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First bills reflect majority’s agenda
Health care for children put at the top of the heap

BY MIA SIMPSON
It was a nail-biter for those close to state politics. “The hoppers,” some office bins designated for bill proposals before they are assigned to committees, sat empty until just a few minutes before Friday’s submission deadline. A missed deadline can mean bills have to wait a couple of days before being introduced. And the first bills of the session, can be a forecast of the majority’s priorities for the months to come.

In four of its first seven bills this 2007-08 session, DFL leadership focused on concerns that include health care and education. HF1 seeks to provide health care for all Minnesota children. The bill is an adaptation of the so-called “Children’s Health Security Act,” which was introduced last year by Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls) and again this year.

“The goal is to get all Minnesota’s children covered. We’re moving in the general direction of removing barriers to coverage,” Thissen said. Barriers can include a 25- to 30-page application form and a four-month wait for coverage once a family is approved.

Thissen, who chairs the House Health and Human Services Committee, said the bill mirrors his initial proposal in key ways, including a two-phase approach that will cover the neediest children first — those whose families earn below 300 percent of poverty guidelines — before becoming available to all children in 2010. He said a task force will be appointed to sort out how best to ensure coverage for all children, a provision that was not included in last year’s bill.

According to DFL leadership, the bill was chosen as HF1 for several reasons, including its leading position on the party’s campaign platform, an understood public need and,
like several other House files, expected cost-savings in the future.

“Today, we’re not just talking the talk, we’re walking the walk with these bills,” House Speaker Margaret Anderson Kelliher (DFL-Mpls) said during a Jan. 8 press conference. “This is one of the top issues facing Minnesota families, many of whom fear they are potentially one health care crisis away from a financial crisis.” The press conference, along with the Republican response, can be viewed at http://www.house.mn/htv/archivesPRESS.asp?ls_year=85.

The issue — health care coverage for children — has also received support from Gov. Pawlenty and House Republicans, a rarity in past sessions.

“I think we all have the same goals when it comes to education, property taxes and health care, we may just have different ways of getting there,” said House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm).

Other top bills relate to all-day, every-day kindergarten (HF2); property tax relief (HF3); increased renewable energy statewide (HF4); funding restoration and some increases for early education programs (HF5); increase in K-12 education funding (HF6); and the so-called “Lights-On Bill” (HF7), which will allow schools to keep the lights on for students after school. Kelliher referenced a few funding sources for these bills, including the projected $2 billion state surplus, and efforts to enforce greater tax compliance, but has no price tag for the plans. Thissen said the cost for the health care bill would be “in the hundreds of millions of dollars.”

That is too vague for Republican leadership.

“We would like more details as a caucus,” said House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall).

Seifert also expressed concern about the general philosophy that moves the onus of health and health care from the person to the state. “If the government is going to pay for your health care, why should you be healthy?” he said. “We would prefer a market-based form of government as a last resort.”

Seifert’s view represents a fundamental chasm between the DFL and Republicans. He notes that of the bill’s 34 sponsors, only one, Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover), is Republican.

Thissen and Sertich contend that the type of system they are proposing better assures that children get the care they need.

“This is a model where we have a societal interest in providing all children access to a doctor,” Thissen said.

Thissen cited his children as the motivators in his original decision to sponsor the proposed legislation.

“I have three kids of my own, and I know how important access to health care is to them and our family,” he said. “I don’t think it’s fair that some children don’t have access to a doctor.”

When discussing the relevance of HF1, some legislators use the phrase “insider baseball,” which essentially means the decision matters more to people inside the Capitol than out.

“The public doesn’t care whether it’s file 1 or file 991,” said Rep. Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), who served as House speaker for the last eight years.

The degree to which the first House files make a statement varies. The first bill of the House in 2003, for instance, which forced permanent and non-permanent foreign residents to include the status of their residency on their driver’s licenses, was in direct response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. It was approved by the House, but not the Senate.

Some “first files” are in response to heated state issues. In 1987, the first bill offered salvation to family farms, which had closed at rapid rates due to troubles in the agricultural industry the previous year. During the 1985-86 biennium, protests on behalf of the issue hit the Capitol hard, with several legislators participating in a hunger strike.

The murder of 22-year-old Dru Sjodin in 2003 incited the first House file in 2005, which included a provision requiring life sentences for specified sexual assault crimes. The bill was ultimately signed into law.

In contrast, some first bills appear to have little public meaning. In 1985, the first legislation in the “hopper” sought to consolidate International Falls and South International Falls. For three separate biennia — 1933, 1935, and 1941 — House File 1 appropriated money for payment of the lieutenant governor and the salaries and mileage of state legislators and Capitol staff.

Several other notables include HF1 in 1973, which forced the Legislature to convene both years of the biennium; HF1 in 1929, which designated polling hours for primary and general elections; and HF1 in 1979, which abdicated the state from paying for the construction of the Metrodome.

First Reading continued from page 3

First in the hopper

Minnesota’s Constitutional Officers

Governor
TIM PAWLENTY (R)
Room 130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-3391
(800) 657-3717
Fax: (651) 296-2089
Web site: www.governor.state.mn.us
E-mail: tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us

Lieutenant Governor
CAROL MOLNAU (R)
Room 130 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-3391
Fax: (651) 296-3587
E-mail: carol.molnau@dot.state.mn.us

Attorney General
LORI SWANSON (DFL)
Executive Offices
Room 102
State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-6196
(800) 657-3787
Web site: www.ag.state.mn.us
E-mail: attorney.general@state.mn.us
Consumer Division
1400 Bremer Tower
445 Minnesota St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-3353
(800) 657-3787
TTY (651) 297-7206
TTY (800) 366-4812

Secretary of State
MARK RITCHIE (DFL)
Election Center
Room 180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
(651) 215-1440
(877) 600-8683
Business Services
Suite 100
60 Empire Drive
St. Paul, MN 55103
(651) 296-2803
(877) 551-6767
Web site: www.sos.state.mn.us
E-mail: secretary.state@state.mn.us

State Auditor
REBECCA OTTO (DFL)
525 Park St.
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55103
(651) 296-2551
TTY (800) 627-3529
Web site: www.osa.state.mn.us
E-mail: state.auditor@state.mn.us

January 12, 2007
**GOVERNMENT**

**Legislator per diem increase**

For the second time in three years, House members are eligible for a per diem increase.

On a 22-4 vote Jan. 10, the House Rules and Legislative Administration Committee approved the increase for miscellaneous living expenses from $66 to $77 per day. Members were at $56 per day before an increase in 2005.

Still, it is less than the increase from $66 to $96 that the Senate Rules and Administration Committee approved for its body.

“It’s something that’s overdue,” said Rep. Ron Erhardt (R-Edina), who added that collecting per diem is a voluntary request. “I think that we’re all entitled to a little cost-of-living raise now and then. The folks across the Capitol have exceeded our expectations here, but they’re bigger eaters.”

Since 1998, members have been paid an annual salary of $31,140, but they can be reimbursed for travel and lodging when away from home.

In addition, the House increased its housing benefit for members from districts more than 50 miles from the Capitol. Now members are eligible for up to $1,200 a month for “lodging expenses” all year, instead of just six months a year, as was the case. The Senate has had a year-round allowance for a number of years.

Rep. Mark Buesgens (R-Jordan), who voted against the increase along with Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-Edina), Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) and Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), said the approval violates Article 4, Section 9 of the Minnesota Constitution, which states that “No increase of compensation shall take effect during the period for which the members of the existing house of representatives may have been elected.”

Rep. Loren Solberg (DFL-Grand Rapids) said there is a difference between per diem living expenses, which this addresses, and salary.

“If $77 a day is what’s necessary to pay for food, then that’s some awful rich eating,” said Buesgens, who believes legislators should be paid higher compensation.

House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) offered, and then withdrew, an amendment that any member “voting against or abstaining from voting for this resolution is prohibited from receiving the per diem and housing payments.” He said this occurs in other states, including Missouri.

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Golden Gopher parachutes**

At least two legislators do not believe state money should be used as compensation for unsuccessful coaches.

Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) plans to introduce a bill that would prohibit any state appropriation to the University of Minnesota from being “used directly or indirectly for costs related to the early termination of a contract of any person who reports to the director of athletics.”

Her announcement comes less than two weeks after Glen Mason was dismissed as Gopher football coach. He reportedly left with a $2.2 million buyout and $1.6 million in deferred compensation. Former men’s basketball coach Dan Monson reportedly got a check for $1.35 million when he resigned Nov. 30.

“When students ask for a Hail Mary for tuition relief, the university spends all this money to get rid of two coaches who didn’t do their jobs,” Peppin said at a Jan. 9 news conference. “This does not send the right message to students.”

University Athletic Director Joel Maturi said the money will come from his department, but that he may need a short-term loan from central administration to help with the compensation.

Administration gets its money from tuition and the state, said House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall). “This is about golden parachutes, not Goldy Gopher.”

“First and foremost, no tax or tuition dollars will be used to fund the $3.5 million buyout of the contract for coaches Mason and Monson. Those amounts will be paid entirely by revenues to the athletics department through ticket sales, licensing and other means,” university spokesman Daniel Wolter said in a statement.


Because of the university’s constitutional autonomy, Rukavina said there isn’t much the state can do. He is not adverse to allowing Seifert and Peppin to question officials during a university presentation.
According to its Web site, the university is seeking $123.4 million in new funding for the upcoming fiscal biennium, beginning July 1, 2007, to “help to ensure the University’s continued excellence and help it to build for the future of the University and of the state.” The university also proposes a 4.5 percent tuition increase each year.

**College cost concerns**

Many legislators heard about increased college costs while campaigning.

Members of the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division of the House Finance Committee heard more concerns during their first committee meeting Jan. 10. No action was taken.

Five students from two-year rural technical and community colleges in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system spoke of the problems they have making ends meet while going to school, and how much debt they expect to have if or when they receive their diploma.

Students from similar schools in the Twin Cities metropolitan area testified the next day. Division chairman Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) said he anticipates taking testimony from students from four-year MnSCU institutions, the University of Minnesota and private colleges.

“Higher education is a cornerstone of Minnesota’s vitality, both economically and socially. Yet, over the past decade changes have been made that have led to the degradation of this important institution,” said David Attarsaheli, a sales and management student at St. Cloud Technical College. “Now is the time to fix the problems, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because the costs of fixing them would later be astronomical both financially and socially.”

Attarsaheli has taken out $3,000 in loans for this academic year, and he works about 25 hours a week. Yet, he considers himself lucky.

“I have several friends and fellow students who work in excess of 50 hours per week and maintain full course loads,” he said. “Their jobs don’t pay as well as mine and they can’t get financial aid because their parents make too much.”

The financial burden has left some to wonder if the effort is worth the reward.

“When we come out with a mortgage payment and no house, that leaves us in a really detrimental position to try to achieve our goals,” said Jacob Littler, who attends Mesabi Range Community and Technical College.

**Bioscience industry urges support**

Minnesota will have to fight to keep its edge in the bioscience industry.

The university also proposes a 4.5 percent tuition increase each year. Yet, over the past decade changes have been made that have led to the degradation of this important institution,” said David Attarsaheli, a sales and management student at St. Cloud Technical College. “Now is the time to fix the problems, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because the costs of fixing them would later be astronomical both financially and socially.”

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**TECHNOLOGY**

**Bioscience industry urges support**

Minnesota will have to fight to keep its edge in the bioscience industry.

That was the message presented to the House Biosciences and Emerging Technology Committee at its first official meeting Jan. 10. It took no action.

BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota Chairman Dale Wahlstrom warned that bioscience-related industries are experiencing a rapid “convergence” of technologies that is forcing companies to shift geographic locations and might lure some biotech business out of the state.

“The companies will figure out a way to deal with this,” Wahlstrom said. “They will have to go to where the knowledge is, so the fact that our companies will do well does not mean that the state will do well.”

Phil Griffin, a contract lobbyist with LifeScience Alley, urged the state to support bioscience by fostering a trained and educated workforce, and by actively encouraging research, commercialization and economic development in the bioscience community.

“We’re no longer, as you all know, competing with Wisconsin and Iowa and South and North Dakota,” Griffin said. “The kind of work that goes on is being done across the globe, and those are the kinds of people that we’re competing with.”

Griffin stopped short of unveiling a full legislative agenda to the committee, but said he intends to do so soon.

LifeScience Alley President and CEO Don Gerhardt testified to the economic benefits of a strong bioscience industry presence in the state. He said approximately 520 biotech companies in the state, employing some 50,000 employees, generate an estimated $40 billion to $50 billion in business every year.

Praising bioscience and related industries as an “engine of jobs and growth” for the state, Committee Chair Rep. Tim Mahoney (DFL-St. Paul) urged committee members to approach bioscience legislation from a bipartisan viewpoint.
**Federal tax compliance**

The House has passed its first bill and thousands of Minnesotans could benefit from tax deductions for 2006.

Sponsored by Rep. Sandy Wollschlager (DFL-Cannon Falls), HF 8 conform Minnesota’s income tax to federal income tax changes enacted since the 2006 House session concluded.

Approved 132-0 Jan. 11, the bill now goes to the Senate, where Sen. Thomas Bakk (DFL-Cook) is the sponsor.

Wollschlager said the changes would increase the tuition expense deduction up to $4,000 and the teacher classroom expense deduction up to $250; allow military personnel to count tax-exempt combat pay as earned income for the purpose of qualifying to make tax deductible contributions to IRAs; and allow people age 70 ½ years and older to make direct charitable contributions from an IRA to a charity. The bill would affect 2006 income tax returns only.

Rep. Morrie Lanning (DFL-Moorhead) said in spite of the “fast track” to move the bill, some people might still file their tax returns before the bill is signed into law. He asked that direct notification be sent to those who need to amend their returns.

“Most people don’t file this soon,” said Jack Mansun, assistant commissioner of tax policy and external relations with the Minnesota Department of Revenue. “Most don’t get their W-2’s until the end of January.”

He said those that do would be notified of what steps to take to amend their return. Also, tax preparers would be notified of the changes via electronic newsletter and e-file programs would also be updated. The deadline for making changes to software for this tax season is Jan. 12.

“We need to correct the form and get it into the hands of parents, teachers and combat veterans,” said Rep. Ann Lenczewski (DFL-Bloomington), the House Taxes Committee chairwoman. “We should do this now to save the headache.”

Heather Klopchin and Gabriel Anderson of ARENA Dances demonstrate how interactive video technology is being used by the Minnesota Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center to bring art education programs to Minnesota classrooms. The demonstration was presented to legislators during the 2007 Legislative Conference Jan. 9 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.
Is bigger better?
House leaders differ on the value of more committees

BY MIKE COOK

Telecommunications Regulation and Infrastructure Division of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.
House Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections Committee.
And, who can say the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division of the House Finance Committee without taking a breath?

More than a mouthful of alphabet soup, these are three examples of the new House committee structure.

With the DFL now in control, the number of committees and divisions totals 35 — an increase of eight from the last biennium, when Republicans were in control. House Majority Leader Tony Sertich (DFL-Chisholm) defends the move and says the new committee structure allows for more involvement from members and the public, without increasing staff.

Further, he said the new structure permits the targeting of three issues his party believes should be closely examined this biennium, including early childhood education. “I think it’s of the utmost importance that we have the opportunity to focus exclusively on those issues of our earliest learners and the youngest members of the state of Minnesota.”

Before temporary rules were passed on Opening Day, however, House Minority Leader Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) called the additional committees an expansion of government and a way to prohibit many Minnesotans from taking part in the entire process.

“We have people from the public — from northwestern Minnesota, from northeastern Minnesota, from southwest and southeast — that would like to testify before committees to help shape the bills,” he said. Now, Seifert said an education bill could “go from a division to an education committee to a finance committee to a ways and means committee to get to the House floor. You’re talking about someone who has an interest in rural Minnesota having to drive back and forth from the Capitol as much as four, five, six, eight hours each time to testify on a bill.”

There are several new committee divisions this biennium which will help legislators focus on specific issues, Sertich said. He cited the mental health division as an example. “For far too long we have put those issues by the wayside, and by setting up a division we are going to be able to focus like a laser on issues dealing with mental health and have involvement from members, staff and the state of Minnesota. The third is bioscience and emerging technologies. As we are trying to be competitive in this global economy I think it is important that we set aside time to look at those emerging issues.”

Committees are scheduled to begin most days at 8 a.m. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday they will meet until 5:30 p.m. While they begin earlier and end later, the schedule does call for a half-hour morning break and a lunch hour from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Some divisions are scheduled to meet Friday mornings. Session is planned for Mondays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. A caucus is scheduled for late afternoon on Wednesdays.

Seifert said the schedule is not as “family friendly” as the one used the last two biennia.

“We didn’t have anything before noon Mondays and nothing on Fridays so non-metro members could spend more time back in their districts,” he said.

Still, Seifert is happy with the placement of Republican members on committees. “Margaret did a good job of accepting what

Committees continued on page 23
Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs
445 State Office Building ........... 296-3201
Meet: Mondays at 2:15 p.m. and Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 13  
Chair: Otremba-DFL  
Vice Chair: Faust-DFL  
Republic Lead: Hamilton-R  
Brown-DFL  
Doty-DFL  
Eken-DFL  
Finstad-R  
Heidgerken-R  
Juhnke-DFL  
Morrow-DFL  
Shimanski-R  
Urdahl-R

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Katherine Beyer .............................. 296-9468  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Larson ................................... 296-5486

Veterans Affairs Division
439 State Office Building ............. 296-4346
Meet: Fridays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 12
Chair: Koenen-DFL  
Vice Chair: Tingelstad-R  
Republic Lead: Wardlow-R  
Anderson-S-R  
Dittrich-DFL  
Fritz-DFL  
Hornstein-DFL  
Johnson-DFL  
Knuth-DFL  
Mahoney-DFL  
Mullery-DFL  
Paulsen-R  
Peterson-A-DFL  
Sailer-DFL  
Simpson-R  
Tillberry-DFL

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Katherine Beyer............................... 296-9468  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Larson ................................... 296-5486

Biosciences and Emerging Technology
591 State Office Building .......... 296-4277
Meet: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 11
Chair: Mahoney-DFL  
Vice Chair: Norton-DFL  
Republic Lead: Beard-R  
Berns-R  
Bunn-DFL  
Haws-DFL  
Masin-DFL  
Peppin-R  
Ruth-R  
Thissen-DFL  
Winker-DFL

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Joanna Dornfeld............................ 296-9302  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Autumn Williams-Wussow.............. 296-8187

Commerce and Labor
503 State Office Building ............. 296-4192
Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 17
Chair: Atkins-DFL  
Vice Chair: Lillie-DFL  
Republic Lead: Zellers-R  
Anderson-S-R  
Anzelc-DFL  
Berns-R  
Davnie-DFL  
Dominguez-DFL  
Dominguez-DFL  
Johnson-DFL  
Knuth-DFL  
Mahoney-DFL  
Mullery-DFL  
Paulsen-R  
Sailer-DFL  
Simpson-R  
Atkins-DFL

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Elizabeth Emerson ....................... 296-7175  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Faust................................. 296-4321

Labor and Consumer Protection Division
545 State Office Building .......... 296-0173
Meet: Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 14
Chair: Davnie-DFL  
Vice Chair: Benson-DFL  
Republic Lead: Gunther-R  
Anderson-S-R  
Dittrich-DFL  
Fritz-DFL  
Hornstein-DFL  
Peterson-N-R  
Scalze-DFL  
Shimanski-R  
Thissen-DFL  
Atkins-DFL

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Elizabeth Emerson ....................... 296-7175  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Faust................................. 296-4321

Telecommunications Regulation and Infrastructure Division
549 State Office Building .......... 296-4201
Meet: Fridays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 11
Chair: Johnson-DFL  
Vice Chair: Masin-DFL  
Republic Lead: Hoppe-R  
Anderson-S-R  
Garofalo-R  
Hilty-DFL  
Johnson-DFL  
Rathje-DFL  
Sailer-DFL  
Shimanski-R  
Thissen-DFL  
Atkins-DFL

Staff  
Committee Administrator  
Elizabeth Emerson ....................... 296-7175  
Committee Legislative Assistant  
Mary Faust................................. 296-4321

This list is subject to change.
E-12 Education
563 State Office Building ..........296-9714
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m.
in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 25
Chair: Mariani-DFL
Vice Chair: Dittrich-DFL
Republican Lead: Erickson-R
Abeler-R Nornes-R
Benson-DFL Peterson, S.-DFL
Brown-DFL Slawik-DFL
Davnie-DFL Slocum-DFL
Demmer-R Swails-DFL
Dettmer-R Tillberry-DFL
Gottwald-R Udahl-R
Greiling-DFL Ward-DFL
Heidgerken-R Wardlow-R
Hornstein-DFL Welti-DFL
Hosch-DFL ex-officio**
Laine-DFL Murphy, M.-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Christina Gosack .........................296-5524
Committee Legislative Assistant
Celeste Marin .............................296-9115

Environment and Natural Resources
575 State Office Building ..........296-9918
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.
in Room 5*

Members: 18
Chair: Eken-DFL
Vice Chair: Hansen-DFL
Republican Lead: Hackbarth-R
Brynaert-DFL Olin-DFL
Cornish-R Ozment-R
Dill-DFL Sailer-DFL
Gardner-DFL Scalze-DFL
Hoppe-R Thao-DFL
Mariani-DFL Tingelstad-R
McNamara-R Wagenius-DFL
Moe-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Kirk Koudelka ...........................296-6937
Committee Legislative Assistant
Joan Harrison ...........................296-7881

Game, Fish and Forestry Division
571 State Office Building ..........296-2190
Meets: Mondays at 4:00 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 13
Chair: Dill-DFL
Vice Chair: Knuth-DFL
Republican Lead: Cornish-R
Bigham-DFL Moe-DFL
Hackbarth-R Morrow-DFL
Hansen-DFL Peterson, A.-DFL
Hoppe-R Simpson-R
McNamara-R Wagenius-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Kirk Koudelka ...........................296-6937
Committee Legislative Assistant
Joan Harrison ...........................296-7881

Ethics
343 State Office Building ..........296-2676
Meets: At the call of the chair in (No Room Assigned)*

Members: 4
Chair: Murphy, M.-DFL
Vice Chair: Smith-R

Holberg-R (A)Liebling-DFL
Simon-DFL (A)Peterson, N.-R
(A) alternate

Staff
Committee Administrator
NA .............................................
Committee Legislative Assistant
Phil Chen .................................296-5360

Finance
479 State Office Building ..........296-4255
Meets: Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 40
Chair: Carlson-DFL
Vice Chair: Sailer-DFL
Republican Lead: Sviggum-R
Anderson, B.-R Kohls-R
Clark-DFL Lenczewski-DFL
Cornish-R Lieder-DFL
Erhardt-R Mahoney-DFL
Finstad-R Mariani-DFL
Garofalo-R Murphy, M.-DFL
Greiling-DFL Otrema-DFL
Hackbarth-R Paymar-DFL
Hauffman-DFL Pelowski-DFL
Hilty-DFL Poppin-R
Howes-R Poppe-DFL
Huntley-DFL Rukavina-DFL
Jaros-DFL Seifert-R
Juhnke-DFL Sertich-DFL
Kahn-DFL Severson-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Kathy Meek ................................
Committee Legislative Assistant
Laurie Nistl ..............................296-5497

*Rooms in State Office Building
**Non-voting member All area codes are 651
January 12, 2007
Early Childhood Learning Finance Division
403 State Office Building ..........296-7807
Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 14
Chair: Slawik-DFL
Vice Chair: Bly-DFL
Republican Lead: Eastlund-R

Fritz-DFL ........................................ Peterson, S.-DFL
Garofalo-R ........................................ Ward-DVL
Gottwalt-R ........................................ Wardlow-R
Kranz-DFL ........................................ Winkler-DVL
Laine-DFL ........................................ ex-officio**
Murphy, E.-DFL ................................ Murphy, M.-DFL
Nornes-R ........................................ ex-officio**

Staff
Committee Administrator
Sara Benzkofer ..............................296-4305
Committee Legislative Assistant
Tricia Kiefer .................................296-4483

Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division
343 State Office Building ..........296-2676
Meet: Mondays at 4:00 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 24
Chair: Murphy, M.-DFL
Vice Chair: Peterson, S.-DFL
Republican Lead: Demmer-R

Abeler-R ........................................ Pelowski-DFL
Brown-DFL .................................... Rukavina-DFL
Bunn-DFL ....................................... Ruth-R
Eastlund-R .................................... Ruud-DVL
Erickson-R .................................... Swalik-DVL
Garofalo-R .................................... Tillberry-DVL
Greiling-DFL ................................ Ward-DVL
Hamilton-R ................................... Wardlow-R
Heidgerken-R ................................ ex-officio**
Hornstein-DFL ................................ Carlson-DVL
Kranz-DFL ..................................... ex-officio**
Mariani-DFL ................................ Solberg-DVL
Masin-DVL .................................... Solberg-DVL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Christina Gosack ...........................296-5524
Committee Legislative Assistant
Phil Chen ......................................296-5360

Energy Finance and Policy Division
559 State Office Building ..........296-4308
Meet: Mondays and Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 21
Chair: Hilty-DFL
Vice Chair: Ruud-DFL
Republican Lead: Westrom-R

Beard-R ........................................ Nornes-R
Bly-DFL ........................................ Ozment-R
Brynaert-DFL ................................ Peterson, A.-DFL
Gardner-DFL ................................... Sailer-DVL
Gunther-R ...................................... Slocum-DVL
Hackbarth-R ................................ Wagenius-DVL
Hoppe-R ........................................ ex-officio**
Johnson-DVL .................................. Welti-DVL
Kalvin-DVL ..................................... Carlson-DVL
Knuth-DVL ..................................... ex-officio**
Magnus-R ..................................... Solberg-DVL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Andy Pomroy .................................296-4180
Committee Legislative Assistant
Rebekah Smith ..............................296-8879

Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division
449 State Office Building ..........296-4200
Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 19
Chair: Wagenius-DFL
Vice Chair: Doty-DFL
Republican Lead: Ozment-R

Anzelc-DFL ................................ Magnus-R
Clark-DFL ..................................... McNamara-R
Dill-DFL ....................................... Moe-DVL
Eken-DFL ..................................... Peterson, A.-DFL
Gardner-DFL ................................ Scalce-DVL
Gunther-R ..................................... Tingelstad-R
Hackbarth-R ................................ ex-officio**
Hansen-DVL ................................ Carlson-DVL
Hoppe-R ....................................... ex-officio**
Knuth-DVL ................................ Solberg-DVL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jenna Duwenhoeger ......................296-1774
Committee Legislative Assistant
Melissa Hysing .............................296-3367

Health Care and Human Services Finance Division
385 State Office Building ..........296-2228
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 21
Chair: Huntley-DFL
Vice Chair: Hosch-DFL
Republican Lead: Abeler-R

Anderson, B.-R ................................ Peppin-R
Brod-R ......................................... Peterson, S.-DFL
Bunn-DVL ..................................... Ruud-DVL
Dean-R ......................................... Slawik-DVL
Erickson-R .................................... Thao-DVL
Fritz-DFL ....................................... Thissen-DVL
Gottwall-R .................................... Walker-DVL
Liebling-DVL ................................ ex-officio**
Lofeffler-DVL ................................ Carlson-DVL
Murphy, E.-DFL ................................ ex-officio**
Otremba-DVL ................................ Solberg-DVL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jenn Holcomb ...............................296-6422
Committee Legislative Assistant
Jan Horner .................................296-5496

Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division
477 State Office Building ..........296-0170
Meet: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 20
Chair: Rukavina-DFL
Vice Chair: Poppe-DVL
Republican Lead: Gunther-R
Republican Lead Higher Ed.: Nornes-R

Atkins-DFL ................................ McFarlane-R
Bly-DFL ....................................... Moe-DVL
Brynaert-DFL ................................ Norton-DVL
Clark-DFL ..................................... Ruth-R
Dettmer-R .................................... Severson-R
Eastlund-R ................................... Slocum-DVL
Haws-DVL ..................................... Welit-DVL
Hortman-DVL ................................ ex-officio**
Mahoney-DVL ................................ Murphy, M.-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jim Gelbmann ...............................296-7427
Committee Legislative Assistant
Sue Scott .................................296-8827
Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division
471 State Office Building ............ 296-0294
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 16
Chair: Clark-DFL
Vice Chair: Kranz-DFL
Republican Lead: Severson-R
Anderson, B.-R Morgan-DFL
Benson-DFL Peterson, N.-R
Eastlund-R Swails-DFL
Huntley-DFL Tschumper-DFL
Laine-DFL ex-officio**
Madore-DFL Carlson-DFL
McFarlane-R Solberg-DFL
McNamara-R Solberg-DFL
Moe-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Brooke Bordson ............................ 296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
Lauren Benditt ............................... 296-5998

K-12 Finance Division
381 State Office Building ............ 296-3587
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:15 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 21
Chair: Greiling-DFL
Vice Chair: Morrow-DFL
Republican Lead: Heidgerken-R
Anzelc-DFL Garofalo-R
Benson-DFL Hilstrom-DFL
Brown-DFL Mariani-DFL
Davnie-DFL Marquart-DFL
Demmer-R McFarlane-R
Dettmer-R Morgan-DFL
Dittrich-DFL Olson-R
Dominguez-DFL Swails-DFL
Erickson-R ex-officio**
Faust-DFL Murphy, M.-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Shannon Patrick ......................... 296-5098
Committee Legislative Assistant
Elizabeth Mandelman ..................... 296-9676

Minnesota Heritage Finance Division
583 State Office Building ............ 296-4246
Meets: Mondays at 4:00 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 14
Chair: Jaros-DFL
Vice Chair: Gardner-DFL
Republican Lead: Udahl-R
Anderson, B.-R Nornes-R
Bly-DFL Peterson, N.-R
Dean-R Sailer-DFL
Eken-DFL ex-officio**
Johnson-DFL Carlson-DFL
Kahn-DFL ex-officio**
Laine-DFL Solberg-DFL
Madore-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Christine Murphy ....................... 296-5491
Committee Legislative Assistant
Diogo Reis .................................. 296-3889

Public Safety Finance Division
543 State Office Building ............ 296-4199
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 17
Chair: Paymar-DFL
Vice Chair: Olin-DFL
Republican Lead: Smith-R
Bigham-DFL Liebling-DFL
Buesgens-R Lillie-DFL
Cornish-R Mullery-DFL
Dominguez-DFL Murphy, M.-DFL
Eastlund-R Zellers-R
Haws-DFL ex-officio**
Hilstrom-DFL Carlson-DFL
Kohls-R ex-officio**
Lesch-DFL Solberg-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Melanie LaComb ......................... 296-4141
Committee Legislative Assistant
Libby Wyrum .............................. 296-5999

State Government Finance Division
365 State Office Building ............ 296-4257
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:15 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 13
Chair: Kahn-DFL
Vice Chair: Ward-DFL
Republican Lead: DeLaForest-R
Anderson, S.-R Winkler-DFL
Bigham-DFL Zellers-R
Hilty-DFL ex-officio**
Hortman-DFL Carlson-DFL
Lesch-DFL ex-officio**
Peppin-R Pelowski-DFL
Poppe-DFL ex-officio**
Sviggum-R Solberg-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Brian Shekleton ......................... 296-4110
Committee Legislative Assistant
Krysta Niedernhofer ................... 296-7173

Transportation Finance Division
423 State Office Building ............ 296-5091
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 18
Chair: Lieder-DFL
Vice Chair: Erhardt-R
Republican Lead: Magnus-R
Beard-R Morrow-DFL
Doty-DFL Nelson-DFL
Hausman-DFL Ruth-R
Holberg-R Severson-R
Hornstein-DFL Slocum-DFL
Hortman-DFL Carlson-DFL
Kal-DFL Carlson-DFL
Madore-DFL ex-officio**
Masin-DFL Solberg-DFL
Morgan-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Abbey Mahin ............................. 296-5413
Committee Legislative Assistant
Susie Maher .............................. 296-5494

Member Assignments as of 1/9/07
*Rooms in State Office Building
**Non-voting member
All area codes are 651
January 12, 2007
**Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections**

491 State Office Building .................296-8637
**Meets:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 16
Chair: Pelowski-DFL
Vice Chair: Morgan-DFL
Republican Lead: Howes-R
Anderson, S.-R  Olson-R
Brod-R  Peterson, N.-R
Emmer-R  Poppe-DFL
Hilty-DFL  Simon-DFL
Kahn-DFL  Winkler-DFL
Kalin-DFL  Wollschlager-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Mark Mallander ............................296-5389
Committee Legislative Assistant
Kathy L. Anderson ..........................296-3806

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**Health and Human Services**

351 State Office Building .................296-5375
**Meets:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:15 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 20
Chair: Thissen-DFL
Vice Chair: Fritz-DFL
Republican Lead: Brod-R
Abeler-R  Lofthus-DFL
Anderson, B.-R  Murphy, E.-DFL
Bunn-DFL  Norton-DFL
Emmer-R  Otremba-DFL
Finstad-R  Ruud-DFL
Gottwalt-R  Thao-DFL
Hamilton-R  Tschumper-DFL
Huntley-DFL  Walker-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jennifer McNertney.........................296-3244
Committee Legislative Assistant
Rachel Gillespie ............................296-9895

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**Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs**

379 State Office Building .................296-3709
**Meets:** Mondays at 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 15
Chair: Hilstrom-DFL
Vice Chair: Tschumper-DFL
Republican Lead: Lanning-R
Beard-R  Koenen-DFL
Buesgens-R  Lenczewski-DFL
Dominguez-DFL  Marquart-DFL
Hausman-DFL  Olson-R
Holberg-R  Scalze-DFL
Howes-R  Solberg-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Peter Strohmeier ............................296-5069
Committee Legislative Assistant
Erin Huppert .................................296-2585

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**Mental Health Division**

553 State Office Building .................296-7152
**Meets:** Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 14
Chair: Walker-DFL
Vice Chair: Brynaert-DFL
Republican Lead: Anderson, B.-R
Greiling-DFL  Otremba-DFL
Hosch-DFL  Paymar-DFL
Koenen-DFL  Ruud-DFL
Lanning-R  Tinglestad-R
Madore-DFL  Wardlow-R
McFarlane-R  

Staff
Committee Administrator
Jennifer McNertney.........................296-3244

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**Public Safety and Civil Justice**

367 State Office Building .................296-4262
**Meets:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 10*

Members: 19
Chair: Mullery-DFL
Vice Chair: Kalin-DFL
Republican Lead: Kohls-R
Bigham-DFL  Lesch-DFL
Cornish-R  Lillie-DFL
DeLaForest-R  Olin-DFL
Emmer-R  Paymar-DFL
Hilstrom-DFL  Sailer-DFL
Holberg-R  Simon-DFL
Johnson-DFL  Smith-R
Kranz-DFL  Westrom-R

Staff
Committee Administrator
Patrick Baldwin ..............................296-4283
Committee Legislative Assistant
Victoria Benson ..............................296-5526

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**Rules and Legislative Administration**

459 State Office Building .................296-0172
**Meets:** At the call of the chair in (No Room Assigned)*

Members: 27
Chair: Sertich-DFL
Vice Chair: Lofthus-DFL
Republican Lead: Paulsen-R
Buesgens-R  Murphy, E.-DFL
Carlson-DFL  Nelson-DFL
Dill-DFL  Ozment-R
Erhardt-R  Pelowski-DFL
Finstad-R  Peterson, A.-DFL
Hilstrom-DFL  Simpson-DFL
Hortman-DFL  Solberg-DFL
Howes-R  Thao-DFL
Juhne-DFL  Tschumper-DFL
Lillie-DFL  Tinglestad-R
Magnus-R  Westrom-R
Mahoney-DFL  Winkler-DFL

Staff
Committee Administrator
Lisa Radzak .................................296-2909
Committee Legislative Assistant
Tom Dicklich .................................296-9183
Taxes

509 State Office Building ...............296-4218

Meets: Mondays at 2:15 p.m. and Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 26
Chair: Lenczewski-DFL
Vice Chair: Wollschläger-DFL
Republican Lead: Simpson-R

Atkins-DFL  ........................................\nBrod-DFL .........................................\nCarlson-DFL ........................................\nDavie-DFL ........................................\nDeLaForest-R .....................................\nDemmer-DFL ......................................\nDill-DFL ...........................................
Erhardt-R ..........................................\nHilstrom-DFL .....................................\nJaros-DFL ..........................................\nKoenen-DFL ......................................\nKohls-R ...........................................

Staff
Committee Administrator
Sarah Carlson-Wallrath .................296-8826

Committee Legislative Assistant
Jamie Becker-Finn ...........................296-2955

Property Tax Relief

and Local Sales Tax Division

597 State Office Building ...............296-6829

Meet: Fridays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 10*

Members: 11
Chair: Marquart-DFL
Vice Chair: Brown-DFL
Republican Lead: Erhardt-R

Anderson, S.-R ..................................\nDemmer-R .........................................\nDittrich-DFL ......................................\nLenczewski-DFL ..................................
Lanning-R ........................................
Paynar-DFL .......................................\n
Staff
Committee Administrator
Sarah Carlson-Wallrath .................296-8826

Committee Legislative Assistant
Paul Cumings ..............................295-3830

Ways and Means

443 State Office Building ...............296-2365

Meet: Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 29
Chair: Solberg-DFL
Vice Chair: Swails-DFL
Republican Lead: Holberg-R

Abeler-R ...........................................
Brynaert-DFL ...................................
Carlson-DFL ......................................
Clark-DFL .........................................
Dean-R ...........................................
Eken-DFL .........................................
Erhardt-R .........................................
Greiling-DFL ...................................
Gunther-R ........................................
Hilstrom-DFL ...................................
Hilty-DFL ........................................
Huntye-DFL ......................................
Kahn-DFL ........................................

Staff
Committee Administrator
Christine Murphy .........................296-5491

Committee Legislative Assistant
Gerrie Boice .................................295-5388

Minnesota House and Senate

January 12, 2007 Session Weekly
# Minnesota House Committee Schedule 2007-2008

**Updated 1/10/07**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>E-12 Education (B)</td>
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<td>9:30-10:00</td>
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<td>Caucus</td>
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<td>Local Govt. Metro Aff. (B)</td>
<td>Commerce and Labor (B)</td>
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<td>Commerce and Labor (B)</td>
<td>Commerce and Labor (B)</td>
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</table>

*Ways and Means, Finance, Rules and Legislative Administration, and Ethics meet at the call of the Chair. Room numbers in parenthesis - all located in State Office Building.
Fulfilling a goal
Anzelc returns to St. Paul in a different role

By Mia Simpson

Three hundred miles span the two farthest corners of Rep. Tom Anzelc’s (DFL-Balsam Township) district, which brushes, at its top, Canada, and at its bottom, the southernmost border of Itasca County.

His campaign vehicle, a now-battered 2006 Chevy truck bearing 50,000 miles, most clearly conveys the breadth of his election pursuits.

“It’s just about run down,” he said. “You don’t represent a district like the one I do without having a good work ethic and without having energy.”

Anzelc, pronounced AN-zels, knows the landscape of Capitol politics as deeply as his home territory. He worked in Gov. Rudy Perpich’s administration as assistant commissioner in the Department of Human Services, and later as executive director of the Gambling Control Board. He also sat on a committee asked to design a state-run welfare assistance program, which later became the Minnesota Family Investment Program.

Anzelc credits Perpich, Perpich’s two brothers and another set of iconic politicians — the Kennedy brothers — for his own calling to public service.

“The Kennedys literally mesmerized me,” he said. “They came from wealth, but they lifted people up.”

“Contrary to the Kennedys, the Perpichs didn’t come from wealth … but there was a similarity: caring for other people and helping other people. They also became dentists, an accomplishment in itself. I marveled at that.”

Anzelc’s roots matched those of the Perpichs: a son of a miner on Minnesota’s Iron Range.

His political agenda — strong education, accessible health care, jobs and property taxes — strongly reflects his childhood experience in a working-class family.

“My father was really a farmer/labor rights member … he believed that the working class should run the country or, at least, that the working class needed to have political representation.”

Anzelc served as a county commissioner from 1980 to 1982 before being asked by Perpich to resign and join his administration. Prior to that, he was a civics teacher in Hibbing, and a cross-country and basketball coach. He also worked as a labor union official for 12 years.

“Now, I’m starting another one of life’s adventures,” he said. “This is something I’ve wanted to do more than anything else, since high school, a long time ago.”

Youthful enthusiasm
For Bigham, value of public service instilled at an early age

By Patty Ostberg

Glancing over the resume of Rep. Karla Bigham (DFL-Cottage Grove), one might not suspect she is only 27 years old.

She served the last two years on the Cottage Grove City Council; previously, she was a union organizer for Service Employees International Union and also worked as a DFL caucus researcher and assistant. For the past three years, she worked as a paralegal for the Property Crimes Division of the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office.

Bigham said being a public servant is the highest calling a person can achieve.

“Knowing I have vested interest in the future” of Minnesota and the country helped motivate her political pursuits, she said.

Her parents instilled these social values starting at a young age. She remembers the family sitting in front of the television watching the president’s State of the Union Address to “hear what our president was doing.”

She ran for the House after seeing the effects of increased property taxes and decreased local government aid in Cottage Grove. Bigham said she felt the need to bring her city-level experience to the state level.

The issues she “campaigned on and will work tirelessly on” include education, transportation and health care, she said. A key transportation initiative that Bigham will try to secure more funding for is the Red Rock Corridor transitway, a proposed commuter rail line that would run from Hastings to St. Paul on existing rail lines.

Bigham has a passion for all her committee assignments: the Game, Fish and Forestry Division of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the House Public Safety and Civil Justice Committee, two public safety and state government finance divisions of the House Finance Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Division of the House Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Committee.

In Cottage Grove, Bigham said she “was a fierce advocate for the public safety department.” For example, she worked with other councilors and organizations to restore the city’s K-9 unit after several years of absence.

“I was born and raised to really pay attention to what goes on in society … to know what to do to make things better,” she said. “I look forward to a productive session.”
Third time’s a charm
Remembering a lesson led to House seat

BY CRAIG GREEN
When Rep. David Bly (DFL-Northfield) began his first run for the House in 2002, he believed that he needed to educate people about values and compassion for others. He lost by 46 votes. When he lost his second run in 2004 by 586 votes, a friend told Bly that what was important was that the voters knew he valued their concerns and needs.

Bly, an educator, never forgot the lesson. On his third try, he won.

Born and raised in Northfield, Bly said that he was inspired to enter politics “by people like [former U.S. Senator] Paul Wellstone, who said you should act on your convictions, rather than be an observer, but a participant.”

“We’re all in this together, and when we all prosper, we all prosper,” Bly said. “I really think that we’re a better country when we take care of each other and we provide for each other.”

His tenure as a representative follows years of working with district residents: as a teacher at the Northfield Alternative Learning Center and Faribault Public Schools; an actor and director at the Northfield Arts Guild; part of a negotiating team for Northfield teachers; and a board member on several civic and youth organizations.

One of Bly’s first priorities in the House is to work on public education funding reform. Bly thinks that funding needs “to be fair across the state, and not so dependent on property taxes.” Among his committee assignments is vice chair of the Early Childhood Learning Finance Division of the House Finance Committee.

Reporting for duty
McFarlane is first female House member from her district

BY MIA SIMPSON
Destiny implies a special power, even a certain magic, that brings a person to a particular place in space and time where he or she is meant to be.

Rep. Carol McFarlane (R-White Bear Lake) may have been destined for her House seat.

“It’s like my husband says, ‘Carol, you’ve been preparing for this your whole life, and you didn’t even realize it,’” she said. “All the opportunities I’ve had, all my experiences, have prepared me for this.”

A mother of three and grandmother of three, McFarlane spent the past seven years on the White Bear Lake school board, where she said she earned a reputation as a collaborator, listener and consensus builder. Early on, she was assigned the position of legislative liaison, which made her responsible for, among other things, connecting local constituents to their state legislators.

“I embraced it,” she said. “I was bringing parents down [to the State Capitol] and providing tours. I think this is the people’s place, and that everybody’s opinion matters here.”

She decided to run for office after being approached by former Rep. Doug Meslow, who retired from the seat last year. She is now the first female House member elected from her district and the only Republican representative in Ramsey County.

McFarlane, who owns a local tire company with her husband of 35 years, Patrick, said her 25 years of experience as a community leader and volunteer offer her broad access to issues and an important, sometimes rare, perspective in politics.

“[Issues] don’t exist in silos,” she said. “They are interconnected.”

Her plan is to “learn, listen and conserve” as she navigates the corridors of the Capitol. McFarlane said she’ll focus her energy on supporting small business and education, promoting sound fiscal management and introducing issues raised by a group of local citizens she plans to convene and meet with in her district.

“I believe in people, and I believe in fairness, and that’s why I want to represent the people,” she said. “Life has led me this. How lucky am I that I get to do this at this point in my life?”
A community leader

Norton plans to stick to what constituents asked her to do

BY STEPHEN HARDING

The PTA, the school board, a degree in education and years of volunteering give Rep. Kim Norton (DFL-Rochester) a wealth of experience to share.

Norton plans to stick to the basics in her freshman year at the House of Representatives: lowering property taxes, lowering tuition and getting health care costs under control. “For me it’s doing what my constituents asked me to — getting along with both sides, to be a moderate and thinking of my district when I make my decisions,” she said.

She spent the past eight years on the Rochester School Board, including one year as chair. There she saw firsthand the effects of funding reductions to early childhood and K-12 education. As a mother of four children ages 16-24, she is also well aware of the effects of increased tuition costs at colleges and universities across the state.

Homelessness is a problem Norton is trying to fight, as well. “The goal is finding a way for people to help themselves, it’s a hand up, not hand out,” Norton said.

Last April, Norton and others went looking for homeless in Rochester at 3 a.m. and found them in parks and ditches. “I nearly walked on one man who had come off the train. He has been homeless for 20 years. He didn’t see it as a problem. It was a way of life for him.” Norton wants to see cheap temporary housing for people that are passing through town. “The rest of the citizens don’t want to see people sleeping in the parks.”

Norton is vice chair of the House Biosciences and Emerging Technology Committee. She also serves on the House Health and Human Services Committee and the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division of the House Finance Committee.

“I think it’s important for Rochester and the University of Minnesota with its bio-diesel research. I see it’s important for the state in the long run. We need to look at new technology coming in, how we can do things different and smarter. It is a visionary committee, it will affect the state 20-30 years in the future.”

A change in venue

Shimanski trades in fields for House floor

BY STEPHEN HARDING

Rep. Ron Shimanski (R-Silver Lake) is trading in his 66 acres of land and 25 head of beef cattle in McLeod County for a desk in the House Chamber.

Yet he is staying close to his roots.

One of the three farmers in the House, Shimanski sits on the House Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division of the House Finance Committee.

Shimanski is excited to serve on these two committees because he “wants to keep agriculture as a driving economic force in Minnesota, and assist the agricultural industry through legislation that helps it move forward to the 21st century.” Shimanski also believes it is important to keep “agriculture as a vibrant industry through research available at the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.”

In his committee work, Shimanski wants to make sure the needs of all veterans are being taken care of, be they from the current conflict in Iraq or for those that fought more than 60 years ago in World War II.

But, Shimanski said, education funding and transportation are the two key issues in his west central Minnesota district.

With declining or steady school district enrollments, the amount of money from the state has decreased or remained stagnant while operating costs continue to increase. Several operating levies have been voted down, he said. “The taxpayers are saying that they don’t want to spend any more; they don’t want to be taxed any more,” Shimanski said.

Improving and maintaining transportation infrastructure is another issue facing Shimanski’s district, where he feels that the state highways have not been kept up to date. “There are ongoing projects and things in the schedule, and we want to make sure that we maintain good processes of improving our highways,” Shimanski said.

Shimanski, who works as a layout and design technician, also serves on the Labor and Consumer Protection and the Telecommunications Regulation and Infrastructure divisions of the House Commerce and Labor Committee.
Starting young

YMCA Youth in Government takes over the Capitol

By Stephen Harding

Should gambling be legalized in Minnesota? Burnsville High School senior Richard Juskowiak thinks so, and he introduced a bill that would do just that.

“It could help with the budget problems or help lower taxes,” Juskowiak said.

His bill has no chance of becoming law because it was introduced during a Model Assembly for youth held Jan. 4-7 at the State Capitol. But he and more than 1,300 eighth through 12th graders from across the state received hands-on experience on how a bill becomes law.

Every year the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government program brings students to the Capitol for a four-day legislative workout. The hope is that they will leave with a clearer idea of how state government works and legislation is made.

Juskowiak is in his first year of participation. “Several of my friends did it last year and told me how fun it was, so this year I’m giving it a try.” That’s not unusual. Many students become interested in the program from friends who had participated in years past.

Take Shannon Calhoun, 16, from Red Wing, for instance. “They [my friends] told me how much fun it was, and this year I found time in my schedule to do it.”

According to its Web site, “Youth in Government is a nationwide YMCA program, active in nearly 40 states. Nationwide, nearly 25,000 students attend state Youth in Government conferences each year, with 3,300 adult volunteers and YMCA staff serving as adult advisors.”

Youth in Government programs strive to promote and develop an understanding of local, state and national concerns and political systems and provide a forum for the effective and peaceful resolution of issues and concerns.

The program also develops the responsibilities and leadership roles essential to the health of a participatory democracy.

In Minnesota, the program began with a mock governor and House and Senate in 1946. Today, Youth in Government students are able to learn about just about every aspect of state government — from legislators to lobbyists to members of the judicial system, the students participate and run the mock proceedings.

Students typically sign up for what positions they want and are placed in various roles by program leaders.

The work begins long before students arrive at the Capitol complex.

Students usually spend 60-90 minutes each week with an advisor at school who helps them research and draft their bills.

Each student presents his or her bill before the appropriate committee. If a bill receives committee approval, it is sent to the House floor to be voted on by the full House.

This year, bills that were introduced included one that would permit students a have a grade-point average higher than 4.0 if they take honors and advanced placement classes. However, the bill did not receive committee approval.

Another bill proposed that if a student under age 19 reads a book they will be paid 5 cents per page. Committee debate was lively, and after the bill’s sponsor explained how the loopholes would be closed, the bill was approved and sent to the House floor. The committee approved the bill just to see how it would be received and debated in session.
**Monday, Jan. 8**

**HF1-Thissen (DFL) Health & Human Services**
Children's health security account and program created, eligibility criteria and covered services specified, Legislative Task Force on Children's Health Care Coverage established and money appropriated.

**HF2-Swails (DFL) Finance**
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding authorized.

**HF3-Marquart (DFL) Taxes**
School district levies modified, market value property tax credit computation modified, property tax refunds increased for homeowners and renters, senior deferral eligibility increased, city and county aid increased and money appropriated.

**HF4-Peterson, A. (DFL) Energy Finance & Policy Division**
Renewable energy standard established.

**HF5-Bly (DFL) Finance**
Early childhood family education, school readiness, and Head Start program funding increased, and money appropriated.

**HF6-Greiling (DFL) Finance**
General education basic formula allowance increased by 3 percent per year.

**HF7-Loeffler (DFL) Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections**
Appropriations continued in effect unless a law is enacted eliminating or amending the appropriation.

**HF8-Wollschlager (DFL) Taxes**
Federal tax conformity provided.

**HF9-Juhnke (DFL) Finance**
Dairy investment income and corporate franchise tax credit provided for qualifying investments in dairy operations.

**HF10-Thissen (DFL) Taxes**
Small business technology credit provided.

**HF11-Rukavina (DFL) Ways & Means**
State expenditure forecasts required to include a projected inflation adjustment.

**HF12-Kahn (DFL) Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections**
Office of lieutenant governor abolished through proposed constitutional amendment.

**HF13-Tingelstad (R) Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections**
Legislative training forums required and money appropriated.

**HF14-Heidgerken (R) Taxes**
Military pension's federal taxable income subtraction provided.

**HF15-Hilstrom (DFL) Local Government & Metropolitan Affairs**
Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government eliminated.

**HF16-Mullery (DFL) Commerce & Labor**
Occupational safety and health law violators prohibited from receiving state contracts, written safety and health plans required for construction projects, and civil and criminal penalties provided.

**HF17-Rukavina (DFL) Commerce & Labor**
House of Representatives included in the public employment labor relations act.

**HF18-Lieder (DFL) Finance**
Motor vehicle sales tax proceeds allocated.

**HF19-Gunther (R) Finance**
Historical society previous appropriation balance canceled to the General Fund, funding provided for the preservation of the Wells Depot and the Winnebago Museum and money appropriated.

**HF20-Thissen (DFL) Finance**
Pre-kindergarten scholarship granting organizations contribution income tax credit provided.

**HF21-Lesch (DFL) Health & Human Services**
Clinical trial registration provided and civil penalties imposed.

**HF22-Jaros (DFL) Finance**
Walter F. Mondale Drive designated.

**HF23-Erhardt (R) Finance**
State and metropolitan agency procurement targeted group businesses for purposes of award.

**HF24-Dean (R) Finance**
Boomsite Wayside administration transferred to Natural Resources Department and designated as a historic wayside.

**HF25-Anzelc (DFL) Finance**
Itasca County infrastructure funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF26-Thissen (DFL) E-12 Education**
Early learning opportunities unified administrative structure provided.

**HF27-Hackbarth (R) Environment & Natural Resources**
Game and fish habitat dedicated sales tax funding provided, game and fish preservation fund established, walk-in public access program created and constitutional amendment proposed.

**HF28-Scalze (DFL) Finance**
Trunk Highway 36 Rice Street bridge funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

**HF29-Severson (R) Taxes**
Military pension's federal income tax subtraction provided.

**HF30-Severson (R) Agriculture, Rural Economies & Veterans Affairs**
Veteran-owned small businesses designated as targeted group businesses for purposes of awarding state and metropolitan agency procurement contracts.

**HF31-Mullery (DFL) Taxes**
Public safety retiree pension's federal tax ruled conformity provided and pension funds authorized to withhold and pay insurance premiums.

**HF32-Hackbarth (R) Environment & Natural Resources**
Outdoor walk-in access program established to voluntarily make available privately held land for hunting and fishing.

**HF33-Buesgens (R) Environment & Natural Resources**
Personal watercraft operational requirements modified to require navigational lights during certain hours.

**HF34-Kahn (DFL) Biosciences & Emerging Technology**
Stem cell research; state policy established authorizing the University of Minnesota to spend state appropriated funds on stem cell research, criminal penalties imposed and money appropriated.

**HF35-Thissen (DFL) Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections**
Multi-member Senate districts provided that coincide with congressional district boundaries and constitutional amendment proposed.
HF36-Heidgerken (R)
Finance
School district integration revenue modified.

HF37-Brod (R)
Taxes
Out-of-state active military tax deduction clarified to include active duty performed by members of the National Guard and other military reservists.

HF38-Lesch (DFL)
Public Safety & Civil Justice
Conveyances of homestead by spouses provisions modified.

HF39-Mullery (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Fair Share Health Care Act adopted, fair share health care fund established, employer payments required and criminal penalties imposed.

HF40-Thissen (DFL)
Finance
Employer post-secondary education expense tax credit provided.

HF41-Jaros (DFL)
Public Safety & Civil Justice
Cell phone and mobile phone use prohibited while operating a motor vehicle.

HF42-Rukavina (DFL)
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections
Appropriations continued to fund state agencies if bills are not passed to continue funding.

HF43-Buesgens (R)
Finance
Undergraduate tuition guarantee provided to Minnesota resident students.

HF44-Urdahl (R)
Taxes
Rural Minnesota Catch-Up Credit provided allowing a credit against the income tax of an employer for the creation and retention of certain jobs.

HF45-Tillberry (DFL)
Finance
Trunk highway improvements funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF46-Thao (DFL)
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections
Translation services state contracts preference given to native speakers.

HF47-Mullery (DFL)
Finance
Learn-to-earn summer youth employment program funding provided and money appropriated.

HF48-Mullery (DFL)
Commerce & Labor
Consumer credit scores and history use prohibited in underwriting automobile insurance policies.

HF49-Lesch (DFL)
Public Safety & Civil Justice
Criminal gang behavior defined as a public nuisance and injunctive relief and other remedies authorized.

HF50-Thissen (DFL)
Taxes
First tier commercial-industrial property exempted from the state general tax.

HF51-Mullery (DFL)
Transportation Finance Division
Transportation; Technical Review Committee membership requirements modified.

HF52-Urdahl (R)
Finance
Dairy operations income and corporate franchise tax provided for qualifying investments in dairy operations.

HF53-Lesch (DFL)
Commerce & Labor
Discrimination in auto insurance prohibited based on geographical area.

HF54-Mullery (DFL)
Taxes
City aid base additions provided for certain cities, city aid appropriation limit increased and aid required to be used for certain purposes.

HF55-Sviggum (R)
Finance
Nursing facility payment rates increased to the geographic group III median rate.

HF56-Thao (DFL)
Finance
St. Paul Police Department; Special Investigation Unit Asian Gang Task Force funding provided and money appropriated.

HF57-Thissen (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Board of Medical Practices advisory council expiration dates extended.

HF58-Mullery (DFL)
Finance
Increased job training and wages for minorities initiative and report required.

HF59-Hackbarth (R)
Environment & Natural Resources
Northshore Trail portion designated for all-terrain vehicle use, and registry of off-highway vehicle trails required.

HF60-Brod (R)
Taxes
Income tax rates reduced.

HF61-Sviggum (R)
Taxes
Property tax rebate provided and money appropriated.

HF62-Brod (R)
Taxes
Income tax rates reduced.

HF63-Lesch (DFL)
Health & Human Services
Human services background studies permanent bar to set aside a disqualification repealed.

HF64-Urdahl (R)
Finance
Dairy and livestock investment income and corporate franchise credit provided for qualifying investments.

HF65-Thissen (DFL)
Finance
Notary public maximum fees increased.

HF66-Kahn (DFL)
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections
Appropriations enacted in major finance or revenue bills continued in effect until eliminated or modified.

HF67-Thissen (DFL)
Commerce & Labor
Lottery games provided to support local parks.

Thursday, Jan. 11

HF68-Solberg (DFL)
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections
Emergency state government appropriation provided, state budget reports and recommendations required, inflation impact disclosure required, continuing appropriations provided for the operation of state government and money appropriated.

HF69-Mullery (DFL)
Taxes
Health insurance premiums federal taxable income subtraction provided.

HF70-Hosch (DFL)
Finance
Independent School District No. 463, Eden Valley-Watkins, environmental hazard remediation funding provided and money appropriated.

HF71-Hosch (DFL)
Agriculture, Rural Economies & Veterans Affairs
Farming definition modified relating to the Minnesota Agricultural Development Act.

HF72-Hosch (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Bear baiting restrictions modified.

HF73-Paulsen (R)
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections
Legislative sessions provided in odd-numbered years only.

HF74-Hansen (DFL)
Environment & Natural Resources
Great Lakes; President and Congress memorialized, by resolution, to protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species.
HF75-Pelowski (DFL)  
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections  
Charitable contributions from campaign committees limit provisions modified.

HF76-Shimanski (R)  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Crow River; South Fork canoe route designated.

HF77-Mullery (DFL)  
Commerce & Labor  
Construction contracts best value criteria established.

HF78-Morrow (DFL)  
Finance  
Voluntary full-day kindergarten funding authorized.

HF79-Thissen (DFL)  
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections  
Teachers Retirement Association administrative provisions modified.

HF80-Atkins (DFL)  
Commerce & Labor  
Barbers and barbering schools regulation modified.

HF81-Paulsen (R)  
Taxes  
Long-term capital gains income tax exclusion provided.

HF82-Erickson (R)  
Taxes  
Military pension federal taxable income subtraction provided.

HF83-Hansen (DFL)  
Finance  
Legislatively auditor authorized to retain certain audit fees.

HF84-Erickson (R)  
Health & Human Services  
Ombudsman for mental health term of office specified.

HF85-Bunn (DFL)  
Taxes  
Tax conformity provided for tax year 2006 to the federal teacher expense deduction, tuition subtraction, and other provisions of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act, Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunity Act and Pension Protection Plan.

HF86-Hackbarth (R)  
Energy Finance & Policy Division  
Elk River designated as the state energy city.

HF87-Thao (DFL)  
Finance  
St. Paul; Asian Pacific Cultural Center pre-design expenditures authorized from previous appropriation.

HF88-Thissen (DFL)  
Health & Human Services  
Minnesota Family Investment Program subsidized housing penalty repealed.

HF89-Greiling (DFL)  
E-12 Education  
Special education; President and Congress memorialized, by resolution, to carry through on their pledge to fund 40 percent of special education costs.

HF90-Greiling (DFL)  
E-12 Education  
No Child Left Behind Act; Congress memorialized by resolution not to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act in its current form.

HF91-Mullery (DFL)  
Commerce & Labor  
Minimum wage increased and annual inflation adjustment mechanism provided.

HF92-Mullery (DFL)  
Public Safety & Civil Justice  
Hunting licensees reviewed to determine if individuals are ineligible to possess a firearm, and if so, law enforcement officials notified.

HF93-Mullery (DFL)  
Public Safety & Civil Justice  
Parole and probation authority access to records granted relating to carrying of weapons without a permit.

HF94-Bigham (DFL)  
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections  
Major finance and revenue bill appropriations continued in effect until eliminated or modified.

HF95-Bigham (DFL)  
Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology & Elections  
Legislative per diem payments prohibited during a special session called because the Legislature failed to enact a state government budget.

HF96-Mullery (DFL)  
Taxes  
Property tax refunds paid to estates in certain circumstances.

HF97-Mullery (DFL)  
Taxes  
Research tax credit extended to the individual income tax, portion of the credit refunded and money appropriated.

HF98-Anderson, S. (R)  
Finance  
School district equity revenue increased for districts above the 95th percentile.

HF99-Erickson (R)  
Taxes  
Tax conformity provided for tax year 2006 to the federal teacher expense deduction, tuition subtraction, and other provisions of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act, Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunity Act and Pension Protection Plan.

HF100-Demmer (R)  
Finance  
Farm enhancement loan program established and money appropriated.

HF101-Demmer (R)  
Finance  
Agricultural land excluded from the tax base for school bonded debt levies.

HF102-Shimanski (R)  
Finance  
Winsted authorized to issue bonds for acquisition of a city hall, community center and police station.

HF103-Berns (R)  
Taxes  
Tax conformity provided for tax year 2006 to the federal teacher expense deduction, tuition subtraction, and other provisions of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act, Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunity Act and Pension Protection Plan.

HF104-Sailer (DFL)  
Finance  
Animals killed by order of the Board of Animal Health reimbursement limits removed.

HF105-Hortman (DFL)  
Transportation Finance Division  
Passenger restraint required for children under age 8 in motor vehicles.

HF106-Thissen (DFL)  
Transportation Finance Division  
Seat belt violation; primary offense provided in all seating positions regardless of age, and seat belt violation fine increased.

HF107-Erhardt (R)  
Taxes  
Wagering losses treatment modified under the alternative minimum tax.

HF108-Morrow (DFL)  
Taxes  
North Mankato local sales tax authorized and funds use specified.

HF109-Fritz (DFL)  
Finance  
Blooming Prairie street and sewer improvements provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

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**Where to find information**

**House Public Information Services**  
175 State Office Building  
(651) 296-2146 or (800) 657-3550  
House Public Information Services is a nonpartisan office that provides committee meeting schedules; legislator information; and publications, including the Session Weekly newsmagazine, educational brochures, and member directories. All information is available at no charge.  
Most of what this office publishes can be viewed on the House’s Web page. To connect, point your web browser at: www.house.mn
we recommended. We got probably 95 percent of what we recommended to her,” he said.

Something new are the 14 divisions under the House Ways and Means Committee. This committee will work somewhat in tandem with the House Ways and Means Committee, sharing the same committee time and meeting location.

“Ways and Means will deal with the issues like the forecast, and we’ll deal with the budget per se, but they set the targets,” said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), finance committee chairman.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Willmar) hopes the way divisions will report to full committees does not mean a reduction in open government.

“The bills, I presume, would be introduced and sent to the regular division that they would go to. If not, then this becomes a much more common opportunity where they could blink back and forth (between the committee and a division) internally without the public being able to watch.”

Sertic said that openness is a priority to the House DFL. “We will strive to make sure that you’ll be able to find this information online, on TV, every which way all the information that is needed on the bills as they move forward.”

### Notes

**A buck a ring**

*It will cost you* if your cell phone rings during a meeting of the Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division of the House Finance Committee. Rep. Al Juhnke (DFL-Willmar), division chairman, placed a “Penalty Jar” near his gavel when members met for the first time on Jan. 10.

“If your phone goes off, it will cost you a buck,” he warned.

He said business is done over coffee in rural communities, so the drink will be available during the committee meetings. The money is expected to cover the cost of the coffee, and he encouraged anyone drinking coffee to contribute to the “kitty” even if it is not for a cell phone violation.

### Illegal to be mean

One of the first bills to be introduced this session should have been making it illegal to be mean, at least that’s what Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) proposed.

In his Jan. 8 e-newsletter, “The Inside Scoop,” Garofalo listed his thoughts on bills that were introduced in the House and Senate, including his fictitious “No More Mean People” bill. He placed this bill at the end of his newsletter and then added, “OK, this isn’t real. Just wanted to check and see if you were still reading.”

### ‘Fantasy Legislature’

Think politics is all about fun and games? So does Minnesota Public Radio.

In December, MPR launched Minnesota Fantasy Legislature — similar to fantasy sports leagues — in which “managers” (you, the player) draft “teams” of state representatives and senators who then score points based on how far their real-life bills make it through the Legislative process.

Unfortunately, you can no longer sign up for the 2007 session. According to its Web site, MFL is currently just an experiment; if it’s successful, MFL will add more leagues next year and allow new people to sign up. For now, however, you can still follow the current legislator “power rankings” and watch the progress of the legislative session, play by play.
**Minnesota Index**

### Minnesota adoption

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage or Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of children adopted each year in Minnesota</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent, as estimate, that are stepparent or relative adoptions</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under state guardianship, as of Sept. 15, 2006</td>
<td>1,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Sept. 15, 2005</td>
<td>1,473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those under state guardianship in 2006, children who needed an</td>
<td>636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adoptive home immediately</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in pre-adoptive homes</td>
<td>702</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in long-term foster care by court order</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number who are age 14 or older and have chosen not to be adopted</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the 636 waiting to be adopted, percent that are siblings who need to be</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adopted together</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent diagnosed with a psychological or medical disability</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent chronically neglected or abused</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent who are between ages 12-18</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent who are between ages 6-11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost charged by public agencies to people adopting Minnesota’s waiting children</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children under state guardianship who were adopted in 2005</td>
<td>732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2000</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 1995</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of boys, girls who were adopted in 2005</td>
<td>355, 377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of those adopted, average number of days child was under state guardianship</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 2000</td>
<td>718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 1995</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of adopted population in 2005 under age 6</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 1995</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of adopted population in 2005 between ages 6-11</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 1995</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of children entering state guardianship between 2003 and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 because of court termination of parental rights</td>
<td>724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight-year average from 1995-2002</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of children adopted from 2001-05 that were white</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent who were black</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent who were two or more races</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Adoptions: Finding Homes for Minnesota’s Waiting Children, Department of Human Services, October 2006; Minnesota Adoption Resource Network.