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# SESSION Weekly

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**INSIDE: METH IS TAKING ITS TOLL, BILLS THAT SIZZLE, CAPITOL ON ICE, MORE**

This Week's Bill Introductions HF565-HF784

# 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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Minnesota House of Representatives  
Public Information Services  
175 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298  
(651) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550  
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#### Director

Barry LaGrave

#### Editor/Assistant Director

Lee Ann Schutz

#### Assistant Editor

Mike Cook

#### Art & Production Coordinator

Paul Battaglia

#### Writers

Ruth Dunn, Patty Janovec,  
Brett Martin, Matt Wetzel,  
Nicole Wood

#### Chief Photographer

Tom Olmscheid

#### Photographers

Andrew VonBank, Sarah Stacke

#### Staff Assistants

Christy Novak, Laura Noe

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On the cover: A 40-foot ice block replica of the State Capitol was erected in Rice Park in downtown St. Paul as a tribute to the Capitol's 100-year birthday celebration. The St. Paul Winter Carnival sponsored the tribute.

—Photo by: Tom Olmscheid

# Taking its toll

Rising meth use results in higher costs for everyone

By **RUTH DUNN**

**L**ena Clark started smoking marijuana when she was 18, and, within a few years, was growing 100 marijuana plants at her home. She and her husband, Jim, switched to methamphetamine about three years ago and soon began to manufacture the drug in a cornfield near their home in Mantorville.

They isolated themselves and their children — the children couldn't have friends over or even go to birthday parties. "If they said something wrong, we could get busted," said Lena.

The children had been good students but their grades dropped to Ds and Fs. One summer the children could not even play outside because the parents were sure that they were being watched by drug task force members. The children were worried and scared while the parents were absorbed in their addiction.

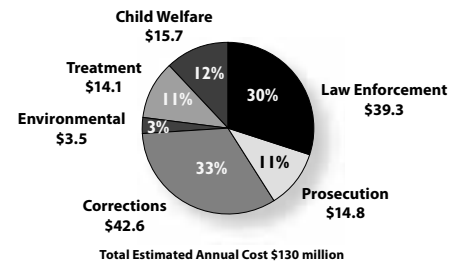
"Our roles were reversed, they were the

adults and we were the children," said Lena, once a healthy 135 pounds on a 5-foot-9-inch frame, who dropped to 95 pounds.

The Clarks described their painful plunge into drug addiction to members of the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee Jan. 27. Their story added a human dimension to other information the committee heard on the impact of methamphetamine and alcohol on the justice system.

An estimated 5,000 methamphetamine-related incidents come to the attention of police in Minnesota each year. The annual estimated costs related to methamphetamine in 2004 topped \$130 million, according to Mary Ellison, deputy commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety. That figure includes costs for law enforcement, corrections, prosecution, child welfare, treatment and environmental cleanup. It does not include additional costs related to abuse of the

**Estimated Annual Public Costs Related to Methamphetamine in 2004 (in millions)**



Source: Statistical Analysis Center, Minnesota Department of Public Safety

drug including health care, domestic abuse, identify theft, burglary and assaults. "The meth problem is having a huge impact on all our support systems," said Ellison. Last summer she traveled around the state talking with law enforcement officials, court employees and county commissioners. "Every place we visited everyone was really, really concerned about meth."

The average total public cost of a typical arrest for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) amounts to \$6,000 to \$9,000, while methamphetamine cases can cost upward of \$150,000 — "a very daunting figure," said Ellison.

Initially the cost is shared 50-50 by state and local governments, with the federal

**First Reading continued on page 4**



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

**Lena and Jim Clark of Mantorville give emotional testimony Jan. 27 before the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee about their battle with methamphetamine addiction and their success with the drug court.**

### Treatment center proposed

Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar) is sponsoring HF361 that would appropriate \$7.9 million for redevelopment of the Willmar Regional Treatment Center to provide treatment for methamphetamine users, and also specialized treatment for aging veterans.

Juhnke said there is nowhere to send first-time methamphetamine users who break the law, except jail.

"We need facilities for treatment," he said. "Judges are looking for a home for these folks."

Juhnke said the campus, which has primarily been used as a treatment facility, now has six empty buildings, costing the state \$1 million annually to maintain.

The House Health Policy and Finance Committee included the bill in its bonding recommendations that it sent to the House Capital Investment Committee.

A companion bill (SF403), sponsored by Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar), was included in the Senate bonding bill (SF1).

**First Reading continued from page 3**

government paying about 3 percent. Then the cost shifts with the state paying 64 percent.

Methamphetamine cases are more costly than drunken driving ones for several reasons, explained Ellison. Methamphetamine offenders tend to serve longer sentences in state correctional institutions, while DWI offenders are given shorter sentences, mostly served in county jails which are less costly.

In addition, the scope of methamphetamine investigations is more complex. Other costs stem from the cleanup of hazardous materials involved in methamphetamine cases because special equipment and trained technicians are required. Social services involving children, like foster care placement and medical care, also boost the cost.

Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) suggested that the educational cost should be added to the total because of the effect drug use is having on special education costs.

“The Twin Cities have not yet felt the full impact of the meth epidemic that is sweeping the state,” said Ellison. Crack cocaine is

**“For the first time in my life I am a registered voter and a tax-paying citizen.”**

— Jim Clark, former meth user

still the worst drug problem in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, but methamphetamine use is increasing, especially in fringe counties like Anoka, Washington and Dakota.

One of the most alarming trends that Ramsey County Court Judge Joanne Smith has seen is the use of methamphetamine by teenagers who “are gravitating to it for weight loss and for staying up late to study for exams.” They quickly become addicted which leads to other risky behavior, she said.

Smith said that 90 percent of cases on her court’s calendar on any given day relate directly to alcohol or drug abuse or have chemical dependency as an underlying issue. She now sees the grandchildren of people she served as public defender 21 years ago. “Chemical dependency is a family disease that is passed along from generation to generation.” But, she has also seen

that effective treatment can result in happier endings with families being reunited.

The Clarks are an example of that.

Both went through drug court, a nationwide program that was started in Florida to integrate treatment with the court system. “Drug court was the answer to our prayers, without it we would not have 18 months of sobriety,” said Lenae. “We would be dead, in prison or committed to an asylum.”

Both have full-time jobs and have completed their GED. Lenae just got a new job at the Mayo Clinic and would like to train as a licensed practical nurse. Their daughters can always have friends over and they never go hungry. “Our lives are great since we stopped using,” said Lenae. “For the first time in my life I am a registered voter and a tax-paying citizen,” said Jim.

Because of a growing alarm about the impact of drugs and alcohol, the state Supreme Court-approved task force on chemical dependency and its impact on the justice system will begin meeting in March, according to Smith.



## Capitol on ice



The 2005 St. Paul Winter Carnival is commemorating the Capitol Centennial with a State Capitol ice sculpture.

The replica was fashioned by a team of sculptors led by St. Paul College Culinary Arts Instructor Larry Fischer.

Fischer, who has been carving competitively since 1973, is this year’s Winter Carnival master carver. His team learned their unique skill through culinary arts programs.

“We are products of the state’s

technical college system,” he said. “The quality of what we do is obvious.”

The ice harvest from Lake Phalen began



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**A 40-foot ice block replica of the State Capitol was erected in Rice Park in downtown St. Paul as a tribute to the Capitol’s 100-year birthday celebration. The St. Paul Winter Carnival sponsored the tribute.**

Jan. 22 and the last block was in place by the morning of Jan. 26, Fischer said. The sculptors worked from detailed photographs of the Capitol façade to achieve the proper scale.

Barring a meltdown, the sculpture will be on display in the southeast corner of Rice Park through Feb. 6, the conclusion of the carnival. However, the temperature in St. Paul could reach 50 degrees before then.

“The fact that the work is short-lived gives it a little more of a mystique,” Fischer said.

Lawmakers might be interested to know the ice replica has no House chamber.

### State Capitol

Height, in feet, from ground to top of dome.....	223
Length of building, in feet .....	434
Approximate weight, in tons, of each of the eight columns in the open spaces between piers on the second floor.....	9.5
Exterior building materials ....	White Georgia marble, St. Cloud granite
Quadriga .....	steel and copper horses and figures in gold-leaf
Workers killed in course of construction.....	6

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

### Capitol Ice Sculpture

Height, in feet.....	15
Length, in feet.....	40
Weight, in tons.....	30
Base building materials .....	212 ice blocks from Lake Phalen
Structural building materials .....	100 specialty ice blocks from Sculpture Ice of Shakopee
Quadriga .....	toy horses spray-painted gold
Workers killed in course of construction...0	

## ★ AGRICULTURE

### Increasing ethanol content

Since 1997, motor vehicle gasoline sold in Minnesota has been required to contain 10 percent agriculturally derived ethanol by volume. The mandate is commonly referred to as "E10."

The House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee began reviewing Feb. 1 a bill (HF223), sponsored by Committee Chair Rep. Gregory M. Davids (R-Preston), that would raise the required ethanol/gasoline blend to 20/80 by the year 2010 or sooner, if at least 50 percent of the new automobiles for sale in the state are under warranty at that level.

Not everyone agrees on the possible effects the mandate may have on consumers, agribusiness and the environment.

"The dealers in Minnesota are certainly not anti-ethanol," said Alyssa Schlander, government affairs director with the Minnesota Auto Dealers Association. "When the farmers are happy, the dealers are happy."

But manufacturers have indicated to the auto dealers that they do not intend to honor warranties on vehicles that run on E20, she said. "Minnesota is only about 1.5 percent of the total U.S. vehicle market and so they are not likely to be making a special vehicle for Minnesotans that have to put E20 in their gas tanks."

Decreased gas mileage could cost Minnesota consumers an extra \$130 million annually, according to Flint Hills Resources Director of Public Affairs Diane Koebele.

"The opponents of E20 are using many of the same arguments that they used to argue against E10," said Bill Lee, general manager of the Chippewa Valley Ethanol Plant in Benson. The debate over mileage and value to the consumer is "completely missing the mark," he said. "Why are we worried about the cost impact of 20 percent of our fuel coming from in-state resources by 2012? Why are we not more concerned about what is the 80 percent of petroleum going to cost us in another seven years?"

No action was taken.

A Senate companion bill (SF4), sponsored by Sen. Dallas Sams (DFL-Staples), awaits action in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

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

## ★ BUSINESS



For information about the city of Aurora's request to the state to help with funding for a new wastewater treatment plant, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

## ★ CRIME

### Sex offender review board

A proposal to create a sex offender review board is included in a bill that would, if signed into law, toughen the state's sentencing guidelines for sex offenders.

That portion of HF1, sponsored by Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove), was reviewed Feb. 2 by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Under the plan, board members would serve four-year terms and review inmates' cases before making decisions regarding sentencing and whether an inmate should be released.

Rep. Diane Loeffler (DFL-Mpls) unsuccessfully offered an amendment to stagger the terms.

The board would consist of: the commissioner of corrections and commissioner of human services or appointed persons by the commissioners, a retired judge appointed by the governor, a treatment professional specifically not employed by corrections or human services and appointed by the governor, and a public person appointed by the governor.

Loeffler pointed to potential data privacy issues with the board reviewing offender information.

Committee Chair Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) said the privacy issues could be examined in the House Civil Law and Elections Committee, where the approved bill moves next.

Types of information the board would have access to include: a risk assessment report, a community investigation report, an inmate's criminal offense history, behavior while incarcerated, participation or completion of treatment, need for additional treatment and danger the inmate poses to the public if released.

Several members raised concern over the board's responsibility of releasing sex offenders because of the involvement of a board in the Dru Sjodin abduction case. Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) said there should be "some secondary accountability" to prevent another potential tragedy.

"I agree ... I was looking at locking up the offender," Zellers said, adding that the board is "another layer" to prevent something really egregious from occurring like in the Sjodin case.

A Senate companion (SF609), sponsored by Sen. Dave Kleis (R-St. Cloud), awaits action in the Senate Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee.

### Prison expansion

Three state correctional facilities would be expanded under bonding bills recommended to the House Capital Investment Committee by the House Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 3. All were included in the bonding bill last year that passed the House, but not the Senate.

"The proposals are absolutely critical to ensure public safety and the safety of staff," said Joan Fabian, corrections commissioner. Inmates are crammed into every possible space, she said, "We desperately need more room."

HF452 sponsored by Rep. Laura Brod

## PATRIOTIC SINGERS



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Amanda Kinney, front, and the rest of her fourth grade classmates from Snail Lake Elementary School in Shoreview wave their flags as they sing "You're a Grand Old Flag" during a Feb. 2 patriotic performance in the Capitol Rotunda.



(R-New Prague), calls for \$84.8 million to add 1,060 beds and nearly double the size of the correctional facility at Faribault. Staff would be increased by 50 percent also. The facility would be filled immediately when it's completed.

A similar bill (HF107), sponsored by Rep. Patti Fritz (DFL-Faribault), will not move on, but Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL-Hermantown) and Rep. Steve Smith (R-Mound) said they would talk to the sponsors about having Fritz join the list of sponsors for HF452.

A companion measure (SF512), sponsored by Sen. Thomas Neuville (R-Northfield), was included in the Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon). However, the amount is only \$71.37 million.

A new 150-bed high security segregation unit is proposed for the state correctional facility in Stillwater under HF469, sponsored by Rep. Mike Charron (R-Woodbury), at a cost of nearly \$20.85 million. The two-story unit would serve as a prison within a prison for those who have committed serious offenses while in prison.

The bill has no companion, nor was it included in the Senate bonding bill.

The committee also put its stamp of approval on a request from the Department of Corrections for a new dormitory with 24 beds at the Challenge Incarceration Program, a six-month boot camp near Willow River that features education, chemical dependency treatment and rigorous physical exercise for non-dangerous male offenders. Women attend a similar program called Thistledeew Camp in northern Minnesota.

The committee also approved an amendment submitted by Rep. Keith Ellison (DFL-Mpls) that gives the department flexibility to add an additional 75 beds if funds are available. Ellison said there are now 186 on the waiting list.

Also being recommended is the department's request for \$11 million for repairs at several other correctional institutions.

Two other proposals will move forward without recommendation. HF484, sponsored by Rep. Randy Demmer (R-Hayfield), would provide \$627,000 for a five-story live burn training simulator adjacent to the existing National Guard facility in Rochester.

Similar to a facility near Camp Ripley in central Minnesota, the proposed facility would be used by police and fire departments in southeastern Minnesota and by the National Guard. "This would decentralize training," explained Demmer. "Departments can't afford to send teams across the state for training and pay for room and board."

Sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), HF208 calls for \$642,000 for

the city of Blue Earth to acquire land and to design, construct, furnish and equip a new fire and police station to replace the current facility constructed in the 1950s.

Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center) said that most cities raise money locally through property taxes for projects like this. "Why does this rise to the level of state funding rather than local?"

Gunther said the request is being made because the area is economically depressed and has a shrinking population. "The need is greater than the funding they can raise locally." In addition, he said, the departments provide assistance to a 122-square mile area so it has regional impact.

## ★ DEVELOPMENT

### Iron Range lakes

The open pits left by mining companies after iron ore has been extracted could be a commercial bonanza to northern Minnesota, according to the Central Iron Range Initiative.

A proposal calls for lakes to be designed and built on the sites, then stocked with freshwater fish. The hope is individuals looking for lakeshore property would snap up the land, currently owned by the state and federal government.

HF359, sponsored by Rep. Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm), would provide \$1.7 million to support the project. That would include implementation of a sewer district and land and lake design. There is already a natural aquifer there.

The bill was heard Feb. 1 by the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee, and held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

"We have an exciting opportunity to make some new land for Minnesota," said John Fedo, economic development director for the initiative, a grassroots organization that works to plan future economic development in the area.

"Once you get the development down, I envision the private side taking over," Sertich said, adding that lakeshore property is generally valuable.

And once there are lots, private builders often assume development costs, said Rep. Paul Gazelka (R-Brainerd).

The bill has no Senate companion, yet the dollars are included in the approved Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

## "The Green Book"



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A 4-page, up-to-date list of all committees, their members and staff, and their meeting time and location.

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Most publications are also available online as high-quality, printable PDFs at [www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn).

## ★ EDUCATION

### School funding

The House Education Finance Committee recommended \$9.42 million in bonding requests to the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 2.

"We know everything won't be funded," said Rep. Barb Sykora (R-Excelsior), the committee chair. "We kept the list short so our priorities would get through."

Projects being recommended are:

- \$3 million to fund library capital improvement grants to improve handicapped accessibility, or for renovation or new construction;



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

**Former Sen. Ember Reichgott Junge, left, former Deputy Commissioner Joe Graba, center, and former Assistant Education Commissioner Dan Loritz, right, give a presentation to the Jan. 27 meeting of the House Education Policy and Reform Committee entitled, "Changing Times, Changing Needs Part II: A Systematic View of Public Education in Minnesota."**

- \$4.26 million for repair of old buildings at the state academies for the deaf and blind in Faribault;
- \$1.08 million to repair aging buildings and to raze a building at the Perpich Center for Arts Education, a state-owned arts high school located in Golden Valley; and
- \$1.08 million to complete the purchase of 37 acres in Woodbury needed for the Crosswinds Arts and Science Middle School. The money would repay a loan from the St. Paul School District that was used to settle a land purchase dispute that began in the late-1990s. The money was in last year's bonding bill passed by the House, but not the Senate.

The committee did not recommend these projects:

- \$3.33 million for additional asset preservation at the state academies,
- \$2.86 million for additional improvements at the Perpich Center for Arts Education,
- \$1.07 million for the Grant Magnet School in Duluth, and
- \$600,000 for a geothermal heating system in the Onamia School District.

A \$24 million request from the Red Lake School District for new school buildings is in limbo. The committee voted to send the proposal forward without a specific recommendation.

Rep. Randy Demmer (R-Hayfield) said the committee needs more information about the district before approving the request. "There's an awful lot of money going out to the district, I'd like to see what we're getting for our money, what the results are," he said.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan) said money should first be sought locally, as it is with other school districts, before a request is made for state funding. He suggested the school district approach a nearby casino, the largest employer in the area.

Because the district is located entirely within a reservation, federal law prohibits it from raising funds locally through property taxes.

## ELECTIONS

### Staggered terms

Two House members are proposing the terms that senators serve be staggered, and this change, they say, would lead to more accountability.

Under current law, House members are elected every two years and senators are elected to four-year terms in years ending with 2 and 6, such as 2002 and 2006, and two-year terms in years ending in 0, such as 2000.

Rep. Laura Brod (R-New Prague), sponsor of HF333, and Rep. Nora Slawik (DFL-Maplewood), sponsor of HF350, testified together before the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 27. Each bill proposes a constitutional amendment asking for staggered terms for senators. If approved, the question would go to voters in 2006, and if passed, implemented in 2012, following redistricting based on the 2010 census.

Minnesota is one of 11 states that does not have staggered terms.

Slawik said the bills attempt "to help prevent

legislative gridlock ... the senators would feel more compelled to take action and also to be more responsive potentially to constituents."

"I think this is one way that we can improve the process of getting things done here in the state of Minnesota." It will also increase accountability to voters and more deliberation among legislators, Brod said.

Rather than increase the rapidity of law-making through deliberation, Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) said that "government is designed to move rather slowly, because what we do has immense consequences for people...it's designed to move at a snail's pace."

The difference between the bills is in the wording of a question that would be asked of voters. Slawik said her version is at a "level where everyone can understand," while Brod said her version is "a little bit more technical versus a little more colloquial on the other side."

The committee approved the bills without recommendation because several legislators said deciphering the wording on the ballot should be left to the House Civil Law and Elections Committee.

A pair of companion bills (SF5 and SF425), sponsored by Sen. Charles Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul) and Sen. Geoff Michel (R-Edina), respectively, await action by the Senate Elections Committee.

## ★ GAME & FISH

### ★ Translating game and fish laws

Many hunters and anglers within the state's Hmong, Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian immigrant communities have a steep learning curve when it comes to Minnesota game and fish laws, according to Josee Cung, program manager for the Department of Natural Resources Southeast Asian Outreach Program.

"When we came, we came with a strong cultural connection to hunting and fishing," Cung told the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee Feb. 1. But there is no Department of Natural Resources equivalent in their native countries, she explained.

The goal of the program, she said, is to reach out to Minnesota's Southeast Asian community groups through game and fish law workshops, firearm safety classes and other environmental education efforts.

Blia Xa Lee, a volunteer firearm safety training instructor with the program, shared his concerns about hunter harassment with the committee. Lee said he has encountered hostile hunters on both public and private lands.

"We need you to provide more, hire more Asian conservation officers because they know both languages, they know both cultures," he said. "Another thing is ... to provide more education. Not just for Asians but I think pretty much for the public, for every hunter in Minnesota, so everybody can understand each other."

"Hopefully we can get more officers," said Committee Chair Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar).

## ★ GOVERNMENT

### Coordinating districts

Legislative districts could be realigned by 2013, and the size of the Legislature could decrease, under a bill approved by the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Feb. 2.

Currently, some legislators have more than one congressional boundary running through their district. HF515, sponsored by Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville), would prevent congressional districts from crossing Senate districts.

Holberg said the change would create less confusion for constituents. Rep. Denny McNamara (R-Hastings) said constituents have questioned him on who their congressional representative is because several boundaries run through his district.

The bill would also reduce the number of senators from 67 to no fewer than 60 and no more than 64, and House members from 134 to no fewer than 120 and no more than 128. Under the bill, the number of senators must be evenly divisible by the number of Minnesota representatives in Congress.

Voters would be asked in 2006 if they want to change the Legislature's size, and if so, the Legislature would determine its size by 2008; therefore, redistricting following the 2010 census would be done based on the new numbers.

Holberg noted that Minnesota's Senate is the largest in the nation, and the change would produce a \$1.9 million savings per year in salaries, staffing and office space.

Several committee members representing Greater Minnesota districts expressed opposition to the bill.

Rep. Aaron Peterson (DFL-Madison) said constituents' confusion is their own responsibility and changing boundaries makes rural members' districts larger and more difficult to campaign. "A piece of Minneapolis or a piece of Lakeville that gets carved out into somebody else's territory ... you're talking meters and feet in some cases, but we're talking square miles and townships," he added.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Walter Klaus, who served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1957-73, listens to a question from a member of the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Feb. 2 about a bill that would reduce the size of the Legislature and alter the way Senate boundaries are drawn.**

Rep. Ruth Johnson (DFL-St. Peter) said the change would create an "increase in population and whole lot of more miles on the car" making "face-to-face" contact even more challenging.

"Having some type of order and continuity between congressional districts and the organization of House and Senate districts ... I find that far more rational," Holberg said.

The bill now moves to the House Civil Law and Elections Committee. A companion bill (SF291), sponsored by Sen. Pat Pariseau (R-Farmington), awaits action on the Senate floor.

## ★ HEALTH

### Choices and savings offered

Minnesotans could see more choices and potentially more savings in their health plans under a pair of bills encouraging consumer-driven health plans.

HF9, sponsored by Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan), and HF135, sponsored by Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud), seek to conform Minnesota's income tax treatment of health savings accounts (HSAs) to federal income tax laws.

Under federal law, account contributions are tax-free as are account earnings and withdrawals to pay medical expenses. The nearly identical bills would give the accounts the same tax advantages under state law that they have under federal law. Each is also retroactive to tax year 2004.

"We need to adopt state conformity to what the federal has done," Knoblach told the House Health Policy and Finance Committee on Feb. 2.

"This is a really promising way to hold down costs while still providing quality care."

Both bills were referred to the House Commerce and Financial Institutions Committee.

An HSA, when paired with a high deductible health plan, forms a consumer-driven health plan. Wilkin said the accounts encourage people to buy health plans that best suit their needs. Individuals own the accounts, so they can be carried from job to job until retirement.

"It's a powerful tool to help contain health costs," Wilkin said. He added that nearly one-third of current account holders were formerly uninsured.

Wilkin said if Minnesota does not adopt federal conformity, it would increase the cost of doing business in Minnesota relative to the 31 states that have. Nine states don't need conformity because they don't tax income.

Wayne Nelson, president of Communicating for Agriculture & The Self Employed, Inc., said the accounts would help farmers and small business owners keep their insurance and help the unemployed afford insurance.

"By increasing the deductible, there are definitely premium savings," Nelson said.

The Senate companion bill to Knoblach's bill (SF194), sponsored by Sen. Mady Reiter (R-Shoreview), has been referred to the Senate Health and Family Security Committee. The companion to Wilkin's bill (SF99), sponsored by Sen. Brian LeClair (R-Woodbury), was approved by one committee and awaits action in the Senate Tax Committee.



For information on a proposed methamphetamine treatment facility, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>



## HIGHER EDUCATION



### Governor recommendations

In his biennial budget request, Gov. Tim Pawlenty is recommending increases to the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, but not what officials hoped for.

Susan Heegaard, director of the Higher Education Services Office (HESO), told the House Higher Education Finance Committee Jan. 31 that the dollars amount to an 8.4 percent increase versus fiscal years 2004-05, while the entire state budget is increasing 5.8 percent. The committee took no action.

The total amount allocated to higher education is \$2.77 billion, with the largest amounts allocated to the university (\$1.22 billion) and MnSCU (\$1.20 billion).

The university allocation is \$113 million greater than the previous biennium, or 10.3 percent. Included in the amount is a \$36 million bioscience investment in areas that the state and university have demonstrated leadership, such as medical devices and food production. Funds will be used, in part, to recruit faculty and support research. Heegaard said that the dollars are designed to leverage outside funding in these areas.

Other university areas include \$35 million for research support and \$15 million for compensation increases to retain top professors and researchers at the university.

MnSCU is budgeted for an 8.5 percent increase of \$107.5 million. Included is \$50 million to fully implement a funding model that the board uses to allocate state resources to institutions, \$20 million to create centers of excellence in six fields and \$10 million to increase capacity for training nurses.

Two years ago the university and MnSCU each received about a 15 percent funding reduction. Students subsequently were hit with double digit tuition increases.

"We hope that any funding shortfall will not be put on students in the form of a tuition increase," Heegaard said.

Also in the governor's plan is \$3.2 million to establish an independent postsecondary institution in Rochester.

The University Center — a partnership between the university, Winona State University and Rochester Community and Technical College — has existed since 1994, with more than 150 areas of study. "The community said that what's there is not enough," Heegaard said. "This is an exciting opportunity to create a unique institution with high quality programs focused on the academic disciplines that support and complement the economic

vitality of this community and the state," Pawlenty wrote in his budget message.



For information on the budget squeeze at private colleges and universities, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

## HUMAN SERVICES



### Bonding priorities forwarded

The addition of 150 new beds for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program at the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center leads the list of bonding priorities for the House Health Policy and Finance Committee.

The \$3.3 million project is part of the overall \$57.3 million the committee is recommending be allocated to 14 projects.

Other priorities in the \$27 million request for the Department of Human Services include \$12.6 million for a 50-bed skilled forensic nursing facility for aged or ill sex offenders receiving state care; \$6.2 million for system-wide campus redevelopment, reuse and demolition costs at the state's regional treatment centers; \$4 million to finance asset preservation projects at regional treatment centers; and \$1 million for system-wide roof repair at campuses. The governor recommended all human services requests.

The remaining \$30 million would go to the Veterans Homes Board. Its projects include \$7.9 million for the reuse of the Willmar Regional Treatment Center for methamphetamine treatment and specialized treatment for aging veterans; \$7.2 million for five capital projects; and \$6 million for asset preservation of veteran's homes. Only the asset preservation was in the governor's bonding proposal.

"Our first priority is public safety," said Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), chair of the committee. "The protection of the public is our top concern."

Bradley said asset preservation and taking care of current facilities are also important, and is reflected in the committee's priorities.

Some of the committee's priorities were included in the Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), that was approved Jan. 24.

The committee sent its list of priorities to the House Capital Investment Committee.

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



For information on a proposed forensic facility in Walker, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



### Stop the flooding

Nearly a foot of rain fell on and around Austin in 24 hours on Sept. 15, 2004. This resulted in the Cedar River rising 21 feet, and flooding streets, shopping areas and the surrounding rural areas.

But that's not the first time that happened in Austin. "We've had a number of floods in the last 25 years," said City Engineer Jon Erichson, referring to storms in 1978, 1993 and 2000.

So, local units of government in the affected areas are asking the state for \$2 million to replace and renovate storm sewers and other infrastructure damaged in the most recent floods. The money would also help the city buy property damaged in the flooding. The property would be cleared and houses possibly moved elsewhere, Erichson said.

HF603, sponsored by Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea), would provide that money. Heard Feb. 2 by the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee, it was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

Committee Chair Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont) called the flood "devastating," and Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) said, "That's what this committee does is deal with natural disasters. I will place it high on my list of priorities."

A companion bill (SF557), sponsored by Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin), was included in the Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

### Arena funding

Mayor Herb Bergson says the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center is a centerpiece for downtown Duluth, a gathering place that has hosted the Eagles and Cher in the past year, and is the longtime home for college and high school hockey.

"It is desperately in need of replacement," Bergson said. "A new arena will benefit the city, state and region for years to come."

Sponsored by Rep. Thomas Huntley (DFL-Duluth), HF102 would allocate \$1.5 million to help design and prepare construction documents for construction of a new arena.

The bill was heard Jan. 31 by the House

Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee and held over for possible inclusion in its bonding resolution.

A new arena "would expand the convention capabilities of the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center and provide an updated facility for the University of Minnesota-Duluth men's and women's hockey programs," said Huntley, who noted that the university is willing to sign a long-term commitment to play there.

The hockey arena is the oldest in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association, and the ice sheet is the smallest. Its seating capacity of 5,333 ranks eighth in the 10-team league.

"It's an old facility that has served us well," said Dan Russell, executive director of the center. He said the former Met Center in Bloomington and former St. Paul Civic Center were built after the DECC was constructed in 1964.

A companion measure (SF29), sponsored by Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon (DFL-Duluth), is included in the approved Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

### Urban renewal continues

Hennepin County is looking to help the Hawthorne, McKinley and Folwell neighborhoods in northeast Minneapolis by rehabilitating the Lowry Avenue Corridor.

A way to do that is to demolish dilapidated properties, expand the roads and put in bus shelters along the corridor, which runs from Girard Avenue North to Interstate 94. Then, supporters say, the area may be ripe for new development.

Hennepin County is undertaking Phase I of the \$13.8 million project, and is asking for \$5 million from the state to help.

A bill (HF425) to allocate the funds, sponsored by Rep. Joe Mullery (DFL-Mpls) was heard Jan. 31 in the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee, and was held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

That area is now a high crime area, suffering from all the symptoms of urban decay, including poverty, unemployment, drug use and assaults. The primary victims of those neighborhoods are children, said Anna Dvorak, chair of the McKinley Community organization, a neighborhood group.

"Kids in the neighborhood don't have the choice of moving to another neighborhood," she said. "We've seen what redevelopment has done in the south area of Minneapolis, it has caused the crime to come to us."

Tara Johnson, a mother of four children and administrative director of the organization, agrees. "I don't feel completely safe in the neighborhood. We pretty much stay indoors,"



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Anna Dvorak, left, chair, and Tara Johnson, administrative director of the McKinley Community, testify Jan. 31 before the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee for the issuance of state bonds for the Lowry Avenue Corridor in Minneapolis.**

she said.

Hennepin County Commissioner Mark Stenglein said the corridor has always been well traveled. "The reality of the Lowry Hill area is that it has declined. Lowry Avenue has great potential," he said.

Sen. Linda Higgins (DFL-Mpls) sponsored a companion bill (SF517) in the Senate. In that body, \$1.5 million of the request was included in the approved Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).



For information on other requests that may be included in the House bonding bill, go to the Session Weekly EXTRA page at: <http://www.house.mn/hinfo/swx.asp>

## MILITARY

### Family assistance

A young mother whose husband was deployed to Iraq couldn't afford to pay her home insurance deductible after a storm damaged her house.

She called Rep. Scott Newman (R-Hutchinson) for help.

After receiving other calls from soldiers' families in a variety of financial hardship

situations, he is sponsoring HF229, which would create an additional check-off box on Minnesota tax forms to assist National Guard and Reserve members and their families affected by federal active duty service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Beginning in taxable year 2005, taxpayers would be able to pledge any amount, and soldiers could receive up to \$2,000 "for a financial need as a result of that service." The Department of Military Affairs would manage the fund by distributing the money to individual soldiers or qualifying nonprofit organizations that could also distribute the monies.

"When you couple the separation with the financial hardship, it really is having a direct effect on the families in Minnesota," Newman told the House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee Jan. 27.

Newman said that passing a law for every financial hardship would be impossible, so he decided to "create a fund that would address a wide variety of situations."

Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) said that although he supports what the bill is trying to do, the language is not strong enough in protecting the money for its intended use. "The track record is out there that that wording doesn't mean anything" because the governor has shifted other like monies to fill the budget deficit, he said.

Newman responded he would revisit the issue of funding to ensure the donations are used for their intended purposes.

The bill now goes to the House State Government Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

## SAFETY

### Motor vehicle fires

The cost of putting out vehicle fires on highways is growing for cities, according to Vadnais Heights Fire Chief Ed Leier. It is an expenditure that cities like his can't afford.

Many drivers involved in incidents carry no car insurance or are not from this state, making it hard to collect any kind of money to recover the costs, he said.

Rep. Greg Blaine (R-Little Falls) is sponsoring HF210 that would allow for the reimbursement of \$300 per fire call to cities through a motor vehicle fire revolving account in the state's General Fund.

He told the House Local Government Committee Feb. 2 that the costs "add up over time."

The bill would also allow the transportation commissioner to receive any monies collected for costs of extinguishing a fire in

a trunk highway right-of-way. That money would in turn go into the revolving fund to be reimbursed to local fire departments.

Rep. Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul) asked how widespread the problem is and the costs associated to fires.

Leier said in the past decade Vadnais Heights has responded to 540 calls on 7.5 miles of interstate in the city, including 53 vehicle fires. On average, it costs \$350 per hour to respond to fires, he said. The city would request the Legislature also look into crash and rescue reimbursements as well, he added.

The bill was approved and now moves to the House Transportation Finance Committee.

A Senate companion (SF344), sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), awaits action in the State and Local Government Operations Committee.

## TAXES



### Tsunami tax break

**Signed  
by  
the  
governor**  
\*\*\*

Taxpayers who made contributions in January 2005 to tsunami relief in Asia will be permitted to deduct those contributions on their 2004 state income tax returns, under a new law signed Jan. 27 by Gov. Tim Pawlenty.

The signing came 20 days after President Bush signed a similar federal law.

A Dec. 26 earthquake in the Indian Ocean touched off a tsunami that heavily damaged coastal areas from Indonesia to Africa and killed more than 150,000 people with thousands more still missing and presumed dead.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**Surrounded by legislators, Gov. Tim Pawlenty signs the tsunami tax relief bill in his reception room Jan. 27.**

Since then, relief money has poured in from all over the world.

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

The effect of the law is expected to be financially negligible. According to estimates from the Department of Revenue, the law will shift approximately \$35,000 from fiscal year 2005 to 2006. That will vary, depending on how many people make donations and how much they donate.

Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka) and Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope) sponsored the law, which is effective Jan. 28, 2005.

HF166/SF218\*/CH1

## TECHNOLOGY



### Boost for bioscience

Bioscience could mean thousands of jobs in Minnesota, paying between \$40,000 and \$60,000, so Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) believes government investment is appropriate.

He is sponsoring HF510, which would invest \$32 million in the industry statewide. The bill was heard Feb. 1 by the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee and held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

Bioscience uses the properties of cells, such as their manufacturing capabilities and biological molecules, to solve problems. It can be used in many areas, including agriculture,

science and the medical industry.

Mahoney's bill would provide the transportation and infrastructure to support development of the bioscience industry in Minnesota.

Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester and rural Minnesota would each receive \$8 million, according to the bill. "This is the first step we will have to take for a number of years to build this industry," Mahoney said. "This is a wide-ranging industry that can provide many high-paying jobs."

"This could be a defining moment for providing jobs, and providing jobs is what this committee should be about," said Committee Chair Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont).

There is no companion bill in the Senate, but in the approved Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), is \$5 million for St. Paul to support the infrastructure and development of biosciences business in that city.

### Room for genomics

The University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic are looking to form a partnership that could be a key to Minnesota's economic future.

HF689, sponsored by Rep. Bob Gunther (R-Fairmont), would support that partnership. It was heard Feb. 2 by the House Jobs and Economic Opportunity Policy and Finance Committee and held over for possible inclusion in the committee's bonding resolution.

The bill would provide \$24.3 million to the university to purchase three floors of the Stable Building at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. The new space would be used to accommodate the collaborative research efforts into genomics between the two entities. The floors would be owned by the university and operated by the Mayo Clinic.

"This is a very inexpensive way of getting the space that's needed," Gunther said.

Genomics pinpoints the normal and abnormal functions of individual genes and uses the information to diagnose and treat disease. Supporters believe that together, the university and the Mayo Clinic could come up with better ideas than they could on their own, so what better reason to provide additional space.

A total of \$21.7 million is included for the project in the Senate bonding bill (SF1), sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

The money was part of last session's bonding proposal, which was approved by the House, but not the Senate. At that time the amount was \$20 million, but has increased due to inflation.

# Finding a companion

From bill to law, House and Senate need to find common ground

By **BRETT MARTIN**

**W**hen Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington) opposed a casino proposed for her city, she didn't have to look far to find an ally in the Senate.

"When it comes to Bloomington, we throw politics aside," said Sen. William Belanger (R-Bloomington).

Despite belonging to opposite parties and serving in opposite chambers, Lenczewski and Belanger share common ground. They both represent Bloomington, they both served on the Bloomington City Council, and Lenczewski went to school with Belanger's son.

"Between us, we have a multi-generational understanding of the city," Lenczewski said. "We definitely don't agree on everything, but it doesn't affect us working together. We both feel our job is to represent our community."

Belanger agrees, "You have to work together. You look for the things that you agree on."

For the second year in a row, they're working together on legislation to keep a casino out of Bloomington.

This cooperation is crucial since a bill needs to be approved in both the House and the Senate, in identical form, before being signed

into law by the governor. This means the sponsor of each House bill must find someone to sponsor a companion bill in the Senate, and vice versa.

"It's a cumbersome process, but it's to benefit the public," Belanger said.

Patrick Murphy, first assistant chief clerk for the House, said the companion bill method requires collaboration between the House and Senate, which speeds along the bill process.

"Members of both bodies work all the time together. That's the whole idea. That's what gets the same idea moving," he said. "There is a lot of cooperation because they all need companion bills [to become law]."

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) said finding a companion bill sponsor who shares a similar ideology and is passionate about the issue is often key to the bill's success.

"It's important that you have an author who really believes in it and is enthusiastic so they will push it," Jaros said. "You want someone who will fight for it."

Working across party lines, as Lenczewski and Belanger do, can be a factor in generating majority support.

"If you can speak from both parties and both

houses, it comes across as a united voice and helps your position," Lenczewski said. "I think the best legislators don't strictly work on one side of the aisle."

Although companion bills are identical when first introduced, the wording often changes in committees or on the floor as items are added or deleted.

In the House, the speaker assigns each bill and numbered resolution to a standing committee. It is

then assigned a House file number by the chief clerk. This identifies the bill as it travels through committees and onto the floor. House bills go through the necessary policy committees and if they have financial implications, they go to a finance committee.

The process in the Senate is somewhat different. Bills and resolutions are given a number by the Secretary of the Senate's Office and assigned to a committee by the Senate president.

House bills are identified with an "HF" and Senate bills with an "SF." Each bill receives three readings on the respective floor before members debate its merits and a final vote is taken.

Once the House and Senate versions of the bill are passed, if the wording is the same, the bill goes to the governor. If the wording is different, a conference committee, composed of three to five members from both the House and Senate, is assigned to work out language differences.

"The wording has to be identical in both bodies to become law," Murphy said. "That's why compromise is difficult."

As an example, Murphy cites the drunken driving law passed last year in which the legal limit for blood alcohol content was lowered from 0.10 to 0.08. In the original House version, the law would have taken effect Aug. 1, 2007. The Senate version called for an Aug. 1, 2004, effective date. The conference committee compromised, and the bill becomes law Aug. 1, 2005.

Bills can originate in either body, except for bills for raising revenue, which must be first introduced in the House. That requirement is called for in the state constitution, which is based on a federal law going back nearly 200 years when U.S. senators were appointed by the state Legislature rather than elected by the people. In 1913, the 17th amendment to the U.S. Constitution changed the election of senators.

Not all bills, however, end up with a companion bill. A legislator may introduce a bill knowing it will never have a companion and never become law that session.

"Sometimes someone introduces a bill just to get the idea out there," Murphy said.


Technically, bills are alive over the course of a biennium, so a bill introduced in 2005 that doesn't pass could still be discussed until final adjournment in 2006. 



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

**St. Paul Police Officer David Titus explains a portion of a bill that would allow officers to wear an American flag on their uniforms. Behind him at the Jan. 13 press conference are the Senate and House sponsors, Sen. Mady Reiter and Rep. Ray Vandever.**

# All on the World Wide Web

## A how-to guide for following bills online

Throughout the course of a legislative session, thousands of bills are introduced and discussed. That doesn't mean you should be discouraged while trying to keep up with all that is happening at the Capitol, whether you're closely following a number of bills or casually following a few.

And you don't have to physically be at the Capitol to track legislation. Through the Legislature's Web site ([www.leg.mn](http://www.leg.mn)), following a bill from your computer is easy.

### Where to begin - the basics

The best place to begin is the Legislature's main page. Click the words "Bill Search, Status and MyBills," which will take you to a page where you can select either the House or Senate bill link. There, you can enter a House or Senate file number, which is used to identify a bill in the House or Senate, the name of the chief author in either body, a statutory citation if you know it, a keyword description or selected search topic.

The MyBills service provides personalized bill tracking for current legislation. Or, bills can be tracked on the Web site as far back as the 1993-94 biennium by using the drop-down menu next to the "Previous years' bills" heading.

Once you enter search criteria, the "bill status summary" page gives a short version of what the bill is about, and provides links to the status, full text or the House Research Department summary of a bill. The status area shows the process of a bill from its introduction, through the committee and floor process, to gubernatorial action.

### Finding the tools to search

You don't have to know a bill's number or even the chief author to find information on legislation you are interested in.

There are several features on the Legislature's Web site to help you determine what a bill's number is and who has sponsored a specific piece of legislation in both the House and the Senate.

On the main bill tracking search page, there is a section at the top for House bills and Senate bills. Choose either link and you will be directed to an Internet form with a number of options.

If you are unsure about the best way to

proceed, scroll down to "How to follow a bill". The page features an explanation of how to find a bill and its status.

Near the top of the page are four links to four different searches.

• House Topic Search: this search allows

• House Action Search: this link offers dozens of possible status actions for bills in the House. This may also be handy if you are trying to determine whether a committee has reported on a certain bill or if you think a bill was acted upon on a certain day, but you're not sure of any other information.

The Legislature's Web site also lists the bills that both the House and Senate introduce each day.

### Gubernatorial action

When a bill is sent to the governor for approval, it is recorded on the legislative log, which can be found at [http://www.governor.state.mn.us/LegCoord/LegCoord\\_list.asp](http://www.governor.state.mn.us/LegCoord/LegCoord_list.asp). The log contains a brief description of each bill, its House and Senate file numbers and the date of gubernatorial action.

There are several guidelines regarding when the governor must act on a bill. Generally, he or she has three days to sign or veto a bill during the course of the legislative session.

A history of vetoed bills since 1939 is available through the Legislative Reference Library at <http://www.leg.mn/leg/vetoed/vetoed.asp>.

### Information by phone

For those who do not have access to a computer, bill information is just a phone call away. Contact the House Index Department at (651) 296-6646 or the Senate Information Office at (651) 296-2887 or 1-888-234-1112.

Also, if you're looking for information on the Internet site, and you're not sure where to find it, you can contact the House Public Information Services Office at (651) 296-2146 or 1-800-657-3550.



The Legislature's Web site includes an easy-to-use bill tracking function.

you to find bills according to the major topic area that it falls into. In some cases, a bill deals with several topics, and the topic you are interested in will be a part of another larger bill.

• House Author Search: this option allows you to see all the bills a particular author has sponsored. It is handy when you know a certain representative has sponsored a bill, but you're not sure what its number or status is.

• House Committee Search: sometimes all you might know about a bill is that a particular House committee is hearing the bill. This search option allows you to see all the bills that a particular committee has possession of.



# Performing on a new stage

## Charron merges love of arts and politics in the House

BY PATTY JANOVEC

When thinking about the nuances of being a freshman House member, Rep. Mike Charron (R-Woodbury) said he feels the same sense of child-like wonder as on Christmas Eve.



Rep. Mike Charron

“This is my first new job in 22 years,” he joked.

A professor and chair of the theatre department at Concordia University in St. Paul, Charron said many educators are public service oriented. He is

no different and has been actively involved in his home community. “Almost on a whim someone said, ‘You should really run for city council,’” he said. And he did, and won.

With his years of teaching and council service, Charron said he has gained valuable experience understanding the issues he is facing as a legislator. “It brought me some

insights into things, passion for things, that fuel the fire for me here.”

People have asked Charron how he balances his arts interest and political affiliation.

“A lot of the biggest arts supporters I know are Republican, but they support the arts with their own money,” he explained. “The more things are subsidized by government, the more the government is going to have a say. . . . I don’t want the government having a lot of say in art.”

A major issue he wants to address is who should control local development – the state, Metropolitan Council or local governments – an especially important issue in his rapidly growing district. He said growth needs to be done simply, while “balancing the needs for conserving natural resources, open space, and respecting the rights of landowners to both develop or not develop.”

He’s a co-sponsor of one of the session’s early bills, HF2, relating to health savings accounts that would allow people to establish

### DISTRICT 56A

2002 Population: 36,812  
Largest city: Woodbury  
County: Washington  
Top concern: Controlling development

***“The more things are subsidized by government, the more the government is going to have a say. . . . I don’t want the government having a lot of say in art.”***

— Rep. Mike Charron

an interest-earning medical account to pay for their expenses. Small businesses that cannot afford to offer health care insurance to their employees would be able to do so under the proposal, he said.

Charron, who has biked across Iowa five times and considers himself a Lance Armstrong wannabe, is determined to maintain his integrity. “In all of my discussions and dealings with my colleagues and constituents I want to be known as a man of my word.”

# From behind the scenes

## Garofalo looks to move out of legislative gridlock

BY MIKE COOK

Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) has come from behind the political scenes to a seat in the House chamber.



Rep. Pat Garofalo

“I’m super-excited to get started,” he said before session began. “I think we’re going to surprise some people this year with how much work we are going to get done.”

Garofalo replaces Steve Strachan who left the House after being named Lakeville’s police chief last spring.

“Two years ago I was his campaign manager,” he said. “Steve has just been a fantastic mentor. One of the things he said to me was that there is a lot of pressure to be partisan and not work with others across the aisle, but by working with them you’ll be much more effective and get more things done.”

Garofalo represents a district that is an almost even mix of rural and suburban. “It’s a great district to represent because of that. During the campaign I had the chance to go out and visit some farms in action, and a couple of times I brought my wife and kids with and that was a great experience. To have one of the few districts that is split down the middle gives me a very balanced view of how both sides see an issue.”

That is especially true in education and transportation – two areas of concern for district residents, he said.

“In the rural areas, it’s not as focused on traffic congestion as it is road safety where you have large traffic volumes on single-lane roads.

“As for education, in the metro it’s more of a focus on education funding and education accountability; where in the rural areas, such as the Randolph School District, the issue is more local control. They are very concerned about federal and state politicians coming in

### DISTRICT 36B

2002 population: 36,713  
Largest city: Lakeville  
Counties: Dakota, Goodhue  
Top concerns: Education funding, traffic congestion

***“Traffic is such a huge problem in the south metro, and the busway is a transportation solution that can last for generations. It’s a significant investment but it will reap rewards long term.”***

— Rep. Pat Garofalo

and telling them what to do when they know their community best.”

If he could have offered the first bill of 2005, Garofalo said it would have been funding for the Cedar Avenue busway to help alleviate congestion on a freeway that many of his constituents take on a daily basis.

“Traffic is such a huge problem in the south metro, and the busway is a transportation solution that can last for generations,” he said. “It’s a significant investment but it will reap rewards long term.”

# Bound and determined

Hortman says issue, not the party is important

By PATTY JANOVEC

Rep. Melissa Hortman (DFL-Brooklyn Park) insists on helping break the partisan gridlock that some say has plagued the Legislature over the past several sessions.



Rep. Melissa Hortman

Building relationships and not treating people as though they are in “two different camps can do it,” she said. “I will see people as people and not as Republicans and Democrats.” She said she would never vote down a bill simply because of the sponsor’s party.

Major issues in her district include transportation and education.

In the past few years the state hasn’t been funding road maintenance and construction enough, and is also declining in its commitment to public schools, she explained. “We want better schools and better roads.”

To help on the transportation issue, Hortman is a co-sponsor on Northstar commuter rail legislation. She said that the 35 sponsors come from both parties, an intentional united political voice.

A lawyer by profession, Hortman described her background as very similar to that of a legislator. “Our job is to take a wide variety of complicated information and simplify it and get to the heart of the issue, and propose a resolution.”

After unsuccessful House campaigns in 1998 and 2002, she was hesitant about trying a third time. “You’re really an absent parent and an absent spouse for about nine months.”

Hortman’s father encouraged her by saying, “You know there are going to be about 10 times in your life where it seems like opportunity knocks on your door, and you don’t want to look back and say that was one of the times that opportunity knocked and you didn’t answer the door.”

## DISTRICT 47B

2002 Population: 36,543  
Largest city: Brooklyn Park  
Counties: Anoka, Hennepin  
Top concern: School funding

***“Our job is to take a wide variety of complicated information and simplify it and get to the heart of the issue, and propose a resolution.”***

— Rep. Melissa Hortman

If that wasn’t enough to convince her, a quote in the newspaper from Wayne Gretzky helped. Gretzky said, “You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.” When Sen. Don Betzold (DFL-Fridley) agreed to be her campaign manager, that sealed the deal.

Hortman said she would rather spend time with her kids than do anything else. She said her kids know she is more like a “large child,” not a “real” grownup. For example, she can hold her own with the second grade Brownie troop she leads. “I’m right there with them talking about glitter makeup and smelly gel pens,” she added with a laugh.

# Framing the issues

Scalze brings years of art and government experience to House

By BRETT MARTIN

The framed wildlife pictures in the office of Rep. Bev Scalze (DFL-Little Canada) brilliantly capture the Minnesota outdoors, but what’s really impressive is that Scalze painted them herself. One is of a brook trout that she created for the Department of Natural Resources’ 1991 trout and salmon habitat stamp.



Rep. Bev Scalze

“The brook trout is indicative of Minnesota,” Scalze said. “They only live in very cold, clean water.”

In addition to 25 years as a wildlife artist, Scalze brings to the House six terms on the Little Canada City Council, and experience as a small business owner — she and her

husband, Bob, own and operate a heating and air conditioning company. Her background is well-suited for the Environment and Natural Resources and Local Government committees on which she sits.

“I have firsthand knowledge of how state decisions impact local governments,” she said, noting that because of budget problems, the state often withheld local monies, forcing the city to build reserves by raising taxes. Her frustration with state government led her to seek a House seat.

“We need more local representatives in the House,” she said.

An advocate for public education, Scalze also wants to ensure that schools are adequately funded.

“My district has very good school systems, yet they’re struggling due to a lack of funds,” she said.

## DISTRICT 54B

2002 Population: 36,759  
Largest city: Roseville  
County: Ramsey  
Top concern: Education funding

***“You do a lot of things for your kids, but you’d go to the wall for your grandkids. I want to leave them with something they can be proud of.”***

— Rep. Bev Scalze

Health care is another issue she’d like to see addressed.

“The cost of health care impacts everything else,” she said. “We’re going to have to, at one point, negotiate these drug prices.”

Scalze said her legislative decisions are guided by how laws will impact her four granddaughters.

“You do a lot of things for your kids, but you’d go to the wall for your grandkids,” she said. “I want to leave them with something they can be proud of.”

# Social club

Freshmen legislators get together to share concerns

By **MATT WETZEL**

**F**irst-year legislators are trying to make changes in how the Legislature works, and they hope it leads to a more successful legislative session.

Two of them have organized a freshmen social group, which they hope to have meet periodically throughout the session.

Also, more than 60 state legislators attended a conference last month, learning the methods of effective negotiation and working together.

These were two examples of a new collegiality in the House during the first weeks of the 2005 session, and members hope it will lead to some productive work.

"If there's gridlock this session, and we don't get things done, everyone's going to get thrown out," said Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington). "I haven't seen a member who wants to lose (their bid for re-election). The purpose is not to get us to agree, rather to disagree in a constructive and civil manner."

Garofalo and Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St.

Louis Park), both in their first term, kicked off their new social group with dinner Jan. 19 at a St. Paul restaurant.

"We just got to know each other and share some concerns," Garofalo said. "People trust others with whom they have working relationships. If we can get to know each other and understand each other it will make for a more effective working relationship."

He hopes the first-year legislators can build on their commonality of being new on the job. "We can share our frustrations. ... A lot of what we're experiencing, we're experiencing for the first time. We're beginning to understand the awesome responsibility of being the voice for 37,000 people," he said.

Twenty of 26 first-year legislators made an appearance at the gathering. House Speaker Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) and House Minority Leader Matt Entenza (DFL-St. Paul) also showed up, and Simon said he and Garofalo were grateful.

"I think we all understand that there are

going to be disagreements. But you can disagree without being disagreeable," Simon said.

Simon said the gathering reminded him of the December new member orientation. "It was a good way to continue the process of getting to know each other. We all got together at orientation, and regardless of where we're from, a lot of us liked each other," Simon said.

They're looking at inviting all House members to the next new member gathering. 🗽

## Workshop helps members get off on right foot

The idea of working together, disagreeing constructively and getting the work done is what moved Rochester Sen. Sheila Kiscaden, the lone Independence Party legislator at the Capitol, to think about organizing a conference to encourage lawmakers in that direction.

"We did this in 1996 and it was successful. We've had a lot of turnover, and we've had two years where we had a great deal of difficulty accomplishing anything," Kiscaden said. "Our behavior the last two years indicated to me it was time to do this again."

The workshop on Jan. 6-7 was sponsored by the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and the National Conference of State Legislatures, and included small group sessions in which legislators talked about why they ran for office. "That was a way for many of them to find common ground," said Cindy Orbovich, associate director of the Institute's policy forum.

Other topics included barriers encountered in the Legislature, conflict management tools and negotiating skills. Legislative leaders from Utah and Kansas talked about how they had tackled tough issues.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) worked with Kiscaden to organize the conference. She believes the most important part of the seminar was the opportunity for people to get to know one another. "It's a good start," she said.

Rep. Mark Olson (R-Big Lake), chair of the House Local Government Committee, is trying to implement some of what he learned about collegiality. For instance, each week, when the list of bills for discussion is set before the committee, members rank them. The bill with the highest ranking is heard first.

"Last year, we couldn't get hearings on some bills, and I didn't think it was right that one member could make that decision. Regardless of what the bill is, there needs to be a process that is more representative as to what bills get a hearing," he said.

Traditionally, bills are heard at the discretion of the chair. His goal is to "empower" committee members.



PHOTO BY SARAH STACKE

In hopes of getting to know each other better, Reps. Pat Garofalo, left, and Steve Simon have organized a social group for freshmen members.

# Hotlist bills really sizzle

Number of reasons can make a bill one to watch

By RUTH DUNN

The most talked about bills of each legislative session earn a spot on the Hotlist compiled by employees in the Index department of the House Chief Clerk's Office. The list is an unofficial selection of bills that have buzz – they're in the news, they may be controversial, people are talking about them. They're hot!

The first Hotlist of the 2005 session was available Jan. 21 and department personnel had been getting calls about when it would appear. The new list usually shows up the third week of each session since it takes a while for the first hot bills to rise to the top. "Committees start slowly with lots of overviews and testimonies and not a lot of bill movement at the start of the session," says Heather Ball, assistant index clerk, who is responsible for creating the Hotlist.

The Hotlist began in 1994 as an internal reference guide for House Index employees. Bills that generated a lot of phone calls and questions were put on a list because employees needed a quick way to get information about them. David Surdez, now index office supervisor, saw the list back then and knew it would be of interest to others. "We've got to publish it," he thought. "This is something people will want to see." He expanded the list to include more information about each bill, including its Senate companion bill and its current status. "We hope the Hotlist is fun and informative," he said.

The Hotlist was once called the Hit List. "We thought that was cute but when the Columbine school shootings took place, it wasn't cute anymore," said Ball. That's when the name was changed to Hotlist.

Now the list itself is hot. "It's a little idea

## You should know

**To see what's hot go to [www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn) and click on Hotlist 2005 - "well-known bills." Copies are also available from House Index in room 211 of the State Capitol.**

that has become big," says Ball. "It's taken off, mushroomed."

There are several ways bills get on the Hotlist, said Ball. For example, if House Index gets lots of phone calls and questions about a bill. "Another way is if we think a bill will become a big thing and will be in the news," said Ball. Northstar commuter rail is an example. Some topics seem to make the Hotlist every year, like abortion, grandparent visitation rights, cosmetology requirements and acupuncture licensing.

Bills are also added to the list if they're topics that would be good research subjects for students, like smoking bans, seat belt usage and minimum wage. When teachers give an assignment to write about something at the Legislature, students can go to the Hotlist and easily find a topic of interest to them, according to Ball.

Ball puts a lot of thought into which bills make the Hotlist. She consults with others in her office. She strives to be nonpartisan and objective in the suggestions. "I take myself out of it." Sometimes she may not personally understand why a bill is hot, but it is. She updates the Hotlist every Friday afternoon during the session.

Bills may also be dropped from the Hotlist if they lose momentum. "Bills on the Hotlist


## The first dozen bills plucked for Hotlist 2005

- HF352: Bonding, capital improvements;
- HF14: Intimidation and bullying model policy;
- HF18: Cell phone use in motor vehicle restrictions;
- HF47: City aid base calculation correction;
- HF57: Deficiency funding for state agencies;
- HF290: Grandparent visitation rights;
- HF6: Marriage defined as union of one man and one woman;
- HF48: Minimum wage increase;
- HF369: Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act modifications;
- HF246 Northstar commuter rail funding;
- HF13: Stem cell research state policy, and
- HF166: Tsunami relief donations income tax deductions.

must be moving forward," said Ball. In 2004, more than 140 bills were on the list at the end of the session.

Ball has never been approached about having a bill taken off the Hotlist, although she has received calls from people who want certain bills to be added. If people feel that strongly about a bill, it usually goes on the list.

Rep. Mike Jaros (DFL-Duluth) is pleased his bill requiring cell phone use in cars to be hands-free is on the Hotlist. "The listing might draw attention to the bill and that's a good thing." When more people are aware of a proposed bill, its chances of being heard in committee might improve, he explained.

Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) understands why two of her bills (Northstar commuter rail and a bullying policy) were selected for the Hotlist. "They're easily understood, controversial and seem to generate strong opinions." 

### Frequently called numbers (Area code 651)

Information Services, House Public  
175 State Office Building .....296-2146  
Chief Clerk of the House  
211 Capitol.....296-2314  
Index, House  
211 Capitol.....296-6646

TTY, House .....296-9896  
Toll free..... 1-800-657-3550  
Information, Senate  
231 Capitol.....296-0504  
TTY, Senate .....296-0250  
Toll free..... 1-888-234-1112

Secretary of the Senate  
231 Capitol.....296-2344  
Voice mail/order bills .....296-2343  
Index, Senate  
110 Capitol.....296-5560

## Monday, January 31

### HF565—Gazelka (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Global War on Terrorism; veterans bonus paid for through bonding proceeds and constitutional amendment proposed.

### HF566—Cox (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

In-state tuition rate regulations provided for students attending state universities and college, including the University of Minnesota.

### HF567—Demmer (R)

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Military service credit purchase sunset repealed.

### HF568—Marquart (DFL)

#### Local Government

Cities under a specified population allowed an additional 30 days to approve or deny certain regulatory actions.

### HF569—Marquart (DFL)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Persons who are 17 years of age but will be 18 years old at the time of the general election authorized to vote in the primary election.

### HF570—Marquart (DFL)

#### Transportation

Vehicle combinations up to 105,000 pounds authorized on certain highways with permit and permit fee prescribed.

### HF571—Marquart (DFL)

#### Taxes

Military pension income tax deduction authorized.

### HF572—Johnson, J. (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Methamphetamine precursor drug sales regulated, civil immunity provided for reporting of suspicious transactions, criminal penalties and property restrictions imposed, methamphetamine lab cleanup fund established and money appropriated.

### HF573—Johnson, J. (R)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Internet filtering and blocking software required on school and library computers with access to students.

### HF574—Soderstrom (R)

#### Higher Education Finance

Pine Technical College; land and building funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF575—Charron (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Physical therapist reciprocal licensure provided upon proof of previous practice.

### HF576—Meslow (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Paternity presumption provisions modified.

### HF577—Holberg (R)

#### Transportation

Freeway and expressway shoulder use by transit buses provisions modified, and metro mobility buses authorized to use shoulders.

### HF578—Dempsey (R)

#### Taxes

Electric generation facility personal property tax exemption provided.

### HF579—Penas (R)

#### Education Finance

School bus replacement financing system established and money appropriated.

### HF580—Dittrich (DFL)

#### Higher Education Finance

Anoka-Ramsey Community College capital improvements provided for the Cambridge campus and the main campus, bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF581—Nelson, P. (R)

#### Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Rush Creek Dam removal and restoration funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF582—Vandevveer (R)

#### Transportation Finance

I-35 and County State Aid Highway 23 interchange funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF583—Westrom (R)

#### Education Finance

Independent School District No. 771, Chokio-Alberta, fund transfer authorized.

### HF584—Urdahl (R)

#### Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Manure digester loans interest-free status extended.

### HF585—Thao (DFL)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Gift certificates and gift cards expiration dates and service fees prohibited.

### HF586—Abeler (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Long-term care partnership program authorized, medical assistance eligibility requirements modified, approved long-term care policies defined, medical assistance estate recovery limited.

### HF587—Buesgens (R)

#### Civil Law & Elections

Quarterly Election Day Act of 2005 established, providing for election days for state and local elections other than special elections to fill a vacancy.

### HF588—Wilkin (R)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Small employer group health coverage flexible benefits plans authorized.

### HF589—Rukavina (DFL)

#### Regulated Industries

Virginia and Hibbing municipal utilities joint biomass energy venture authorized.

### HF590—Samuelson (R)

#### Environment & Natural Resources

Lifejackets required for children aboard watercraft.

### HF591—Samuelson (R)

#### Health Policy & Finance

Senior citizens program funding provided and money appropriated.

### HF592—Samuelson (R)

#### Transportation

Counties and cities authorized to impose administrative penalties on certain speed limit law violators.

### HF593—Seifert (R)

#### State Government Finance

Nonprofit organizations receiving state funding subjected to specified conditions.

### HF594—Bernardy (DFL)

#### Education Policy & Reform

Gifted and talented student program guidelines established, and permanent gifted and talented program funding made a component of general education revenue.

### HF595—Gunther (R)

#### Jobs & Economic

#### Opportunity Policy & Finance

Employment and economic development funds provided for transfer to the redevelopment account, bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF596—Wilkin (R)

#### Transportation

Driver's license suspension based on insurance sampling provisions modified.

### HF597—Ruth (R)

#### Transportation Finance

Local road improvement program funding provided, program loan authority abolished, rural road safety program established, bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF598—Peppin (R)

#### Commerce & Financial Institutions

Standard industrial classification list rulemaking provisions modified.

### HF599—Dill (DFL)

#### Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance

Lake Superior and Lake County safe harbors funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

### HF600—Beard (R)

#### Taxes

Electric generation facility personal property tax exemption provided.



**HF601—Dill (DFL)****State Government Finance**

Silver Bay Veterans Home renovation and addition funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF602—Carlson (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF603—Dorman (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Austin flood disaster repair and renovation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF604—Peterson, S. (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Zero-depth public swimming pool use without a lifeguard authorized if access is limited to persons 18 years of age or older.

**HF605—Hoppe (R)****Regulated Industries**

Brewers manufacturing beer on the premises where the brewer also holds an on-sale liquor license authorized to use wort produced outside of Minnesota under certain circumstances.

**HF606—Solberg (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Part-time peace officers appointment and employment restrictions repealed.

**HF607—Ellison (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Citizenship rights and eligibility to vote restored for certain convicted felons who are not incarcerated.

**HF608—Dill (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

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

**HF609—Dill (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Ely maintenance facility funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF610—Dill (DFL)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Snowmobile trails and enforcement disposition modified.

**HF611—Dill (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Lake County Forest Highway 11 repair funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF612—Dill (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Tower; East Two Rivers project funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF613—Kelliher (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Hennepin County; Cedar Lake Trail completion funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF614—Lieder (DFL)****Transportation**

Slow-moving vehicle sign display at night provisions modified.

**HF615—Klinzing (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Nonprescription pain relief possession by secondary students permitted.

**HF616—Klinzing (R)****Education Finance**

Regular instruction funding by at least 65 percent of school district operating revenue required.

**HF617—Greiling (DFL)****Education Finance**

Contract alternative education program students over the age of 21 allowed to continue to receive instruction until graduation.

**HF618—Cornish (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Providing false information to police prohibited.

**HF619—Bradley (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Parental contributions for the cost of services for children with mental retardation modified.

**HF620—Hackbarth (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Oliver Kelley Farm money appropriated.

**HF621—Ruth (R)****Transportation Finance**

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

**HF622—DeLaForest (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Equal treatment of voters provided.

**HF623—Bernardy (DFL)****Education Finance**

Community education program facility utility cost levy authorized.

**HF624—Ellison (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Minneapolis empowerment zone subproject bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF625—Sykora (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Big Island Veterans Camp bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF626—Moe (DFL)****Transportation**

Cass County Highway 6; Bradley Waage Memorial Bridge designated.

**HF627—Kelliher (DFL)****Health Policy and Finance**

Do not resuscitate/do not intubate orders for patients and liability protection for certain health professionals provided.

**HF628—Kelliher (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Minneapolis Community and Technical College health sciences center bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF629—Kelliher (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

University of Minnesota health professional programs funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF630—Wilkin (R)****Taxes**

Special assessment and property tax deferral provisions on certain qualified property modified.

**HF631—Pelowski (DFL)****Taxes**

Winona sales and use tax imposition and bond issue authorized.

**HF632—Urdahl (R)****Taxes**

Employer income tax credit for creation and retention of certain rural county jobs authorized.

**HF633—Dempsey (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Mississippi River Parkway Commission money appropriated.

**HF634—Hackbarth (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Off-highway vehicle safety and conservation grant program created.

**HF635—Hackbarth (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Un-refunded gasoline tax study required.

**HF636—Jaros (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Duluth; Peterson Arena reconstruction bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF637—Abeler (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Licensed professional counselor provisions modified.

**HF638—Hortman (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Northstar commuter rail corridor bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF639—Davids (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Rushford Institute for Nanotechnology, Inc., money appropriated.

**HF640—Nornes (R)****Taxes**

Cruelty to animals prevention city appropriation limit increased and property tax levy exemption provided.

**HF641—Hortman (DFL)****Education Finance**

Basic formula allowance increased.

**HF642—Hortman (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
Early childhood education program funding restored.

**HF643—Hortman (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
Elementary school pupil transportation state requirement modified and levy authorized.

**HF644—Johnson, S. (DFL)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Probation officer information access about persons who have a permit to carry weapons authorized.

**HF645—Urdahl (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Historic preservation grant bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF646—Sieben (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Family planning services access increased, pregnancy education expanded, wholesome after-school youth activities increased, comprehensive family life and sexuality education plan required and money appropriated.

**HF647—Peterson, A. (DFL)**  
**Local Government**  
Exception to ban on public officers having interest in a volunteer ambulance service contract provided.

**HF648—Nornes (R)**  
**Local Government**  
Cost liability for inappropriate removal of children assigned to counties.

**HF649—Marquart (DFL)**  
**Education Finance**  
School district funding increased for those with declining enrollment.

## Thursday, February 3

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**HF650—Buesgens (R)**  
**Education Finance**  
Online learning funded at same rate for certain students.

**HF651—Powell (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Ambulance service licensee non-government liability limits provided.

**HF652—Bradley (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Provider tax paid by federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics modified and money appropriated.

**HF653—DeLaForest (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Actions against health care providers regulated.

**HF654—Clark (DFL)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Occupational safety and health coverage for students within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system provided.

**HF655—Clark (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
WIC coupons authorized for purchase of organic foods.

**HF656—Samuelson (R)**  
**Local Government**  
Anoka County laws repealed and recodified.

**HF657—Krinkie (R)**  
**Taxes**  
State and local government financing and operations bill making technical, policy, clarifying and administrative changes to certain taxes and tax-related provisions.

**HF658—Seifert (R)**  
**State Government Finance**  
Public purchase of used goods consideration required.

**HF659—Tingelstad (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Adoption records access and services provided.

**HF660—Krinkie (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Income, franchise, withholding, sales and use, gross revenue, insurance, property, and solid waste management taxes modified; cigarette and liquor taxes provided; city aid payments modified and money appropriated.

**HF661—Walker (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Dental mercury removal before cremation and installation of amalgam separators required.

**HF662—Abrams (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Hennepin County; Colin Powell Youth Center construction provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF663—Koenen (DFL)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Nursing facility moratorium exception project deadline extended.

**HF664—Peppin (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Critical access hospital provisions modified.

**HF665—Meslow (R)**  
**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Sunday service of legal process authorized.

**HF666—Dittrich (DFL)**  
**Transportation Finance**  
Northstar rail corridor funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF667—Gazelka (R)**  
**Commerce & Financial Institutions**  
Minnesota FAIR plan property and liability coverage regulated.

**HF668—Solberg (DFL)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Grand Rapids; museum funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF669—Mariani (DFL)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
United family medicine residency program grant provided and money appropriated.

**HF670—Abeler (R)**  
**Higher Education Finance**  
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities tuition freeze funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF671—Samuelson (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Ramsey County nursing facility rate increase determination provided.

**HF672—Holberg (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Department of Commerce comprehensive law enforcement data regulated.

**HF673—Atkins (DFL)**  
**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Inver Grove Heights flood hazard mitigation bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF674—Knoblach (R)**  
**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State Board of Investment data classified.

**HF675—Samuelson (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Hospice care bill of rights modified, hospice provider survey completion required and death report requirements for recipients of hospice care modified.

**HF676—Hamilton (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Worthington; soil remediation grants provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF677—Hamilton (R)**  
**Taxes**  
Worthington; local sales and use tax authorized.

**HF678—Hamilton (R)**  
**Education Policy & Reform**  
Independent School District No. 518, Worthington, facility lease for residential program authorized.

**HF679—Hamilton (R)**  
**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Worthington; storm damage infrastructure replacement and repair bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF680—DeLaForest (R)**  
**Civil Law & Elections**  
Utility metering and billing provisions relating to landlord and tenant regulations clarified.

**HF681—Westrom (R)**  
**Health Policy & Finance**  
Hospital accrediting organization for presumptive licensure purposes authorized.

**HF682—Severson (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Special "Support Our Troops" vehicle license plates provided, National Guard incentive program funding, World War II veteran's memorial, veteran home maintenance and income tax benefits provided, and money appropriated.

**HF683—Hackbarth (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Scientific and natural area acquisition and use provisions modified.

**HF684—Hackbarth (R)**

**Environment & Natural Resources**  
Recreational vehicle temporary permit provisions modified, refunds allowed, and critical habitat license plates availability extended.

**HF685—Severson (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State employment veteran's preference restriction eliminated.

**HF686—Severson (R)**

**Civil Law & Elections**  
Residency clarified for voting purposes.

**HF687—Bernardy (DFL)**

**Regulated Industries**  
Alcohol sales to underage persons minimum administrative penalties imposed.

**HF688—Latz (DFL)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Golden Valley; railroad bridge crossing reconstruction funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF689—Gunther (R)**

**Higher Education Finance**  
University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic collaborative research facility funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF690—Penas (R)**

**Higher Education Finance**  
University of Minnesota turf grass research funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF691—Newman (R)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
Public bodies contract performance bond requirement removed.

**HF692—Newman (R)**

**Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 2859, Glencoe-Silver Lake, levy authorized.

**HF693—Jaros (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System construction materials sales tax exemption provided.

**HF694—Kahn (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
State Office Building renamed the Coya Knutson State Office Building.

**HF695—Meslow (R)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Audiovisual recording device use prohibited in motion picture theaters.

**HF696—Solberg (DFL)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Grand Rapids Forest History Center funding provided and money appropriated.

**HF697—Buesgens (R)**

**Education Policy & Reform**  
General education access grants authorized for students.

**HF698—Seifert (R)**

**Jobs & Economic Opportunity Policy & Finance**  
Historical sites reopened and money appropriated.

**HF699—Magnus (R)**

**Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 584, Ruthton, fund transfer authorized.

**HF700—Hilty (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Cloquet sales tax authorized and fund use specified.

**HF701—Blaine (R)**

**Local Government**  
Regional development commission's power to get and use real or personal property expanded.

**HF702—Gazelka (R)**

**Local Government**  
Crow Wing County; sewer district and commission authorized.

**HF703—Hilty (DFL)**

**Civil Law & Elections**  
Campaign finance and public disclosure provisions modified, electronic filing provided, contribution provisions equalized, assessments limited and obsolete rules repealed.

**HF704—Koenen (DFL)**

**Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**  
RenVilla Nursing Home Public Employees Retirement Association privatization special law approval filing date extended.

**HF705—Lenczewski (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Corporate franchise and income tax sales weighting of the apportionment formula increased.

**HF706—Lenczewski (DFL)**

**Civil Law & Elections**  
Candidate statements of economic interest required to contain disclosures concerning immediate family members and certain contracts and other specified arrangements.

**HF707—Sailer (DFL)**

**Taxes**  
Park Rapids sales and use tax authorized and fund use specified.

**HF708—Slawik (DFL)**

**Transportation**  
Speed-detection devices effectiveness on drivers in school zones pilot project established.

**HF709—Hausman (DFL)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Central Corridor transitway funding provided between St. Paul and Minneapolis, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF710—Sykora (R)**

**Education Finance**  
Basic community education program funding restored and money appropriated.

**HF711—Abrams (R)**

**Taxes**  
Alternative minimum taxable income modified.

**HF712—Clark (DFL)**

**Education Policy and Reform**  
Self-defense and conflict resolution training authorized for sixth through eighth grade students and model curriculum required.

**HF713—Slawik (DFL)**

**Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**  
Ramsey County; Lower Afton Road Trail funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF714—Ellison (DFL)**

**Civil Law & Elections**  
News media access to polling places increased.

**HF715—Ellison (DFL)**

**Civil Law & Elections**  
Eviction records expungement required after one year.

**HF716—Ellison (DFL)**

**Public Safety Policy & Finance**  
Civil rights deprivation and pattern of official misconduct crimes established, racial profiling by law enforcement prohibited, racial profiling data collection and policies required and law enforcement training provided.

**HF717—Juhnke (DFL)**

**Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 345, New London-Spicer, fund transfer authorized.

**HF718—Juhnke (DFL)**

**Education Finance**  
Independent School District No. 345, New London-Spicer, capital levy authority established.

**HF719—Urdahl (R)**

**Taxes**  
Dairy operation investments income and corporate franchise tax credit provided.

**HF720—Olson (R)**

**Transportation Finance**  
Trunk Highway 10 construction funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF721—Meslow (R)**

**Education Policy & Reform**  
Student support services advisory committee established and school districts required to adopt support services plan.

**HF722—Peterson, A. (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Ethanol content increased in gasoline and manufacturers' warranties required to extend to vehicles using certain fuels.

**HF723—Lillie (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

National Guard and other reserves reimbursed for certain life insurance premiums and money appropriated.

**HF724—Urdahl (R)****Education Policy & Reform**

Health and physical education course requirements provided.

**HF725—Tingelstad (R)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Metropolitan regional park acquisition and betterment funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF726—Bernardy (DFL)****Taxes**

Mounds View tax increment financing district requirements modified.

**HF727—Abrams (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Hennepin County Medical Center acute psychiatric service renovation and expansion funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF728—Vandevveer (R)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

Salaries decreased for legislators and constitutional officers.

**HF729—Vandevveer (R)****Local Government**

Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government additional oversight responsibilities provided.

**HF730—Hansen (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

State agencies required to post fiscal information on their websites.

**HF731—Cox (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Individual sewage treatment system inspection requirements modified to avoid conflicts of interest.

**HF732—Meslow (R)****Local Government**

Electric or utility special assessments exceeding standards authorized on petition of all affected owners.

**HF733—Klinzing (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Homeowners' protection act adopted requiring continuing education for municipal building officials, requiring reporting, requiring pre-license education of building contractors and providing information access to homebuyers.

**HF734—Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Collateral sanctions defined, and table of collateral sanctions cross-references required.

**HF735—Moe (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Bemidji State University hockey arena funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF736—Howes (R)****Environment & Natural Resources**

Local recreation grants authorized for public schools.

**HF737—Fritz (DFL)****Transportation Finance**

Faribault; Trunk Highway 60 improvements funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF738—Hamilton (R)****Taxes**

Property tax classification as both homestead and non-homestead provided for purposes of class rates and the homestead market value credit.

**HF739—Rukavina (DFL)****Regulated Industries**

Cold weather protection established for consumers of delivered fuels.

**HF740—Moe (DFL)****Higher Education Finance**

Bemidji State University property acquisition funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF741—Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Child abuse resulting in death crime expanded.

**HF742—Simpson (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Employment agency licensing requirement exemptions provided and certain fee payments prohibited.

**HF743—Clark (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Minneapolis; cultural and community center funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF744—Samuelson (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Nursing facility and community services payment rates increased and money appropriated.

**HF745—Cox (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Rice County; nursing facilities designated as metro for purposes of determining reimbursement rates.

**HF746—Demmer (R)****Education Finance**

High school league administrative regions allowed to contract with private auditors.

**HF747—Lesch (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

City attorneys included in the eviction process relating to forfeiture of contraband or controlled substance on rental property.

**HF748—Sailer (DFL)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Amateur radio operations protected and use of operations encouraged in public safety and emergency situations.

**HF749—Dill (DFL)****Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources Finance**

Septic system tank installation fees limited.

**HF750—Dill (DFL)****Taxes**

Beaver Bay sales and use tax authorized and proceeds use specified.

**HF751—Vandevveer (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Electronic real estate recording task force established and money appropriated.

**HF752—Severson (R)****Transportation Finance**

St. Cloud Regional Airport land acquisition funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF753—Nelson, P. (R)****Transportation Finance**

Trunk Highway 95 bridge construction funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF754—Rukavina (DFL)****Taxes**

City formula aid modified.

**HF755—Wilkin (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Higher education student fee charging method modified.

**HF756—Hortman (DFL)****Governmental Operations & Veterans Affairs**

National Guard member tuition reimbursement grant time period extended.

**HF757—Abeler (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Language interpreter services health care coverage required.

**HF758—Mahoney (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Manufactured home park sale notices required.

**HF759—Mahoney (DFL)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Crane operator certification and regulation required and civil penalties authorized.

**HF760—Abrams (R)****Taxes**

Single sales apportionment adopted relating to corporate franchise taxation.

**HF761—Smith (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Child residence removal procedures modified.

**HF762—Kelliher (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Truant children parental notice inclusion of possible availability of mental health screening provided.

**HF763—Goodwin (DFL)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Collaborative services for at-risk children program funding required.

**HF764—Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Ramsey County criminal surcharge modified.

**HF765—Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Motor vehicle license plate, title, and registration regulation exemptions provided for law enforcement agency vehicles involved in impaired driving offenses and chemical test result certification procedures modified.

**HF766—Meslow (R)****Public Safety Policy & Finance**

Retired court commissioner district court appointment authorized.

**HF767—Vandevier (R)****Regulated Industries**

Pull-tab purchase by employees of licensed organization lessors permitted.

**HF768—Gunther (R)****Jobs & Economic****Opportunity Policy & Finance**

Redevelopment account fund transfer authorized, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF769—Gunther (R)****Higher Education Finance**

Fairmont educational campus funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF770—Abeler (R)****Taxes**

Educator expense income tax deductions federal conformity required.

**HF771—Abeler (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Evidence-based health care guidelines provided.

**HF772—Davnice (DFL)****Education Finance**

Staff development funding for school districts with schools not making adequate yearly progress authorized and money appropriated.

**HF773—Peppin (R)****Education Finance**

Independent School District No. 883, Rockford, fund transfer authorized.

**HF774—Dempsey (R)****Education Finance**

General education basic formula allowance increased.

**HF775—Bradley (R)****Health Policy & Finance**

Long-term care provider inflation adjustments provided.

**HF776—McNamara (R)****Commerce & Financial Institutions**

Medicare supplement coverage purchase rights broadened.

**HF777—Johnson, S. (DFL)****Education Finance**

Limited English proficiency program funding restored.

**HF778—Ellison (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Voting eligibility notice provision to certain offenders required.

**HF779—Mahoney (DFL)****Civil Law & Elections**

Joint physical custody presumption provided.

**HF780—Ruud (DFL)****Taxes**

Educator expense income tax deduction federal conformity required.

**HF781—Bernardy (DFL)****Education Finance**

Compensatory revenue mechanism established to allow funding to follow a student to a nonresident school district and money appropriated.

**HF782—Atkins (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Prescription drug discount program obtaining drugs through Canadian pharmacies required, Web site for ordering drugs established and discounted prescription drug access provided.

**HF783—Tingelstad (R)****Civil Law & Elections**

Adoption record access provided and data classification modified.

**HF784—Walker (DFL)****Health Policy & Finance**

Universal health care system establishment, focus on preventive care and early prevention and implementation of plan by 2010 required.

## SPEAKING OF THE HOUSE



Exactly one month after 12-year-old Dillon permanently joined her family, **Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center)** invited legislators to a reception in the House Retiring Room Feb. 3.

Dillon is the son of Hilstrom's close high school friend who died several years ago. Since last session, the Hilstrom family worked to gain full custody of Dillon. "So many people here helped us and so many gave us moral support through this long process," she said. "I wanted to introduce my legislative 'family' to my family."

Hilstrom and her husband, Joel, have two other children, Stephanie, 15, and Jeremy, 11. The first day that Dillon was a member of the Hilstrom family, he accompanied Hilstrom to the opening day of the session, sitting next to her on the House floor. But the highlight of

the day for Dillon was meeting former Vice President Walter Mondale, who spoke to the DFL caucus before the floor session.



Each House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee member arrived to find a 3Musketeer candy bar awaiting them on Feb. 3.

**Rep. Lloyd Cybart (R-Apple Valley)**, a freshman legislator, presented a bill regarding Minnesota National Guard tuition reimbursement (HF455). In keeping with tradition, freshmen legislators are required to present members with treats upon the presentation of their first bill.

"Most people know I did 20 years in the military," and when you move around, the unit is your family, he said. Everything you

go through, "you go through together."

The candy bar signifies the camaraderie of the three musketeers. "It's all for one, and one for all," he said in support of all those who are part of the National Guard.



**Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover)** reminded members of attending organized discussion groups she has created for a variety of topics the Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee will eventually address.

Jokingly she added, "Yesterday I asked the three groups to each huddle in the corner, and one of the members pointed out that he thought I said 'hug' in the corner ... we'll leave it up to your group, but huddle is a little better."



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

# MINNESOTA INDEX

## Methamphetamine use

Estimated annual public costs related to methamphetamine in 2004, in millions.....	\$130
Percent that is corrections or law enforcement.....	63
Percent that is treatment.....	11
Percent of public cost responsibility for methamphetamine intervention in	
2004 borne by the state.....	50
Percent by local government.....	47
Percent by federal government.....	3
Percent of long-term public cost responsibility for methamphetamine	
intervention borne by the state.....	64
Percent by local government.....	34
Percent by federal government.....	2
Minnesota counties, as of January 2005, that had a methamphetamine	
lab ordinance.....	36
Counties in September 2003.....	6
Counties in January 2005 with no plans for an ordinance.....	3
Counties in September 2003.....	19
Approximate number of clandestine drug labs where meth was made and	
other meth-related events were discovered in the state in 2003.....	500
Percent increase in lab seizures between 1995 and 2002.....	600
Percent of labs discovered in the state in 2003 that were located in rural or	
semi-rural areas.....	75
Percent more likely that 12- to 14-year-olds living in smaller towns nationwide	
will use methamphetamine than those living in larger cities.....	104
According to a March 2004 report, at the time of seizure, labs in Minnesota	
where children are living, as percent.....	50
Percent nationwide.....	30
Percent of children removed from meth sites in state that test positive for	
meth drugs.....	50
Percent nationwide.....	35
Percent increase in drug task force meth arrests from 1999 to 2003.....	179
Percent increase in drug task force meth lab seizures from 2000 to 2003.....	185
Increase in methamphetamine prison population, as percent, between	
2001 and 2004.....	525
Drug cases sentenced in 2003 that involved methamphetamine, as percent.....	45
Percent increase over 2002.....	32
Percent increase between 2001 and 2002.....	49

**Sources: Minnesota Department of Health, Statistical Analysis Center at Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Association of Minnesota Counties, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of National Drug Control Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.**

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