers, Kurt (R)</b> 32B Commerce and Financial Institutions; Gaming Division; Regulated Industries; Taxes; Technology, Bioscience and Medical Products Division.
<b>Ruud, Maria (DFL)</b> 42A Education Policy and Reform; Regulated Industries.	<b>Sviggum, Steve (R)</b> 28B Rules and Legislative Administration.	
	<b>Sykora, Barb (R)</b> 33B Education Finance, chair; Education Policy and Reform; Ways and Means.	

### Frequently called numbers

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## Monday, January 24

### HF374—Nornes (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Child care license fees modified.

### HF375—Cox (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation division of cost modified.

### HF376—Erickson (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Assistive Technology of Minnesota grant provided for purchase of equipment and devices for people with disabilities, and to develop the Access to Telework program; and money appropriated.

### HF377—Blaine (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

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

### HF378—Nelson, P. (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Revisor's bill correcting erroneous, ambiguous, and omitted text and obsolete references.

### HF379—Lenczewski (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs

Sex offender mandatory life sentencing and indeterminate sentencing provided for specified offenses, Minnesota Sex Offender Review Board established, data access granted, and Open Meeting Law exception provided.

### HF380—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Single-member school board election districts established with equal populations for certain districts.

### HF381—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

False reporting of police misconduct prohibited, and penalties imposed.

### HF382—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Non-vehicular flight from a peace officer prohibited, and misdemeanor penalty imposed.

### HF383—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Lifetime supervision provided for certain repeat sex offenders released from prison, and other sex offender supervision increased.

### HF384—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Sex offender tracking device monitoring bracelets funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF385—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Level III sex offenders required to submit to polygraph tests while on conditional release.

### HF386—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Public Safety Policy & Finance

Level III predatory offenders required to be photographed twice per year.

### HF387—Hilstrom (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Insurance agents required to disclose compensation and quotes from insurance companies when acting as risk managers.

### HF388—Hortman (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Insurance companies restricted from limiting quotes to one agent.

### HF389—Vandever (R)

#### Taxes

Education income tax credit modified.

### HF390—Tingelstad (R)

#### Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Environmental and natural resource projects approved by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF391—Samuelson (R)

#### Transportation Finance

New Brighton; rail service improvement program funding provided to construct a wye in the city of New Brighton.

### HF392—Samuelson (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

New Brighton sanitary sewer interceptor relocation grant provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF393—Latz (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Gift certificate and gift card expiration dates and service fees prohibited.

### HF394—Dean (R)

#### Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Stillwater levee flood control project grant expiration extended.

### HF395—Seifert (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Rail service improvement funding provided, previous rail improvement loan forgiven, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF396—Davnie (DFL)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Outcome standards required for supplemental education service providers.

### HF397—Mahoney (DFL)

#### Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

St. Paul Downtown Airport/Holman Field permanent flood control perimeter dike construction funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

### HF398—Solberg (DFL)

#### Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board early separation incentive program authorized.

### HF399—Peterson, A. (DFL)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Yellow Medicine County Hospital District board membership specified.

### HF400—Mahoney (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

School food service workers unemployment insurance eligibility exception made permanent.

### HF401—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Raffles with prizes under a specified limit per calendar year not required to register.

### HF402—Dempsey (R)

#### Taxes

Maximum long-term care income tax credit increased.

### HF403—Juhnke (DFL)

#### Transportation Finance

St. Cloud Regional Airport land acquisition, and Willmar municipal airport runway extension funding provided, and money appropriated.

### HF404—Nornes (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Otter Tail county transit service funding provided to Productive Alternatives, Inc., and money appropriated.

### HF405—Meslow (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Freedom to Breathe Act of 2005 established requiring persons to refrain from smoking in certain areas including places of employment, public transportation, bars, and restaurants.

### HF406—Gunther (R)

#### Taxes

Nonprofit tickets or admissions sales tax exemption extended to state and private colleges beyond the University of Minnesota.

### HF407—Sieben (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Wireless directory assistance service databases regulated to protect consumer privacy.

### HF408—Slawik (DFL)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Model school policy provided prohibiting intimidation or bullying in schools.

### HF409—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Minimum wage rate adjusted to account for annual inflation, and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF410—Klinzing (R)****Education Finance**

Joint Powers District No. 6067, East Metro Integration District, grant provided to repay Independent School District No. 625, St. Paul, for the site of Crosswinds Arts and Science Middle School; bonds issued; and money appropriated.

**HF411—Liebling (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University Center Rochester health sciences center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF412—Latz (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Freedom to Breathe Act of 2005 established requiring persons to refrain from smoking in certain areas including places of employment, public transportation, bars, and restaurants.

**HF413—Fritz (DFL)****Taxes**

Electric generation facility personal property exempted from property tax.

**HF414—Paulsen (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

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

**HF415—Howes (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

State forest land acquisition funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF416—Larson (DFL)****Local Government**

Metropolitan Council and Metropolitan Airports Commission residency requirements modified.

**HF417—Hackbarth (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Hunting and fishing license and permit lottery preference authorized for military service members and veterans.

**HF418—Goodwin (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

State service contracts and solicitations for state service contracts required to contain information on where work will be performed, state contractors required to disclose information from people they contact, and report required.

**HF419—Cox (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Great horned owls protection status modified.

**HF420—Goodwin (DFL)****Taxes**

Homestead property damaged by mold property tax reduction provided.

**HF421—Goodwin (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Deer exhibition special permit provisions modified.

**HF422—Ozment (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

State and local trail development funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF423—Dill (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Hot tubs on houseboats exempted from regulation as public pools.

**HF424—Lesch (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Government actions to obtain remedies for building and other code violations regulated.

**HF425—Mullery (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Minneapolis Lowry Avenue corridor Phase I capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF426—Penas (R)****Agriculture & Rural Development**

Farmer-lender mediation program expiration date extended and codified.

**HF427—Sertich (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Greater Minnesota business development public infrastructure grant program and redevelopment account bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF428—Lanning (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Wastewater treatment project municipality grants provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF429—Atkins (DFL)****Taxes**

Taxable income definition modified.

**HF430—Westrom (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

State and school district preference for textbooks and instructional materials in alternative formats for students with disabilities established.

**HF431—Westrom (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Instructional material accessibility regulated for students with a disability requiring a reading accommodation.

**HF432—Smith (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Chaplains employed by the state added to classified civil service.

**HF433—Brod (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Senate action on confirmation of appointments after adjournment prohibited.

**HF434—Demmer (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Mayo Clinic and University of Minnesota biotechnology and medical genomics research partnership funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF435—McNamara (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Inver Hills Community College remodeling funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF436—McNamara (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Natural Resources Department commissioner approval before vacating certain roads adjacent to public waters required and right of intervention created.

**HF437—McNamara (R)****Transportation Finance**

Red Rock corridor transitway funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF438—Nelson, M. (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Apprentice registration fees regulated.

**HF439—Nelson, M. (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Employer misrepresentation of nature of employment relationships pertaining to worker's compensation prohibited.

**HF440—Nelson, M. (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Employer misrepresentation of the status of employees prohibited and recovery of costs and attorney fees for unlawful trade practices provided.

**HF441—Fritz (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Minnesota Correctional Facility - Faribault delivery van drivers and laundry coordinators inclusion in Minnesota State Retirement System correctional state employees plan provided.

**HF442—Gunther (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

St. Paul Ordway Center for the Performing Arts renovation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF443—Paymar (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Employer retaliation protection for crime victims expanded.

**HF444—Heidgerken (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Pope County regional trail bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF445—Simpson (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Perham Veterans Museum funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF446—Moe (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Bug-O-Na-Ge-Shig school employee coverage by Minnesota State Retirement System general plan authorized.

**HF447—Moe (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Bemidji State University hockey arena bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF448—Kelliher (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Lake of the Isles flooding mitigation bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF449—Murphy (DFL)**  
**Capital Investment**  
Western Lake Superior Sanitary District project reserve from the public facilities pool increased.

**HF450—Charron (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Private sale of certain surplus state land bordering public water authorized.

**HF451—Carlson (DFL)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
State Board of Education established.

**HF452—Brod (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Minnesota Correctional Facility - Faribault Phase 1 expansion bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF453—Bradley (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Rochester four-year university planning committee established and money appropriated.

**HF454—Finstad (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Regional organization local planning assistance provided and money appropriated.

## Thursday, January 27

**HF455—Cybart (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
National Guard tuition reimbursement grants time period extended for members who have served in active military service.

**HF456—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Biomass—fueled community energy systems funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF457—Goodwin (DFL)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Deer transport and exhibition authorized.

**HF458—Howes (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Ah Gwah Ching nursing home addition funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF459—Howes (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Public broadcasting grant funding percentage required to be used for promotion of tourism.

**HF460—Hackbarth (R)**  
**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Off-highway vehicle provisions and forest classification review modified, and rulemaking exemptions provided.

**HF461—Knoblach (R)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Non-metro parks acquisition and improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF462—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Bloomington grant provided to maintain the old Cedar Avenue bridge for hikers and bikers, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF463—Lenczewski (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Casino; state-operated or state-licensed gambling facility prohibited in a city unless the voters of the city have approved the facility in a referendum.

**HF464—Westrom (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Hearing instrument dispenser licensure provided, and reimbursement provisions and continuing education requirements modified.

**HF465—DeLaForest (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Interfering with ambulance service personnel who are providing emergency care established as a crime.

**HF466—Otremba (DFL)**  
**Agriculture & Rural Development**  
Grain storage and general merchandise storage warehouse licensing rulemaking authorized.

**HF467—Anderson, B. (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Criminal vehicular homicide and injury for failure to yield right-of-way penalties imposed.

**HF468—Hansen (DFL)**  
**Transportation**  
Motorized bicycle definition modified to include bicycles propelled by an electric or liquid fuel motor.

**HF469—Charron (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Stillwater correctional facility high security unit funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF470—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Civil Law and Elections**  
Human rights act tolling provision established for the 12-month determination requirement, Department of Human Rights authorized to seek sanctions, and 180-day hearing provision repealed.

**HF471—Atkins (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Customer sales or service call center requirements imposed, and criminal penalty imposed.

**HF472—Olson (R)**  
**Transportation**  
Veterans special license plates number of vehicles limit repealed.

**HF473—Olson (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Creditor remedies exemptions modified to include wedding rings.

**HF474—Simpson (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Municipal utilities authorized to collect unpaid debts from state tax refunds.

**HF475—Dorman (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Albert Lea sales tax authorized for Shell Rock river watershed plan lake improvement projects.

**HF476—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Human rights agency technical changes provided.

**HF477—Vandever (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Centennial Lakes Police Facility construction supplies sales tax exemption provided.

**HF478—Erickson (R)**  
**Local Government**  
Alternative filing of surveys provided when there is no county surveyor.

**HF479—Rukavina (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Long-term care program funding restored, and money appropriated.

**HF480—Kahn (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Minneapolis Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway trail completion funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF481—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Minnesota Universal Health Board established, universal health program and health care trust fund created, statewide and regional health care budgets provided, public health goals requirement repealed, and money appropriated.

**HF482—Hilty (DFL)**  
**Transportation**  
Insurance coverage verification requests mail forwarding required, and suspension of license prohibited if request is returned undeliverable.

**HF483—Knoblach (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Trespass law expanded relating to time of return to private or school property.

**HF484—Demmer (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Rochester Regional Public Safety Training Center live burn training simulator funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF485—Lieder (DFL)**  
**Regulated Industries**  
Noon hour bingo changed to single occasion bingo and time of day restrictions removed.

**HF486—Abrams (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Publicly traded partnerships exempted from withholding requirements.

**HF487—Opatz (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Mentally retarded, mental retardation, physically handicapped, and other similar terms changed throughout statute.

**HF488—Urdahl (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Natural and scenic area grants, outdoor recreation grants, and Greater Minnesota regional park grants provided; bonds issued; and money appropriated.

**HF489—Westerberg (R)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Vehicle owners required to present proof of insurance when vehicle is registered, insurance companies required to notify state of cancellation of insurance, and vehicle owners required to show insurance or surrender title after cancellation.

**HF490—Cox (R)**

**Health Policy & Finance**

Intermediate care facilities for persons with mental retardation division of costs modified, and plan required.

**HF491—Clark (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Hennepin County affordable and supportive housing funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF492—Rukavina (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Aurora wastewater treatment plant funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF493—Bernardy (DFL)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**

Collector watercraft exempted from licensing requirements.

**HF494—Erickson (R)**

**Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 51, Foley, fund transfer authorized.

**HF495—Lenczewski (DFL)**

**Transportation Finance**

Cities authorized to impose street utility fee.

**HF496—Marquart (DFL)**

**Local Government**

Lake improvement districts provisions modified.

**HF497—Dempsey (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Cannon Falls flood mitigation measures funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF498—Knoblach (R)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Public safety radio communication system products and services sales and use tax exemption expanded and made permanent, subsystem definition and bonds use expanded, dollar limits increased, and money appropriated.

**HF499—Ellison (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Interest-free loan program created for certain members of the National Guard or other military service units called to active service and deployed outside of the United States.

**HF500—Ellison (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
National Guard and other military reserve members called to active service outside of the United States made eligible for participation in the health insurance portions of the state employee group insurance program, and money appropriated.

**HF501—Lillie (DFL)**

**Transportation**

Traffic signal override device unauthorized possession prohibited and penalties provided.

**HF502—Lillie (DFL)**

**Taxes**

Political subdivision sales and use tax exemption provided.

**HF503—Lillie (DFL)**

**Transportation**

Vehicles required to be driven in the right-hand lane, and exceptions provided.

**HF504—Carlson (DFL)**

**Higher Education Finance**

Postsecondary student financial aid modified and money appropriated.

**HF505—Dill (DFL)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

North Shore State Trail funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF506—Hackbarth (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

State trail for off-highway vehicles and motorcycles funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF507—Westerberg (R)**

**Civil Law & Elections**

Fair campaign practices regulations clarified to allow distribution of refreshments at a public parade.

**HF508—Otremba (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Tuition reimbursement grant time period extended for members of the Minnesota National Guard.

**HF509—Dempsey (R)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Manufacturing job retention program created and money appropriated.

**HF510—Mahoney (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Bioscience development bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF511—Mahoney (DFL)**

**Civil Law & Elections**

Campaign funds theft or conversion reporting required.

**HF512—Dempsey (R)**

**Education Finance**

Out-of-school suspension alternative created, funding mechanism authorized and money appropriated.

**HF513—Mahoney (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Minority population representation organization grants provided, and money appropriated.

**HF514—Westerberg (R)**

**Regulated Industries**

Lottery board established.

**HF515—Holberg (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Legislature size specified and legislative districts coordinated.

**HF516—Dorman (R)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

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

**HF517—Davids (R)**

**Commerce & Financial Institutions**

School district employee statewide health insurance pool created and money appropriated.

**HF518—Howes (R)**

**Education Finance**

Health and safety revenue expanded to cover school bus replacement costs.

**HF519—Hackbarth (R)**

**Regulated Industries**

Texas hold'em tournaments legalized as social skill games under certain conditions.

**HF520—Anderson, B. (R)**

**Taxes**

Clearwater city sales and use tax imposition authorized.

**HF521—Powell (R)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Burnsville water treatment facility bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF522—Nornes (R)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Child care reimbursement rates modified.

**HF523—Bradley (R)**

**State Government Finance**

Rochester National Volleyball Center Phase II expansion bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF524—Davids (R)**

**Jobs & Economic**

**Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Lanesboro theater and arts center development funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF525—Davids (R)**

**Taxes**

Emergency medical services special taxing district sunset extended.

**HF526—Davids (R)****Taxes**

Income tax checkoff provided to fund benefits for survivors of law enforcement officers and firefighters, injured public safety officers, and to maintain peace officer and firefighter memorials.

**HF527—Severson (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Farm labor housing regulation as manufactured home park exemption provided.

**HF528—Johnson, R. (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

South Central Technical College bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF529—Soderstrom (R)****Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 566, Askov, capital loan remaining balance forgiven, and school facility sale authorized.

**HF530—Wardlow (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Child support services provisions modified.

**HF531—Moe (DFL)****Taxes**

Bemidji city sales and use tax imposition authorized.

**HF532—Lillie (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

First-degree criminal sexual conduct offender life without release sentences required.

**HF533—Lillie (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Juvenile high-risk predatory offender community notification provided.

**HF534—Juhnke (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Intermediate care facility payment system exception created for persons with mental retardation and related conditions.

**HF535—Goodwin (DFL)****State Government Finance**

Nonprofit organization compensation disclosures required.

**HF536—Marquart (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Prevailing wage requirements modified.

**HF537—Nelson, M. (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Toll facility project development agreement wage rates and hours of labor regulated.

**HF538—Ozment (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Minnesota Zoological Garden capital improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF539—Dorman (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Shellrock River watershed improvements funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF540—Juhnke (DFL)****Agriculture & Rural Development**

Willmar rail container load-out facility study required.

**HF541—Cybart (R)****Transportation Finance**

Cedar Avenue bus rapid transit bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF542—Westerberg (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Campaign finance reporting requirements clarified.

**HF543—Johnson, J. (R)****Transportation Finance**

I-494 and Highway 169 median safety barriers bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF544—Marquart (DFL)****Local Government**

Age minimum for appointees to advisory boards modified.

**HF545—Marquart (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Age minimum to hold elected office reduced from 21 to 18 and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF546—Lieder (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Bridge repair, replacement, and rehabilitation bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF547—Charron (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Washington County library board made advisory to the county board.

**HF548—McNamara (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Hastings River Flats Interpretive Facility funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF549—Johnson, J. (R)****Taxes**

Property tax refund early payment authorized for returns filed electronically.

**HF550—Demmer (R)****Education Finance**

Safe school levy funds reserved for certain schools, and school districts authorized to use safe school levy funds for school counselors.

**HF551—Anderson, I. (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

County payments for natural resources land modified.

**HF552—Dill (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Grand Portage State Park visitor center and maintenance shop funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF553—Westerberg (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Community rehabilitation program funding provided, and money appropriated.

**HF554—Newman (R)****Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 2887, McLeod West, fund transfer authorized.

**HF555—Mariani (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

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

**HF556—Paymar (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Denturist licensure established.

**HF557—Wardlow (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Dakota County; Lebanon Hills Regional Park flood mitigation funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

**HF558—Hornstein (DFL)****Local Government**

Metropolitan Council elections provided.

**HF559—Erickson (R)****Regulated Industries**

Eastside Township in Mille Lacs County off-sale liquor license authorized.

**HF560—Hamilton (R)****Agriculture & Rural Development**

State policy on minimizing energy use and requiring renewable fuels clarified.

**HF561—Atkins (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Sex offenders prohibited from becoming custodians of unrelated children.

**HF562—Abeler (R)****Taxes**

Alcoholic beverage sales tax repeal eliminated and county chemical dependency costs funded.

**HF563—Knoblach (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

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

**HF564—Holberg (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Clean Indoor Air Act modified to preempt local regulation of smoking in public places, establishments allowing smoking required to register, criminal penalties imposed, and money appropriated.

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

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Minnesota Agriculture

Percent of state that is farmland .....	55
Average farm size, in acres (2003) .....	346
Number of farms in 2003 .....	80,000
In 1993 .....	86,000
State corn production in 2004, in billions of bushels .....	1.12
Percent increase from previous record high in 2002 .....	7
Millions of bushels of spring wheat produced in 2004 .....	88.6
Percent decrease from 2003 .....	15
Millions of bushels of soybeans produced in 2004 .....	236.2
Percent decrease from 2003 .....	1
Approximate percent of world's soybeans produced in Minnesota .....	5
State rank in milk production .....	6
Dairy farms in January 2004 .....	5,969
Milk cows on farms in December 2004 .....	460,000
Milk production in December 2004, in millions of pounds .....	679
Percent decrease from December 2003 .....	2
Billions of pounds of milk production in state last year .....	8.1
Billions in 2003 .....	8.26
Dollar amount generated in direct economic activity by each dairy cow in state .....	\$5,000
Millions of gallons of ice cream produced in Minnesota in 2003 .....	41.72
In 1999 .....	49.97
Millions of hogs produced annually in Minnesota .....	9.4
State rank .....	3
State rank for red meat production .....	6
Beef cows on state farms in 2004 .....	395,000
Millions of turkeys raised in Minnesota in 2004 .....	46.5
State rank .....	1
Economic impact of state's livestock industry, in billions .....	\$28
Approximate number of jobs supported by state livestock industry .....	193,000
Percent of jobs in rural Minnesota that are agricultural employment .....	26
Percent in metropolitan areas .....	13
Using a multiplier effect, billions in state economic activity generated by agricultural production and processing .....	\$52.85

**Sources: Minnesota Agriculture: The Foundation of Minnesota's Economy 2004-05, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; 2004 Minnesota Agricultural Statistics and press releases, Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service; University of Minnesota College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; and National Agricultural Statistics Service.**

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