

SESSION WEEKLY



CRIME AND 13-YEAR-OLDS
GOVERNOR PROPOSES, LEGISLATURE DISPOSES
FIRST NEW LAW

HF475 - HF607

A NONPARTISAN PUBLICATION
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Flashback to 1991 - 2001

Trim number of counties from 87 to 10

Should the number of Minnesota counties be trimmed from 87 to 10? Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) thinks this would streamline government and eliminate duplication of services offered by the thousands of local governments in Minnesota. Her proposal was before the House Appropriations Committee's State Government Division, which she chairs.

Rep. Steve Trimble (DFL-St. Paul) said that Minnesota once had only five counties, and mandated the creation of new ones as population grew in pockets.

After it was suggested that his office study county consolidation, State Auditor Mark Dayton told the committee, "With the resources and staff to do it justice, sure, I would be glad to take that on."

Session Weekly Feb. 15, 1991

'Soy' charged over biofuel

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) sponsored legislation that would require diesel fuel sold in Minnesota to contain a minimum of 2 percent biodiesel fuel by volume starting July 1, 2002. HF362 would increase that minimum amount to 5 percent by 2006. "I am soy charged. I want this whole committee to be soy charged by the end of the meeting," Westrom told the House Agriculture Policy Committee referring to soybean oil, which is commonly used to make biofuel.

Session Weekly Feb. 16, 2001

Castrating the law

To refuse your duty as a town board chair of castrating a bull or stallion continually allowed to run free by its owner, could lead to a misdemeanor charge. A bill, HF394, sponsored by Rep. Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) would repeal the law. Seifert told the House Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee the bill is part of an ongoing effort to purge obsolete laws from the books. Established in 1947, the law was brought to his attention by his father, a former township official, who had come across the law more than 20 years prior and was surprised to see it still on the books.

Session Weekly Feb. 9, 2001

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SESSION WEEKLY

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On the cover: Gary Behm, *right*, president of St. Louis Antique Lighting Company, and Sysomphone Khotsyphom replace light bulbs in the Capitol chandelier after working for three days to rewire the fixture. The chandelier is on display in the Capitol's north corridor while the dome is being repaired.

How young is too young?

Committee debates age for youth being charged as an adult in certain cases

By MIKE COOK

As she had done so many times before, Lynn Johnson dropped off her daughter at day care on June 16, 2006.

It would be the last time.

The 13-year-old son of the day care provider sexually assaulted Johnson's 2-year-old daughter, Emily, before violently throwing the toddler against a wall. Emily then laid there for two hours while her brain was deprived of oxygen, which caused irreversible brain damage. She was taken off life support one day later.

"The prosecutor in our case has stated that if she had the option, she would have strongly considered trying this person as an adult," Lynn Johnson told the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 10.

Travis Johnson, Emily's father, said the perpetrator pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter and served two years in a detention center, lived with his aunt for one year on probation and is now living with his parents until his 19th birthday. At age 19 his juvenile record will be sealed and none of his previous incidents will show up on things like a background check for employment.

"Would you want him or her watching your child at day care, coaching their Little League game?" he said.

At the time of the incident, their daughter's killer was 19 days shy of his 14th birthday, meaning he could not be tried as an adult.



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Travis and Lynn Johnson, whose 2-year-old daughter, Emily, was killed by a 13-year-old boy, testify Feb. 10 before the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee in support of a bill that would lower the age of adult certification and extended jurisdiction juvenile prosecution for juveniles.

When kids are not kids anymore

Currently, children ages 14-17 who are alleged to have committed a felony-level offense can be certified as adults for criminal court or may be prosecuted as an extended jurisdiction juvenile to give the child one last chance to stay law-abiding. According to state statute, "If a child is prosecuted as an EJJ and is convicted, the child receives both a juvenile disposition and a stayed adult sentence. If the child violates the juvenile disposition order, the adult sentence may be executed and the child may be sent to prison."

In other cases it is hoped that a child below a certain age can be rehabilitated.

"These kids are not kids anymore when they commit the intentional act of murder and should be treated as such," Travis Johnson said. "I do not advocate them being incarcerated with adult offenders, but with juveniles of similar age. They need to be punished."

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) wants to lower the minimum age to 10 if the child is alleged to have committed a violent juvenile offense, including first- through third-degree murder, first- and second-degree manslaughter, criminal sexual conduct and malicious punishment of a child. It would also restrict a court's ability to expunge a juvenile record if the juvenile is adjudicated delinquent for committing a violent juvenile offense. A court may now expunge a juvenile court record at any time, unless the child is transferred to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

A bill he sponsors, HF306, was held over by the committee for possible further action. It has no Senate companion.

"The goal and objective here is to improve the juvenile justice system, and not have glaring omissions of injustice,"

First Reading continued on page 4

First Reading continued from page 3

Westrom said. "It's not a foregone conclusion that just lowering the age from 14 to 10 that those juveniles committing felony crimes, injuries to persons, would be EJJ or certified as an adult. The courts would still have that review and that discretion. ... It's time to get our arms around this, and not let another family, any other parties and citizens of the state of Minnesota feel the injustice that the Johnsons have felt."

"My intention is to move forward and not let it die again in committee," said Committee Chairman Tony Cornish (R-Good Thunder).

What's the magical age?

A bill last biennium to lower the age to 13, HF317/SF256, was heard, but not acted upon, by the House Public Safety Policy and Oversight Committee, and laid on the table by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Its sponsors were Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls) and former Sen. Dan Skogen (DFL-Hewitt). Nornes co-sponsors the new bill.

According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, in 13 states, a juvenile can be tried as an adult at age 13 or lower for the commission of a violent crime; including 12-year-olds in Colorado and Montana, and 10-year-olds in Kansas and Vermont. The age for a transfer to adult certification is 14 in Indiana, but 10 if it is a murder case. A 13-year-old can be charged

as an adult for murder in New York.

"What makes 14 a magical age?" Lynn Johnson said. "Why is our daughter lying in the ground while her killer is allowed to continue on with his life with minimal interruption?"

The state public defender and representatives of the state county attorneys and state corrections associations spoke against the bill. The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota and Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan sent letters in opposition.

Dolan, who called the Johnson case a "sad isolated action committed by a very sick individual," believes society can do better for youthful offenders than incarceration. "I know that our adult criminal justice system will not rehabilitate a ten to fourteen year old violent offender."

Michael Belton, deputy director for Ramsey County Juvenile Corrections, agrees. He said the bill would be "a short-term response that tends to compromise long-term public safety interests," in part, because studies show a juvenile offender is more likely to be rearrested if sentenced to adult prison because of what is learned from older inmates.

"An adult correctional facility ... is not about rehabilitation," said Rep. Kerry Gauthier (DFL-Duluth). "We cannot put children in those situations."


State Public Defender John Stuart called Emily's case a "heartbreaking, shocking crime," but he reminded everyone that the juvenile court would have more power over the offender compared to adult court.

"This juvenile was convicted of second-degree manslaughter. That's another crime where the adult sentence is 48 months. You take your 10- or 11- or 13-year-old and they do 32 months in prison then they are on supervised release for 16 months, and they're done," he said. "Meanwhile, the juvenile court has got the power, even without the EJJ provision to keep that juvenile under control until age 19. ... There's some things that juvenile court can do for public safety and there's some things that adult court can do for public safety."

Rep. Sheldon Johnson (DFL-St. Paul) has spent more than three decades working in the state corrections system. He believes that children barely out of elementary school have no business facing the same charges as an adult.

"Young children have different brain development and research has shown that their ability to reason doesn't develop until they're older," he said. "To think that we're going to judge children by the same standards as adults is terrifically bad criminal justice policy."

Lynn Johnson is OK that others don't view Westrom's bill as the right answer, as long as they see it as a start.

"We have asked to revamp a system that failed us miserably," she said. "We want to work with the Legislature. We don't expect it to be 10. ... We want to work with you guys and make the system work for our children and for us as members of society so we can feel safe." 

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HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 10 - 17, 2011

Editor's note: The following Highlights are coverage of select information heard in House committees and other House activities held Feb. 10-17. Designations used in Highlight summaries: HF-House File; SF-Senate File; Ch-Chapter; and *- the bill version considered by the House or the bill language signed by the governor.

Business & Commerce

Contractors seek more time to comply

**Signed
by
the
governor**

Gov. Mark Dayton signed his first new law Feb. 17.

The law, most of which is effective Aug. 1, 2011, will give residential remodelers, building contractors and other construction specialists more time to post their lead certification qualifications on a website, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sponsored by Rep. Karen Clark (DFL-Mpls) and Sen. Ted Lillie (R-Lake Elmo), the law amends the effective date of last year's law that brought the state building code into compliance with the EPA requirements regarding lead removal certification reporting.

HF166/SF139*/CH2

— L. SCHUTZ

Civil Law

Legal framework for receiverships

The process where a court orders an outside party to take custodial responsibility of another's property is called receivership.

It's a common law process that goes back about 500 years or so; however, there is no guidance in state law regarding the practice, James Baillie, an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron, told the House Civil Law Committee Feb. 14.

On behalf of the Minnesota State Bar Association, Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska) sponsors HF382, which lays out a framework for receiverships, "so that it gets written down and it's not a matter of lore or custom," Baillie said.

The bill also makes limited changes to existing law by clarifying receivership requirements in an effort to provide

BENCH WORK



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Stearns County Assessor Gary Grossinger uses a bench off the Capitol Rotunda Feb. 14 to work at his computer before heading for meetings with legislators on proposed Green Acres legislation.

transparency to the rules and requirements, Baillie said.

The committee approved the bill and sent it to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

Court-appointed receiverships can be used to protect real estate, liquidate fraudulently operated businesses; or seize assets being withheld in a divorce.

— L. SCHUTZ

Consumers

Lottery up, other gambling down

The Minnesota State Lottery had another record year in 2010, but other forms of gambling in Minnesota are on the decline, members of a House committee learned.

The House State Government Finance Committee heard Feb. 17 from state officials who regulate the state's lottery, horse racing and charitable gambling industries. No action was taken.

Lottery sales in the state soared to a record \$499 million in fiscal year 2010. Despite this, Don Feeney, research and planning director for the lottery, said legal forms of gambling as a whole, saw a decline in gross sales. He said the slump in gambling sales is likely "a

reflection of the economy."

"Most lotteries around the country actually saw sales decline; we were one of the few exceptions," Feeney said.

Charitable gaming (i.e. pull-tabs and bingo) and betting on horse-races both saw a decline in 2010, continuing a trend that's been ongoing for several years. Feeney said the economy may be driving people to play the lottery rather than going to a bar to play pull-tabs or spending a day at the racetrack. He called this the "substitution effect."

Richard Krueger, executive director of the Minnesota Racing Commission said enthusiasm for horse racing has been on the wane for nearly two decades. He said competition from other forms of legal gambling — as well as online illegal gambling — has been hurting the industry.

"The racetracks obviously are revenue-challenged right now," he said.

Responding to a question from Rep. Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City), Krueger added, "A racino would help. There's no doubt about it."

Gambling Control Board Executive Director Tom Barrett presented a report showing gross receipts by charitable gambling organizations fell nearly 32 percent in the state between fiscal years 2001 and 2010. Despite this, he said Minnesota is

ranked second in the country for charitable gambling receipts.

— N. BUSSE

Education

Schools' operating capital use

Three bills laid over Feb. 15 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill by the House Education Finance Committee would modify how school districts may use part of their operating capital revenue.

Operating capital revenue is a component of general education revenue that must be reserved for 24 specific facility or equipment needs listed in statute.

HF346, sponsored by Rep. Carol McFarlane (R-White Bear Lake), would extend temporary authorization, due to expire June 30, 2011, that allows any district to transfer up to \$51 per pupil unit, or 1 percent of the basic formula allowance per pupil, from its operating capital reserve to its general fund balance. The bill would make that authority permanent and would require that the district's operating capital needs are being met.

Kim Riesgraf, Osseo Area Schools assistant superintendent, said the bill would help boards to be more strategic in their use of resources, allowing them to deploy a portion of the restricted funds instead of making program cuts.

Rep. Kathy Brynaert (DFL-Mankato) wondered why 1 percent was chosen and why it's proposed to make the authority permanent, if the intention is to get through difficult financial times.

Riesgraf said the 1 percent is approximately the amount of average cost increases for expenses that are out of the board's control, such as insurance benefits, transportation and utilities. She said the limit would ensure districts have operating capital reserves.

A companion bill, SF239, is sponsored by Sen. Benjamin Kruse (R-Brooklyn Park).

HF 71, sponsored by Rep. Steve Simon (DFL-St. Louis Park) would add a 25th category, to help pay for costs associated with closing a school, such as packing, shipping and moving. Its companion, SF166, is sponsored by Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park).

Rep. Dan Fabian (R-Roseau) sponsors HF301, which would allow the revenue to be used for leasing vehicles such as school buses, not only to purchase them. Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) sponsors its

companion, SF171.

All three companion bills await action by the Senate Education Committee.

— K. BERGGREN

Elections

No more political contribution refund

Calling the political contribution refund program "an illegitimate function of government," Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) said its repeal would save the state approximately \$12 million per biennium.

He sponsors HF66 that would eliminate the program, which was suspended by 2010 legislation, but is scheduled to be reinstated on July 1, 2011.

The bill was approved Feb. 15 by the House Taxes Committee and sent to the House Government Operations and Elections Committee.

Debate on the bill quickly moved from General Fund savings to campaign financing and the role the refund program plays in capping spending limits.

Under the program, contributions to a Minnesota political party or candidates qualified for a state-paid refund of up to \$50 a year for individuals or \$100 for a married couple. Only contributions to candidates who signed an agreement with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board to observe state campaign spending limits qualified for the refund.

"A side benefit of this is that it will put the challengers on stronger footing with the incumbents, I guess it could be argued," Drazkowski said. "But it is certainly not my motivation for the bill. We need to solve the deficit. ... The question here is about priorities. Do we provide cash for politicians or nursing homes?"

Rep. Kate Knuth (DFL-New Brighton) argued that the legitimate role of government is to provide for free and open government. The political contributions allow for those without financial means to run for office. She said that without the program, there would no longer be campaign spending limits.

Gary Goldsmith, the campaign finance board's executive director, said that when the refund program was not in place during the last election there wasn't a significant drop in the public subsidy program.

He said, however, that the public subsidy, as a concept, does act as a campaign spending cap.

"There would be no spending limits

because there would be no incentive for people to sign those agreements and then any candidate would be able to spend as much as they want on their elections," he said.

The Senate companion, SF190, sponsored by Sen. David Senjem (R-Rochester), awaits action by the Senate Taxes Committee.

— L. SCHUTZ

Env. & Natural Resources

Bills address DNR land management

Two House members have similar goals but differing methods for managing the state's natural resources through a pair of bills heard by the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 15 and 17.

Rep. Steve Drazkowski (R-Mazeppa) sponsors HF332, which would prohibit the state from acquiring additional land unless an equal amount is sold off.

Sponsored by Rep. Tony Cornish (R-Good Thunder), HF498 goes a step further and would prohibit any net loss of hunting land within the Department of Natural Resources. Neither bill has a Senate companion.

Both bills were introduced on the heels of a December 2010 DNR report, "Long-Range Budget Analysis of Land Management Needs." Lawmakers requested the report last year after findings by the Office of the Legislative Auditor revealed that the DNR lacked adequate resources to manage and maintain its existing land holdings.

The DNR report identified funding gaps for the next 10 years in the proposed management of the state's forests, public waters, aquatic and wildlife areas. Overall, there is an estimated \$19 million annual gap between the funds available and those necessary to maintain certain state-owned lands. That amount only includes funds allocated to the DNR and does not include contributions from outside sources, such as nonprofit conservation groups. Legacy funds filtered through the DNR were included, but money for parks and trails was not.

Deputy Commissioner Dave Schad said the funding gap does not mean that state lands are not being actively managed. For example, prescribed burnings may occur less frequently than recommended, and partner organizations may provide alternative management resources.

A pilot project for precision land management in Roseau County is being closely studied by lawmakers as a model for

future acquisitions. The project produced a land asset plan in which governmental units could prioritize, consolidate or exchange land for more effective management.

— S. HEGARTY

Outdoor projects total \$86.9 million

The House Legacy Funding Division has begun compiling which projects could receive appropriations from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy dedicated tax receipts.

Approved by constitutional amendment in 2008, the annual tax revenue is distributed through four funds: the Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund and an Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Twenty-seven projects totaling \$86.9 million are being recommended for funding by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, which oversees the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The division got their first chance to weigh in on the recommended projects Feb. 16 as HF471 was explained by Bill Becker, LSOHC executive director. Rep. Denny McNamara (R-Hastings), who chairs the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee, sponsors the bill. Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen (R-Alexandria), sponsors its companion SF158, which awaits action in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

Overall, the money would contribute to protecting more than 55,000 acres of land, restoring 850 acres and enhancing more than 40,000 acres, encompassing 75 of the state's 87 counties. Priority was given to projects that included protection, restoration or enhancement of prairies (\$34.6 million); followed by forests (\$17.9 million); wildlife habitat (\$15.2 million); and wetlands (\$12.5 million). The Outdoor Heritage projects would create an estimated 36 full-time equivalent jobs and hundreds of secondary jobs as a result of the spending.

Further testimony is scheduled for Feb. 22. The division also plans to hear recommendations for the other three funds and intends to roll those projects into HF471 before sending it to the environment committee, according to Division Chairman Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City).

— S. HEGARTY

Health & Human Services

Bill balks at federal health law

Making a clear statement against the federal health care law, known as the Patient

TELE-HEALTH DEMO



PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Rep. Thomas Huntley, right, participates in a Tele-Health demonstration with Larry Diamond, vice president of sales and marketing for American TeleCare, during the Feb. 15 meeting of the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Protection and Affordable Care Act, Rep. Steve Gottwalt (R-St. Cloud) offered the "Freedom of Choice in Health Care Act."

The federal health care law, approved by Congress last year, has been a point of contention over state's rights. Gottwalt, who sponsors HF199, told the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee Feb. 16, it would declare that it is state public policy for every resident to have the freedom of choice in choosing whether or not to carry health care insurance.

The bill was approved on a party-line vote and moves to the House Government Operations and Elections Committee.

Gottwalt said the federal law violates state's rights to choose how to govern care for residents. Minnesota is known as a model state for health care delivery with one of the lowest rates of uninsured residents, and the state "must not surrender" its health care leadership to the federal changes.

Twila Brase, president of the Citizens' Council for Health Freedom, said the federal law ties the hands of patients by making them choose from government plans.

Rep. Tina Liebling (DFL-Rochester) countered that the federal law gives people the freedom to have affordable health care coverage without going bankrupt. While people will be required to purchase health insurance, the government isn't "telling you what to buy," she said. Additionally, everyone

is paying for uncompensated care for those without insurance now, she added.

Rep. Mike Benson (R-Rochester) said it still forces people to pay for something, even if they are picking from an array of choices.

The Senate companion, SF33, sponsored by Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie), awaits action by the Senate Finance Committee.

— P. OSTBERG

EMT to community paramedic

To help fill gaps in underserved communities, emergency medical technicians could be certified as community paramedics, under a bill approved by the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee Feb. 16. It now goes to the House Health and Human Services Finance Committee.

Sponsored by Rep. Tara Mack (R-Apple Valley), HF262 would define the new role as an "Emergency medical technician-community paramedic" and require a training program from an accredited college or university. Under the guidance of an ambulance medical director, the EMT-P could monitor and provide some treatment to patients with chronic disease, and perform minor medical procedures intended to prevent ambulatory or emergency room services. The human services commissioner would establish the payment rate for the services.

Mike Wilcox, a family practice doctor

testifying in support of the bill, said those in rural and remote areas of the state would have better access to health care.

Linda Hamilton, president of the Minnesota Nurses Association, said the position is “public health nursing without the nursing license.” While the role of a community paramedic could benefit patients, they would need education on how to treat chronic diseases.

Rep. Erin Murphy (DFL-St. Paul) said the bill doesn’t clarify when a paramedic’s work ends and a nurse’s work begins. As a trained nurse, she said, there is a defined scope of practice for nurses and EMTs, the EMT-P’s scope needs more definition so that patients know what types of services they should expect from each specialty.

A Senate companion, SF119, sponsored by Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Fairmont), was recommended to pass Feb. 16 by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

— P. OSTBERG

Higher Education

Recommended to be regents

A quartet is one vote away from serving on the University of Minnesota’s Board of Regents.

Steve Sviggum, David Larson, David McMillan and Laura Brod were recommended for approval at a Feb. 16 joint meeting of the House and Senate higher education committees. The House and Senate are scheduled to meet jointly Monday for the final vote.

The university’s governing body is the only governmental body in the state whose members are elected by the Legislature. It is comprised of 12 members who serve staggered six-year terms without pay. By law, one regent is selected from each of the state’s eight congressional districts and four serve at-large.

Sviggum, House speaker when the Republicans were last in the majority, is from the state’s second congressional district; Larson, a current regent, represents the third congressional district; and McMillan is from the eighth congressional district. Brod defeated current regent Steven Hunter for the at-large recommendation.

Brod, who did not seek re-election to the House after serving the previous eight years, was one of three people recommended for the second congressional district slot. However, rules state that any person “recommended by the Regent Candidate Advisory Council

is eligible to be interviewed by the joint committee and considered nominated for any position for which they are eligible.”

The choice left Rep. Tom Rukavina (DFL-Virginia) saying the vote was about politics. He said a DFL-controlled Legislature elected two “known Republicans” to the Board of Regents two years ago.

“I told you two years ago what would happen if we were ever in the minority, and it did; so bipartisanship at the Board of Regents has ended,” he said.

Although their reasons for seeking a seat differ, all candidates spoke to the joint committee about the importance of advocacy and their passion for the university.

“This gem we have can always be polished and always be improved,” Sviggum said.

Forty-six people applied for the four positions. The advisory council interviewed 16 applicants and forwarded 12 names.

“We are confident the university will be well served by whomever the Legislature selects from the list of well qualified candidates,” said Council Chairwoman Jane Belau.

— M. COOK

Local Government

Zoning variances bill approved

A committee approved a bill Feb. 17 that would make it easier for local officials to grant zoning variances, over the objections of opponents who say it needs more work.

Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers), HF52 is designed as a response to a Minnesota Supreme Court decision last year. In *Krummenacher v. City of Minnetonka*, the court interpreted state law to say that cities cannot grant variances to property owners if their properties could be put to reasonable use without a variance.

In effect, the decision made it near to impossible for cities and townships to grant variances, except in rare circumstances. Supporters say the bill would clarify the intent of the current law and provide greater latitude to local governments.

The House Government Operations and Elections Committee approved the bill and sent it to the House floor. Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista) sponsors the companion, SF13, which awaits action by the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

An amendment successfully offered by Rep. Mike Beard (R-Shakopee) removed

language that would have allowed cities and townships to impose “conditions and mitigating requirements” on the granting of variances in the interest of “public health, safety or the environment.”

Beard argued the amendment would ensure the bill addressed the issues raised by the court’s ruling without expanding local powers, but lobbyists representing cities and townships said the amendment could trigger another court case.

Kent Sulem, general counsel for the Minnesota Association of Townships, said the amendment would put cities and towns in a position where they do not have the same powers as counties. He described a scenario where cities could be sued by property owners if they try to impose certain conditions, but challenged by the counties if they don’t.

The amendment was adopted on a roll-call vote of 10-5.

— N. BUSSE

Military & Vet. Affairs

Fillmore County Cemetery plausible

The Department of Veterans Affairs appears to have narrowed the location for a new State Veterans Cemetery in the southeastern area of the state.

Last year, the department was directed to find suitable locations for three new state cemeteries: one in the northeast, another in the southwest and a third in the southeast region of the state.

Two preferred locations for the southeastern cemetery have been identified in Preston and Spring Valley, and the local government agencies have agreed to donate the land if selected for a new cemetery, according to Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston), who sponsors HF226.

Previous bonding language limited the search for cemetery locations to just the other two locations of the state. Davids’ bill would allow the commissioner of veterans affairs to look at Fillmore County, in addition to locations in the northeast and southwest regions of the state.

Approved by the House Veterans Services Division Feb. 14, the bill next goes to the House Capital Investment Committee. Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona) sponsors a companion bill, SF327 which awaits action by the Senate State Government Innovation and Veterans Committee.

— S. HEGARTY

VETERANS DAY ON THE HILL



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Minnesota American Legion officers, from left, Department Adjutant Randy Tesdahl, Commander Tom Lannon and Legislative Committee Chairman Roger Ball salute as the Colors are retired by the National Guard Color Guard during the Feb. 15 "Veterans Day on the Hill" program in the Capitol Rotunda. Veterans groups heard from Gov. Mark Dayton, as well as Rep. Bruce Anderson and Sen. Mike Parry, chairmen of the House and Senate veterans committees.

Campus vets offices may be extended

Since 2006, the Department of Veterans Affairs has had representatives on college campuses to help veterans returning to school navigate through the financial paperwork and other red tape for veteran's services. Schools provide the office space, while the department provides the staffing. But the Higher Education Veterans Assistance Program is set to expire on June 30, 2012.

HF384, sponsored by Rep. Bob Dettmer (R-Forest Lake), would repeal the sunset, allowing services to remain on campus. The House Veterans Services Division approved the bill Feb. 14 and referred it to the House State Government Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

Dettmer, a member of the U.S. Army Reserves who has two sons serving in the military, said the need for on-campus veterans' services is only going to grow as soldiers return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program has grown to more than 60 service centers on both public and private campuses, according to Donald Pfeffer, the department's director of Higher Education Veterans Programs. Today, there are more than 12,000 residents eligible for veterans' benefits and 7,000 new, first-time individuals sought help last year.

Lauri Brooke, a Becker County veterans' service officer, said higher education is the No. 1 referral requested by those who call her office for help.

Rep. Tom Anzelc (DFL-Balsam Township) said he supports extending the on-campus services. "As our involvement in these conflicts around the world winds down, the pressure on these services and on our public institutions of higher education increase, we shouldn't be allowing this to sunset."

— S. HEGARTY

Public Safety

Tougher penalty for fleeing officer

On Nov. 1, 2007, Mark Bedard, an officer with the Minneapolis Park Police, was in pursuit of two suspects in a pair of drive-by shootings.

After the suspects bailed from their vehicle, the chase continued on foot. Bedard was hit by a squad car in an alley. He died nine days later from the injuries he sustained, leaving behind a wife and 3-year-old son.

Because Bedard's injuries occurred during a foot chase, the suspects could not be charged with the death of a police officer. They pleaded guilty to felony drive-by

shooting and received sentences of less than four years behind bars.

"This bill modifies the crime of fleeing a peace officer when the result of doing so results in a death that does not constitute murder or manslaughter," said Rep. John Kriesel (R-Cottage Grove), who sponsors HF361. "This bill specifically targets situations where a suspect starts to flee in a motor vehicle, but abandons that vehicle and continues to flee using other means. ... This will punish those that make this choice and hold them fully accountable for the lives they affect, and hopefully deter people from fleeing peace officers."

Approved Feb. 15 by most of the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee — at least two audible "no" votes were heard — it next goes to the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

"The current flee-on-foot statute does not address penalties for causing serious harm or death to others if pursuit of a felonious criminal goes from vehicle to foot," said Anne Deneen, a patrol sergeant with the Minneapolis Park Police. "This is a loophole easily remedied by this bill. ... When a pursuit ends with the occupants still in the car, they can be charged for all the harm they have caused by their actions."

David Brown, an assistant Hennepin County attorney, doesn't foresee the proposed changes being used often if this becomes law. "But when it does, I hope we can hold those folks accountable," he said.

— M. COOK

State Government

Agencies could keep what they save

State agencies that save some of their money rather than spend it all would be rewarded, under a bill that won committee approval.

Sponsored by Rep. Duane Quam (R-Byron), HF299 would allow 50 percent of agencies' unspent funds to be carried forward and deposited into a special account. The savings could then be put toward programs of the agencies' choosing.

The measure is designed to mitigate the so-called "Christmas in June" effect, where agencies with unspent funds are faced with the choice of either finding something to spend it on before the end of their two-year budget cycle or losing it the next time around.

BUDGET REACTION



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHEID

House Majority Leader Matt Dean, at podium, and other majority leaders react to Gov. Mark Dayton's proposed budget after its Feb. 15 release.

The program would be known as the State Agency Value Initiative, or SAVI. Quam said he got the idea from a community college employee who felt that spending money just for the sake of getting the same amount the next time around is wasteful.

"It's intended to incentivize savings, to empower the employees and management of an agency to come up with creative ways, efficiencies and improvements," Quam said.

The House Government Operations and Elections Committee approved the bill Feb. 16 and sent it to the House State Government Finance Committee. There is no Senate companion.

Some members expressed concern about a provision in the bill that would establish a "peer review panel" in each participating agency. The panels would give agency employees a say in how the savings that are carried forward are spent. Some felt this could lead to agencies pinching pennies on some programs in favor of others — or worse, using the savings toward inappropriate activities.

"What's to prevent MnSCU and any other agency from scrimping on what they're supposed to be doing to put money aside and then build a project and justify

it as being part of their core mission?" said Rep. Mike Nelson (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

Quam said he is open to putting safeguards or oversight mechanisms in the bill that would prevent agencies from misusing funds.

— N. BUSSE

Taxes

Sales tax on paint for vehicle repairs

Changing at what point in a sale the sales tax is levied could make a positive impact on the state's General Fund.

When vehicle repair and body shops purchase paint and repair supplies at the wholesale level, they are charged sales and use tax. HF359, sponsored by Rep. David Dill (DFL-Crane Lake), would make these items taxable at the retail level and provide a method for calculating the taxable paint and repair supplies portion of a motor vehicle repair bill.

The calculation could be done, according to the bill, by subtracting the number of labor hours multiplied by an hourly rate from the bill.

Dill told the House Taxes Committee Feb.

15 that auto body shops are required to use certain software and that this would make it easier for charges to be calculated and would be more transparent to the consumer. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill. The companion, SF367, is sponsored by Sen. Roger Chamberlain (R-Lino Lakes). It awaits action in the Senate Taxes Committee.

According to the Revenue Department, the General Fund would benefit by \$2.3 million in fiscal year 2012 and \$2.7 million in fiscal year 2013.

— L. SCHUTZ

No more early sales tax payments

To shore up the state's cash flow, legislation was passed last year whereby vendors with annual sales tax liabilities of \$120,000 or more are required to submit their remittances earlier in the month.

Rep. Larry Howes (R-Walker) sponsors HF393 that would eliminate all early sales tax payments except those due for June sales because the fiscal year ends July 1. The House Taxes Committee laid the bill over Feb. 15 for possible omnibus bill inclusion. There is no Senate companion.

Under the 2010 law, beginning with taxes payable after Sept. 1, 2010, vendors are required to remit sales tax payments earlier in the month after the month in which the sales tax was collected. The new law would return the due date to the 20th of the month following the month the sales were made. The Revenue Department estimates that approximately 4,500 businesses are affected by the current law.

— L. SCHUTZ

Budget tax provisions get first go-over

Gov. Mark Dayton's proposed 2012-2013 biennial state budget contains more than \$3.3 billion in tax increases, tax compliance and tax conformity changes.

The House Taxes Committee got a detailed look at the proposal Feb. 16 and 17, as it relates to state taxes and local aids and credits.

Matt Massman, Department of Revenue assistant commissioner for tax policy, said the governor shaped his tax recommendations around fairness and a recent tax incident study that shows the state's highest earners are paying a smaller share of their income to support state and local services than households at lower incomes.

Dayton proposes a new fourth tier for upper income earners at a rate of 10.95 percent, which is expected to generate \$1.89 billion in additional revenue for the General Fund in the next biennium. He is also asking for a temporary surtax on income over \$500,000 and a tax on homes valued over \$1 million. Additionally, "snowbirds" who live elsewhere just long enough to avoid paying income tax would see that provision change.

The impact on these earners prompted the first round of questioning from committee members.

Rep. Linda Runbeck (R-Circle Pines) wanted to know if there is any analysis of the negative impact of a new tier, such as an outmigration of people from the state.

Massman said that Oregon and Hawaii are the only other states with a fourth tier and was not aware of any correlation with people leaving because of the rate.

Dayton's proposal would not conform the state to the federal additional standard deduction for married filers, and Rep. Jenifer Loon (R-Eden Prairie) wanted to know why. "Won't that be affecting all married taxpayers, regardless of their income?"

Massman called it a "\$110 million ticket item," and that taxpayers would be allowed

BUDGET STUDY



PHOTO BY TOM OLMSCHIED

Rep. Paul Marquart begins to go through Gov. Mark Dayton's proposed biennial budget during a Feb. 16 hearing of the House Taxes Committee.

the deduction on their federal taxes "where they would get the most benefit."

Committee Chairman Greg Davids (R-Preston) said several meetings will be held on the budget proposal, with time for proponents and also for those with concerns to testify.

"I like Gov. Dayton, he is a good guy," Davids said. "I have no question that he feels this is best for Minnesota. I, too, want what is best for Minnesota, and that's the journey that we began yesterday. I'm all ears on how we should proceed."

He expects bills to be introduced relating to the tax proposals and then heard in committee.

— L. SCHUTZ

Transportation

Annual permits sought

Every time Lake Area Docks & Lifts wants to transport a larger boat lift or dock from its store to a lake place via a trunk highway, it must get a special permit from

the Department of Transportation.

Sponsored by Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls), HF80 would allow the authorization of annual permits for such businesses in the state. A single trip permit costs \$15, while the proposed annual permit would be \$120, the same as a current boat rate.

MnDOT officials said they could simply revamp the boat permit, instead of expending money to create a whole new permit.

"In the springtime, we make between 10 and 15 trips per store, per week. We have three stores," said Dale Graff, a general manager with the company. "If we could get an annual permit it would significantly reduce our workload."

"Part of it is just making business a little easier. It's a lot of extra work to have to apply every time," Nornes said. "Consumers of those products want delivery fast. You don't want to wait too long to get your new dock, your new lift. Summer's too short for that. I think this makes small business more efficient."

A fiscal note indicates a minimal savings to the state in each of the next four fiscal years.

The bill was held over Feb. 14 by the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee for possible omnibus bill inclusion. A companion, SF67, sponsored by Sen. Gretchen Hoffman (R-Vergas), awaits action by the Senate Transportation Committee.

— M. COOK

Green-lighting a diversion program

A driver's license reinstatement diversion program established in 2009 is scheduled to hit a red light June 30.

Supporters want it to be green-lighted for another two years and possibly expanded.

Approved Feb. 16 by the House Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance Committee, HF387 was sent to the House Transportation Policy and Finance Committee. It has no Senate companion.

The program provides a different avenue of intervention into the problem of people driving without a license, said Rep. Tim Kelly (R-Red Wing), the bill's sponsor. It is directed at people who want to get valid, but for various reasons, such as limited finances, are unable to do so.

Under the program, eligible participants charged with driving after suspension or revocation, but have not yet entered a plea can participate. In exchange for a diversion driver's license, participants must maintain insurance, make regular payments toward

the outstanding fines and complete a class that teaches life and financial management skills. Offenders pay for program costs.

"The idea is to keep them valid driving, but also make sure that they can pay the citations off," said Scott Adkisson, CEO and president of Financial Crimes Services and Diversion Solutions, which manages the program at no cost.

Duluth, St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights took part in the pilot program and Isanti joined in July 2010. The public safety commissioner may permit other cities to establish a program. The bill would also permit counties to establish a program.

As of Dec. 31, 2010, the program had 1,781 eligible participants, of which the average participant had seven outstanding citations with an average balance of \$1,700.

"This program has had a 77 percent rate. It has returned close to \$500,000 back to these cities," Kelly said.

Rep. Ernie Leidiger (R-Mayer) asked about expanding the program statewide.

Adkisson said some bumps have been found along the way, and they'd like all issues worked out before becoming that large.

— M. COOK

Thursday's Floor Action

House passes lifting nuclear ban

Nuclear power discussions could come out of the closet now that the House and Senate have passed legislation to repeal a moratorium to potentially allow additional nuclear power generation in the state.

Sponsored by Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) and Senate Majority Leader Amy Koch (R-Buffalo), HF9/SF4* was passed 81-50 as amended by the House Feb. 17. The bill now goes back to the Senate, which passed its version 50-14 Feb. 2.

The bill would remove the ban on allowing the Public Utilities Commission to issue a certificate of need for the construction or expansion of nuclear power facilities.

"We have taken our two workhorses ... off the table," Peppin said of the moratoriums on nuclear- and coal-generated electricity.

Peppin said nuclear power needs to be one of the options for future energy needs but the ban has prevented, or discouraged, stakeholders from having those discussions.

"There is no gag on talking about nuclear energy," said House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls).

Melin wins special election



**Rep.-elect
Carly Melin**

Carly Melin won a special election Feb. 15 to become the newest representative from District 5B. She replaces former Rep. Tony Sertich, who resigned last month to become commissioner of the Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board.

Melin, a DFLer, garnered 60.4 percent of the vote to defeat Republican Paul Jacobson and Independence Party candidate Cynthia Kafut-Hagen. The results have been certified by the State Canvassing Board, and she is expected to be sworn into office sometime next week.

Melin has been assigned Sertich's old office, 309 State Office Building, and telephone number, 651-296-0172. Her committee assignments are yet to be determined.

A Hibbing resident, Melin graduated from Bemidji State University with a political science degree and from Hamline University School of Law.

— M. COOK

Xcel Energy operates nuclear power plants in Monticello and Prairie Island.

Rep. Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Mpls) successfully amended the bill to prohibit the PUC from issuing a certificate of need if the proposer plans to reprocess spent fuel produced by the plant into weapons-grade plutonium either at the plant or elsewhere in the state.

Although federal law prohibits reprocessing of plutonium, which is a byproduct, Kahn said there are some French plants that store plutonium on site, and she feared that doing so in Minnesota would be too dangerous.

Xcel Energy has been allowed, however, to store its radioactive nuclear waste on site until a national repository for the waste opens. Construction and operation of a deep geologic repository is the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Energy, but plans to open a facility in Nevada have been derailed by the current federal administration. Several amendments aimed at dealing with the storage risks failed to be adopted.

Thissen said Kahn's amendment addressed one of Gov. Mark Dayton's concerns with the bill, but that he's also concerned about putting "hardworking families on the hook" for nuclear disasters or escalating costs associated with nuclear power facilities.

— S. HEGARTY

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

Let the negotiations begin

Dayton budget plan kicks off debate on taxation, spending

By Nick Busse

DFL and Republican lawmakers had very different reactions to Gov. Mark Dayton's \$37 billion vision for the state's budget — what he terms a plan to preserve government services by raising taxes on the wealthy.

At a Feb. 15 press conference, the governor outlined his solution to the state's projected \$6.2 billion budget shortfall. His plan focuses on protecting cities, counties and school districts from budget cuts, and prioritizes programs for the sick and the vulnerable.

"My budget represents my values and priorities," Dayton said.

The key to his plan is a package of tax increases — some permanent and some temporary — that would raise more than \$4.1 billion in new revenue over the next two fiscal years. To bridge the remaining gap, he proposes \$1.9 billion in cuts from forecasted spending, largely from health and human services programs.

Republican leaders wasted no time in criticizing Dayton's budget plan. House Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) called it "feeble and pathetic," and said the proposed tax increases would send job providers fleeing to other states.

"To the employers and employees across the great state of Minnesota: don't worry, we're here for you. We are not going

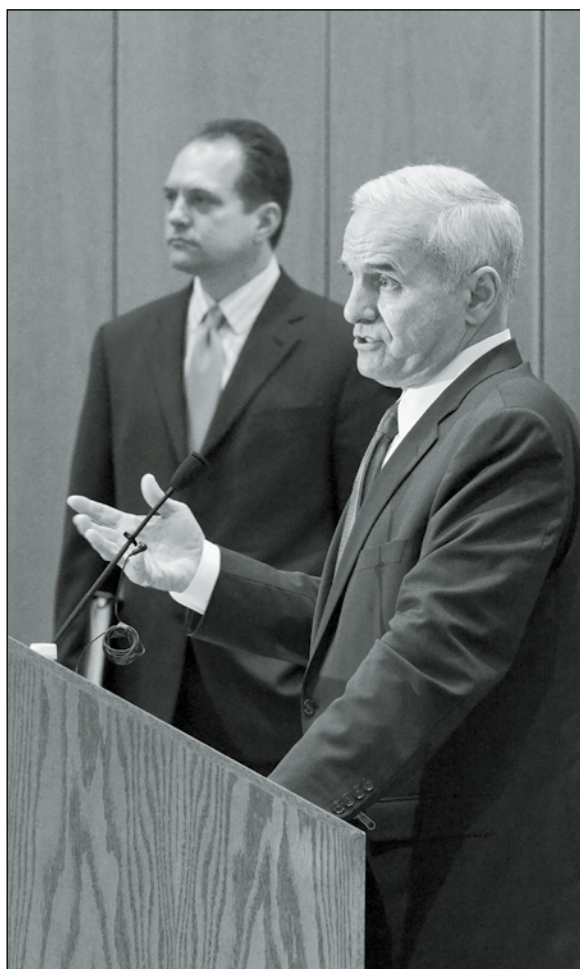


PHOTO BY ANDREW VONBANK

Gov. Mark Dayton presents his biennial budget at a Feb. 15 press conference at the Department of Revenue. Dayton was joined by Minnesota Management & Budget Commissioner Jim Schowalter, background, and other members of his cabinet.

to let Mark Dayton tax your job out of our state," he said.

Meanwhile, DFL leaders hailed the governor's plan as a "fair and progressive" approach to the state's budget challenges, and said it's fair to ask the wealthy to pay more taxes to protect essential services.

"More and more money has been coming out of middle-class pockets with rising property taxes, tuition and fees ... while Republicans are busy finding a way to protect the richest Minnesotans from sharing in this budget solution," said House Minority Leader Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls).

The release of the governor's budget plan, which is required by state law, marks the beginning of the budget process at the Legislature. In the coming weeks, lawmakers will dissect Dayton's budget plan and put together their own counterproposal.

The governor acknowledged the long and difficult process of negotiation that is to come.

"This will not be the budget finally enacted by the Legislature ... I recognize that," Dayton said.

So far, it may be the only point on which there is general agreement.

Thissen and Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) said they support the underlying principles of Dayton's budget, but would not commit to voting for the entire plan.

"At the end of the day, what we need to do is compromise and reach an agreement," Thissen said.

If history is any lesson, compromise is easier said than done. Republican leaders said they absolutely would not compromise on the issue at the heart of the debate: raising taxes. They argue tax increases would stunt economic growth, and said the state should have to live within its means.

"The private-sector economy, when it's thriving, will produce more revenue for the state," Zellers said.

Budget continued on next page

Budget continued from previous page

Dayton said 95 percent of Minnesotans would see no tax increase under his plan, which only affects the state's top income earners. Moreover, he said history shows that the alternative — cutting funding to schools and local governments — would only lead to property tax increases that would impact low- and middle-income Minnesotans.

"This is about restoring tax fairness in Minnesota, and it's about asking our most affluent citizens to help us out during this time," he said. He challenged those who oppose his plan to justify making deeper cuts just to protect the wealthy from tax increases.

But Republicans said the wealthy aren't the only ones that would be impacted. They note that some of the state's small businesses, because of the way they file their taxes, would be ensnared in Dayton's proposed new top income tax tier.

"You're not going to affect 5 percent of the people, you're going to affect everybody," said House Majority Leader Matt Dean (R-Dellwood). "It will kill jobs and it will protect 99 percent of government."

Thissen said the issue is not so simple, and said that under former Gov. Tim Pawlenty, taxes in the state went down, but the state suffered economic decline anyway. In the end, he said Minnesotans would have to decide what's best.

"We can put Gov. Dayton's budget up against the Republicans' all-cuts budget, and Minnesotans can make an informed decision about which direction we need to head," he said. 🐾

Budget Requirement

State law requires the governor to present a balanced budget to the Legislature at the beginning of every odd-numbered year in the biennium. Under the State Constitution, however, only the Legislature has the power to enact budget laws. After receiving the governor's budget proposals, lawmakers begin the process of drafting their own version of the state budget.

This year, the deadline for House committees to finish their work on budget bills is March 25.

After committee work is completed, the full House and Senate will have the opportunity to vote on budget bills and send them to Gov. Mark Dayton for signature or veto.



"There will be no state-imposed property tax increases through cuts to schools and local governments, and the only tax increases will fall upon the wealthiest citizens."

— Gov. Mark Dayton



"This is a feeble and pathetic attempt at going back in time to raise taxes and increase spending in order to balance the budget."

— House Speaker Kurt Zellers
(R-Maple Grove)



"At the end of the day, what we need to do is compromise and reach an agreement."

— House Minority Leader
Paul Thissen (DFL-Mpls)



"The governor's position on LGA preserves the 'status quo' and protects government at the expense of taxpayers — even when it's unclear why one city receives local government aid and the neighboring city does not."

— Rep. Linda Runbeck
(R-Circle Pines)

Chairwoman, House Property
and Local Tax Division



"I am thrilled with his education proposals. I was worried with the budget deficit that he would not be able to come up with a budget that keeps his campaign proposal to increase education funding, and he has."

— Rep. Mindy Greiling
(DFL-Roseville)
DFL Lead, House Education
Finance Committee



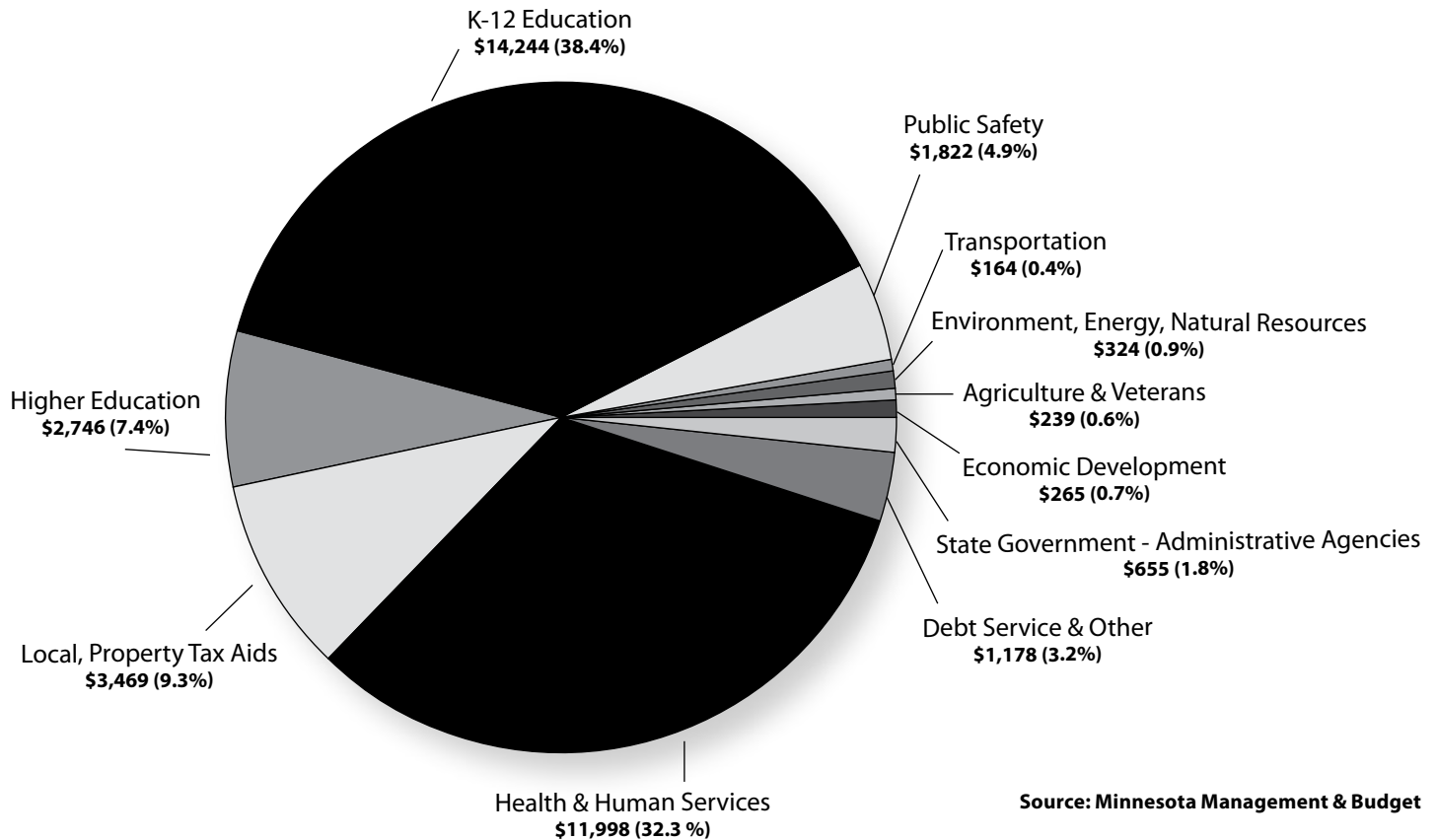
"I promise we will give the governor a fair hearing on each of his proposals with testimony from proponents and opponents. ... Obviously the \$6.2 billion deficit requires very difficult choices to be made."

— Rep. Pat Garofalo
(R-Farmington)
Chairman, House Education
Finance Committee

Gov. Mark Dayton's Priorities

Proposed FY 2012-13 General Fund Expenditures: \$37.09 Billion

(\$ in millions)



Components of Governor's Budget Solution

FY 12-13 Forecast Deficit	\$ (in millions)	(6,188)
Delay School Shift Buyback		1,455
Net Expenditure Reductions		485
Permanent Expenditure Reductions	950	
New Expenditures	(465)	
Increased Resources		4,129
Permanent Tax Increases	2,438	
Temporary Income Surcharge	918	
Health Care Surcharges	877	
Adj. to HCAF Transfer, Other Revenues	(104)	
Temporary Reduction - Cash Flow Account		136
FY 2011 Deficiencies, Tax Conformity		(14)
Total Actions Taken		\$6,191
Budget Balance		\$3

Source: Minnesota Management & Budget

Fewer days, longer hours

Some districts find four-day school week works as a budget fix

By KRIS BERGGREN

More Minnesota school districts facing budget deficits are considering a four-day school week to save on transportation, utility and energy costs. Eleven have already adopted that schedule, and House members have raised the topic casually in committee conversation.

Rep. Lyle Koenen (DFL-Clara City) doesn't serve on a House education committee, but his children attend MACCRAY schools, on a four-day week since 2008. As a parent, he likes the schedule and said his high-school children's grades have actually gone up a bit, though he can't be sure it's because of the schedule.

As a legislator, Koenen knows it doesn't suit every community, nor does it address the underlying problem of inadequate school funding.

"It takes the problem and ratchets it down a little, but the pressure's still on," Koenen said.

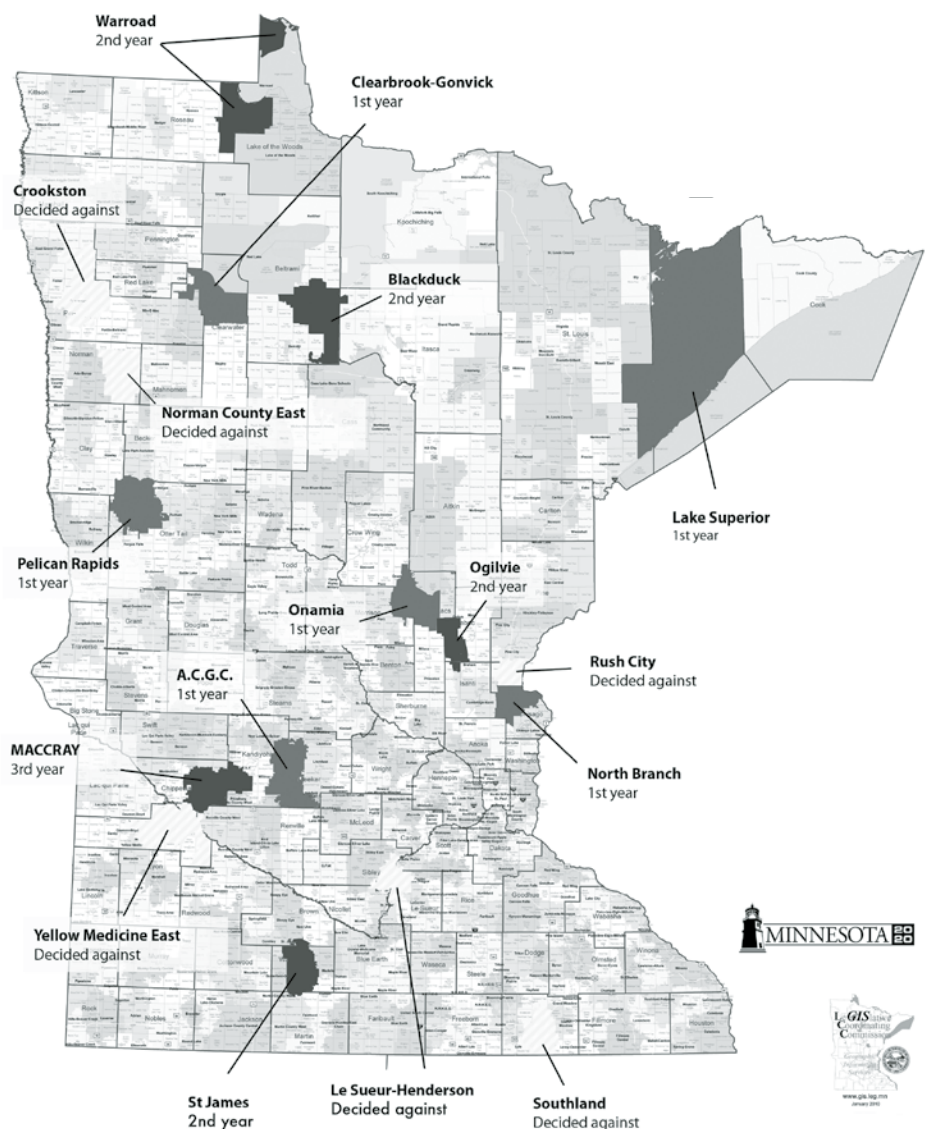
Four-day weeks aren't unprecedented, said Debi Brandt, a MACCRAY school board member. The west-central Minnesota district serves Maynard, Clara City and Raymond. Brandt said during the first round of discussions several years ago, people recalled going to school four days a week during the peak of the 1970s energy crisis.

Now MACCRAY saves about \$143,000 that otherwise would have come from program cuts such as Spanish, business or industrial technology classes, said Superintendent Greg Schmidt. Absenteeism is down, and the district made Adequate Yearly Progress in every category this year, he added.

Nobody complains when they see her at the post office or in town, Brandt said. "In fact I have heard just the opposite – you better not go back to a five-day week because we love it."

Districts must file an application to change to a four-day schedule with the Education Department, and renew every three years.

School Districts Using Four-Day School Week



MINNESOTA GO



Assessing the impact

North Branch is still assessing the impact of its new schedule that began in September, said Superintendent Deb Henton, but so far district surveys show 87 percent of parents and 79 percent of teachers say the adjustment to four days has been easy, while 36 percent of students like it and think they're getting better grades, with 51 percent neutral, saying their grades are not affected. Parents of younger

children are more concerned about the toll a longer school day can take, but on balance the long weekend provides respite.

Donna Hubbard is a fan. "We can run errands, we can extend a vacation, we can do homework, we can lie around doing nothing," said the North Branch parent of three, who runs a business from her home.

Day care availability, a concern in MACCRAY and elsewhere, has worked out. Brandt said grandparents and older students have stepped in to provide Monday child care, and longer school days mean more parents are home by the time their children get off the school bus.

"The people that like it really like it a lot," Henton said. "The people that don't like it really don't like it." Some still harbor misconceptions, such as the false belief there's less instruction time, she added. "I am constantly reassuring people that the Education Department will not let you lose even a minute of instructional time."



"If it's a great idea, why wouldn't all districts go to a four-day week?"

— Rep. Bob Barrett
R-Shafer

With a four-day week, each class day is longer. For example, North Branch Area Middle School students arrive at 7:25 a.m., school starts 15 minutes later, and students are dismissed at 3:30 p.m. On three-day weekends the heat is turned down, toilets aren't flushed and buses don't run. North Branch students who aren't proficient can get help with reading and math on Mondays through targeted intervention

programs at no cost to families. Other students can sign up for enrichment activities such as cooking or snowboarding.

Substitute teacher costs are lower since teachers can make personal appointments on the day off.

Rep. Bob Barrett (R-Shafer) says the measure of success is not whether people like the schedule, but if it enhances student achievement.

"If it's a great idea, why wouldn't all districts go to a four-day week?" Barrett said.

LeSueur-Henderson parents rejected a four-day proposal last year partly because of inconclusive research about its impact on student learning, plus commuter families' concerns about day care logistics, said Superintendent Dave Johnson. "We had estimated \$112,000 in savings. The

community felt it wasn't worth all the inconvenience and change."

When is more just less with less?

Barrett said the state should be more selective about asset allocation, as a business would. He'd prefer to transfer resources from areas where money is not being used as effectively to districts like North Branch which get relatively low per-pupil aid but are unable to garner support for operating levies.

Last year's failed referendum questions in the district would have funded the arts, teaching staff, electives and activities, Henton said, and now layoffs and program cuts are inevitable because there's nothing else to cut. She's using federal jobs money to lower the deficit to \$1.1 million. An elementary building was demolished, saving \$400,000. North Branch shares technology

and staff with other districts through the St. Croix River Education District cooperative.

"When we look at the future all we see is declining enrollments and climbing deficits.

We will be cutting tenured teachers this year," Henton said.

Barrett applauds the district for doing more with less in difficult times, but said, "There is a minimum standard which every school district should expect from their state. When you go below that minimum, less becomes less." 🐼



"It takes the problem and ratchets it down a little, but the pressure's still on."

— Rep. Lyle Koenen
DFL-Clara City

Minnesota State Agencies

Administration.....	651-201-2555
Agriculture	651-201-6000
	800-967-2474
Commerce.....	651-296-4026
Corrections.....	651-361-7200
Education.....	651-582-8200
Employment and	
Economic Development	651-259-7114
	800-657-3858
Enterprise Technology	651-296-8888
Explore Minnesota Tourism	651-757-1845
	800-657-3535
Travel Info.....	888-868-7476
Health	651-201-5000
	888-345-0823
Higher Education Services.....	651-642-0567
	800-657-3866

Housing Finance Agency	651-296-7608
	800-657-3769
Human Rights	651-296-5663
	800-657-3704
Human Services	651-431-2000
Iron Range Resources.....	218-735-3000
	800-765-5043
Labor and Industry	651-284-5005
	800-342-5354
Management & Budget.....	651-201-8000
Mediation Services.....	651-649-5421
Metropolitan Council.....	651-602-1000
Military Affairs	651-268-8919
Natural Resources	651-296-6157
	888-646-6367
Pollution Control Agency.....	651-296-6300
	800-657-3864

Public Safety General Information	651-201-7000
State Patrol.....	651-201-7100
Revenue	
General Information	651-296-3403
Collections.....	651-556-3003
	800-657-3909
Sales and Use Tax Line	651-296-6181
	800-657-3777
Taxpayer Helpline	651-296-3781
	800-652-9094
Taxpayer self-service	651-296-4444
	800-657-3676
Withholding.....	651-282-9999
	800-657-3594
Transportation	651-296-3000
	800-657-3774
Veterans Affairs.....	651-296-2562

House Committee Chairs

All area codes are 651



Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance

Rep. Rod Hamilton (R)
296-5373



Ethics

Rep. Steve Smith (R)
296-9188



Redistricting

Rep. Sarah Anderson (R)
296-5511



Capital Investment

Rep. Larry Howes (R)
296-2451



Government Operations and Elections

Rep. Joyce Peppin (R)
296-7806



Rules and Legislative Administration

Rep. Matt Dean (R)
296-3018



Civil Law

Rep. Torrey Westrom (R)
296-4929



Health and Human Services Finance

Rep. Jim Abeler (R)
296-1729



State Government Finance

Rep. Morrie Lanning (R)
296-5515



Commerce and Regulatory Reform

Rep. Joe Hoppe (R)
296-5066



Health and Human Services Reform

Rep. Steve Gottwalt (R)
296-6316



Veterans Services Division

Rep. Bruce Anderson (R)
296-5063



Education Finance

Rep. Pat Garofalo (R)
296-1069



Higher Education Policy and Finance

Rep. Bud Nornes (R)
296-4946



Taxes

Rep. Greg Davids (R)
296-9278



Education Reform

Rep. Sondra Erickson (R)
296-6746



Jobs and Economic Development Finance

Rep. Bob Gunther (R)
296-3240



Property and Local Tax Division

Rep. Linda Runbeck (R)
296-2907



Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

Rep. Denny McNamara (R)
296-3135



Judiciary Policy and Finance

Rep. Steve Smith (R)
296-9188



Transportation Policy and Finance

Rep. Michael Beard (R)
296-8872



Legacy Funding Division

Rep. Dean Urdahl (R)
296-4344



Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance

Rep. Tony Cornish (R)
296-4240



Ways and Means

Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R)
296-6926

2011-2012 Minnesota House of Representatives Members

District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-	District	Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-296-
48B	Abeler, Jim (R)	479	1729	57A	Kriesel, John (R)	451	4342
19A	Anderson, Bruce (R)	365	5063	50A	Laine, Carolyn (DFL)	287	4331
38A	Anderson, Diane (R)	525	3533	9A	Lanning, Morrie (R)	379	5515
13A	Anderson, Paul (R)	445	4317	34A	Leidiger, Ernie (R)	415	4282
43A	Anderson, Sarah (R)	549	5511	12B	LeMieur, Mike (R)	567	4247
3A	Anzelc, Tom (DFL)	307	4936	40B	Lenczewski, Ann (DFL)	317	4218
39B	Atkins, Joe (DFL)	209	4192	66A	Lesch, John (DFL)	315	4224
15B	Banaian, King (R)	411	6612	30A	Liebling, Tina (DFL)	357	0573
17B	Barrett, Bob (R)	413	5377	55A	Lillie, Leon (DFL)	281	1188
35A	Beard, Michael (R)	417	8872	59A	Loeffler, Diane (DFL)	335	4219
43B	Benson, John (DFL)	289	9934	56A	Lohmer, Kathy (R)	521	4244
30B	Benson, Mike (R)	515	4378	42B	Loon, Jenifer (R)	403	7449
37B	Bills, Kurt (R)	533	4306	37A	Mack, Tara (R)	557	5506
23B	Brynaert, Kathy (DFL)	327	3248	67A	Mahoney, Tim (DFL)	237	4277
35B	Buesgens, Mark (R)	381	5185	65B	Mariani, Carlos (DFL)	203	9714
45B	Carlson Sr., Lyndon (DFL)	283	4255	9B	Marquart, Paul (DFL)	313	6829
58B	Champion, Bobby Joe (DFL)	329	8659	41B	Mazorol, Pat (R)	581	7803
61A	Clark, Karen (DFL)	277	0294	19B	McDonald, Joe (R)	523	4336
24B	Cornish, Tony (R)	437	4240	3B	McElfatrick, Carolyn (R)	545	2365
8B	Crawford, Roger (R)	421	0518	53B	McFarlane, Carol (R)	597	5363
17A	Daudt, Kurt (R)	487	5364	57B	McNamara, Denny (R)	375	3135
31B	Davids, Greg (R)	585	9278	5B	Melin, Carly (DFL) (member-elect)	309	0172
62A	Davnie, Jim (DFL)	215	0173	65A	Moran, Rena (DFL)	227	5158
52B	Dean, Matt (R)	459	3018	23A	Morrow, Terry (DFL)	211	8634
52A	Dettmer, Bob (R)	473	4124	58A	Mullery, Joe (DFL)	387	4262
6A	Dill, David (DFL)	273	2190	10B	Murdock, Mark (R)	593	4293
47A	Dittrich, Denise (DFL)	311	5513	64A	Murphy, Erin (DFL)	345	8799
33B	Doepke, Connie (R)	579	4315	6B	Murphy, Mary (DFL)	343	2676
41A	Downey, Keith (R)	407	4363	27A	Murray, Rich (R)	439	8216
28B	Drazkowski, Steve (R)	401	2273	40A	Myhra, Pam (R)	517	4212
2A	Eken, Kent (DFL)	243	9918	46A	Nelson, Michael V. (DFL)	229	3751
16A	Erickson, Sondra (R)	509	6746	10A	Nornes, Bud (R)	471	4946
1A	Fabian, Dan (R)	431	9635	29B	Norton, Kim (DFL)	233	9249
20A	Falk, Andrew (DFL)	239	4228	14A	O'Driscoll, Tim (R)	369	7808
11B	Franson, Mary (R)	429	3201	64B	Paymar, Michael (DFL)	301	4199
26B	Fritz, Patti (DFL)	253	8237	31A	Pelowski Jr., Gene (DFL)	295	8637
36B	Garofalo, Pat (R)	537	1069	32A	Peppin, Joyce (R)	503	7806
7B	Gauthier, Kerry (DFL)	225	4246	4A	Persell, John (DFL)	223	5516
15A	Gottwalt, Steve (R)	485	6316	49B	Petersen, Branden (R)	577	5369
60A	Greene, Marion (DFL)	331	0171	45A	Peterson, Sandra (DFL)	337	4176
54A	Greiling, Mindy (DFL)	393	5387	27B	Poppe, Jeanne (DFL)	291	4193
25A	Gruenhagen, Glenn (R)	575	4229	29A	Quam, Duane (R)	569	9236
24A	Gunther, Bob (R)	591	3240	5A	Rukavina, Tom (DFL)	303	0170
48A	Hackbarth, Tom (R)	409	2439	53A	Runbeck, Linda (R)	583	2907
22B	Hamilton, Rod (R)	559	5373	51A	Sanders, Tim (R)	449	4226
2B	Hancock, David (R)	529	4265	54B	Scalze, Bev (DFL)	259	7153
39A	Hansen, Rick (DFL)	247	6828	22A	Schomacker, Joe (R)	433	5505
66B	Hausman, Alice (DFL)	255	3824	49A	Scott, Peggy (R)	477	4231
61B	Hayden, Jeff (DFL)	389	7152	18A	Shimanski, Ron (R)	367	1534
46B	Hilstrom, Debra (DFL)	261	3709	44A	Simon, Steve (DFL)	279	9889
8A	Hilty, Bill (DFL)	207	4308	55B	Slawik, Nora (DFL)	245	7807
36A	Holberg, Mary Liz (R)	453	6926	63B	Slocum, Linda (DFL)	359	7158
34B	Hoppe, Joe (R)	563	5066	33A	Smith, Steve (R)	543	9188
60B	Hornstein, Frank (DFL)	213	9281	42A	Stensrud, Kirk (R)	553	3964
47B	Hortman, Melissa (DFL)	377	4280	21A	Swedzinski, Chris (R)	527	5374
14B	Hosch, Larry (DFL)	349	4373	63A	Thissen, Paul (DFL)	267	5375
4B	Howes, Larry (R)	491	2451	51B	Tillberry, Tom (DFL)	231	5510
7A	Huntley, Thomas (DFL)	351	2228	21B	Torkelson, Paul (R)	371	9303
67B	Johnson, Sheldon (DFL)	217	4201	18B	Urdahl, Dean (R)	571	4344
59B	Kahn, Phyllis (DFL)	353	4257	13B	Vogel, Bruce (R)	507	6206
26A	Kath, Kory (DFL)	201	5368	62B	Wagenius, Jean (DFL)	251	4200
28A	Kelly, Tim (R)	565	8635	12A	Ward, John (DFL)	221	4333
56B	Kieffer, Andrea (R)	531	1147	38B	Wardlow, Doug (R)	551	4128
1B	Kiel, Debra (R)	423	5091	11A	Westrom, Torrey (R)	443	4929
16B	Kiffmeyer, Mary (R)	501	4237	44B	Winkler, Ryan (DFL)	321	7026
50B	Knuth, Kate (DFL)	323	0141	25B	Woodard, Kelby (R)	539	7065
20B	Koenen, Lyle (DFL)	241	4346	32B	Zellers, Kurt (R)	463	5502

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*All rooms are in the State Office Building unless otherwise noted, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298

List as of Feb. 17, 2011

2011-2012 Minnesota Senate Members

District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-29-	District/Member/Party	Room*	Phone 651-29-
66 Anderson, Ellen R. (DFL).....	141 SOB.....	6-5537	8 Lourey, Tony (DFL).....	125 SOB.....	6-0293
6 Bakk, Thomas M. (DFL).....	147 SOB.....	6-8881	22 Magnus, Doug (R).....	205 Cap.....	6-5650
49 Benson, Michelle R. (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	6-3219	54 Marty, John (DFL).....	119 SOB.....	6-5645
61 Berglin, Linda (DFL).....	113 SOB.....	6-4261	39 Metzen, James P. (DFL).....	25 SOB.....	6-4370
43 Bonoff, Terri E. (DFL).....	133 SOB.....	6-4314	41 Michel, Geoff (R).....	208 Cap.....	6-6238
16 Brown, David M. (R).....	205 Cap.....	6-8075	31 Miller, Jeremy R. (R).....	320 Cap.....	6-5649
4 Carlson, John J. (R).....	320 Cap.....	6-4913	30 Nelson, Carla J. (R).....	111 Cap.....	6-4848
53 Chamberlain, Roger C. (R).....	306 Cap.....	6-1253	18 Newman, Scott J. (R).....	301 Cap.....	6-4131
64 Cohen, Richard J. (DFL).....	109 SOB.....	6-5931	17 Nienow, Sean R. (R).....	120 Cap.....	6-5419
21 Dahms, Gary H. (R).....	111 Cap.....	6-8138	33 Olson, Gen (R).....	235 Cap.....	6-1282
38 Daley, Theodore J. "Ted" (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	7-8073	34 Ortman, Julianne E. (R).....	120 Cap.....	6-4837
25 DeKruif, Al (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	6-1279	65 Pappas, Sandra L. (DFL).....	143 SOB.....	6-1802
60 Dibble, D. Scott (DFL).....	115 SOB.....	6-4191	26 Parry, Mike (R).....	309 Cap.....	6-9457
14 Fischbach, Michelle L. (R).....	226 Cap.....	6-2084	15 Pederson, John C. (R).....	G-24 Cap.....	6-6455
12 Gazelka, Paul E. (R).....	325 Cap.....	6-4875	59 Pogemiller, Lawrence J. (DFL).....	15 SOB.....	6-7809
37 Gerlach, Chris (R).....	120 Cap.....	6-4120	7 Reinert, Roger J. (DFL).....	149 SOB.....	6-4188
13 Gimse, Joe (R).....	303 Cap.....	6-3826	45 Rest, Ann H. (DFL).....	105 SOB.....	6-2889
50 Goodwin, Barb J. (DFL).....	123 SOB.....	6-4334	35 Robling, Claire A. (R).....	226 Cap.....	6-4123
40 Hall, Dan D. (R).....	325 Cap.....	6-5975	24 Rosen, Julie A. (R).....	322 Cap.....	6-5713
42 Hann, David W. (R).....	328 Cap.....	6-1749	3 Saxhaug, Tom (DFL).....	135 SOB.....	6-4136
67 Harrington, John M. (DFL).....	17 SOB.....	6-5285	46 Scheid, Linda (DFL).....	23 SOB.....	6-8869
58 Higgins, Linda (DFL).....	27 SOB.....	6-9246	29 Senjem, David H. (R).....	121 Cap.....	6-3903
10 Hoffman, Gretchen M. (R).....	124 Cap.....	6-5655	23 Sheran, Kathy (DFL).....	127 SOB.....	6-6153
28 Howe, John Sterling (R).....	323 Cap.....	6-4264	57 Sieben, Katie (DFL).....	151 SOB.....	7-8060
11 Ingebrigtsen, Bill G. (R).....	303 Cap.....	7-8063	2 Skoe, Rod (DFL).....	107 SOB.....	6-4196
48 Jungbauer, Michael J. (R).....	235 Cap.....	6-3733	27 Sparks, Dan (DFL).....	19 SOB.....	6-9248
63 Kelash, Kenneth S. (DFL).....	129 SOB.....	7-8061	1 Stumpf, LeRoy A. (DFL).....	145 SOB.....	6-8660
19 Koch, Amy T. (R).....	208 Cap.....	6-5981	36 Thompson, Dave A. (R).....	323 Cap.....	6-5252
47 Kruse, Benjamin A. (R).....	124 Cap.....	6-4154	5 Tomassoni, David J. (DFL).....	21 SOB.....	6-8017
20 Kubly, Gary W. (DFL).....	103 SOB.....	6-5094	62 Torres Ray, Patricia (DFL).....	131 SOB.....	6-4274
9 Langseth, Keith (DFL).....	139 SOB.....	6-3205	52 Vandever, Ray (R).....	328 Cap.....	6-4351
44 Latz, Ron (DFL).....	121 SOB.....	7-8065	55 Wiger, Charles W. (DFL).....	117 SOB.....	6-6820
56 Lillie, Ted H. (R).....	124 Cap.....	6-4166	51 Wolf, Pam (R).....	306 Cap.....	6-2556
32 Limmer, Warren (R).....	122 Cap.....	6-2159			

*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155

Minnesota House and Senate Members

1 A Rep. Dan Fabian-(R) B Rep. Deb Kiel-(R) Sen. LeRoy A. Stumpf-(DFL)	15 A Rep. Steve Gottwalt-(R) B Rep. King Banaian-(R) Sen. John Pederson-(R)	29 A Rep. Duane Quam-(R) B Rep. Kim Norton-(DFL) Sen. David Senjem-(R)	43 A Rep. Sarah Anderson-(R) B Rep. John Benson-(DFL) Sen. Terri Bonoff-(DFL)	57 A Rep. John Kriesel-(R) B Rep. Denny McNamara-(R) Sen. Katie Sieben-(DFL)
2 A Rep. Kent Eken-(DFL) B Rep. David Hancock-(R) Sen. Rod Skoe-(DFL)	16 A Rep. Sondra Erickson-(R) B Rep. Mary Kiffmeyer-(R) Sen. David Brown-(R)	30 A Rep. Tina Liebling-(DFL) B Rep. Mike Benson-(R) Sen. Carla Nelson-(R)	44 A Rep. Steve Simon-(DFL) B Rep. Ryan Winkler-(DFL) Sen. Ron Latz-(DFL)	58 A Rep. Joe Mullery-(DFL) B Rep. Bobby Joe Champion-(DFL) Sen. Linda Higgins-(DFL)
3 A Rep. Tom Anzelc-(DFL) B Rep. Carolyn McElfatrick-(R) Sen. Tom Saxhaug-(DFL)	17 A Rep. Kurt Daudt-(R) B Rep. Bob Barrett-(R) Sen. Sean Nienow-(R)	31 A Rep. Gene Pelowski Jr.-(DFL) B Rep. Greg Davids-(R) Sen. Jeremy Miller-(R)	45 A Rep. Sandra Peterson-(DFL) B Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr.-(DFL) Sen. Ann Rest-(DFL)	59 A Rep. Diane Loeffler-(DFL) B Rep. Phyllis Kahn-(DFL) Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller-(DFL)
4 A Rep. John Persell-(DFL) B Rep. Larry Howes-(R) Sen. John Carlson-(R)	18 A Rep. Ron Shimanski-(R) B Rep. Dean Urdahl-(R) Sen. Scott Newman-(R)	32 A Rep. Joyce Peppin-(R) B Rep. Kurt Zellers-(R) Sen. Warren Limmer-(R)	46 A Rep. Michael V. Nelson-(DFL) B Rep. Debra Hilstrom-(DFL) Sen. Linda Scheid-(DFL)	60 A Rep. Marion Greene-(DFL) B Rep. Frank Hornstein-(DFL) Sen. D. Scott Dibble-(DFL)
5 A Rep. Tom Rukavina-(DFL) B Rep.-elect Carly Melin-(DFL) Sen. David Tomassoni-(DFL)	19 A Rep. Bruce Anderson-(R) B Rep. Joe McDonald-(R) Sen. Amy Koch-(R)	33 A Rep. Steve Smith-(R) B Rep. Connie Doepeke-(R) Sen. Gen Olson-(R)	47 A Rep. Denise Dittrich-(DFL) B Rep. Melissa Hortman-(DFL) Sen. Benjamin Kruse-(R)	61 A Rep. Karen Clark-(DFL) B Rep. Jeff Hayden-(DFL) Sen. Linda Berglin-(DFL)
6 A Rep. David Dill-(DFL) B Rep. Mary Murphy-(DFL) Sen. Thomas Bakk-(DFL)	20 A Rep. Andrew Falk-(DFL) B Rep. Lyle Koenen-(DFL) Sen. Gary Kubly-(DFL)	34 A Rep. Ernie Leidiger-(R) B Rep. Joe Hoppe-(R) Sen. Julianne 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. Kerry Gauthier-(DFL) Sen. Roger Reinert-(DFL)	21 A Rep. Chris Swedzinski-(R) B Rep. Paul Torkelson-(R) Sen. Gary Dahms-(R)	35 A Rep. Michael Beard-(R) B Rep. Mark Buesgens-(R) Sen. Claire Robling-(R)	49 A Rep. Peggy Scott-(R) B Rep. Branden Petersen-(R) Sen. Michelle Benson-(R)	63 A Rep. Paul Thissen-(DFL) B Rep. Linda Slocum-(DFL) Sen. Ken Kelash-(DFL)
8 A Rep. Bill Hilty-(DFL) B Rep. Roger Crawford-(R) Sen. Tony Lourey-(DFL)	22 A Rep. Joe Schomacker-(R) B Rep. Rod Hamilton-(R) Sen. Doug Magnus-(R)	36 A Rep. Mary Liz Holberg-(R) B Rep. Pat Garofalo-(R) Sen. Dave Thompson-(R)	50 A Rep. Carolyn Laine-(DFL) B Rep. Kate Knuth-(DFL) Sen. Barbara Goodwin-(DFL)	64 A Rep. Erin Murphy-(DFL) B Rep. Michael Paymar-(DFL) Sen. Richard 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. Tara Mack-(R) B Rep. Kurt Bills-(R) Sen. Chris Gerlach-(R)	51 A Rep. Tim Sanders-(R) B Rep. Tom Tillberry-(DFL) Sen. Pam Wolf-(R)	65 A Rep. Rena Moran-(DFL) B Rep. Carlos Mariani-(DFL) Sen. Sandra Pappas-(DFL)
10 A Rep. Bud Norres-(R) B Rep. Mark Murdoch-(R) Sen. Gretchen Hoffman-(R)	24 A Rep. Bob Gunther-(R) B Rep. Tony Cornish-(R) Sen. Julie Rosen-(R)	38 A Rep. Diane Anderson-(R) B Rep. Doug Wardlow-(R) Sen. Ted Daley-(R)	52 A Rep. Bob Dettmer-(R) B Rep. Matt Dean-(R) Sen. Ray Vandever-(R)	66 A Rep. John Lesch-(DFL) B Rep. Alice Hausman-(DFL) Sen. Ellen Anderson-(DFL)
11 A Rep. Torrey Westrom-(R) B Rep. Mary Franson-(R) Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen-(R)	25 A Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen-(R) B Rep. Kelby Woodard-(R) Sen. Al Dekruif-(R)	39 A Rep. Rick Hansen-(DFL) B Rep. Joe Atkins-(DFL) Sen. James Metzen-(DFL)	53 A Rep. Linda Runbeck-(R) B Rep. Carol McFarlane-(R) Sen. Roger Chamberlain-(R)	67 A Rep. Tim Mahoney-(DFL) B Rep. Sheldon Johnson-(DFL) Sen. John Harrington-(DFL)
12 A Rep. John Ward-(DFL) B Rep. Mike LeMieur-(R) Sen. Paul Gazelka-(R)	26 A Rep. Kory Kath-(DFL) B Rep. Patti Fritz-(DFL) Sen. Mike Parry-(R)	40 A Rep. Pam Myhra-(R) B Rep. Ann Lenczewski-(DFL) Sen. Dan Hall-(R)	54 A Rep. Mindy Greiling-(DFL) B Rep. Bev Scalze-(DFL) Sen. John Marty-(DFL)	
13 A Rep. Paul Anderson-(R) B Rep. Bruce Vogel-(R) Sen. Joe Gimse-(R)	27 A Rep. Rich Murray-(R) B Rep. Jeanne Poppe-(DFL) Sen. Dan Sparks-(DFL)	41 A Rep. Keith Downey-(R) B Rep. Pat Mazorol-(R) Sen. Geoff Michel-(R)	55 A Rep. Leon Lillie-(DFL) B Rep. Nora Slawik-(DFL) Sen. Charles Wiger-(DFL)	
14 A Rep. Tim O'Driscoll-(R) B Rep. Larry Hosch-(DFL) Sen. Michelle Fischbach-(R)	28 A Rep. Tim Kelly-(R) B Rep. Steve Drazkowski-(R) Sen. John Howe-(R)	42 A Rep. Kirk Stensrud-(R) B Rep. Jenifer Loon-(R) Sen. David Hann-(R)	56 A Rep. Kathy Lohmer-(R) B Rep. Andrea Kieffer-(R) Sen. Ted Lillie-(R)	

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

FEBRUARY 14 - 17, 2011

HOUSE FILES 475 - 607

Monday, February 14

HF475-Benson, J. (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Food shelves and food stamp outreach money appropriated.

HF476-Kelly (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Public Employees Retirement Association; Red Wing Port Authority employees included and retroactive retirement coverage validated.

HF477-Hansen (DFL)

Transportation Policy & Finance

Highway 52 barrier replacement money appropriated and state transportation bond sale authorized.

HF478-Slawik (DFL)

Health & Human Services Finance

Early childhood learning and child protection facilities construction and rehabilitation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF479-Kahn (DFL)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Water pipe fluid weight use established when determining weight or amount of controlled substance.

HF480-Scalze (DFL)

Health & Human Services Reform

Electronic prescribing requirements effective date extended for certain providers.

HF481-Runbeck (R)

Taxes

Local government; property taxes frozen at 2010 pay levels, actions that would increase property tax levies prohibited and exceptions provided.

HF482-Downey (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Funeral goods sale license requirement clarified.

HF483-Gottwalt (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

JOBZ waiver authority modified.

HF484-Smith (R)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Regional 911 emergency communications center funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF485-Davids (R)

Taxes

Minnesota State High School League events temporary tax exemption made permanent and associated revenues use modified.

HF486-Mack (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Dakota County; interest in lands occupied by Minnesota Zoo extended.

HF487-Barrett (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Optomtery definition modified.

HF488-Hortman (DFL)

Education Reform

Voluntary, full-day kindergarten funding authorized.

HF489-Smith (R)

Judiciary Policy & Finance

Uniform Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act enacted, and other law regarding collateral consequences and the rehabilitation of criminal offenders conformed with the uniform act.

HF490-Garofalo (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Lake Byllesby Dam spillway on the Cannon River funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF491-Garofalo (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Cannon River pedestrian bridge funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF492-Slocum (DFL)

Taxes

Property valuation freeze and an exclusion provided for improvements made to purchased foreclosed properties.

HF493-Vogel (R)

Transportation Policy & Finance

Motor vehicle dealer record alternative site authorized, motor vehicle registration provision modified and vehicle history information treatment provision added.

HF494-Mariani (DFL)

Transportation Policy & Finance

School attendance required as condition of obtaining instruction permits and driver's licenses for applicants under 18.

HF495-Garofalo (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote enacted.

HF496-Beard (R)

Commerce & Regulatory Reform

Home solicitation sales regulation exclusion clarified.

HF497-Gottwalt (R)

Health & Human Services Reform

Health insurance exchange created.

HF498-Cornish (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

State hunting land no net loss required.

HF499-Davids (R)

Legacy Funding Division

Chatfield Center for the Arts funding provided and money appropriated.

HF500-Davids (R)

Jobs & Economic

Development Finance

Chatfield Center for the Arts funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF501-Runbeck (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Interest arbitration factors specified.

HF502-Lenczewski (DFL)

Government Operations & Elections

Youth sports and library permitted use of revenue modified for other purposes.

HF503-Anderson, P. (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Land management activities exempted from contracting restrictions, and mission of the Department of Natural Resources modified.

HF504-Eken (DFL)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Red River of the North; flood damage reduction project funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF505-Davids (R)

Taxes

Charitable contribution deduction expanded for food inventory.

HF506-Shimanski (R)

Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance

Fourth-degree assault crime and the assaulting a police horse crime expanded to provide more protection to law enforcement assistants.

HF507-Quam (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Agricultural land, non-homesteaded, noncommercial real property owners and small business property owners allowed to vote on bonding and property tax questions where the property is located; implementing language provided; and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF508-Erickson (R)

Government Operations & Elections

Mille Lacs County; rescindment of State Building Code adoption allowed.

HF509-Beard (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Greenhouse gas emissions control eliminated.

HF510-Simon (DFL)

Government Operations & Elections

Voter registration requirements and provisions changed.

HF511-Erickson (R)

Education Reform

Public school unneeded mandates removed.

HF512-Bills (R)

Education Reform

Postsecondary enrollment options act modified, high school students required to take a college level class and college transfer credits modified.

HF513-Leidiger (R)

Jobs & Economic Development Finance

Prevailing wage provisions modified.

HF514-Benson, M. (R)

Taxes

Maintenance of effort requirements suspended, and sales tax exemption modified.

HF515-Kiel (R)

Education Reform

School district mandates reduced.

HF516-Vogel (R)

Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance

Removing certain animal control mandates.

HF517-Vogel (R)

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance

Water supply plan requirements, yard waste provisions, transmission projects report requirements and roadway lighting requirements modified.

HF518-Leidiger (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Commissioner of transportation rule adoption authority limited for county state-aid roads and municipal state-aid streets, and complete streets policy promotion for local road authorities provision abolished.

HF519-Drazkowski (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Mandates in transportation, human services, environment, public safety, local government, animal control, education, taxes and employment removed; maintenance of effort requirements suspended; sales tax exemption and prevailing wage provisions modified; aggregate value of benefits for governmental unit group insurance provision repealed; and comparable worth requirements repealed.

HF520-Clark (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Alcohol judicial and health impact fund established, and alcohol judicial and health impact fee imposed.

Thursday, February 17

HF521-Drazkowski (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Gross weight seasonal increases permitted for sweet corn transportation.

HF522-Drazkowski (R)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Sheriffs authorized to determine appropriate staff level for county jail operation, and administrative rule establishing staffing requirement for jails repealed.

HF523-Quam (R)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Children and Community Services Act service plan requirements changed.

HF524-Torkelson (R)**Education Finance**

Madelia; fund transfer permitted to Independent School District No. 837.

HF525-Torkelson (R)**Taxes**

Public safety radio communication system exemption expanded.

HF526-Fabian (R)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Marshall County; consolidated conservation lands private sale authorized.

HF527-Davids (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance**

Minnesota rural preserve property tax program modified.

HF528-LeMieur (R)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Camp Ripley/Veterans State Trail money appropriated.

HF529-LeMieur (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Agricultural building roof panels equivalent load bearing capacity required.

HF530-Kiffmeyer (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Disability parking provision modified.

HF531-Clark (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Minneapolis; Minnesota African American History Museum funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF532-Kieffer (R)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Repeat criminal sexual conduct offender penalties enhanced.

HF533-Fabian (R)**Education Finance**

Sparsity revenue eligibility criteria adjusted, and Independent School District No. 356, Lancaster, permitted to recover sparsity aid that the district lost due to the closing of a school building.

HF534-Atkins (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Inver Grove Heights capital improvement funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF535-McFarlane (R)**Education Finance**

Third-party reimbursement of qualifying services modified.

HF536-Runbeck (R)**Education Finance**

Operating referendum and debt service equalization aid program levels increased.

HF537-Urdahl (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Speeding violation of 10 mph over the 60 mph limit provided to not go on a driving record.

HF538-Schomacker (R)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

The Casey Jones Trail funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF539-Anderson, B. (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance**

Horses as livestock classification modified.

HF540-Scott (R)**Education Reform**

Minnesota State High School League directed to amend its transfer rule, including the procedure to determine student eligibility.

HF541-Slawik (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Smoking prohibited in motor vehicles with children, and money appropriated.

HF542-Buesgens (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Public pension plan coverage defined benefit ended.

HF543-Buesgens (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Road and bridge priority established, and governing federal aid requirement for rail guideways established.

HF544-Buesgens (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Standing appropriation forbidden and constitutional amendment proposed.

HF545-Downey (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

State budget document required to include federal insolvency contingency planning.

HF546-Paymar (DFL)**Taxes**

Limited market value extended.

HF547-Paymar (DFL)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Firearm transfer at a gun show background check required.

HF548-Buesgens (R)**Agriculture & Rural Development Policy & Finance**

Game bird and waterfowl sale included in the definition of agricultural products.

HF549-Cornish (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

County highway-rail grade crossing warning devices funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF550-Anzelc (DFL)**Education Finance**

General education basic formula allowance increased.

HF551-LeMieur (R)**Taxes**

Property tax late payment penalties modified.

HF552-Greene (DFL)**Education Reform**

Child with disability definition and related circumstances clarified.

HF553-Greene (DFL)**Education Reform**

Pilot project established to explore the programmatic alignment between age 3 and grade 3.

HF554-Johnson (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Mississippi River Parkway Commission expiration date changed.

HF555-Moran (DFL)**Education Finance**

Principals' Leadership Institute money appropriated.

HF556-Smith (R)**Public Safety & Crime Prevention Policy & Finance**

Juvenile prostitutes in need of protection or services provisions amended, sexually exploited youth defined; prostitution crime penalty assessments increased and distribution of the assessment amended; prostitution laws provisions clarified and recodified, and definitions modified; money appropriated to the commissioner of public safety to develop a statewide victim services model.

HF557-Downey (R)**Education Reform**

Department of Education required to hire a consultant to work with districts to share services, competition among school districts created, shared services incentive created for districts and money appropriated.

HF558-Downey (R)**Education Reform**

Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma mathematics exception removed.

HF559-Downey (R)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Minnesota Care voucher demonstration project established.

HF560-Downey (R)**Higher Education Policy & Finance**

Government agency energy forward pricing mechanisms provisions modified.

HF561-Beard (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Election recount requirements and procedures modified.

HF562-Sanders (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Manufactured home parks water and sewer charges and charges by public water suppliers regulated.

HF563-Moran (DFL)**Education Reform**

School board creation of full-service school zones authorized.

HF564-Drazkowski (R)**Civil Law**

Ambulance services; nongovernmental licensees liability limited.

HF565-Smith (R)**Civil Law**

Grandparent visitation rights provided and expanded, procedures specified and mediation required.

HF566-Peterson, S. (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Vehicle lighting display requirement expanded.

HF567-Kahn (DFL)**Taxes**

Sales tax extended to cosmetic procedures.

HF568-Kahn (DFL)**Government Operations & Elections**

Appropriations provided to continue in effect with exceptions and adjustments.

HF569-Howes (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Well contractor licensing requirements modified.

HF570-Laine (DFL)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Fridley; Springbrook Nature Center funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF571-Lillie (DFL)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Overtime requirements modified for air carrier employees.

HF572-Eken (DFL)**State Government Finance**

American Indian veteran plaque placement authorized on Capitol grounds.

HF573-Quam (R)**Taxes**

Medicare and Medicaid medical device coverage provisions modified.

HF574-McNamara (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Efficiency and energy savings promoted through electronic conduct of state meetings and through telework.

HF575-Erickson (R)**Education Reform**

Probationary teacher and principal status governing requirements clarified.

HF576-Kelly (R)**Education Finance**

Aid shift extended.

HF577-Lanning (R)**State Government Finance**

Legal fees imposed by federal courts funding provided, reimbursement of expenses provided relating to the recount in the 2010 gubernatorial election and money appropriated.

HF578-Koenen (DFL)**Civil Law**

Easement portion acquired by condemnation discharge provided.

HF579-Koenen (DFL)**Taxes**

Marshall authorized to impose a local sales and use tax.

HF580-Ward (DFL)**Education Finance**

Minnesota's special education funding formulas provided.

HF581-Ward (DFL)**Education Finance**

Telecommunications/Internet access equity aid provided and money appropriated.

HF582-Davids (R)**Taxes**

Lanesboro; local sales and use tax authorized and bonds issued.

HF583-Mullery (DFL)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Residential mortgage lending state regulation limit obsolete limitations repealed and federal Dodd-Frank Act conformed.

HF584-Dettmer (R)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Adult foster care and family adult day services license requirements modified, and human services commissioner directed to apply for federal waiver for Medical Assistance reimbursement.

HF585-Persell (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Bemidji; Headwaters Regional Center for Science, History, Culture and the Arts funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF586-Fabian (R)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Flood hazard mitigation grants funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF587-Beard (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Dan Patch commuter rail line restrictions removed.

HF588-Gauthier (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Duluth; Wade Stadium renovation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF589-Buesgens (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Building and construction contracts regulated, and retainage required to be held in escrow or trust accounts until released.

HF590-Howes (R)**Commerce & Regulatory Reform**

Construction financing evidence and notice of nonpayment or default required.

HF591-Knuth (DFL)**Government Operations & Elections**

Candidates permitted to serve as an election judge in precincts where the candidate's name does not appear on the ballot.

HF592-Fritz (DFL)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Medical Assistance reimbursement authorized for in-reach community-based care coordination in a hospital setting.

HF593-Buesgens (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Campaign finance; "corporation" definition broadened, governmental unit contributions prohibited and penalty imposed.

HF594-Buesgens (R)**Government Operations & Elections**

Public pension plan coverage ended.

HF595-Anderson, B. (R)**Health & Human Services Reform**

Radiation therapy facility construction moratorium repealed.

HF596-Slawik (DFL)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Maplewood; Fish Creek Natural Greenway land acquisition funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF597-Lohmer (R)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Toll roads prohibited and conforming changes made.

HF598-Kahn (DFL)**Government Operations & Elections**

Voting registration requirements and provisions changed.

HF599-Falk (DFL)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Beaver control provided by road authorities.

HF600-Loon (R)**Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Policy & Finance**

Taxes reduced, efficiency permitting provided and environmental review requirements modified.

HF601-Holberg (R)**Civil Law**

Optional disclosure of public appraisals provided by a government entity.

HF602-Kahn (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Granary Road and road and storm water infrastructure funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF603-Hornstein (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

I-35W storm tunnel funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF604-Champion (DFL)**Jobs & Economic Development Finance**

Target Center renovation funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF605-Loeffler (DFL)**Transportation Policy & Finance**

Plymouth Avenue Bridge funding provided, bonds issued and money appropriated.

HF606-Howes (R)**Health & Human Services Finance**

Generic drugs used in Medical Assistance program ensured to be obtained at the lowest price.

HF607-Howes (R)**Capital Investment**

Capital improvement funding provided to acquire and better public land and buildings and for other improvements of a capital nature, nonprofit housing bond authorization changes made, bonds issued, appropriations modified and money appropriated.

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MINNESOTA INDEX

Celebrating Black History Month

State population in 2009	5,229,330
Number of blacks in 2009	230,022
State population in 2000	4,919,479
Number of blacks in 2000	171,731
Percentage of black Minnesotans who are male	52.8
Percent female	47.2
Percentage of black population age 18 or older	66.2
Percent 65 or older	3.7
Median age of black Minnesotans	26.6
Average household size of black Minnesotans in 2009	2.7
Average household size in 2000	3
Average family size of black Minnesotans in 2009	3.5
Average family size in 2000	4
Blacks, ages 15 or older in Minnesota, who are married	164,870
State residents age 3 and older enrolled in school	1,367,709
Number of those who are black	84,142
Minnesota civilian population with veteran status	3,966,141
Blacks with veteran status	152,302
State population age 16 and up in the labor force in 2009	4,118,124
Blacks in the labor force	160,573
Minnesota median household income in the past 12 months	\$56,704
Median household income for blacks	\$28,406
Minnesota median household income in 1999	\$47,111
Median household income for blacks	\$28,926
Number of self-described black legislators, out of 201 current legislators	3
Number of blacks to serve in the House of Representatives	10
Year John Frances Wheaton became Minnesota's first black state representative	1899
Years between Wheaton's final year (1900) and the election of the next black representative, Ray Pleasant	73
Year Robert B. Lewis became Minnesota's first black state senator	1973
Year John Harrington became Minnesota's second black state senator	2011

— C. CHAMBERLAIN

Sources: Council on Black Minnesotans, Legislative Reference Library