

SESSION WEEKLY

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HF1- HF109



SESSION WEEKLY

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On the cover: Members of the 2007-08 Minnesota House of Representatives.

— Photo illustration by Andrew VonBank.

First bills reflect majority's agenda

Health care for children put at the top of the heap



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

The first bill introduced this biennium would provide health care for all children in Minnesota.

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,

First Reading continued on page 4

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/hvt/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 prevent aspects of government shutdown in the future if the Legislature cannot establish a budget before the new fiscal year begins.

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

First in the hopper

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.

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 first and 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." 

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Editor's note: The following Highlights are coverage of selected bills heard in House committees held Jan. 4-10 and other House activity.

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-Eden Prairie), 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-

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Former governors, from left, Arne Carlson and Al Quie, former U.S. Rep. Martin Sabo, and former Gov. Wendell Anderson speak about the changing role of state legislatures during the 2007 Legislative Conference held Jan. 9 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

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.

Peppin and Seifert sent a letter requesting a hearing by the House Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division of the House Finance Committee to the division chairman, Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia).

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.

TECHNOLOGY

Bioscience industry urges support

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

State of the State address

Gov. Tim Pawlenty is scheduled to deliver his State of the State address to a joint meeting of the Minnesota House and Senate at noon, Jan. 17, from the House Chamber. The event is scheduled to be televised on *tp17* in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and on some local cable channels in Greater Minnesota. Web streaming of the address can be accessed at <http://www.house.mn/htv/schedule.asp>.

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.



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Tom Rukavina, *third from right*, chairman of the Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division of the House Finance Committee talked with students and organization members from rural two-year MnSCU technical and community colleges after hearing testimony Jan. 10 on the effects of high tuition and their future debt. Those meeting with Rukavina are, *from left*, Tom Roddetz, David Attarsaheli, Jessica Medearis, Karen Bidwell, Maggie Jonas, Jacob Littler and Tyler Slinger.

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

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

TAXES

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), HF8 conforms 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



PHOTO BY SARAH STACKE

Jack Mansun, assistant commissioner of tax policy and external relations with the Department of Revenue, testifies before the House Taxes Committee Jan. 8 in favor of a bill that would conform state income tax to federal changes enacted since the Legislature adjourned last year. Also pictured is Rep. Sandy Wollschlager, the bill sponsor.

INTERACTIVE DANCE



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

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.

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."

If you will be visiting the Capitol in the near future, call the Capitol Historic Site Program at (651) 296-2881 to schedule a tour.

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 a rules 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



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee listen to Finance Commissioner Tom Hanson and State Economist Tom Stinson explain the ins and outs of a revenue forecast during a Jan. 8 hearing.

Committee Information

2007-08 Minnesota House of Representatives

Member Assignments as of 1/9/07

Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs

445 State Office Building296-3201
Meets: 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

Republican Lead: Hamilton-R

Brown-DFL	Hosch-DFL
Doty-DFL	Juhnke-DFL
Eken-DFL	Morrow-DFL
Finstad-R	Shimanski-R
Heidgerken-R	Urdahl-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Katherine Beyer296-9468

Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Larson296-5486

Veterans Affairs Division

439 State Office Building296-4346
Meets: Fridays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 12

Chair: Koenen-DFL

Vice Chair: Tinglestad-R

Republican Lead: Wardlow-R

Bigham-DFL	Olson-R
Dettmer-R	Severson-R
Dominguez-DFL	Wollschlager-DFL
Doty-DFL	ex-officio**
Haws-DFL	Otremba-DFL
Hosch-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Katherine Beyer296-9468

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kent Berg297-5723

Biosciences and Emerging Technology

591 State Office Building296-4277
Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00
a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 11

Chair: Mahoney-DFL

Vice Chair: Norton-DFL

Republican Lead: Beard-R

Berns-R	Peppin-R
Bunn-DFL	Ruth-R
Haws-DFL	Thissen-DFL
Masin-DFL	Winkler-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Joanna Dornfeld296-9302

Committee Legislative Assistant

Autumn Williams-Wussow296-8187

Commerce and Labor

503 State Office Building296-4192
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.
in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 17

Chair: Atkins-DFL

Vice Chair: Lillie-DFL

Republican Lead: Zellers-R

Anderson, S.-R	Knuth-DFL
Anzelc-DFL	Mahoney-DFL
Berns-R	Mullery-DFL
Davnie-DFL	Paulsen-R
DeLaForest-R	Peterson, A.-DFL
Dominguez-DFL	Simpson-R
Johnson-DFL	Tillberry-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Elizabeth Emerson296-7175

Committee Legislative Assistant

John Reich296-6586

Labor and

Consumer Protection Division

545 State Office Building296-0173
Meets: Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 14

Chair: Davnie-DFL

Vice Chair: Benson-DFL

Republican Lead: Gunther-R

Anderson, S.-R	Peterson, N.-R
Dittrich-DFL	Scalze-DFL
Fritz-DFL	Shimanski-R
Hornstein-DFL	Swails-DFL
Howes-R	ex-officio**
Laine-DFL	Atkins-DFL
Nelson-DFL	

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Committee Legislative Assistant

Mary Faust296-4321

Telecommunications Regulation and Infrastructure Division

549 State Office Building296-4201
Meets: Fridays at 8:00 a.m. in Room 5*

Members: 11

Chair: Johnson-DFL

Vice Chair: Masin-DFL

Republican Lead: Hoppe-R

Beard-R	Sailer-DFL
Garofalo-R	Shimanski-R
Hilty-DFL	Thissen-DFL
Juhnke-DFL	ex-officio**
Morrow-DFL	Atkins-DFL

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Mary Faust296-4321

This list is subject to change.

E-12 Education

563 State Office Building296-9714

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
Gottwalt-R	Urdahl-R
Greiling-DFL	Ward-DFL
Heidgerken-R	Wardlow-R
Hornstein-DFL	Welti-DFL
Hosch-DFL	ex-officio**
Laine-DFL	Murphy, M.-DFL

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Christina Gosack.....296-5524

Committee Legislative Assistant

Celeste Marin296-9115

Environment and Natural Resources

575 State Office Building296-9918

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 Koudelka296-6937

Committee Legislative Assistant

A.J. Duerr.....296-4172

Game, Fish and Forestry Division

571 State Office Building296-2190

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 Koudelka296-6937

Committee Legislative Assistant

Joan Harrison.....296-7881

Ethics

343 State Office Building296-2676

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 Building296-4255

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	Otremba-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Paymar-DFL
Hausman-DFL	Pelowski-DFL
Hilty-DFL	Peppin-R
Howes-R	Poppe-DFL
Huntley-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Seifert-R
Juhnke-DFL	Sertich-DFL
Kahn-DFL	Severson-R

Simon-DFL

Slawik-DFL

Solberg-DFL

Thissen-DFL

Wagenius-DFL

Walker-DFL

Westrom-R

Staff

Committee Administrator

Joanna Dornfeld.....296-9302

Committee Legislative Assistant

Lill Pohlkamp296-9552

Agriculture, Rural Economies and Veterans Affairs Finance Division

485 State Office Building296-6206

Meets: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 14

Chair: Juhnke-DFL

Vice Chair: Welti-DFL

Republican Lead: Finstad-R

Doty-DFL	Peterson, A.-DFL
Faust-DFL	Poppe-DFL
Hamilton-R	Shimanski-R
Hansen-DFL	ex-officio**
Heidgerken-R	Carlson-DFL
Magnus-R	ex-officio**
Olin-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Otremba-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Katherine Beyer296-9468

Committee Legislative Assistant

Dana Wilson296-5992

Capital Investment Finance Division

453 State Office Building296-3824

Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:15 p.m. in the Basement Hearing Room*

Members: 19

Chair: Hausman-DFL

Vice Chair: Scalze-DFL

Republican Lead: Tingelstad-R

Berns-R	Mahoney-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Murphy, M.-DFL
Dean-R	Pelowski-DFL
Hansen-DFL	Peterson, N.-R
Howes-R	Rukavina-DFL
Juhnke-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Lanning-R	Urdahl-R
Lieder-DFL	Wagenius-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jenny Nash.....296-4122

Committee Legislative Assistant

Laurie Nistl.....296-5497

Early Childhood Learning Finance Division

403 State Office Building296-7807
Meets: 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-DFL
Gottwalt-R	Wardlow-R
Kranz-DFL	Winkler-DFL
Laine-DFL	ex-officio**
Murphy, E.-DFL	Murphy, M.-DFL
Nornes-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Sara Benzkofer.....296-4305

Committee Legislative Assistant

Tricia Kiefer296-4483

Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division

343 State Office Building296-2676
Meets: 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-DFL
Erickson-R	Slawik-DFL
Garofalo-R	Tillberry-DFL
Greiling-DFL	Ward-DFL
Hamilton-R	Wardlow-R
Heidgerken-R	ex-officio**
Hornstein-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Kranz-DFL	ex-officio**
Mariani-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Masin-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Christina Gosack.....296-5524

Committee Legislative Assistant

Phil Chen.....296-5360

Energy Finance and Policy Division

559 State Office Building296-4308
Meets: 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-DFL
Gunther-R	Slocum-DFL
Hackbarth-R	Wagenius-DFL
Hoppe-R	Welti-DFL
Johnson-DFL	ex-officio**
Kalin-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Knuth-DFL	ex-officio**
Magnus-R	Solberg-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Andy Pomroy296-4180

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rebekah Smith296-8879

Environment and

Natural Resources Finance Division

449 State Office Building296-4200
Meets: 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-DFL
Eken-DFL	Peterson, A.-DFL
Gardner-DFL	Scalze-DFL
Gunther-R	Tingelstad-R
Hackbarth-R	ex-officio**
Hansen-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Hoppe-R	ex-officio**
Knuth-DFL	Solberg-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jenna Duwenhoeffer296-1774

Committee Legislative Assistant

Melissa Hysing.....296-3367

Health Care and

Human Services Finance Division

585 State Office Building296-2228
Meets: 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-DFL	Ruud-DFL
Dean-R	Slawik-DFL
Erickson-R	Thao-DFL
Fritz-DFL	Thissen-DFL
Gottwalt-R	Walker-DFL
Liebling-DFL	ex-officio**
Loeffler-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Murphy, E.-DFL	ex-officio**
Otremba-DFL	Solberg-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jenn Holcomb296-6422

Committee Legislative Assistant

Jan Horner.....296-5496

Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division

477 State Office Building296-0170
Meets: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. in Room 5*

Members: 20

Chair: Rukavina-DFL

Vice Chair: Poppe-DFL

Republican Lead Workforce: Gunther-R

Republican Lead Higher Ed.: Nornes-R

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

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jim Gelbmann296-7427

Committee Legislative Assistant

Sue Scott296-8827

Housing Policy and Finance and Public Health Finance Division
 471 State Office Building296-0294
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	ex-officio**
McNamara-R	Solberg-DFL
Moe-DFL	

Staff
Committee Administrator
 Brooke Bordson296-5528
Committee Legislative Assistant
 Lauren Benditt296-5998

K-12 Finance Division
 381 State Office Building296-5387
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 Mandelman296-9676

Minnesota Heritage Finance Division
 583 State Office Building296-4246
Meets: Mondays at 4:00 p.m. in Room 200*

Members: 14
Chair: Jaros-DFL
Vice Chair: Gardner-DFL
Republican Lead: Urdahl-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 Murphy296-5491
Committee Legislative Assistant
 Diogo Reis296-3889

Public Safety Finance Division
 543 State Office Building296-4199
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 Wyrum296-5999

State Government Finance Division
 365 State Office Building296-4257
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 Shekleton296-4110
Committee Legislative Assistant
 Krysta Niedernhofer296-7173

Transportation Finance Division
 423 State Office Building296-5091
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	ex-officio**
Kalin-DFL	Carlson-DFL
Madore-DFL	ex-officio**
Masin-DFL	Solberg-DFL
Morgan-DFL	

Staff
Committee Administrator
 Abbey Mahin296-5413
Committee Legislative Assistant
 Susie Maher296-5494

Governmental Operations, Reform, Technology and Elections

491 State Office Building296-8637
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
Nelson-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Mark Mallander296-5389

Committee Legislative Assistant

Kathy L. Anderson.....296-3806

Health and Human Services

351 State Office Building296-5375
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	Loeffler-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
Liebling-DFL	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jennifer McNertney.....296-3244

Committee Legislative Assistant

Urszula Gryska296-5492

Mental Health Division

553 State Office Building296-7152
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	Tingelstad-R
Madore-DFL	Wardlow-R
McFarlane-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Jennifer McNertney.....296-3244

Committee Legislative Assistant

Rachel Gillespie296-9895

Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs

379 State Office Building296-3709
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 Strohmeier296-5069

Committee Legislative Assistant

Erin Huppert296-2585

Public Safety and Civil Justice

367 State Office Building296-4262
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 Baldwin296-4283

Committee Legislative Assistant

Victoria Benson.....296-5526

Rules and Legislative Administration

459 State Office Building296-0172
Meets: At the call of the chair in (No Room
 Assigned)*

Members: 27

Chair: Sertich-DFL

Vice Chair: Loeffler-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	Simon-DFL
Hortman-DFL	Simpson-R
Howes-R	Solberg-DFL
Juhnke-DFL	Thissen-DFL
Lillie-DFL	Tingelstad-R
Magnus-R	Westrom-R
Mahoney-DFL	Winkler-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Lisa Radzak.....296-2909

Committee Legislative Assistant

Tom Dicklich296-9183

Taxes

509 State Office Building296-4218
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: Wollschlager-DFL

Republican Lead: Simpson-R

Atkins-DFL	Lanning-R
Brod-R	Lesch-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Liebling-DFL
Davnie-DFL	Marquart-DFL
DeLaForest-R	Mullery-DFL
Demmer-R	Paulsen-R
Dill-DFL	Rukavina-DFL
Erhardt-R	Solberg-DFL
Hilstrom-DFL	Thao-DFL
Jaros-DFL	Tillberry-DFL
Koenen-DFL	Zellers-R
Kohls-R	

Staff

Committee Administrator

Sarah Carlson-Wallrath296-8826

Committee Legislative Assistant

Jamie Becker-Finn.....296-2955

Property Tax Relief and Local Sales Tax Division

597 State Office Building296-6829
Meets: 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	Lenczewski-DFL
Demmer-R	Loeffler-DFL
Dittrich-DFL	Mullery-DFL
Lanning-R	Paymar-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Sarah Carlson-Wallrath296-8826

Committee Legislative Assistant

Paul Cumings296-5380

Ways and Means

443 State Office Building296-2365
Meets: Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 200*

Members: 29

Chair: Solberg-DFL

Vice Chair: Swails-DFL

Republican Lead: Holberg-R

Abeler-R	Kelliher-DFL
Brynaert-DFL	Lenczewski-DFL
Carlson-DFL	Mariani-DFL
Clark-DFL	McNamara-R
Dean-R	Murphy, E.-DFL
Eken-DFL	Murphy, M.-DFL
Erhardt-R	Ozment-R
Greiling-DFL	Paulsen-R
Gunther-R	Pelowski-DFL
Hilstrom-DFL	Sertich-DFL
Hilty-DFL	Smith-R
Huntley-DFL	Swiggum-R
Kahn-DFL	Tschumper-DFL

Staff

Committee Administrator

Christine Murphy296-5491

Committee Legislative Assistant

Gerrie Boice.....296-5388

Minnesota House and Senate

1 A Rep. Dave Olin-(DFL) B Rep. Bernie Lieder-(DFL) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A Rep. Steve Gottwalt-(R) B Rep. Larry Haws-(DFL) Sen. Tarryl Clark-(DFL)	29 A Rep. Randy Demmer-(R) B Rep. Kim Norton-(DFL) Sen. David H. Senjem-(R)	43 A Rep. Sarah Anderson-(R) B Rep. John Benson-(DFL) Sen. Terri E. Bonoff-(DFL)	57 A Rep. Karla Bigham -(DFL) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Katie Sieben-(DFL)
2 A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. Brita Sailer-(DFL) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16 A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mark Olson-(R) Sen. Betsy L. Wergin-(R)	30 A Rep. Tina Liebling-(DFL) B Rep. Andy Welti-(DFL) Sen. Ann Lynch-(DFL)	44 A Rep. Steve Simon-(DFL) B Rep. Ryan Winkler-(DFL) Sen. Ron Latz-(DFL)	58 A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Augustine Willie Dominguez-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3 A Rep. Tom Anzelc-(DFL) B Rep. Loren A. Solberg-(DFL) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	17 A Rep. Rob Eastlund-(R) B Rep. Jeremy Kalin-(DFL) Sen. Rick E. Olseon-(DFL)	31 A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Ken Tschumper-(DFL) Sen. Sharon L. Erickson Ropes-(DFL)	45 A Rep. Sandra Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyndon Carlson-(DFL) Sen. Ann H. Rest-(DFL)	59 A Rep. Diane Loeffler-(DFL) B Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A Rep. Frank Moe-(DFL) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. Mary A. Olson-(DFL)	18 A Rep. Ron Shimanski-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Steve Dille-(R)	32 A Rep. Joyce Peppin-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellers-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	46 A Rep. Michael Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	60 A Rep. Margaret Anderson Kelliher-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Hornstein-(DFL) Sen. D. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
5 A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep. Anthony "Tony" Sertich-(DFL) Sen. David J. Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Tom Emmer-(R) Sen. Amy T. Koch-(R)	33 A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. John Berns-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47 A Rep. Denise Dittrich-(DFL) B Rep. Melissa Hortman-(DFL) Sen. Leo T. Foley-(DFL)	61 A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Neva Walker-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas M. Bakke-(DFL)	20 A Rep. Aaron Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary W. Kubly-(DFL)	34 A Rep. Paul Kohls-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne E. Ortman-(R)	48 A Rep. Tom Hackbarth-(R) B Rep. Jim Abeler-(R) Sen. Michael J. Jungbauer-(R)	62 A Rep. Jim Davnie-(DFL) B Rep. Jean Wagenius-(DFL) Sen. Patricia Torres Ray-(DFL)
7 A Rep. Thomas Huntley-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Karst-(DFL) Sen. Yvonne Prettner Solon-(DFL)	21 A Rep. Marty Seifert-(R) B Rep. Brad Finstad-(R) Sen. Dennis R. Frederickson-(R)	35 A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire A. Robling-(R)	49 A Rep. Chris DeLaForest-(R) B Rep. Kathy Tingelstad-(R) Sen. Debbie J. Johnson-(R)	63 A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Dan Larson-(DFL)
8 A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Tim Faust-(DFL) Sen. Tony Lourey-(DFL)	22 A Rep. Doug Magnus-(R) B Rep. Rod Hamilton-(R) Sen. Jim Vickerman-(DFL)	36 A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Pat Garofalo-(R) Sen. Pat Parisseau-(R)	50 A Rep. Carolyn Laine-(DFL) B Rep. Kate Knuth-(DFL) Sen. Satveer S. Chaudhary-(DFL)	64 A Rep. Erin Murphy-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard J. Cohen-(DFL)
9 A Rep. Morrie Lanning-(R) B Rep. Paul Marquart-(DFL) Sen. Keith Langseth-(DFL)	23 A Rep. Terry Morrow-(DFL) B Rep. Kathy Brynaert-(DFL) Sen. Kathy Sheran-(DFL)	37 A Rep. Shelley Madore-(DFL) B Rep. Dennis Ozment-(R) Sen. Chris Gerlach-(R)	51 A Rep. Scott Kranz-(DFL) B Rep. Tom Tillberry-(DFL) Sen. Don Betzold-(DFL)	65 A Rep. Cy Thao-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra L. Pappas-(DFL)
10 A Rep. Bud Nornes-(R) B Rep. Dean Simpson-(R) Sen. Dan Skogen-(DFL)	24 A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie A. Rosen-(R)	38 A Rep. Sandra Masin-(DFL) B Rep. Lynn Wardlow-(R) Sen. Jim Carlson-(DFL)	52 A Rep. Bob Dettmer-(R) B Rep. Matt Dean-(R) Sen. Ray Vandever-(R)	66 A Rep. John Lesch-(DFL) B Rep. Linda Slocum-(DFL) Sen. Ellen R. Anderson-(DFL)
11 A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Ellen Otremba-(DFL) Sen. Bill G. Ingebrigtsen-(R)	25 A Rep. Laura Brod-(R) B Rep. David Bly-(DFL) Sen. Thomas M. Neuville-(R)	39 A Rep. Rick Hansen-(DFL) B Rep. Joseph Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James P. Metzzen-(DFL)	53 A Rep. Paul Gardner-(DFL) B Rep. Carol McFarlane-(R) Sen. Sandy Rummel-(DFL)	67 A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. Mee Moua-(DFL)
12 A Rep. John Ward-(DFL) B Rep. Al Doty-(DFL) Sen. Paul E. Koering-(R)	26 A Rep. Connie Ruth-(R) B Rep. Patti Fritz-(DFL) Sen. Dick Day-(R)	40 A Rep. Will Morgan-(DFL) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. John Doll-(DFL)	54 A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Bev Scalze-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
13 A Rep. Bud Heidgerken-(R) B Rep. Al Juhnke-(DFL) Sen. Joe Gimse-(R)	27 A Rep. Robin Brown-(DFL) B Rep. Jeanne Poppe-(DFL) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	41 A Rep. Ron Erhardt-(R) B Rep. Neil W. Peterson-(R) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	55 A Rep. Leon Lillie-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles W. Wiger-(DFL)	
14 A Rep. Daniel Severson-(R) B Rep. Larry Hosch-(DFL) Sen. Michelle L. Fischbach-(R)	28 A Rep. Sandy Wollschlager-(DFL) B Rep. Steve Swiggum-(R) Sen. Steve Murphy-(DFL)	42 A Rep. Maria Ruud-(DFL) B Rep. Erik Paulsen-(R) Sen. David W. Hann-(R)	56 A Rep. Julie Bunn-(DFL) B Rep. Marsha Swails-(DFL) Sen. Kathy L. Saltzman-(DFL)	

Minnesota House Committee Schedule 2007-2008

Updated 1/10/07

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:30		Envir. & Nat. Res. Fin. (5) Public Safety Finance (10) Gov. Ops./Ref. Tech. (200) E-12 Education (B)	Public Safety Finance (10) Gov. Ops./Ref. Tech. (200) Ag./Rur. Eco. & Vet Aff.(B)	Envir. & Nat. Res. Fin. (5) Public Safety Finance (10) Gov. Ops./Ref. Tech. (200) E-12 Education (B)	Telecom Reg./Infrastruc.(5) Prop. Tax/Local Sales (10) Veterans Affairs Div. (200)
9:30-10:00		Break	Break	Caucus	Break
10:00-11:30	Ways & M. / Finance (200)*	Hous. & Pub. Hlth. Fin. (5) Taxes (10) Bio. & Emerg. Tech. (200) Ag./Rur.Eco.&Vet Af. F.(B)	Hous. & Pub. Hlth. Fin. (5) Taxes (10) Bio. & Emerg. Tech. (200) Ag./Rur.Eco.&Vet Af. F.(B)	SESSION	Labor & Consumer Prot. (5) Mental Health Div. (200)
11:30-12:30	Lunch/Caucus	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30-2:00	SESSION	High. Ed./Wrkforce P&F(5) Public Safe./Civil Just. (10) Hlth. Care/H. Srv. Fin.(200) Local Govt. Metro Aff. (B)	High. Ed./Wrkforce P&F(5) Hlth. Care/H. Srv. Fin.(200) Local Govt. Metro Aff. (B)	High. Ed./Wrkforce P&F(5) Public Safe./Civil Just. (10) Hlth. Care/H. Srv. Fin.(200)	
2:15-3:45	Taxes (10) Energy Fin. & Policy (200) Ag./Rur. Eco. & Vet Aff.(B)	State Government Fin. (5) K-12 Education Fin. (10) Hlth. & Human Serv. (200) Capital Investment Fin. (B)	K-12 Education Fin. (10) Energy Fin. & Policy (200)	State Government Fin. (5) K-12 Education Fin. (10) Hlth. & Human Serv. (200) Capital Investment Fin. (B)	
4:00-5:30	Ed. Fin. Econ. Comp. F. (5) Game, Fish, & Forestry (10) MN Heritage Finance (200) Local Govt. Metro Aff. (B)	Environ. & Natural Res. (5) Transportation Fin. (10) Early Child. Lrn. Fin. (200) Commerce and Labor (B)	Caucus	Environ. & Natural Res. (5) Transportation Fin. (10) Early Child. Lrn. Fin. (200) Commerce and Labor (B)	

*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.



Rep. Tom Anzelc

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

DISTRICT 3A

2002 population: 36,745

Largest city: International Falls

Counties: Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods

Top concerns: Education, health care 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.



Rep. Karla Bigham

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 "campaigns 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

DISTRICT 57A

2002 population: 36,710

Largest city: Cottage Grove

Counties: Washington, Dakota

Top concerns: Property tax relief and stable, consistent funding for schools.

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.



Rep. David Bly

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.

DISTRICT 25B

2002 population: 36,590
Largest city: Northfield
Counties: Rice, Scott
Top concerns: Education funding, health care, renewable energy

A strong proponent of access to affordable health care, Bly would also like to work on renewable energy standards and the development of local energy resources. There are currently two wind turbines in Northfield, one at Carleton College and one at St. Olaf College.

Another concern in Bly's district is the expansion of Highway 169 through Belle Plaine and how it will affect commercial growth in the area.

Sitting in his office in the State Office Building, Bly said, "I'm motivated by a desire to serve the people in my community and in my district. It's what brings people to [the House]. To make Minnesota a better place."

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

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

DISTRICT 53B

2002 Population: 36,699
Largest city: White Bear Lake
County: Ramsey
Top concerns: Education, small business, fiscal responsibility

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.



Rep. Kim Norton

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

DISTRICT 29B

2002 population: 36,815
Largest city: Rochester
County: Olmsted
Top concerns: Education and property taxes

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.



Rep. Ron Shimanski

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.

DISTRICT 18A

2002 population: 36,487
Largest city: Hutchinson
Counties: McLeod, Meeker
Top concerns: Education funding and transportation

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.



PHOTO BY SARAH STACKE

Seventeen-year-old Calvin Wessels waits to be called on by the speaker during the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government 2007 Model Assembly Session. Wessels is a senior at Mounds View High School and lives in Shoreview. He is a representative for the Kellogg House.

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 to 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.



PHOTO BY SARAH STACKE

Gary Nelson, 16, from White Bear Lake Area High School, and a member of the Wabasha Senate, confers with Christopher Dorman on a bill Jan. 5 during the Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government 2007 Model Assembly Session. Dorman, 17, is a junior from Albert Lea High School and is the Kellogg House Floor leader.

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

County wheelage tax authorized, vehicle registration tax provisions modified, transit fund and accounts established, motor vehicle sales tax revenues distributed, motor fuel tax rates modified, bonds authorized and money appropriated.

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 duty 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-Sviggun (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-Sviggun (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**

Legislative 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.

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

Committees continued from page 9

we recommended. We got probably 95 percent of what we recommended to her,” he said.

Something new are the 14 divisions under the House Finance 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 will set the targets,” said Rep. Lyndon Carlson (DFL-Crystal), finance committee chairman.

Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) 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.”

Sertich 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 one making it illegal to be mean, at least that’s what Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington) proposed.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).		

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.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Minnesota adoption

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

Sources: Adoption: Finding homes for Minnesota's waiting children, Department of Human Services, October 2006; Minnesota Adoption Resource Network.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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