
Perspectives

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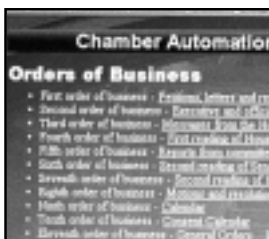
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On the cover: The serenity of an empty Senate Chamber after adjournment provides sharp contrast to the flurry of activity in the waning days of the legislative session. Photo by David J. Oakes.



The chamber of the Minnesota Senate.

Photo by David J. Oakes

The 1999 Legislative Session

The 1999 Legislative Session was a history making event on several fronts. Minnesotans experienced a tripartisan governmental structure for the first time ever with Gov. Jesse Ventura's Reform Party heading the administration, the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party as the majority in the Senate and the Republican Party as the majority in the House of Representatives. Political pundits, the press and indeed all Minnesotans watched to see how this new experiment in government would play out over the months of the session. The result, fueled in part by a booming state economy, was the largest tax cut-tax relief package in history, and unprecedented disposition of funds through the tobacco lawsuit settlement and the construction of a sound state budget for the coming biennium.

This issue of *Perspectives* attempts to explain some of the major issues confronting the Senate this year. The lead story goes into detail about the

omnibus tax bill. Under the measure, nearly every Minnesotan will see either a tax rebate, a tax cut or both. Another story explains the history and result of the bill establishing the mechanism to distribute the one-time payment by tobacco companies as part of the settlement of the state's lawsuit against the companies. A third story explores the controversy surrounding the Profiles in Learning and the attempts to resolve the difficulties students, teachers and administrators have encountered in implementing the new graduation standards. The changing face of higher education provides the focus of the fourth story with an exploration of how the changing needs of students and businesses are shaping the options for post-secondary education. Finally, one of the stories explains how the information technology revolution is changing the very way bills are considered on the Senate floor. The Chamber Automation project

provides Senators with instant access to lengthy bills and amendments, reduces printing costs and allows members to review bill status and histories at the click of a mouse button.

Finally, this issue of *Perspectives* contains a listing of all the bills signed into law this session. Along with the chapter number, Senate or House File number, chief authors, subject area, and effective date there is a brief description of the bill's content. The brief bill summaries are simply to provide readers with a starting point from which to use the Legislature's information resources. For more complete information on an individual bill's content, check out the Legislature's world wide web site. There, it is possible to access the full text of any bill introduced this year, the full text of conference committee reports, selected bill summaries and the status of all bills introduced this session. The address for the site is: <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.htm>



Senate conferees listen to testimony during a meeting of the tax conference committee.

Photos by David J. Oakes

Rebate, tax cuts dominate 1999 session

by David Maeda

Besides going down in history as Minnesota's first attempt at tri-partisan government, the 1999 Legislative session will likely be remembered for producing the biggest tax cut in the state's history. Nearly all Minnesota taxpayers receive some relief in the \$2.9 billion tax package, which includes permanent reductions in all three income brackets, as well as a one time \$1.25 billion sales tax rebate.

One would think working with a \$4 billion surplus would make spending and tax decisions easier than normal for Legislators. Yet difficult choices had to be made balancing the effort to reduce the size of the government, and the continuing need to provide sufficient funding for effective state programs and services. Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Tower), the chair of the Senate Com-

mittee on Taxes, said he was pleased that for the third straight year the Legislature was able to provide significant tax relief and yet the Senate was still able to pass all of the budget initiatives that were set prior to the 1999 session. He said those priorities included additional funding for education, affordable housing, a workforce development fund, transportation--particularly \$60 million for the state's first light rail line along the Hiawatha Corridor in Minneapolis--and the establishment of endowment funds from the one time tobacco settlement money. Johnson said the 1999 tax cut, along with property tax reform and rebates provided in 1997 and 1998 did not come at the expense of the necessary services the state must provide. "All of our initiatives were fully funded. There was a good balance," he said.

There was little disagreement on

whether or not there should be a tax cut this session. Rather, the debate focused on just how much and who should get the most tax relief. Legislators even had a difficult time agreeing on how to return the surplus to taxpayers. Both the Senate and House passed bills early in the session providing for a rebate of the state surplus. But both sides disagreed on what mechanism should be used to determine the amount of rebate for individuals. Johnson said that House members believed the surplus was created largely due to overly high income taxes being paid, particularly by upper income taxpayers. He said the Senate felt that the sales tax rebate would provide more relief to those who needed it most, lower and middle income taxpayers, and it was a more fair way to distribute the surplus equally. Johnson said the Senate further supported the sales tax based rebate

because sales taxes, unlike income taxes, are not itemized on federal tax returns and thus a sales tax rebate likely is not susceptible to federal taxation and will save Minnesota taxpayers over \$200 million. After failing to reach an agreement on the rebate issue, Legislators went to work on comprehensive tax relief, combining the one time rebate with permanent tax cuts. Members were able to agree upon relief for farmers in the state, separating that relief from the rest of the rebate, by providing agricultural rebates of \$4 per acre on agriculture production land, capped at \$5,600. Agreement on other issues required further debate as differences in philosophies and priorities divided members. Indeed the final tax bill was not approved by the Senate until moments before adjournment.

Sen. William Belanger (R-Bloomington) said that the conference committee process for both the rebate and the final tax package was the most difficult he has been involved in since

he was first elected to the Senate in 1980. Belanger said that the governor's lack of involvement delayed the process and hindered the conferees' ability to come to an agreement on the rebate issue and get the checks out sooner. He said that most of the work of the committee was eventually negotiated between Johnson and the House Tax Committee's chair, Rep. Ron Abrams (R-Minnetonka), with little ability for the public to become involved. "We will serve notice next time that negotiations will be done at the table with all ten conference committee members involved," Belanger said.

In the end, the House finally agreed to the Senate provision of a sales tax rebate and compromise was reached on a variety of issues. Sen. Jim Vickerman (DFL-Tracy) said the final bill agreed upon was a fair package. "I was very pleased that both parties and the governor agreed upon a good tax bill," Vickerman said, "There is something in

it for everybody." He said besides the rebate check that will be mailed out later this summer, most Minnesotans will notice more money in their take home pay due to less taxes being taken out each pay period.

In addition, there are several provisions included in the tax omnibus bill that will benefit people in a variety of different ways. Married couples benefit from the elimination of the "marriage penalty" where under current law married couples filing jointly pay more taxes than single filers with the same income. The working poor, families who earn about \$20,000 a year and pay no income taxes, receive relief in the form of a \$12 million increase in the working family credit. Business owners received a reduction in tax rates on commercial and industrial properties from 2.45 percent to 2.40 percent on business properties worth up to \$150,000 and from 3.5 percent to 3.4 percent on properties valued at more than \$150,000. Farmers received \$70 million in a one time short-term tax relief, and benefit from \$50 million in permanent property tax relief on agricultural property.

Vickerman who was instrumental in negotiating the Senate farm provisions



Sen. Douglas Johnson



Sen. William Belanger



Farm relief was passed early in the session. Under the bill, farmers receive \$4 per acre up to a maximum of \$5600.

in the tax bill, said that at times he was concerned that the tax cuts went too far and that some necessary programs would be adversely affected. But, he said, the relief is a good first step and will provide much needed help to farmers. "This gives them some money, and along with the permanent cuts, it sends out a message that the Legislature cares about what is going on out there," he said. He said property tax reductions and increased state aid for schools will also benefit taxpayers in the rural areas of the state.

Belanger said that he was not at all concerned that the cuts were too large and that any of the state's programs and services are now underfunded. "For sustainability the Dept. of Finance told us that it would take about \$1.8 billion. We hovered around that number," he said. He said he is confident that the tax cuts will not affect the state's ability to respond to ups and downs in the economy.

There were several local initiatives in the final tax package. Homeowners living near the airport received relief

under a provision designating an airport impact zone in Richfield and directing the Metropolitan Airports Commission to issue \$30 million in bonds to pay for land acquisition, relocation, redevelopment, and public improvements in the zone. Workers on the Iron Range benefit from a \$20 million appropriation for construction of a steel plant near Nashwauk that is expected to create over 1,000 jobs. Local governments benefit from property tax provisions including \$20 million in family preservation aid that subsidizes counties' rising costs of out of home placement for juvenile delinquents and children in need of protective services.

Minnesotans have long had a reputation for their generosity, and Legislators even found a way to further reward taxpayer's charitable side. A provision was included changing the current law allowing only those who itemize on their federal tax returns to deduct charitable contributions, to allowing those who do not itemize to deduct 50 percent of their contributions over \$500. Members hope the

measure will further encourage people to contribute to charities. According to the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, in 1998 1.5 million out of the state's 2.3 million tax returns filed were filed by nonitemizers.

Vickerman said one of the more important parts of the tax package was a \$10 million appropriation which will go mostly to the Hennepin County Medical Center and Regions Hospital in Ramsey County for uncompensated health care costs. The appropriation will help reimburse the hospitals for providing care to low income Minnesotans who do not have health insurance and who reside outside Hennepin and Ramsey counties. Vickerman said that the one time appropriation is not a long term solution but it begins to address a difficult issue. He said that although he agreed that it was not fair for taxpayers in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties to pick up the entire costs of uncompensated care at the two hospitals, that the alternative, smaller counties being billed for the costs, was not a good answer to the problem. "We will need



Sen. Jim Vickerman

to continue to look at the issue in the future," he said.

Belanger said that there were several lesser publicized provisions in the bill that will have an important impact. He pointed to the provision allowing bank owners to elect subchapter "S" status and thus avoid the corporate franchise tax as being helpful to the state's smaller banks. He said a tax increment finance (TIF) provision prohibiting using TIF funding to construct or renovate facilities for social, recreational, or conference facilities or a public park used as a commons area will help clarify the purpose for which TIF is to be used. "TIF projects are supposed to pass the 'but for' test," Belanger said, "That is 'but for' the use of TIF the area would not be developed." He said the clarification will limit the use of TIF for projects that legitimately fall under the definition in the law of that funding mechanism.

Despite the record tax relief, further work is still ahead. Johnson said one issue that will be revisited next session is the need to reduce license tab fees, an issue he said has wide public support throughout the state. Senate conferees agreed to give up a provision that would have reduced license tab fees by \$100 million. Belanger said that because the state ranks 26th in the nation in the amount of its license tab

fees, and close to the top in its income tax rates, he feels that there are other issues more important to address. He said that the relief provided by the reduction in motor vehicle fees would mostly benefit owners with expensive cars who know before they purchase a new car how much their tab fee will be.


Johnson said one of the disadvantages in working within the tri-partisan structure was that he felt he too quickly lost bargaining power during the conference committee negotiations when the governor withdrew his support for reductions in the motor vehicle registration fees in order to provide even more relief for middle income taxpayers by further reducing their tax rate from 8 percent to 7.25 percent. "It was a huge disappointment that the governor was willing to give it up," Johnson said. He said he was also disappointed that because he didn't have as much of a bargaining position, relief for the middle and lower brackets was sacrificed by a compromise to the House position of cutting the rate of the upper bracket from 8.5 percent to 8 percent. The Senate had originally proposed to reduce the rates on the lower two brackets only. "The House insisted on what I thought was an excessive cut for those with six figure incomes instead of more relief for middle and lower income Minnesotans," he said. Those in the upper bracket

now will benefit from the reduction in all three brackets. Belanger said the cut in the upper bracket was "extremely important" to further address progressivity issues in the state's tax system where the proportion of income paid in tax increases as income increases. Johnson praised two of the governor's commissioners, Matt Smith from the Dept. of Revenue, and Pam Wheelock from the Dept. of Finance, for bringing a balance to the negotiations that resulted in more middle class tax relief.

Vickerman pointed to the final agreement reached on the state's medical services provider tax as an example of a compromise that temporarily deals with an issue that needs a long term solution. The House had proposed eliminating the tax altogether but because there was no alternative source of funding for the MnCare program a compromise was reached freezing the rate at 1.5 percent. The rate was scheduled to increase to 2 percent in 2000. Vickerman said that although he would like to see the elimination of the provider tax, alternative funding must first be found because MnCare is important to many Minnesotans to help meet their health care needs. The governor has since vetoed the \$84.9 million appropriation needed to compensate for freezing the rate.

Johnson said the Senate will seek further middle class relief by continuing to look at ways to reform the property tax system. "The political reality of the situation is that in order to pass, we have to make incremental changes to the system such as further compressing the rates," he said. Belanger said the provisions included in the 1999 relief moves the state forward in efforts to further reform the property tax system. "Nothing was cut that much but the perception goes out that the Legislature is staying the course," he said, "The goal is to come up with a system where every individual can calculate their own property taxes."

Despite the complexity of the issues involved, and disagreement coming from all sides, the final outcome was a tax relief package, the size of which taxpayers in the state have never seen before. It was a long and sometimes arduous process, but the end result is that nearly every Minnesotan will see some form of tax relief.



Tobacco settlement money invested in Minnesota's health future

by Matthew Wickman

In January of this year the state of Minnesota received its first installment of one time tobacco settlement payments that by 2003 will total \$1.3 billion.

As a result of the lawsuit against tobacco companies, which was settled in May 1998, the state received \$461 million this year, will collect \$242 million in both 2000 and 2001, \$243 million in 2002 and \$121 million in 2003. Also as part of the lawsuit, the tobacco companies must provide the state with yearly payments of \$204 million forever. This year, in what was one of the most debated topics of the session, the Legislature decided to set aside \$968 million of the one time

money for tobacco use prevention measures, adolescent health initiatives and medical education. The money will be placed into two separate endowment funds, of which five percent of the interest is to be available for those purposes. The rest of the one time money—\$402 million—was set aside for decisions to be made in future sessions.

"Most people think the endowments are a good idea," said Roger D. Moe (DFL-Erskine), Senate Majority Leader and author of the tobacco endowment proposal. "There were hundreds of other ideas on how to use the money, but I think taking the interest and focusing it, the public overwhelmingly said, was the way to go. It is a good indicator of where people are at."

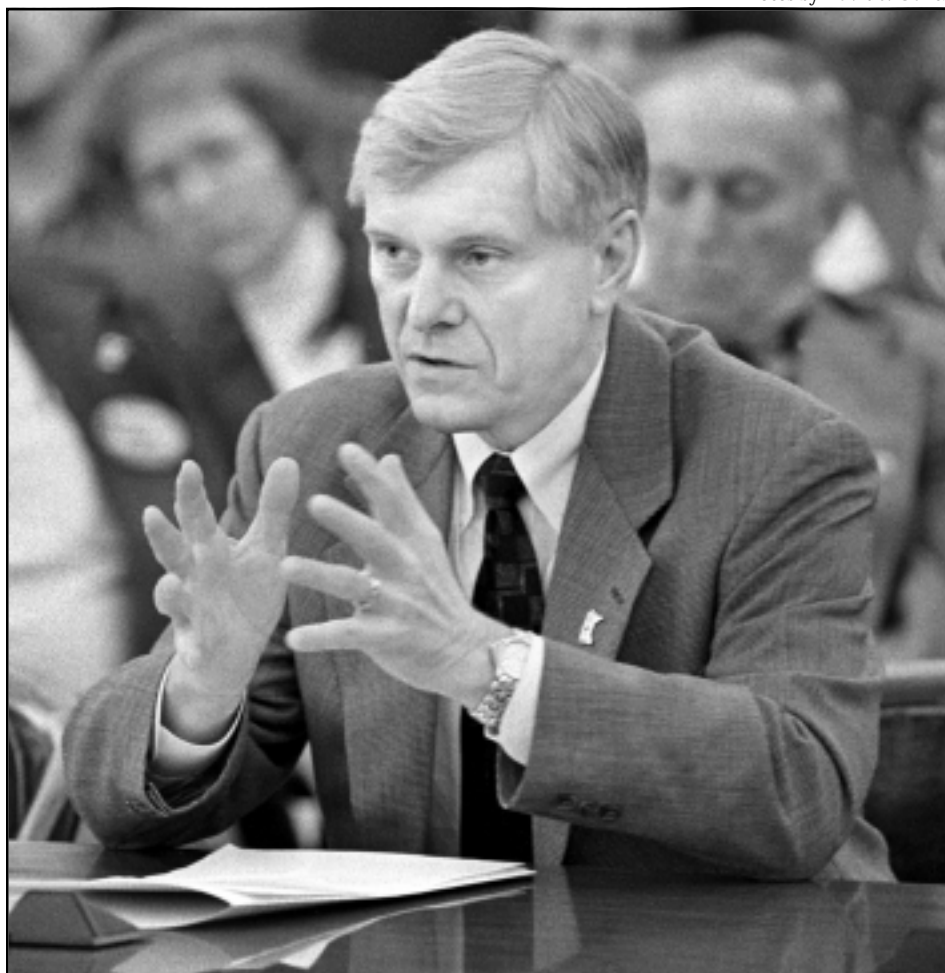
Moe's proposal, which was approved as part of S.F. 2225, the health and human services omnibus appropriations bill, allocates 61 percent of the \$968 million—or \$590 million—to the tobacco prevention and local public health endowment fund. Of that money, 67 percent—or \$395 million—is allocated for state wide tobacco use prevention efforts. The money is to be managed by the Minnesota Department of Health and the success of the anti-smoking initiatives are to be reported and evaluated annually. By 2003, the fund should yield approximately \$20 million for state wide tobacco prevention efforts. The remaining 33 percent—or \$195 million—is appropriated for local public health initiatives. This money—also administered by the

Department of Health—can be obtained through the competitive grant process by any of the 49 local public health boards located across the state. Up to 50 percent of the funds can be used specifically for tobacco use prevention efforts and the rest is to be used for other adolescent health risks in the community. By 2003, the fund should also make available approximately \$5 million in grants for local public health boards and \$5 million for local tobacco use prevention. The endowment is to sunset in 2015.

Moe's proposal also sets aside 39 percent—or \$377 million—to the medical education endowment. By 2003, the endowment is to yield grants of \$10.9 million to the medical education and research costs trust fund (MERC) and \$7.9 million to the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center. The funds are designed to help finance the costs of clinical training of medical health professionals, such as medical students and residents, dental students and residents, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants and pharmaceutical students and residents. Moe said the most important part of the endowment plan is the tobacco use prevention aspect. The stated goal of the tobacco prevention and local public health endowment is to reduce youth tobacco use by 30 percent by 2005.

"I think if this is done correctly—if it is successful—it will have one of the most long term impacts on the improvement of the quality of life in the state that I will have been a part of in my years here," said Moe.

According to Ryan Church, director of the Community Health Services Division with the Department of Health, the department developed a comprehensive tobacco use prevention policy last fall in anticipation of just such a youth tobacco use prevention initiative. In consultation with representatives from the Departments of Health and Children, Families and Learning, as well as managed care organizations, local public health boards and physicians, the department laid out a basic framework for a tobacco use prevention program. This includes rough estimates of funds needed to combat youth smoking, the development of outcome measures and surveys to provide baseline measures



Sen. Roger D. Moe

for performance indicators. The policy also includes, Church said, suggestions for counter advertising, economic disincentives to buying cigarettes, reducing a child's exposure to smoking and various school and community based initiatives.

Moe said ways to prevent adolescents from using tobacco will include a variety of measures.

"I see the department working together [with other organizations] because they must be creative. I see them using churches, I see them using schools, I see them using other things like 4H clubs. I think we'll see all kinds of creative ways targeted at kids when they are most susceptible," he said. "Will everything work? No. But we have to keep on trying until we find what does work and then sustain it."

Moe believes funding for tobacco use prevention must be kept at such a high level because of the damages caused by smoking to so many lives. According to a 1995 Department of Health study, 17 percent of all deaths in

Minnesota can be directly attributed to smoking. Also, according to recent studies, 40 percent of Minnesota twelfth graders use cigarettes, 22,000 children under 18 become new daily smokers every year and one-third to one-half of all children who experiment with smoking will become regular smokers. Also, 70 percent of adults who smoke every day started smoking by age 18.

"If you rank all the issues of public health, I think most people believe that keeping kids from smoking is of the highest priority," Moe said. "I would argue that we focused the majority of the money on prevention because it is the single highest priority."

Smoking also has a monetary cost to the state, he said. The Department of Health estimates that health care costs for smoking related diseases, including the costs of hospitals, physicians, nursing homes and medications, was more than \$513 million in 1995 alone. Also, lost income totaled \$766 million, yearly Medicaid payments



Sen. Roger D. Moe addresses children about the use of the tobacco settlement money. Moe sponsored legislation to invest part of the money in an endowment to fund tobacco use prevention programs focused on adolescents.

made by the state due to smoking was \$180 million and medical costs for health problems to babies due directly to exposure to smoke was estimated to be between \$25 and \$72 million.

"We know that smoking is one of the underlying causes of illness, a lot of death and a loss of productivity. It is one of the key drivers toward poor health outcomes that are totally preventable by stopping people from smoking," said Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester), a member of the health and human services appropriations bill conference committee. "The economic impact is in more productivity from healthy citizens and in avoiding costs by not spending money on illness. You can stop a lot of costs and suffering by preventing people from smoking."

Not every Senator, however, is convinced that providing such a significant increase in funding for tobacco use prevention will prevent youth from smoking. Although co-chair of the conference committee, Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd)

expressed a disbelief that the endowment will produce the desired results.

"I think all of this money we're spending on tobacco use prevention may just be lost down the drain. I am very skeptical that spending all that money will accomplish a whole lot," he said. "In the real world I don't know how anything will prevent kids from smoking. I just think that once kids are away from their parents, or whoever is in charge of them, they'll do what they want to do; I don't see anything that's been done so far that works."

As co-chair, Samuelson advocated the endowments, however, because he supported the medical education initiatives and because the funds only use a small percentage of the interest of the total endowment. By not spending the original principle and only a small percentage of the interest, he said, the endowments are a way to "protect the money for the future." He also did not want to use the settlement money for tax relief purposes, as some had suggested.

"The decision was made to use the money for endowments and I went along with it because the other side wanted to use it for tax relief," he said. "I didn't think that was the right way to go."

Although Moe announced his belief in endowments not long after the settlement was reached, the final tobacco settlement proposal is not written as he had originally intended. Moe's first proposal, S.F. 253, established three endowment funds—the medical research and endowment fund, the children's endowment fund and the tobacco use prevention endowment fund. The proposal used the entire \$1.3 billion, of which 50 percent was to be appropriated to the tobacco prevention endowment, 27 percent to the medical education and research endowment and 23 percent to the children's endowment. The goals of the measure were much the same as the final proposal, except that the tobacco use prevention endowment was to be managed by the non-profit group Minnesota Partnership

for Action Against Tobacco (MPAAT), instead of by the Department of Health.

During the session Moe also carried the governor's tobacco settlement proposal, S.F. 1269, which established the Minnesota Families Foundation and three endowment funds—the health education and medical research endowment, the public health endowment and the medical education and research costs (MERC) endowment—with the entire \$1.3 billion settlement. The proposal appropriated \$600 million to the Minnesota Families Foundation, \$350 million to the health education and medical research endowment, \$260 million to the public health endowment and \$100 million to the MERC endowment. The endowments were designed to support self-sufficiency, provide funds for local public health boards, support the Academic Health Center and support other teaching hospitals and clinics across the state. There was no money

specifically set aside for tobacco use prevention efforts.

Moe eventually combined the two proposals into one measure that passed the Senate and was discussed in conference committee as part of the omnibus bill. That proposal also used the entire \$1.3 billion, of which \$655 million was appropriated to a tobacco use prevention endowment to be administered by MPAAT. The proposal also appropriated \$277 million to a medical education and research endowment—of which 50 percent was to be used to fund the existing MERC trust fund, 25 percent to fund the Academic Health Center and 25 percent to fund research activities throughout the state. The measure also allocated \$315 million to the governor's Minnesota Families Foundation.

The two most controversial items, however—the large role of MPAAT and the inclusion of the Minnesota Families Foundation—were eventually eliminated

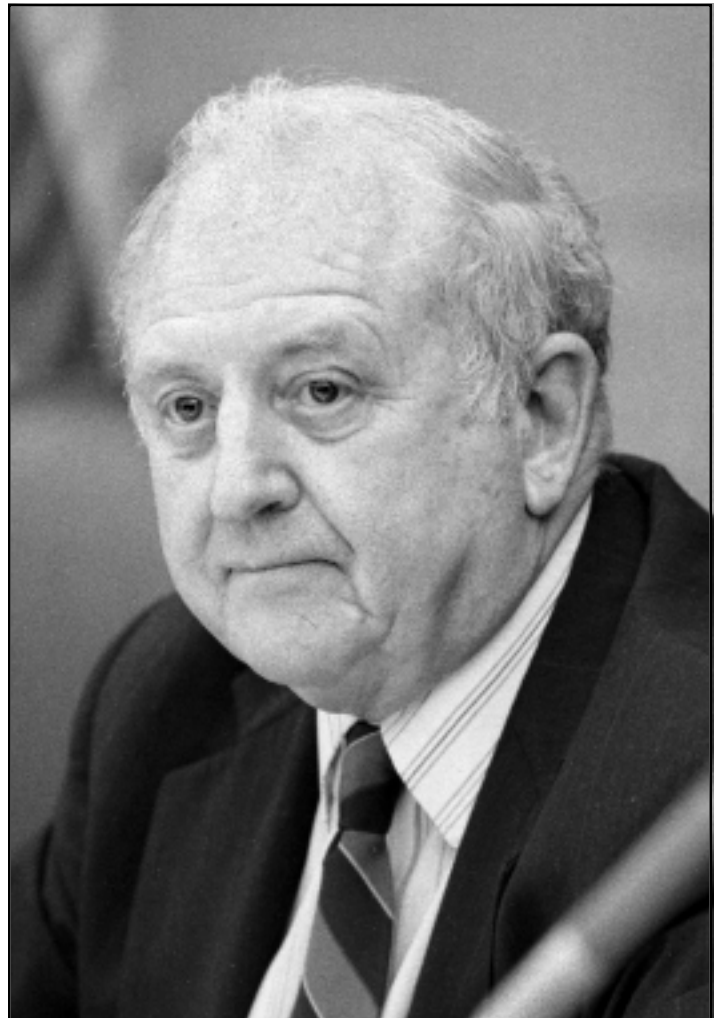
from the final conference committee proposal.

Created by the Ramsey County District Court as part of the tobacco settlement, MPAAT also received an endowment of \$202 million from the court—separate from Moe's proposal—to be used for 25 years to fund tobacco use prevention and research initiatives in the state. It is made up of a board of directors—eight of which are appointed by the governor, attorney general, Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader. The initial board also includes two Legislators, two county commissioners, a mayor and a former legislative auditor, and it is to be a mix of highly regarded experts drawn from different disciplines. Many Legislators however, were uneasy with such an organization managing an endowment of \$655 million.

"That just became too controversial; it had a lot to do with the appointments made by [former Attorney



Sen. Sheila Kiscaden



Sen. Don Samuelson

General] Humphrey," said Moe. "Unfortunately it became all wrapped up in politics and people were not necessarily looking at the potential results. The board members have a lot of expertise and are well informed people when it comes to anti-smoking efforts."

Kiscaden, however, believes that MPAAT is too much of a political body to be entrusted with such funds.

"MPAAT was seen as a political entity and not as a public health entity. It is outside of state government and I just have a strong feeling that these funds need to be accountable to the people of Minnesota," she said. "The appointments were made by the former Attorney General, so they were political appointments. There are some Legislators on the board and they are basically political appointees. There were also allegations of a conflict of interest."

Samuelson was also uneasy with the involvement of MPAAT. He believed that it was not proper for an entity outside of state government to manage state funds.

"I just think that it should be elected officials making decisions about public funds and not private foundations," he said.

Although the Department of Health was finally given control of the endowment, MPAAT will still be involved in anti-smoking measures. The language directs the commissioner of health to collaborate with MPAAT, along with other organizations, to reduce the rate of youth smoking in Minnesota, and officials with the department indicate they expect MPAAT to play a large role in approaching tobacco use prevention efforts. Moe also expects to consult with MPAAT on many of the tobacco use prevention measures.

"I can't imagine the department not using the expertise that is possessed on the MPAAT board," he said. "I think MPAAT will be active partners with the department."

Many Legislators were also uneasy with the inclusion of the Minnesota Families Foundation, which was designed to help low income individuals and families become self-sufficient. Many thought the proposal was too vague and was not specific enough regarding how the funds would be administered and directed.

"I was concerned all the way

through about the Families Foundation," said Kiscaden. "I didn't think it was defined in a way that was clear or in a way that was persuasive. Its mission wasn't clear and its goals were not clear. It was not compelling enough."

"We were able to keep it alive until the conference committee but there was no support for it from the House," said Moe. "To be honest, there wasn't a lot of support for it in the Senate either, so that idea—which had some merit—will have to wait." Moe indicated that the governor may hope to use at least a portion of the remaining \$402 million for the Families Foundation initiative.

Kiscaden also questioned why tobacco settlement dollars should be used for a program that wasn't health related.

"I felt all along that the tobacco funds should be used for health related purposes and it was a stretch to use them for the Families Foundation," she said.

Despite the differences from the original bill proposed in the Senate, Moe is pleased with the final result in the omnibus bill. The House included no tobacco settlement endowment provision in their bill, and had to be convinced that the measure was worthwhile.

"Is it written the way it started? No. But it does include many facets of the original bill, with the majority of the money going toward prevention efforts and a significant amount toward education. That's how it ended up," said Moe. "I'm pleased with the final product. I think it is one of the most significant things—if not the most significant thing—we did this session. Funding tobacco use prevention, in the long run, is the best decision."

There were, however, other areas that many wished had received funding through the settlement dollars. Samuelson said he would have liked to use some of the settlement money for underfunded items in the health and human services budget such as senior drugs and drugs for the disabled. Others suggested funding items such as youth sports, the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA), an early childhood trust fund, a women's health initiative and emerging health needs, among many others. Kiscaden was disappointed that funding for medical research in the state was not included.

"I wish we could have done something in the medical research area," she said, "We have a great health care industry and medical device industry, and if we invest in research it is an investment in our future. We didn't fund the research and that is a regret."

Kiscaden also had hoped more of an emphasis would be placed on overall adolescence health issues and not just tobacco.

"Adolescence is a time that is ignored in the health arena, but it is a time when bad health habits are developed," she said. "It is a critical time to focus on preventing all those bad habits that begin in adolescence."

She said youth tobacco use must not be treated in isolation from other health risks, but as one of many adolescent health risks. She added more balance could have been achieved by allowing other youth health issues to be funded.

"My concern is, are we getting the most benefit for the money by focusing just on youth smoking instead of on a broader range of adolescent health issues? I had hoped to have a broader plan that included smoking," she said. "I would have liked a better balance, and I think we could have brought more of a balance by increasing the funding for a broader program that may have yielded more results."

Despite her concerns, Kiscaden said she is pleased with the final proposal in the omnibus bill.

"I'm fairly satisfied. Overall, I would have preferred to use the prevention dollars in a broader scope looking at all youth behavioral risks instead of just tobacco use, but I ended up quite satisfied. These are the right priorities," she said. "This takes a solid step forward for Minnesota health. It focuses on outcomes and performance."

The performance and outcomes Moe hopes to achieve through the endowments are lofty.

"I hope it has the result of improving the overall public health status of the state. Certainly if it significantly brings down the [smoking] rates of kids it will have a long term impact with lower health care costs and greater productivity of the work force," he said.

"I think if the public health status of the state is bettered, then the goal [of the endowments] will be accomplished," Moe said.

In accordance with the State Board of Education Rules relating to Graduation Standards (3501.0010-3501.0015), students who were in ninth grade during the 1996-97 school year must meet Basic Standards in order to be eligible for a diploma. This report contains the Graduation Requirements.



**MINNESOTA BASIC STANDARDS TESTS
STUDENT REPORT**

Performance Comparison

STRAND	LOW	MID	HIGH
Math - Strand A	0-6	7-10	10-11
Math - Strand B	0-3	4-5	6-8
Math - Strand C	0-3	4-5	6-7
Math - Strand D	0-4	5-6	7-8
Math - Strand E	0-5	6-7	8-9
Reading - Lit. Comp.	0-22	23-28	29-33
Reading - Inf. Comp.	0-3	4-5	6-7

The Profile of Learning...

understanding the controversy

by Susan Weisbrod

Depending on who you ask, the Profile of Learning is either the most effective way to establish statewide education standards, or it is something viewed as potentially harmful to children. If you are a parent in the state of Minnesota, you probably know something about the graduation rule, known as the Profile of Learning. The Profile of Learning defines what students should know and be able to do to graduate from any public school in the state, with students in home schools, Catholic schools and non-public schools being exempt from the requirement. Although that sounds simple and straightforward, the graduation rule, in its first full year of implementation, is the source of much discussion, misunderstanding and controversy. During

the 1999 Legislative Session, the Senate attempted to address concerns raised in a report issued by the Graduation Standards Advisory Panel. The efforts of the Senate to incorporate the recommendations of the panel into law were stymied when conferees from the House of Representatives refused to consider the proposal for change.

The Profile of Learning had its genesis in the 1980s, when business leaders, parents and others demanded assurance that graduates had learned the skills necessary for employment or to be successful in college. In 1990, the State Board of Education established a graduation standards committee and, in 1991, a series of public meetings were held to respond to the first draft of the graduation rules. Pilot sites were selected in 1994 and 1995 to try out the new system and help develop

materials for use in the implementation of the standards.

The graduation requirements in the Profile of Learning are fairly simple to understand. The graduation standards are divided into two tiers: the first tier requires basic skills competency in reading, mathematics and written composition; the second tier consists of the Profile of Learning, the purpose of which is to integrate higher academic standards, higher order thinking skills and application of knowledge from a variety of content areas. The graduation rule, as it exists in statute today, specifies that students work on 24 high standards, of which nine are required. An additional number of content standards are completed by the students to fulfill the 24 required for a diploma. There are 48 content standards which fall into the 10 learning areas of read,

view and listen; write and speak; literature and the arts; math applications; inquiry; scientific applications; people and cultures; decision making; resource management and world languages.

Before the implementation of the profile, Minnesota, like many other states, required that diplomas be awarded based on Carnegie units, or credits. The students earned credits in required and elective courses. According to the statement of need and reasonableness relating to the graduation rule, prepared by the Minnesota State Board of Education, post-secondary institutions, employers and parents could not tell from transcripts of credits what content had actually been mastered by students because course content varied significantly from school to school. Even the students often didn't know how their performance compared with that of students in other districts, other buildings or other classrooms.

The final version of the graduation rule was adopted by the State Board of Education in May, 1998, and the Legislature offered districts an incentive to implement the Profile of Learning the following year. The monetary incentive, which turned out to be \$14 per pupil, was accepted by all 351 school districts in the state. With implementation, however, came confusion and frustration. Recent poll results show that teachers feel unprepared to teach the graduation standards. As more teachers identified problems with implementing the standards, a need clearly arose to identify and address the concerns.

In 1998, the Legislature charged the Dept. of Children, Families and Learning with creating an advisory panel on the implementation of the graduation standards. The panel, consisting of members of education organizations, business, parents and others met four times to review back-

ground materials and hear presentations from interested parties and issue a report to the governor. It was clear from the findings and recommendations in the report that implementation of the graduation rule was not without problems. The panel identified five primary areas of concern surrounding the implementation of the graduation rule: the amount of required paperwork, the number of required standards and the number of learning areas, the focus of the graduation rule (processes versus results), scoring consistency and clarity and rigor of the rule. While the panel firmly supported continued implementation of the graduation rule, recommendations were made to strengthen and focus the rule and improve public understanding.

The Senate Children, Families and Learning Subcommittee on High Standards Implementation was created by the Legislature in 1998. The report issued by the Graduation Standards Advisory Panel was presented at the first meeting of the subcommittee. The subcommittee also listened to testimony from representatives of education groups, teachers, school administrators, parents and students. The testimony brought to light some of problems with the profile, but it also reinforced what is working and the positive aspects.

The subcommittee met several times throughout the Legislative session and listened to hours of testimony from interested persons. Among the groups offering opinions at the subcommittee meetings, some came with results of polls conducted of school administrators and teachers. The polls indicated their concerns about the implementation of the rule, but in almost all of the polls, the numbers supported keeping the Profile of Learning in place, while making recommended modifications. With that in mind, the subcommittee identified the most problematic areas of implementing the profile and began crafting legislation to address the concerns.

Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.) chair of the K-12 Education Budget Division and chair of the Children, Families and Learning Subcommittee on High Standards Implementation, said that the Profile of Learning is about statewide high standards – embedding the high standards into curriculum designed on



Sen. Lawrence J. Pogemiller

the local level. He said change is always hard, but the implementation of the high standards is a continual process. "Anytime you're undergoing a system change of this magnitude – involving 55,000 teachers, 350 school districts and over 800,000 students – it's going to take some time," said Pogemiller.

Some of the problems that were voiced to the subcommittee relate to the profile itself and some of the concerns relate to implementation issues. Education groups such as Education Minnesota, the Minnesota School Boards Association and the Minnesota Rural Education Association testified regarding implementation concerns. Some of the issues mentioned were the excessive amount of record keeping required by teachers, a need for more staff development, implementation timing issues, local control issues, the high number of required content standards, the limited assessment tools and the scoring rubric. The subcommittee heard some groups issue an ultimatum: fix it or scrap it.

Pogemiller said that as the subcommittee heard testimony, it became clear that the Legislature could help the executive branch significantly by passing legislation to address the concerns with the profile. In conjunction with the Ventura administration, the subcommittee developed legislation that renames some of the learning areas, creates a little more flexibility on implementation timing, reduces paperwork by putting into statute what information has to be gathered and, finally, provides additional resources for professional development.

The Senate proposal, S.F. 868, authored by Pogemiller, attempts to address the major concerns brought forward to the subcommittee. In addition, the bill restates and clarifies some of the language already in statute. Sen. Martha Robertson (R-Minnetonka), a member of the subcommittee and a S.F. 868 conferee, said that some of the changes in the Senate proposal are relatively minor, but very important to include. "Somehow, we still need to say that state model performance packages are not mandated, even though the language is already stated in the statute," said Robertson.

In addition, the Senate bill pro-



Sen. Martha Robertson

vides for the establishment of a panel of academic experts to evaluate the rigor of the content standards and requires the level of difficulty in the reading and math basic skills test to be upgraded over time. The Senate proposal also makes the third and fifth grade test results available for diagnostic and accountability purposes.

It should be noted that although the bill was passed on the Senate floor with a bipartisan vote, the changes made to the profile in S.F. 868 do not represent the views of all Senators. Several members of the Senate supported the proposal offered by the House of Representatives, which eliminates the Profile of Learning entirely, rather than making changes to it. The House proposal allows standards to be established on a local level instead of a statewide level.

Pogemiller said that it makes no sense for every school community to have its own standards. "I think what is unclear to a lot of people is that you can have statewide high standards and still have incredible local flexibility in how to implement and embed the standards in the district curriculum," he said. He said that the fears people

have and the stress that the teachers are feeling are real and should not be taken lightly. "But the fears are unfounded. This is not a loss of local control, nor is it some kind of conspiracy from the federal government. To the extent that people are fearful of that, they should be confident that that is not what's happening here. Local school districts have a tremendous amount of control, and when standards are in place, local control over curriculum will increase – allowing an explosion of creativity and self-design both by the teachers and the students," said Pogemiller.

Another solution proposed in the Senate bill is to allow individual school districts to seek a waiver on the required number of content standards for graduation if there is a majority vote of teachers and school board members. The idea was received less than enthusiastically by some education groups. Pogemiller said he was disappointed the idea wasn't received well. He said it's a good idea because it empowers the teaching community. He said the way the Senate bill was structured, the standards had to be embedded in the curriculum and had to be available for students, but it would be left up to the

teachers to decide how many of those standards they felt were necessary for graduation. Very few teachers don't want high standards, Pogemiller said. "I think that the majority of teachers who want standards would have drowned out the voices of the few who don't," he said. Pogemiller went on to say that the shared decision making model that is being used in school communities is the correct one. "People would have been pleasantly surprised at the number of teachers who would have said, 'Yes, I want standards – as long as I can use my own curriculum,' " he said.

During the conference committee hearings, the two bodies had trouble agreeing on the definition of some of the basic concepts in the Profile of Learning. Getting everyone who is involved with the profile to talk the same language is fundamental. Robertson said, "A common language is needed – a dictionary of terms – so that everyone knows what is meant by a learning area, content standards, performance packages, assessment tools and scoring criteria." She said not talking the same language is part of what the dilemma is for people and where part of the angst comes from. "We are talking about the breadth of knowledge our children have, but also the depth, when we talk about standards. And who sets those? If we could get agreement on the fact that the state sets the standards and allows the local districts the flexibility to determine how to achieve the standards, and that there are options for assessing the student achievement, it would be a step in the right direction," said Robertson. She said that's what the Profile of Learning is all about, but unfortunately it has gotten bogged down in bureaucratic language that was never the intent of the language in the statute.

When asked if the implementation should have been handled differently, Pogemiller said he thinks the implementation was done correctly. The Profile of Learning was worked on for over a decade and involved over 20,000 teachers in developing the standards, he said. Pogemiller said it was time to move forward with the profile and, despite the concerns expressed by some teachers and education groups, many districts are having great success with it. "There is a critical mass of communities out there

that are doing very well and will continue to do even better as more time is spent on it. A growing number of teachers are becoming comfortable developing their own learning packages and formulating their own curriculum around standards," said Pogemiller.

According to Robertson, some of the problems with the implementation last Fall were a result of misunderstanding of what the profile is and also the fact that there were some gubernatorial candidates who did not support the profile. "Some of the credit for the progress that was made on implementing statewide standards must go to Gov. Arne Carlson, who clearly displayed leadership on the issue," said Robertson.

Robertson said what happens with the profile during the next legislative session depends largely on how much can be done by executive order and how much will still require modifications. In the interim, Pogemiller said things will happen with regard to the profile. He said an effort will be made to clear up some of the misunderstandings. "The commissioner and Gov. Ventura have been strong voices for standards. With their efforts, and the understanding of how schools have successfully implemented standards becoming more widespread, schools will be in a better position at the opening of the next school year than they were at the beginning of the last school year, with implementing the profile," said Pogemiller. He said there will always be that 9 or 10 percent of people who try to agitate things and who clearly do not want high standards.

"A lot of focus is given to the challenges and the difficulties of implementation," said Pogemiller, "I think we should talk about how well some things are going. I don't think we ever should have expected the road to be free of bumps." He said that things will get smoother and more workable with the progression of implementation. Pogemiller added, "If the package proposed in the Senate offer had been passed, implementation of the profile would have been eased significantly by next school year and things would have been going very smoothly. With the reluctance of the other body to pass a bill this year, however, we've made implementation a little more difficult and have not put in the type of re-

sources that would have been helpful for professional development. I think we're going to get there, but it would have been less stress on our school communities and teachers if we would have passed a bill."

"The Profile of Learning will prepare our students for the future, for the 21st century, for the ability to have core knowledge and basic knowledge and better know how to apply the knowledge," said Robertson. The profile is merely the establishment of statewide standards, she said. "We want a child that graduates in a school in Minnesota to be able to do certain things. The state sets the bar and the local districts determine how to get there," she said. The profile takes learning to a higher plane by being able to analyze and synthesize knowledge into an individual environment.

While the effort to make statutory changes to the profile failed this session, the commissioner of the Dept. of Children, Families and Learning, Christine Jax, has pledged to address the concerns by making changes via the rule making authority that exists in the department.

The Profile of Learning is in statute and is being implemented. It is very likely that modifications will be made and the concerns of education groups will be addressed. The changes may come through the rule making authority of the department of Children, Families and Learning, or the changes may be made during the next Legislative session. In order to prepare for the implementation of the profile, the existing Carnegie unit requirement for graduation was repealed. If the Profile of Learning is eliminated, there is no graduation requirement in statute to default to -- something must be developed to establish graduation requirements.

Clearly, having an educational program that teaches both core knowledge and application of that knowledge and sets a high standard for children throughout the state is a mark of excellence in an educational system. And since, as the polls have shown, few people want the program to be eliminated, the best course of action is to address the problems and make the Profile of Learning a product of which teachers, parents, children and all Minnesotans can be proud.



A vocational student receives instruction at the St. Paul Technical College.

The changing tide of higher education

by Jan Willms

Education, by its very nature, is a process. Today, more than ever, the changing trends in education require a shift of priorities and a different look at the direction the state of Minnesota and its institutions of higher learning are taking.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Thief River Falls), chair of the Higher Education Budget Division since 1991, paused to reflect on some of the educational issues that have been a part of the Legislative process. "In 1991, we passed the merger," he said. "We had a major overhaul of our three higher education systems, which had all been separate. The merger totally dominated 1991."

Stumpf said since the Senate supported the merger, and the House did not, it ended up being phased in

during the years 1992 through 1995. He said that in 1993, the Senate took off on another new initiative, wiring up the state on telecommunications technology. Stumpf added that expansion of that same technology initiative was part of an ongoing process during the next few sessions. He said the past few years the Legislature has been trying to instill performance-based education and standards for outcome-based funding, a process he admitted has not worked very well.

"I would say this session was dominated by one predominant issue," Stumpf said, "figuring out how we maintain our economy by upgrading and retraining our work force. We have to look at the whole issue of training, retraining and delivering education differently because of the need of businesses to have trained personnel."

The need for trained personnel is

echoed by Sen. Cal Larson (R-Fergus Falls), a Legislator who has spent many years serving on the higher education division. "As I talk to the entrepreneurs in my district, they are crying for qualified workers," Larson said. He emphasized that public and private partnership needs to be more in play.

"People in higher education have to tune in to the fact that our job is to prepare these young people," Larson said. "The only thing holding us back is lack of job skills."

Larson stressed the need for institutions of higher learning to be pro-active partners in providing students who are equipped to handle the jobs that are waiting. Sen. Deanna Wiener (DFL-Eagan) expressed her satisfaction that customized training is already in place. She said that students always have been, and will continue to be, the customers of higher education,



Sen. LeRoy Stumpf

but she also understands the importance of looking at employers as customers and having a trained work force ready to meet their needs. Wiener emphasized the competitive nature of higher education. "If we can't deliver, someone is ready to step in," she said. She stressed that as policy makers, Legislators have an obligation to meet the needs of employers through the flexibility and tools being administered to institutions of higher learning.

Wiener said that Dakota County Technology College has a dean of customized training. She cited examples of partnerships between the higher education and business communities, such as a business that requires training for its employees to use a new piece of equipment. Wiener said the company and the learning institution can work together on a program. "The company may do its own staff training, but if it wants to use the background and experience of our Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, we want that to happen," she said.

Wiener cited the different scenarios of ongoing education. She said people today change jobs quickly and require new training. "Even if someone stays in the same job, I don't know of many careers where one doesn't have to have some continued training and updates," she said. She said statistics claim 20 percent of work time in the



Sen. Deanna Wiener

new millennium will involve learning new skills. "If one-fifth of a person's job is spent switching careers or learning new skills, we need to think of how we're going to meet those demands," she said. Wiener also commented on early retirement by many professionals who then may want to start another career, and how higher education can play a role in providing training for that new career.

Stumpf said this session's higher education bill provides for a total of \$29 million in customized training, with almost all of it directed toward technical colleges. He said that the Senate attempted to clarify this year that a student attending technical college does not automatically have to take general education classes from a community college. "The student can get some of that general education right from the technical college," he said. He added that if a student pursues an advanced degree, he or she can test out on some of the required classes.

Larson reiterated that an emphasis should be placed on jobs in the technical area. He said that by 2010, 75 to 80 percent of jobs will not require a bachelor's degree. As an example, he described a printing shop operated by his son-in-law. "He has half a dozen employees with degrees in liberal arts who couldn't find a job," he noted. He said the printing company employees can earn good wages with good fringe benefits.

"As parents, we all like to see our

son or daughter attain a four-year degree," Larson said, but in citing statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, he pointed out that a traditional college education does not necessarily mean higher wages.

Sen. Gen Olson (R-Minnetrista), who sits on the K-12 Education Budget Division, said that the trend to push for more academic courses in addition to technical or vocational ones has been in many cases a deterrent to people to obtain the education they truly need to fill the jobs and positions for which there is a great demand. She said there has also been a change in requirements for technical college instructors, requiring a B.A. degree where once the qualifications needed were experience and expertise in a particular field.

A growing population of students seeking higher learning is the lower-income or minority population. According to Stumpf, this is the fastest-growing population segment in the state, and the most under-served.

"These students have not continued with post-secondary education mostly because they cannot afford it, and also because they do not have a tradition of parents who have gone on to higher learning institutions," he said. "We need to make a special effort to bring these people in and allow them to have an opportunity to go to school just like anyone else."

Olson said she believes the challenge to provide opportunities for low income and minority students has to

begin in the K-12 system. She said that labels are sometimes adopted for children in this population division, and lower expectations are set for them. "They have not always received the challenge of being able to achieve what they are capable of achieving, and that is going to hamper them all the way through their higher education," she stated. She said that a joint Senate subcommittee containing members from both higher education and K-12 divisions is trying to prepare more teachers for working in urban settings and representing minority groups.

Larson seeks more cooperation between the lower and higher age levels of education. "It's kind of frustrating," he said, "because we have not had the partnership between higher education and K-12 that we should have." He said he wants to see the college level courses prepare K-12 teachers for what they are doing in the classroom. "The K-12 teachers are under a whole lot of pressure," he said. "They have to spend a lot of time with social work issues, as well as academic ones."

Larson said that better guidance for youngsters must be provided in the K-12 system. He cited the problems of 11th and 12th graders being bored, not knowing where to go and getting into trouble. "There is one counselor in Minnesota for every 600 students," he said. Larson also sees a problem in the low salaries teachers are paid. "You can't pay the good teachers enough money," he said, commenting at the loss of a number of skilled people in the teaching profession.

The Senate's goal in the 1999 higher education bill is to provide assistance for students, according to Stumpf. "Many of the students are part-time, older, working full-time and going to school so they can obtain a better-paying job," he said. Larson added that the average age of the community college student is around 30. The profile of a typical student is one who is going back to school and picking up new skills. He said the higher education budget division wants to provide more financial aid to the students, rather than to the institution. "This is in the opposite track of the House's philosophy," Larson said. He said lower tuition is really welfare for the rich. "I believe in higher tuition and more financial assistance for the student," he declared.

"Why should someone with an income of \$500,000 a year, who sends a student to the University of Minnesota, have 60 percent of the tuition picked up by the state?"

In line with providing assistance directly to the students, Wiener authored legislation that would provide child care payments to students who receive benefits from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). Under current law, MFIP recipients receive child care benefits for time spent at a job, but do not receive any child care payments for time spent at an institution of higher learning. However,

the legislation was not supported by the conference committee.

Instead, the higher education bill gives authority to the commissioners of the Department of Children, Families and Learning and the Department of Human Services to review child care program requirements for MFIP participants. The study is to determine how to better serve those participants who are approved for a work plan, but are attending school part-time without child care eligibility. "We don't want anyone denied opportunities," Wiener said. "Our ultimate goal is to get people in the workforce. If we have a glitch in



Sen. Gen Olson

Photo by Andrea Murrill

child care laws that won't allow MFIP recipients to attend school on their own, something's wrong."

Stumpf said Senators found that if they passed legislation providing for child care assistance, that amount would be deducted from the MFIP recipient's grant. "We changed the language and found the recipients are then ineligible for something else," he said. Stumpf said the child care provision is not so much a problem on the higher education side as it is on the MFIP side. "I think part of the study will be to try to encourage MFIP to change its regulations a little bit to allow us to help some of these people with child care," Stumpf added.

Wiener said another part of the bill

she helped author is the provision for MnLINK, a form of technology that provides statewide Internet access to newspapers, periodicals and magazines in local libraries. "With one subscription, there is an opportunity for anyone who has a library card to access all these periodicals," Wiener said.

Included in the higher education bill and the health and human services bill is the Health Care Workers Incentive, legislation worked on by Senators Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester) and Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.). "In general, all over the country, we have tens of thousands of workers who are employed by nursing homes, group homes or other health care facilities, receiving relatively low salaries," Stumpf said. "The

people in charge say these jobs are a revolving door, with staff staying a short time until finding a better-paying job."

He said Legislators had tried to put more money into the budget to raise salaries, but raises only amounted to about 25 cents per hour. Stumpf said he, Berglin and Kiscaden put a program together with agreement from the employers to target some financial assistance in the form of banking credit. He said the employer pays a match with the state of Minnesota and sets aside money, up to \$4,000 per year, for the employees to go to school.

Stumpf said that rather than working in a \$6 an hour job that goes nowhere, employees might be able to go to school part-time and qualify for a higher-paying position. "The whole concept is trying to encourage employers, along with the state and the employee, to look at education as a way to benefit livelihood," Stumpf said. Stumpf likened the program to being a GI bill for health care workers.

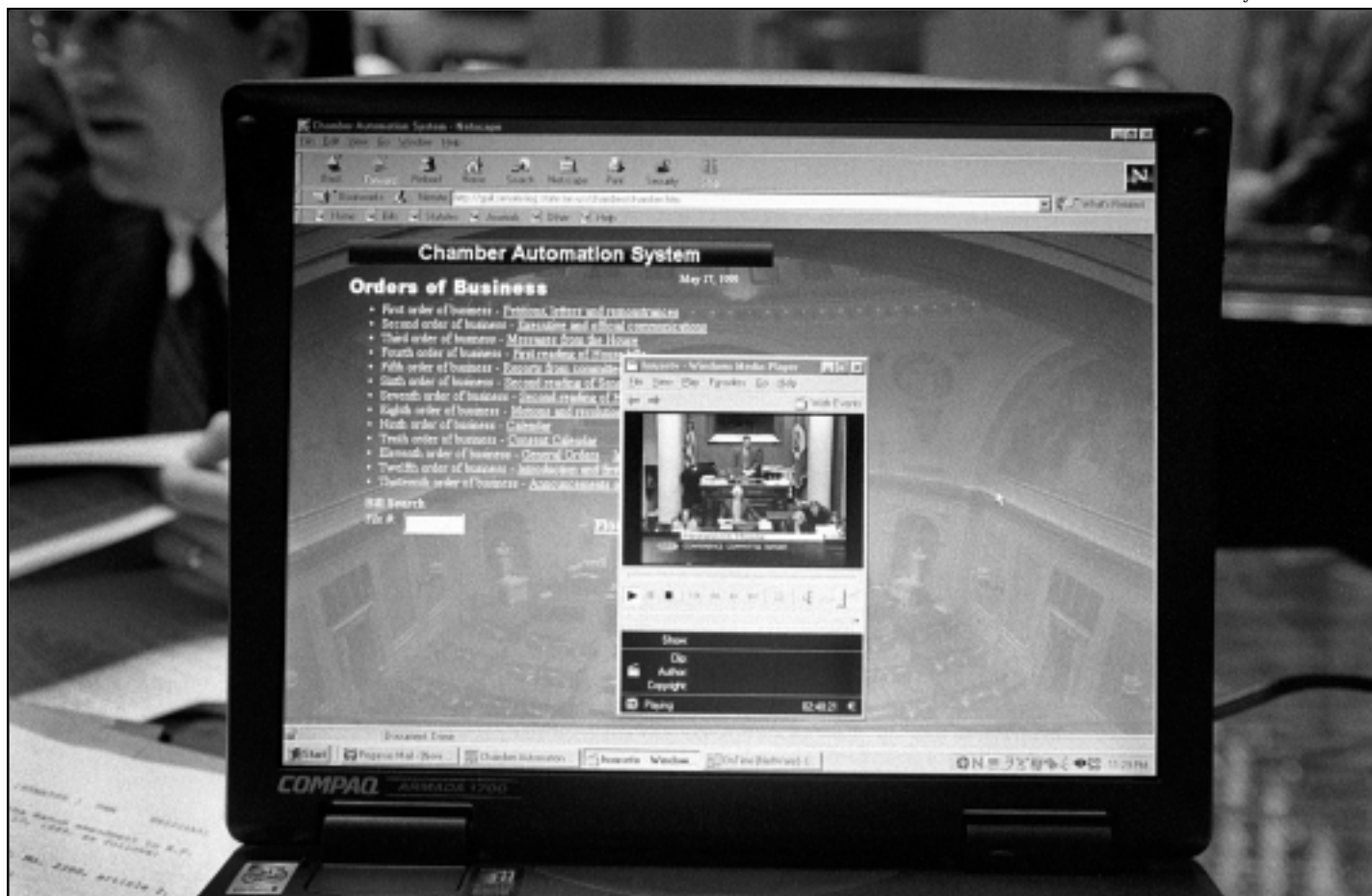
Stumpf summed up the higher education bill as being very positive in terms of the programs it funds. "The bill sets out a couple new directions in terms of addressing our work force training and retraining, our health care workers and financial aid for those who are in need," he said.

Larson said he believes higher education institutions in the state should be happy with the bill. "We increased funding for the University of Minnesota 11.6 percent from the base," he said. "MnSCU received an increase of 13.7 percent and the Higher Education Services Office (HESO) got a 10 percent increase." Larson compared the increase in funding to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which was 2.2 in 1997, 1.3 in 1998 and is projected to be 1.3 in 1999. "We haven't had double digit inflation since 1979-80, when it was 10 to 12 percent," he said. "When you think of our increase in funding compared to the CPI, it's pretty tremendous."

Wiener said education has changed, and that change is reflected in this session's bill. "Instead of looking at education as a line, now it's a circle," she said. "I think we'll see students of all ages working together, and I think that's an exciting opportunity for all of us."



Sen. Cal Larson



The homepage of the Chamber Automation system. From this page Senators can retrieve electronic legislative documents and read the text of bills. In this picture, the system was used to monitor the proceedings of the House of Representatives during the last night of the legislative session.

Senate uses information technology for new Chamber Automation system

by Ron Hebensperger

In many ways, the 1999 Legislative session was just like any other session. Senators introduced bills, the bills received committee consideration, and upon returning to the floor, the bills were debated and voted on. However, 1999 was different in that most Senators had instant access to much more information about the bills, including the text of the bills themselves, even though far fewer pieces of paper were handed out.

For the first time, most Senators viewed electronic copies of bills and amendments, rather than the traditional paper or "hard" copies of those docu-

ments, while meeting in floor sessions. That possibility was brought about by the installation of the new Chamber Automation system. With the new system, Senators now use laptop computers on their desks in the Senate Chamber to read and consider legislation rather than the large binders of bills and journals and the assortment of other documents that are passed out during each floor session.

The purpose of installing the system is to better support Senators in their policy making role and to give them access to more information on a more timely basis, according to Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate and chief administrative officer. "The

Senators have a better, faster means of accessing additional information while they're on the floor rather than relying on paper documents," Flahaven said.

Sen. Leonard Price (DFL-Woodbury) agrees. Price said that toward the end of session when many conference committee reports came back to the Senate, "By the time you pulled up the binder full of bills, found the page, and then realized that you have to go to the Journal page, and grabbed the Journal, found the right page, and opened it up, typically the discussion was over on a rather small bill. With the automation system, it's at your finger tips and it really is nice."

Price chairs the Rules and Adminis-

tration Subcommittee on Senate Information Systems. After examining similar systems used in Nebraska and Texas in the previous biennium, the subcommittee decided to go ahead with the automation project in December of 1997. During the 1998 session, fourteen Senators participated in a pilot project that tested the system. In 1999, the system was made available to every Senator who wished to use it. Some

Senators used the system for every floor session, while others only used it toward the end of session. Only about a half dozen of the 67 Senate members chose not to use the system at all.

"I like the system a lot," said Sen. Sheila Kiscaden (R-Rochester), also a member of the Senate Information Systems Subcommittee. She said the system reduced the clutter of paper on her desk and allowed her to focus on

the debate. Kiscaden said that under the old system, Senators would get inundated with so much paper, and so many records and so many places to retrieve information, "yet we never had all the information that we needed available to us. With the automated system, we modernized."

To access the system, Senators bring their laptop computers into the Senate Chamber and log in to the system, explained Charlie Fastner, the computer network engineer for the Senate. After logging in, the Chamber Automation system is the first application to load in the machine and it displays the Orders of Business for that day's session, he said. By clicking on any of the links, a Senator can instantly view the information in a document that in previous years was only available on paper, or not at all. Fastner said that the Senate staff tried to make the electronic system look as much like the paper system as possible. That included making the background color of pages in the electronic system identical to the color of their paper counterparts. That way the Senators would see documents and information that looked familiar to them. "We really made an attempt to re-create the paper system electronically," Fastner said.

To follow the discussion on a bill, Fastner explained, Senators merely type the number of a bill into their computers. When that is done, the system displays all the information available on the bill such as the current text of the bill, previous versions of the bill, its status, the unofficial engrossment (a House File amended by a Senate committee) if there is one, the conference committee report if there is one, bill summaries and spreadsheets for the omnibus budget bills, he said.

There is also a link to floor amendments offered on a bill during a particular day's floor session. Fastner said that if a Senator clicks on the link to a particular amendment, they are connected to a split screen that displays the amendment on the top half, and the bill it amends on the bottom. And just like the paper system, amendments are not electronically available to Senators until they are offered. At that moment, Fastner said, the amendment is released to all Senators through the laptop computers.

Fastner said that the Chamber



Sen. Leonard Price



Access to more information that is timely is one objective of the Chamber Automation system. Information available on the system sparks a discussion between Sens. Dean E. Johnson, Claire Robling, Mark Ourada and Arlene Lesewski (l to r).

Automation system really is nothing more than a few specialized world wide web pages, but they are set up so that only the members of the Senate can access them.

In addition to saving time, electronic distribution of legislative documents also saves money from reduced printing and paper costs. Price said that because the 650 page conference committee report on the 1999 health and human services omnibus appropriations bill wasn't printed, it saved the Senate about \$2,000.

Another feature of the new information system highlighted by Kiscaden, is its accessibility from remote locations. Kiscaden said that from her home in Rochester she can check her e-mail messages and communicate with her staff in St. Paul. If she thinks of an amendment, Kiscaden said she can send an e-mail message to staff with her thoughts or the language of the amendment to be drafted. She said that e-mail is easier than trying to contact a particular staff person on the phone

because that person may be busy assisting other Senators. "This way the message is there waiting for them. The system has made me more efficient. I like that convenience tremendously," Kiscaden said.

One benefit of the system seen by Sen. Steve Kelley (DFL-Hopkins) is that it gives Senators familiarity with the Internet. Kelley chairs the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Information Technology. He said it's important to have some familiarity with the Internet because Senators will be deciding issues of policy about the Internet and information technology.

Besides giving Senators greater access to information originating in the Legislature, they also have Internet access to the World Wide Web. Kelley said that when he was a member of the House of Representatives (which installed a similar system prior to the Senate), he had a bill and thought of some items that might be useful in the debate on the bill. While members debated other bills, he used his Internet



Sen. Sheila Kiscaden



Sen. Steve Kelley

access to track down some quotes and do research on his bill.

Kiscaden finds the Chamber Automation system similarly helpful. "You're not hampered by being physically in one place and the information you need is back in the office or in someone else's office. It's retrievable for you right away," she said. "I think that's very healthy for the consideration of all the issues when we are having our discussions on different bills," Kiscaden added.

With faster access to more information, Senators can do a better job of making decisions on the issues before them. However, Senators are aware that greater accessibility works both ways and have mixed thoughts about it. With an e-mail connection to the Internet, Senators can receive messages about legislation. Kelley said it is possible that someone could send an e-mail message to a Senator in the Chamber about a bill as it is being debated at that moment. He said that

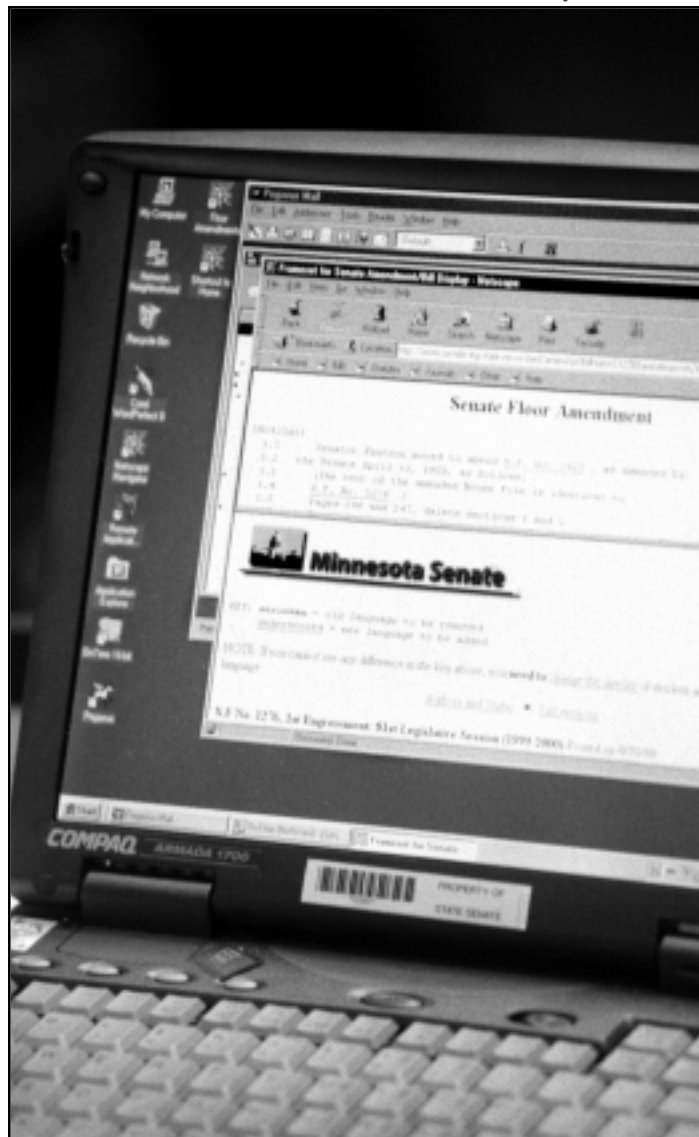
lobbyists, folks who can afford to spend time at the Capitol, can send notes into the Chamber on a point of clarification during a debate. The advantage of the e-mail connection, Kelley said, "is that it puts the average citizen who might be observing at home on a par with the lobbyists. So it has the potential to empower citizens," Kelley said.

However, Price said that while it's not bad for citizens to have instant input, he asked, what about an interest group that could flood Senators with e-mail while they are in the Chamber? Such an operation has been dubbed a "virtual lobbyist." Price said that some members of the Senate think that there has been ample opportunity for input during committee hearings and that once a bill reaches the Senate floor, "it's time for deliberations among Senators." He said that's his view on the matter as well.

Kiscaden agrees with Price. She said that the Senate has rules that do not allow lobbyists on the floor in order to set up an environment where Senators are focused on the debate, and not distracted or subject to undue influence by others. Kiscaden said the subcommittee was concerned that, with the Internet connection, the Chamber Automation system has in effect let the world into the Senate Chamber.

Concern about electronic lobbying is the reason floor amendments are not immediately available to the public on the Senate web site. Fastner said that the Subcommittee on Information Systems decided that since hard copies of amendments are not immediately available to the public, electronic versions shouldn't either. However, he said, that could change by next year. He explained that on the last night of session, the Senate amended several House Files before returning them to the House. Without paper copies of the amendments, House members need to know what the amendment is before voting to concur.

Flahaven said that the Chamber Automation system is the next logical step in an evolutionary process of adapting computers for the Legislature that's been continuing for quite awhile. He said the Legislature first started producing bills using computers in 1971. In 1977, the Senate began producing the various agendas and calendars with the help of computers,



(Left) Most Senators opted to use the new Chamber Automation system to follow proceedings during a Senate floor session. Pictured are (front to back) Sens. Michelle Fischbach, Bob Kierlin, Becky Lourey and Linda Berglin. (Right) Senators can view the text of an amendment and the bill it amends on a split page.

and began producing the Daily Journal in the eighties through computer automation. Later, the bill status system was computerized and made accessible to more people through the Senate local area network, Flahaven said. He said that all of those technological advances have been brought in without changing the structure of the Chamber, which has been restored to look as it did in 1905 when originally constructed. By using the laptop computers, Flahaven said, the desks didn't have to be cut up to accommodate a larger desktop system.

Looking to the future, the system may be adapted for additional uses. Kiscaden said that she hopes that the system could be used for video and

graphics displays, especially in committee meetings. She said that whenever a witness has a video or graphics, the audience or some committee members may not be able to view the material. Another use of the system that Kelley sees would be for coordinating debates during floor sessions by using online conferences. In that scenario, Kelley said the chief author and other supporters of a bill could decide what needed to be said and who would say it.

Whatever changes are made to the system, Fastner said it will be driven by the Senators and their needs. He said that before session begins next year, Senators will be surveyed as to what worked, what didn't, and whatever else they would like to see in the system.

"We try to make the process easier," Fastner added.

The public also benefits from the system as well. "While this has been developed and packaged in a way to make it useful for the Senators, it also creates a lot more information that's available to the public, because the public can access virtually all the same information that the Senators can," Flahaven said.

Kiscaden echoed that thought. She said that the Chamber automation system makes information instantaneously available to anyone. "Citizens and others can see the latest engrossments of bills, so it keeps the information flowing out from the Capitol more quickly as well," Kiscaden said.

1999 Session Laws

All the bills passed by the Legislature in the 1999 regular legislative session.

Agriculture and Rural Development

Chap. 6, S.F. 424*-Vickerman, H.F. 370-Harder: Permits nonregistered pesticide distribution for certain uses outside the state. Signed by governor: 3/8/99. Effective date: 1/1/99.

Chap. 45, S.F. 428-Hanson, H.F. 414*-Gunther: Continues the appropriation for the pseudorabies control program and provides for vaccine reimbursement assistance. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 4/13/99.

Chap. 59, S.F. 836*-Ourada, H.F. 384-Anderson, B.: Modifies the food handlers licensing period for wholesale food processors or manufacturers operating only at the state fair and imposes a separate license fee and penalties. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 4/16/99.

Chap. 105, S.F. 451*-Vickerman, H.F. 1052-Molnau: Modifies certain financing statement and collateral requirements relating to agricultural crops under the uniform commercial code and requires the filing of security interests covering crops in the UCC division of the office of the county recorder. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 110, S.F. 1041*-Hanson, H.F. 893-Dorman: Modifies and clarifies certain provisions relating to warehouses. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 204, S.F. 692-Dille, H.F. 1235*-Swenson: Provides an exemption from animal feedlots ambient hydrogen sulfide standards and modifies animal feedlots provisions. Vetoed.

Children, Families and Learning

Chap. 2, S.F. 29-Lessard, H.F. 26*-Solberg: Changes the grantee for the Mississippi education center to the city of Grand Rapids. Signed by governor: 2/17/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 26, S.F. 407*-Johnson, D.E., H.F. 438-Swenson: Authorizes a secondary educational facility grant for McLeod West School District #2887. Signed by governor: 3/29/99. Effective date: 3/30/99.

Chap. 34, S.F. 518-Hottinger, H.F. 492*-Dorn: Provides authorization for Mankato State University to construct the Taylor Center Multipurpose Facility. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 4/13/99.

Chap. 36, S.F. 862-Robling, H.F. 1126*-Abeler: Provides definitions for family day care licensure child age groupings. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 4/13/99.

Chap. 123, S.F. 296*-Robertson, H.F. 483-Tuma: Modifies certain special education and student disciplinary provisions for children with disabilities. Signed by governor: 5/4/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 201, S.F. 574-Neuville, H.F. 14*-Fuller: Provides for teacher licensure denial and termination upon conviction for criminal sexual conduct. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 5/25/99.

Chap. 205, S.F. 2222-Piper, H.F. 1467*-Sykora: Omnibus family and early childhood education appropriations. Signed

by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 214, S.F. 2235-Stumpf, H.F. 2380*-Leppik: Omnibus higher education appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 241, Pogemiller, H.F. 2333*-Seagren: Omnibus K-12 education appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Commerce

Chap. 7, S.F. 324-Ten Eyck, H.F. 248*-Hasskamp: Authorizes a detached banking facility in Crooked Lake. Signed by governor: 3/15/99. Effective date: Local approval.

Chap. 40, S.F. 727*-Kelley, S.P., H.F. 1336-Seifert: Provides for the continuity of contracts under European currency. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 4/13/99.

Chap. 52, S.F. 735-Hottinger, H.F. 583*-Gunther: Township mutual insurance company investments provisions. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 53, S.F. 1190-Hottinger, H.F. 1066*-Seifert, M.: Modifies a certain provision regulating the territories of operation of township mutual insurance companies. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 78, S.F. 1497-Kleis, H.F. 793*-Seifert, J.: Creates a lien and right of detainer for reasonable charges for vehicles rented to replace vehicles retained for service or repair. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 87, S.F. 682-Novak, H.F. 872*-Holsten: Provides for the enforceability of certain agreements indemnifying against environmental liability in building and construction contracts. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 90, S.F. 1827-Oliver, H.F. 1968*-Davids: Modifies Medicare supplement insurance regulation provisions. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 4/24/99.

Chap. 94, S.F. 673*-Ten Eyck, H.F. 566-Reuter: Prohibits health care provider network shadow contracting, excludes nonprofit health service plan corporations from the restriction. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 100, S.F. 1182*-Lesewski, H.F. 1150-Davids: Pre-need funeral insurance contracts provisions. Signed by governor: 4/26/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 103, S.F. 832*-Betzold, H.F. 661-Haas: Modifies provisions related to registration of securities as small corporate offerings. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 4/28/99.

Chap. 116, S.F. 1368*-Knutson, H.F. 1622-Gerlach: Provides an exemption for architects, engineers, surveyors, landscape architects, geoscientists and interior designers professional services from state procurement or building and construction contracts payment requirements. Signed by governor: 5/3/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 120, S.F. 1675-Scheid, H.F. 1708*-Seifert, J.: Modifies certain provisions under the FAIR (fair access to insurance

requirements) plan act. Signed by governor: 5/04/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 121, S.F. 1075-Hottinger, H.F. 1106*-Larsen, P.: Restricts the use by life or health insurers of health information obtained as part of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) vaccine clinical trials for underwriting decisions. Signed by governor: 5/04/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 130, S.F. 470-Murphy, H.F. 270*-Osskopp: Increases the maximum lifetime benefit under Minnesota Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan policies. Filed without signature. Effective date: 5/8/99.

Chap. 134, S.F. 521*-Pappas, H.F. 684-Dawkins: Provides for no-fault automobile insurance medical expense benefits coverage for sign interpreting and language translations services. Signed by governor: 5/7/99. Effective date: 5/8/99.

Chap. 137, S.F. 1715*-Oliver, H.F. 1564-Entenza: Provides certain additional enforcement authority to the commissioner of commerce. Signed by governor: 5/10/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 151, S.F. 1330*-Solon, H.F. 1175-Haas: Omnibus banking bill. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 168, S.F. 2038*-Runbeck, H.F. 2010-Paulsen: Makes technical modifications in workers compensation commercial self insurance group provisions. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 5/18/99.

Chap. 177, S.F. 1205-Wiener, H.F. 837*-Davids: Makes various technical and policy changes relating to insurance. Signed by governor: 5/18/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 181, S.F. 841*-Scheid, H.F. 870-Haas: Provides for alternative health benefit plans for small employers. Signed by governor: 5/19/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 202, S.F. 1331-Solon, H.F. 1079*-Paulsen: Extends the liquor license season for Lake Superior and St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers tour boats. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 209, S.F. 171*-Higgins, H.F. 743-Gray: Provides for an education campaign about mortgage "flipping" and provides for a recovery fund. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 212, S.F. 148*-Oliver, H.F. 478-Haas: Provides for the protection of structured insurance settlement payment rights and agreements. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 213, S.F. 1485*-Scheid, H.F. 1728-Seifert, J.: Modifies provisions relating to the Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design Board. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 236, S.F. 1607-Scheid, H.F. 1932*-Jennings: Regulates rental vehicle liability and personal effects insurance coverages sales. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Crime Prevention

Chap. 9, S.F. 464*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 379-Erhardt: Classification of carisoprodol as a controlled substance effective date delay. Signed by governor: 3/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 24, S.F. 255*-Ranum, H.F. 193-Paymar: Expands the crime of interfering with emergency telephone (911) calls. Signed by governor: 3/29/99. Effective date: 3/30/99.

Chap. 28, S.F. 99*-Knutson, H.F. 732-Osskopp: Provides for payment of criminal offenders costs for failure to appear after release. Signed by governor: 4/1/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 38, S.F. 117*-Knutson, H.F. 733-Osskopp: Criminal offenders restitution challenge hearing requests time limit. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 49, S.F. 236-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 240*-Smith: Authorizes the expenditure of money from county sheriff contingent funds for the investigation of violations relating to driving while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance (DWI). Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 50, S.F. 237-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 216*-Stanek: Clarifies a certain provision providing for the transfer of prisoners under pretrial status between county jails and workhouses and requires an agreement between the county sheriff and the workhouse administrator. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 64, S.F. 495-Knutson, H.F. 735*-Osskopp: Expands the scope of the crime of adulteration to include adulteration capable of causing death, bodily harm or illness and increases penalties. Signed by governor: 4/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 72, S.F. 198*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 197-Pawlenty: Eliminates the limits on rebuttal by the prosecution to closing arguments of the defense in criminal trials and supersedes a certain rule of criminal procedure. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 76, S.F. 866-Hanson, H.F. 868*-Hackbarth: Expands crime of theft to include theft of rental personal property. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 77, S.F. 32-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 67*-Luther: Provides for felony penalties for killing or injuring a search and rescue dog. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 98, S.F. 1634-Knutson, H.F. 142*-Pawlenty: Expands the definition of subsequent controlled substance conviction to include convictions subsequent to a stay of adjudication for a controlled substance crime. Signed by governor: 4/26/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 111, S.F. 1087-Spear, H.F. 1125*-McGuire: Transfers the responsibility for imposition of local correctional fees from the court to local correctional agencies. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 117, S.F. 496*-Knutson, H.F. 1169-Holberg: Authorizes District Court judges to extend the time period for search warrants for financial records of financial institutions under certain conditions. Signed by governor: 5/3/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 124, S.F. 397-Betzold, H.F. 92*-Carruthers: Eliminates the requirement for petitions for judicial review of drivers license revocations for violation of the DWI and implied consent law to state the facts underlying each asserted claim and provides for the availability of certain types of discovery by court order. Signed by governor: 5/6/99. Effective date: 5/7/99.

Chap. 126, S.F. 2078-Kleis, H.F. 1553*-McGuire: Modifies Dept. of Corrections conditional release, restitutions and rehabilitation provisions, and provides sentence clarification. Signed by governor: 5/6/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 127, S.F. 1602-Limmer, H.F. 1707*-Haake: Prohibits the use sex offender registration in plea negotiations. Signed by governor: 5/6/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 136, S.F. 1023-Cohen, H.F. 1359*-Mahoney: Specifies requirements for crime victims unclaimed restitution payments deposits requirement and expands reparations provisions. Signed by governor: 5/10/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 142, S.F. 411*-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 263-Gerlach: Prescribes criminal penalties for manufacturing, distributing, selling or possessing with intent to sell or distribute counterfeited intellectual property, includes the crime under the RICO law. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 148, S.F. 197-Pariseau, H.F. 70*-Daggett: Authorizes law enforcement agencies to sell forfeited firearms and accessories. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 163, S.F. 2120*-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 1255-Skoglund: Specifies gamma hydroxybutyrate is a controlled substance. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 164, S.F. 1180*-Pappas, H.F. 1112-Biernat: Increases the age for Juvenile Court jurisdiction over habitual truants. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 5/14/99.

Chap. 175, S.F. 1674-Moe, R.D., H.F. 1607*-Smith: Provides law enforcement authority to tribal peace officers. Signed by governor: 5/18/99. Effective date: 5/19/99.

Chap. 176, S.F. 584-Novak, H.F. 621*-Fuller: Expands the definition of the crime of arson. Signed by governor: 5/18/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 191, S.F. 1639*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 1890-Mahoney: Exempts taxicab drivers from the criminal offenders rehabilitation law. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 5/22/99.

Chap. 194, S.F. 1382*-Spear, H.F. 1848-Goodno: Repeals enhanced gross misdemeanor DWI provisions, expands gross misdemeanor DWI crime provisions and monitoring costs payment requirements and provides for mandatory consecutive sentence imposition. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 5/25/99.

Chap. 197, S.F. 486*-Junge, H.F. 963-Knoblach: Provides for firefighters employment background investigations. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 207, S.F. 1109-Junge, H.F. 1289*-Entenza: Criminal penalty increase for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 216, S.F. 2221*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 2404-Broecker: Omnibus crime prevention and judiciary appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 217, S.F. 1404*-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 1081-Skoglund: Provides criminal penalties and definitions for the possession and dissemination of pornographic works depicting minors. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 218, S.F. 441*-Spear, H.F. 624-Stanek: Modifies penalties for crimes of dishonored or forged check issuance, financial transaction card fraud and stolen property and

establishes dishonored check writers pretrial diversion programs. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 225, S.F. 1831*-Anderson, H.F. 2016-Dawkins: Modifies criminal forfeiture provisions. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 233, S.F. 174*-Ranum, H.F. 228-Bishop: Expands predatory sex offender registration and community notification requirements. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 244, S.F. 333*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 112-Bishop: Defines and sets penalties for the crime of identity theft. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Education Finance

Chap. 141, S.F. 2234*-Cohen, H.F. 1384-Bishop: Deficiency appropriations to various state departments and agencies. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 5/12/99.

Chap. 240, S.F. 1058-Langseth, H.F. 2205*-Knoblach: Omnibus bonding bill. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Election Laws

Chap. 1, S.F. 88-Marty, H.F. 139*-Rhodes: Specifies campaign finance and public disclosure board member qualifications. Signed by governor: 2/17/99. Effective date: 2/18/99.

Chap. 75, S.F. 257*-Robling, H.F. 182-Buesgens: Authorizes special elections in statutory cities to fill office vacancies under certain conditions and requires city councils to specify by ordinance the circumstances for holding a special election apart from the regular city election. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 101, S.F. 1527*-Frederickson, H.F. 1845-Seifert, M.: Prohibits persons convicted of sexual offenses requiring registration as a predatory offender from school board member candidacy. Signed by governor: 4/26/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 132, S.F. 1144*-Scheid, H.F. 1168-Gerlach: Modifies and clarifies certain elections provisions. Signed by governor: 5/07/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 195, S.F. 746*-Lessard, H.F. 625-Solberg: Provides for a change in the date for Grand Rapids Township elections. Filed without signature. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 220, S.F. 145*-Marty, H.F. 861-Rhodes: Modifies, clarifies and simplifies provisions relating to election campaign finance and ethics. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 237, S.F. 1064-Pogemiller, H.F. 1015*-Abrams: Modifies election district redistricting provisions. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Environment and Natural Resources

Chap. 4, S.F. 40-Stumpf, H.F. 6*-Hackbarth: Modifies snowmobile metal traction device use restrictions and modifies recreational vehicle rulemaking authority. Signed by governor: 3/4/99. Effective date: 3/5/99.

Chap. 22, S.F. 463-Johnson, J.B., H.F. 137*-Rostberg: Exempts collector watercraft from the requirement to display

license numbers and decals. Signed by governor: 3/26/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 27, S.F. 609*-Price, H.F. 564-Ozment: Requires landscape irrigation systems to have a rain check system installed. Vetoed.

Chap. 56, S.F. 1173*-Robling, H.F. 1403-Buesgens: Authorizes the approval of a Scott County Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant consumptive water use permit. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 4/16/99.

Chap. 57, S.F. 803*-Solon, H.F. 1109-Munger: Requires St. Louis River estuary fishing guides to be licensed. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 65, S.F. 881*-Kleis, H.F. 841-Opatz: Stearns, Benton and Sherburne Counties regional parks and trails plan. Signed by governor: 4/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 73, S.F. 1176*-Johnson, J.B., H.F. 1151-Howes: Waste Management Act provisions technical modifications. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 80, S.F. 829*-Belanger, H.F. 960-Seagren: Authorizes a Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority surplus state land purchase. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 4/21/99.

Chap. 81, S.F. 972*-Frederickson, H.F. 1404-Swenson: Designates the Swan Lake migratory waterfowl refuge and requires a permit issued by a conservation officer or game refuge manager for entry into posted migratory waterfowl refuges during the open migratory waterfowl season. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 92, S.F. 1528*-Price, H.F. 1248-Howes: Modifies provisions relating to harmful exotic species provisions. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 4/24/99.

Chap. 95, S.F. 1470*-Samuelson, H.F. 1944-Wenzel: Paul Bunyan state trail route modification and authorizes the use of motorized wheelchairs or other motorized devices operated by physically disabled individuals on nonmotorized state trails. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 157, S.F. 1449*-Price, H.F. 1301-Vandever: Makes additions and deletions from various state parks. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 158, S.F. 1541*-Price, H.F. 1477-Rostberg: Modifies and makes permanent the environmental improvement pilot program. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 161, S.F. 626*-Murphy, H.F. 502-Osskopp: Provides for the sale of tax forfeited land in Wabasha County. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: Various.

Chap. 178, S.F. 142-Metzen, H.F. 7*-Haake: Terminates the Metropolitan Area vehicle emissions test as of 3/1/2000. Signed by governor: 5/18/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 180, S.F. 1572*-Frederickson, H.F. 1430-Tuma: Modifies leased lakeshore lot exchange or sale provisions. Signed by governor: 5/19/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 231, S.F. 2226*-Krentz, H.F. -Holsten: Omnibus environment, natural resources and agriculture appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 235, S.F. 1734-Higgins, H.F. 1621*-Osskopp: Modifies water pollution control decisions judicial review provisions and incinerator excess emissions response provisions. Signed

by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Res. 1, S.F. 638-Stumpf, H.F. 544*-Anderson, I.: Resolution urging the U.S. Trade Representative to address and resolve trade agreement violations and discriminatory practices by officials of Ontario and Canada that injure Minnesota border lakes tourism businesses. Signed by governor 3/26/99.

Governmental Operations and Veterans

Chap. 12, S.F. 162-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 49*-Ozment: Provides for peace officers or firefighters killed in line of duty spouse health insurance coverage. Signed by governor: 3/16/99. Effective date: 3/17/99.

Chap. 46, S.F. 1677-Wiener, H.F. 1565*-Anderson, B.: Expands eligibility for active state military service. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 47, S.F. 2043-Wiger, H.F. 1556*-Clark, K.: Extends the civil service pilot project in the Housing Finance Agency. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 91, S.F. 1920*-Price, H.F. 1975-Wolf: Modifies the state archaeologist position appointment process and classification. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 99, S.F. 840-Pappas, H.F. 1003*-McElroy: Modifies and clarifies certain provisions relating to the Legislative Audit Commission and the Legislative Auditor. Signed by governor: 4/26/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 129, S.F. 1993-Hottinger, H.F. 1905*-Seifert, M.: Authorizes and provides for the governor to veto all or a severable portion of state agency rules, sets forth the procedure and provides for subsequent repeal of the vetoed rule by the Legislature. Signed by governor: 5/6/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 135, S.F. 1209-Wiener, H.F. 1568*-Boudreau: State building and the energy codes provisions modifications. Signed by governor: 5/10/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 144, S.F. 1746*-Wiener, H.F. 2023-Krinkie: Requires occupational regulation legislation to have supporting documentation. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 166, S.F. 1605*-Kelley, S.P., H.F. 1173-Pelowski: Provides for firefighter arbitration procedure. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 182, S.F. 2017*-Runbeck, H.F. 1693-Mares: Makes technical changes to public employment provisions. Signed by governor: 5/19/99. Effective date: 5/20/99.

Chap. 185, S.F. 1204*-Johnson, D.H., H.F. 853-Rostberg: Provides State Building Code fire safety enforcement authority and provides for stairway chair lift installation in private residences. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 5/22/99.

Chap. 193, S.F. 1636*-Stumpf, H.F. 879-Knoblach: Provides for petitions by local government units to amend or repeal state agency rules. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 221, S.F. 1721*-Flynn, H.F. 1877-Molnau: Ratifies certain public employment labor agreements and modifies certain PELRA provisions. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 222, S.F. 319*-Pogemiller, H.F. 1077-Mares: Omnibus public employee pension and retirement bill. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 232, S.F. 709*-Stumpf, H.F. 937-Tunheim: Expands the definition and increases the award for state procurement program economically disadvantaged area businesses preference. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 5/26/99.

Chap. 242, S.F. 2223*-Price, H.F. 2386-Krinkie: Omnibus state departments appropriations. Vetoed.

Chap. 250, S.F. 1464-Cohen, H.F. 878*-Bishop: Omnibus state departments appropriations bill that supercedes Chapter 242. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Health and Family Security

Chap. 5, S.F. 121*-Ten Eyck, H.F. 171-Mulder: Repeals health related licensing board licensees infection control continuing education requirement. Signed by governor: 3/8/99. Effective date: 3/9/99.

Chap. 8, S.F. 241-Sams, H.F. 214*-Goodno: Defines emergency medical services volunteer ambulance attendant. Signed by governor: 3/15/99. Effective date: 3/16/99.

Chap. 10, S.F. 73*-Murphy, H.F. 356-Dempsey: Modifies the financial eligibility criteria for consumer support programs for persons with functional limitations. Signed by governor: 3/15/99. Effective date: 3/16/99.

Chap. 14, S.F. 301*-Lourey, H.F. 74-Luther: Modifies the health care directive form. Signed by governor: 3/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 17, S.F. 564-Lesewski, H.F. 454*-Seifert, M.: Expands the authority for sharing nursing home administrators. Signed by governor: 3/18/99. Effective date: 3/19/99.

Chap. 18, S.F. 649*-Robertson, H.F. 610-Tingelstad: Modifies the definition of public water supply under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Signed by governor: 3/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 33, S.F. 418-Hottinger, H.F. 413*-Mulder: Modifies registration and licensing requirements for physicians, acupuncturists and athletic trainers. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 39, S.F. 488-Kiscaden, H.F. 640*-Bradley: Mental health state advisory council provisions modifications. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 51, S.F. 1913-Hottinger, H.F. 614*-Davids: Increases the community net worth reserve corridor for community integrated service networks and includes CISNs in the definition of review organization for utilization review purposes. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 54, S.F. 1650-Hottinger, H.F. 1660*-Bradley: Exempts employees of nonprofit organizations conducting human diseases research from unlawful practice of medicine and requires research using humans to be under the supervision of a licensed physician. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 55, S.F. 1391-Piper, H.F. 1216*-Abeler: Modifies the practical examination requirement for chiropractors licensed in other states. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 58, S.F. 984*-Kelley, S.P., H.F. 982-Mulder: Regulates the release of psychological test results. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 62, S.F. 170-Hottinger, H.F. 408*-Goodno: Modifies the definition of practice of pharmacy and provides for drug therapy management. Signed by governor: 4/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 63, S.F. 1693-Ten Eyck, H.F. 1714*-Goodno: Authorizes and provides for pharmacists to petition the Board of Pharmacy for a waiver of the pharmacists to pharmacy technicians ratio requirements. Signed by governor: 4/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 66, S.F. 651-Robertson, H.F. 645*-Tingelstad: Conforms state requirements for water supply and wastewater treatment system operators certification to federal regulations, modifies membership requirements and removes the expiration date of the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 67, S.F. 1239-Terwilliger, H.F. 1421*-Wilkin: Authorizes the extension of temporary permits to practice podiatry under certain conditions. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 4/21/99.

Chap. 83, S.F. 25-Samuels, H.F. 40*-Bradley: Grants nursing home residents the right to request and consent to the use of physical restraints to treat medical symptoms under the patients bill of rights and defines medical symptoms. Signed by governor: 4/22/99. Effective date: 4/23/99.

Chap. 84, S.F. 578-Lourey, H.F. 463*-Davids: Provides for health care review organization review of ambulance services and first responders and defines review organization. Signed by governor: 4/22/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 102, S.F. 1273*-Sams, H.F. 1309-Bradley: Modifies nursing home administrators licensing and examiners board provisions. Signed by governor: 4/26/99. Effective date: 4/27/99.

Chap. 109, S.F. 983*-Kelley, S.P., H.F. 984-Mulder: Modifies psychologists licensing and regulation provisions. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 146, S.F. 1268*-Kiscaden, H.F. 1658-Goodno: Requires prompt payment for health maintenance organizations home care providers. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 149, S.F. 1584-Wiger, H.F. 1414*-Boudreau: Commissioner of Health involvement in the deaf and hard of hearing services division of the Dept. of Human Services and modifies certain interpreter services duties of the division. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 152, S.F. 1615*-Sams, H.F. 1933-Boudreau: Provides for a task force on mental retardation day training and habilitation services payment rate structure. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 5/14/99.

Chap. 153, S.F. 1539*-Stumpf, H.F. 2021-Bishop: Regulates vertical heat exchanger contractors licensing. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: Various.

Chap. 156, S.F. 591-Betzold, H.F. 60*-Haas: Provides medical assistance reimbursement for spousal private duty nursing services. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective

date: Federal approval.

Chap. 159, S.F. 1585*-Stevens, H.F. 1393-Jennings: Makes technical changes to human services provisions. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 162, S.F. 383*-Pappas, H.F. 949-Abeler: Midwifery regulations. Filed without signature. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 172, S.F. 225-Moe, R.D., H.F. 718*-Ozment: Regulates advanced practices registered nurses. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 210, S.F. 1099*-Kiscaden, H.F. 1119-Osskopp: Modifies nursing assistant education and training requirements. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 226, S.F. 369*-Piper, H.F. 598-McCollum: Grants authority for physician assistants to render care in disaster situations. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 239, S.F. 1219*-Berglin, H.F. 1303-Goodno: Provides for a health plan companies uniform complaint resolution and external review process and modifies utilization review procedures. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 245, S.F. 2225*-Samuelson, H.F. 2412-Goodno: Omnibus health and family security appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 247, S.F. 1651-Kiscaden, H.F. 1426*-Tingelstad: Makes technical changes in Department of Health provisions. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Res. 2, S.F. 757*-Junge, H.F. 719-Seifert, J.: Resolution memorializing Congress to enact legislation prohibiting federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries. Signed by governor 3/29/99.

Human Resources Finance

Chap. 169, S.F. 2052*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 2221-Ozment: Provides for payment of claims against the state and for Lake Willis elevation control determination. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 5/18/99.

Jobs, Energy and Community Development

Chap. 19, S.F. 914*-Novak, H.F. 812-Wolf: Modifies the membership of the Legislative Electric Energy Task Force. Signed by governor: 3/25/99. Effective date: 3/25/99.

Chap. 20, S.F. 593*-Kleis, H.F. 434-Opatz: St. Cloud Paramount Arts District Regional Arts Center grant recipient change. Signed by governor: 3/25/99. Effective date: 3/26/99.

Chap. 21, S.F. 50*-Novak, H.F. 48-Wolf: Repeals the public utilities performance based natural gas purchasing plans sunset. Signed by governor: 3/25/99. Effective date: 3/26/99.

Chap. 43, S.F. 794*-Kleis, H.F. 1184-Knoblach: Modifies One Call excavation notice system requirements. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 68, S.F. 1554*-Solon, H.F. 1809-Jaros: Authorizes an alternative name for the Seaway Port Authority of Duluth. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 97, S.F. 1253-Novak, H.F. 1178*-McElroy: Limits the acceptance and amounts of prelease deposits by landlords from prospective tenants, defines prelease deposit, and

requires an agreement between the landlord and tenant relating to return for acceptance of the deposits.

Signed by governor: 4/26/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 107, S.F. 1218*-Scheevel, H.F. 877-Wolf: Modifies certain provisions regulating reemployment insurance to comply with federal changes. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 119, S.F. 595-Stevens, H.F. 585*-Erickson: Reduces a prior appropriation and modifies the match and a program requirement for a grant to Independent School District #473, Isle, for the conversion of a school building into a community center. Signed by governor: 5/4/99. Effective date: 5/5/99.

Chap. 125, S.F. 684-Novak, H.F. 359*-Wolf: Expands the Public Utilities Commission administrative powers. Filed without signature. Effective date: 5/7/99.

Chap. 138, S.F. 971-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 1051*-Gunther: Requires the commissioner of economic security to collect certain information relating to employment and training programs funded with state or federal funds and in conjunction with the governor's Workforce Development Council report to the Legislature. Signed by governor: 5/10/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 140, S.F. 1357*-Novak, H.F. 1384-Wolf: Modifies public utilities energy conservation improvement program provisions. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 150, S.F. 1471*-Murphy, H.F. 1613-Storm: Prohibits the charging by landlords of tenant screening fees upon units nonavailability, requires return of the fee under certain conditions, modifies certain landlord disclosure requirements and provides remedies for violation. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 199, S.F. 2232-Higgins, H.F. 2425*-Smith: Recodifies provisions relating to landlords and tenants. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 200, S.F. 1792-Novak, H.F. 1940*-Jennings: Sets forth public utility renewable energy development expenditures preference and approval requirements and provides for recoverability. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 5/25/99.

Chap. 203, S.F. 365-Novak, H.F. 595*-Holsten: Modifies provisions relating to petroleum tank fund expenditures and reimbursement, modifies provisions relating to contamination cleanup and redevelopment grant programs, provides an exception for farm tanks removal penalties and provides an appropriation for the St. Paul Maxson Steel site acquisition. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 211, S.F. 1821*-Higgins, H.F. 1910-Gunther: Modifies housing program provisions and provides an exception for first class cities zoning amendments comprehensive municipal plan conformity. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 223, S.F. 2227-Janezich, H.F. 2390*-McElroy: Omnibus jobs, energy and economic development appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 224, S.F. 685*-Kelley, S.P., H.F. 358-Wolf: Provides for deregulation of coin operated telephones, sets

administrative penalties, and modifies the expiration of telecommunications competitive service laws. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 5/26/99.

Chap. 228, S.F. 1785-Ourada, H.F. 1778*-Gunther: Provides for state telecommunication pricing plans. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 5/26/99.

Chap. 246, S.F. 321-Scheid, H.F. 420*-Haas: Modifies Brooklyn Park's housing improvement areas establishment authority. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Local approval.

Judiciary

Chap. 11, S.F. 343*-Knutson, H.F. 382-Seifert, J.: Modifies various real estate provisions. Signed by governor: 3/15/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 23, S.F. 90-Betzold, H.F. 56*-Van Dellen: Modifies the health care provider actions statute of limitations. Signed by governor: 3/26/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 32, S.F. 144-Robling, H.F. 183*-Buesgens: Modifies conditions for parental consent to admission for chemical dependency treatment of certain minors under the civil commitment and treatment act. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 37, S.F. 487-Foley, H.F. 1258*-Entenza: Reinstates the marriage dissolution summary process. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 7/1/97.

Chap. 60, S.F. 1116-Ranum, H.F. 1132*-Broecker: Eliminates the requirement for owners, publishers, managers or lead supervisors in newspaper printing offices to file with the District Court administrator copies of papers containing delinquent real estate tax notices and lists and eliminates certain provisions providing for county board setting of the salaries of District Court administrators. Signed by governor: 4/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 61, S.F. 676-Betzold, H.F. 643*-Bishop: Repeals the provision prohibiting restoration of civil rights to certain civilly committed persons convicted of a crime. Signed by governor: 4/16/99. Effective date: 4/17/99.

Chap. 71, S.F. 973*-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 1153-Paymar: Provides for a juror compensation system study. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 74, S.F. 129*-Knutson, H.F. 53-Biernat: Enacts the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (1997). Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 1/1/2000.

Chap. 79, S.F. 98*-Knutson, H.F. 1171-Holberg: Grants prosecutors the discretion not to disclose the dates of birth of crime victims or witnesses and restricts the authority of the court to require victims or witnesses to state a telephone number or date of birth on the record. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 85, S.F. 833-Junge, H.F. 836*-Goodno: Modifies certain provisions regulating business corporations and organizations. Signed by governor: 4/22/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 86, S.F. 950-Betzold, H.F. 1037*-Holberg: Revisor's bill. Signed by governor: 4/22/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 104, S.F. 1017*-Kiscaden, H.F. 1035-Larsen, P.: Requires summonses relating to marriage dissolution or civil actions to include notice of the alternative dispute resolution process. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 106, S.F. 303*-Foley, H.F. 462-McGuire: Clarifies the admissibility of evidence relating to the use or failure to use seat belts or child passenger restraint systems in civil actions and authorizes the introduction of evidence in actions for damage for certain defects. Vetoed, overridden. Effective date: 5/18/99.

Chap. 108, S.F. 436*-Foley, H.F. 541-Stanek: Exempts certain emergency telephone service (911) telecommunicators or dispatchers providing prearrival medical instruction based on emergency medical dispatch protocols adopted by the dispatching agency from tort liability. Signed by governor: 4/27/99. Effective date: 4/27/99.

Chap. 118, S.F. 283*-Betzold, H.F. 489-Carruthers: Modifies and clarifies civil commitment procedures. Signed by governor: 5/4/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 122, S.F. 834*-Knutson, H.F. 863-Tingelstad: Modifies provisions relating to the putative fathers adoption registry, modifies provisions relating to communication or contact agreements and provides for international adoptions post-adoption reports recognition. Signed by governor: 5/04/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 133, S.F. 1060*-Knutson, H.F. 1183-Seifert, J.: Modifies and clarifies provisions relating to Secretary of State service of process, notices and records. Signed by governor: 5/07/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 139, S.F. 184*-Ranum, H.F. 1310-Goodno: Recodifies and clarifies juvenile delinquency and child protection provisions. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 143, S.F. 1115*-Ranum, H.F. 1131-Broecker: Modifies delinquent taxes collection legal actions process. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 5/12/99.

Chap. 160, S.F. 1047*-Solon, H.F. 1008-Huntley: Provides that Roth IRAs are treated identically to other IRAs in bankruptcy proceedings. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 5/14/99.

Chap. 170, S.F. 84*-Cohen, H.F. 578-Skoglund: Regulates nonconsensual common law liens for public officials and employees protection purposes. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 171, S.F. 1094*-Betzold, H.F. 989-Mullery: Modifies the Uniform Probate Code and guardian and conservator nomination provisions. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 184, S.F. 233*-Ten Eyck, H.F. 160-Bishop: Definite and specific descriptions of public service corporations private property easements requirements and modifies size restriction. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 5/22/99.

Chap. 190, S.F. 1093*-Hottinger, H.F. 1122-Leighton: Modifies the binding effect of mediated settlement agreements in civil mediation proceedings. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 196, S.F. 23*-Foley, H.F. 510-Biernat: Provides for a child and medical support enforcement process through the

judicial branch and repeals the administrative process for child and medical support enforcement. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 7/1/99.

Chap. 208, S.F. 1283-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 1494*-Olson: Expands the prohibition on correctional facility inmates rehabilitation expenditure lawsuits and expands the prohibition on frivolous actions or malicious claims determinations. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 215, S.F. 278-Hottinger, H.F. 346*-Smith: Regulates court reporting freelance services. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 219, S.F. 346*-Ranum, H.F. 817-Wagenius: Expands the conditions for child custody relative ex parte temporary orders. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 227, S.F. 653*-Betzold, H.F. 2058-Carruthers: Omnibus government data classification bill. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 229, S.F. 2029-Kelly, R.C., H.F. 1195*-Van Dellen: Eliminates second and fourth judicial districts tenant screening reports restriction and provides for discretionary expungement of eviction case court files. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 5/26/99.

Chap. 234, S.F. 1262*-Limmer, H.F. 2337-Larsen, P.: Year 2000 Consumer Protection Act. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: 5/26/99.

Chap. 249, S.F. 2224*-Ranum, H.F. 2441-Seifert, J.: Revisors bill. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Local and Metropolitan Government

Chap. 3, S.F. 107-Novak, H.F. 133*-Stanek: Repeals Minneapolis and St. Paul residency requirements. Signed by governor: 3/4/99. Effective date: 3/5/99.

Chap. 13, S.F. 579-Vickerman, H.F. 302*-Davids: Provides for ambulance services shared service purchasing. Signed by governor: 3/16/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 15, S.F. 416-Higgins, H.F. 453*-Haake: Provides for Minneapolis skilled workers and apprentices deferred compensation plan participation. Signed by governor: 3/18/99. Effective date: 3/19/99.

Chap. 30, S.F. 517-Vickerman, H.F. 475*-Stang: Provides for town officers or employees criminal charges defense costs reimbursement. Signed by governor: 4/1/99. Effective date: 4/2/99.

Chap. 31, S.F. 381-Pappas, H.F. 379*-Erhardt: Makes technical correction and administrative changes to mortgage registry and deed taxes provisions. Signed by governor: 4/1/99. Effective date: 6/30/99.

Chap. 41, S.F. 1660*-Wiger, H.F. 2024-Seifert: Extends certain prior exemptions from laws or rules governing the delivery of local government services granted by the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 48, S.F. 404-Runbeck, H.F. 525*-Westerberg: Requires cities in Anoka County to administer the dangerous dog registration system. Signed by governor: 4/15/99. Effective date: Local approval.

Chap. 69, S.F. 465*-Pappas, H.F. 908-Dawkins: Permits

county recorders to require the maintenance of reasonable minimum security deposits based on anticipated monthly charges of the depositor. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 82, S.F. 1188*-Kelley, S.P., H.F. 1097-Kuisle: Increases certain dollar limits and provides for certain cooperative purchasing contracts without regard to competitive bidding requirements under the uniform municipal contracting law. Vetoed.

Chap. 89, S.F. 616-Price, H.F. 627*-Larsen, P.: Modifies the terms of Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority commissioners. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: Local approval.

Chap. 96, S.F. 854*-Langseth, H.F. 896-Larsen, P.: Prohibits counties, cities or towns from enacting, amending or enforcing ordinances providing for the elimination or termination of lawful land uses by amortization, excepts adults only businesses and authorizing ordinances to prevent, abate or eliminate nuisances without payment of compensation and authorizes the city of St. Louis Park to continue to enforce a certain ordinance relating to the amortization. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 4/24/99.

Chap. 113, S.F. 1463*-Krentz, H.F. 1538-Vandever: Authorizes towns to create capital reserve funds. Signed by governor: 5/3/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 128, S.F. 1138-Dille, H.F. 132*-Ness: Eliminates the requirement for managers appointed to supervise bingo conducted in nursing homes or senior citizen housing projects or organizations to register with the Gambling Control Board. Signed by governor: 5/6/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 145, S.F. 376*-Solon, H.F. 258-Munger: Provides for a per diem increase for members of the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District Board and the Moose Lake-Windemere Sanitary District Board. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 147, S.F. 156-Fischbach, H.F. 174*-Stang: Paynesville Area Hospital District Richmond annexation authority provisions. Signed by governor: 5/11/99. Effective date: 5/12/99.

Chap. 155, S.F. 461-Fischbach, H.F. 371*-Stang: Removes the limit local governments may contribute for historical purposes for senior citizen or youth centers. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 165, S.F. 9*-Betzold, H.F. 66-Johnson: Police civil service commissions abolishment procedure. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: 5/14/99.

Chap. 167, S.F. 1609*-Wiger, H.F. 1544-Hausman: Provides an exemption for local government units joint contracts joint powers agreements. Vetoed.

Chap. 173, S.F. 768*-Pappas, H.F. 751-Trimble: Modifies the Ramsey County personnel procedures. Signed by governor: 5/17/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 174, S.F. 615*-Higgins, H.F. 526-Mullery: Modifies provisions relating to Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board employees appointment process and modifies Lakeville municipal elections procedures. Signed by governor: 5/18/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 179, S.F. 1329*-Vickerman, H.F. 1140-Leighton: Limits cities amusement machines license fees and provides

for violent video games display restrictions. Signed by governor: 5/19/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 183, S.F. 556*-Piper, H.F. 805-Leighton: Modifies municipal power agencies liability provisions. Signed by governor: 5/19/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 186, S.F. 851*-Vickerman, H.F. 777-Rest: Eliminates the expiration date for local government units corporations and establishes a task force. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 5/22/99.

Chap. 187, S.F. 2044*-Vickerman, H.F. 686-Dehler: Authorizes dice games on the premises and adjoining rooms of retail establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages and limits wagers or prizes to food and beverages. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 5/22/99.

Chap. 188, S.F. 891*-Hottinger, H.F. 1348-Holberg: Clarifies local government units snow and ice accumulations tort liability exemptions. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 198, S.F. 1976*-Higgins, H.F. 1286-Kahn: Provides for the distribution and sale of Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board hydroelectric power. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 206, S.F. 1619-Vickerman, H.F. 1825*-Osskopp: Expands the authorized use of lawful gambling pull tab dispensing devices, specifies requirements for raffle tickets prize listing and sets limits for progressive bingo and tipboard prizes. Signed by governor: 5/24/99. Effective date: Various dates.

State Government Finance

Chap. 192, S.F. 157-Cohen, H.F. 726*-Knoblach: Provides standards for local government units capital improvement projects state assistance. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Taxes

Chap. 112, S.F. 106-Johnson, D.J., H.F. 1*-Abrams: Provides for agricultural property tax relief and assistance. Filed without signature. Effective date: 4/26/99.

Chap. 189, S.F. 1424-Pogemiller, H.F. 1024*-Abrams: Modifies bonding authority allocation provisions. Signed by governor: 5/21/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 243, S.F. 1276-Johnson, D.J., H.F. 2420*-Abrams: Omnibus tax bill. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 248, S.F. 1876*-Pogemiller, H.F. 2127-Abrams: Modifies public finance and debt provisions and provides for a forest land taxation study. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Transportation

Chap. 16, S.F. 379-Scheevel, H.F. 157*-Kuisle: Modifies the route of the Laura Ingalls Wilder historic highway. Signed by governor: 3/18/99. Effective date: 3/19/99.

Chap. 25, S.F. 460*-Fischbach, H.F. 165-Stang: Provides for special disability license plates for modified motor vehicles. Signed by governor: 3/29/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 29, S.F. 1280-Day, H.F. 1305*-Sviggum: Provides for Kenyon Trunk Highway #56 relocation easements transfer. Signed by governor: 4/1/99. Effective date: Local approval.

Chap. 35, S.F. 739-Murphy, H.F. 766*-Broecker: Authorizes motorcycle display of a blue light as part of the rear brake light. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 4/13/99.

Chap. 42, S.F. 1888*-Larson, H.F. 1986-Nornes: Designates a portion of trunk highway #59 as Otter Tail Veterans Memorial Drive. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 44, S.F. 1150*-Johnson, J.B., H.F. 1265-Workman: Sets the speed limit on town roads in rural residential districts and defines rural residential district. Signed by governor: 4/12/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 70, S.F. 1600*-Flynn, H.F. 1507-Skoe: Eliminates the requirement for motor vehicle carrier license and trip permit applications to be in writing and allows registration of vehicle by fax or Internet. Signed by governor: 4/20/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 88, S.F. 1259-Murphy, H.F. 528*-Westrom: Requires the specifications issued by the commissioner of transportation relating to the procurement of underground fuel storage tanks by the department to include fiberglass and steel underground storage tanks approved by the PCA, the EPA or meet established standards for tank approval. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 93, S.F. 1324*-Wiger, H.F. 1046-Workman: Requires the commissioner of public safety to disqualify commercial motor vehicle operators and the commissioner of transportation to impose certain penalties on operators or employers for violations of out of service orders. Signed by governor: 4/23/99. Effective date: 4/1/00.

Chap. 114, S.F. 480*-Murphy, H.F. 1161-Dempsey: Authorizes port authorities to retain lease or management contract revenues from commercial navigation projects financed with state general obligation bond proceeds. Signed by governor: 5/3/99. Effective date: 8/1/99.

Chap. 115, S.F. 1012*-Lessard, H.F. 673-Solberg: Exempts Itasca county from the separate fund requirements for road and bridge fund tax money collected from unorganized townships and authorizes expenditure of the money in any unorganized township in the county. Signed by governor: 5/3/99. Effective date: Local approval.

Chap. 131, S.F. 778*-Sams, H.F. 790-Kuisle: Reduces the time limit for release of security interests in motor vehicles by secured parties after satisfaction of the security interest by a licensed dealer and clarifies the restriction on the placement of televisions in motor vehicles. Signed by governor: 5/7/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 154, S.F. 1645*-Johnson, D.E., H.F. 1641-Juhnke: Provides for milk transporters seasonal highway weight restrictions exemption. Signed by governor: 5/13/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 230, S.F. 762*-Flynn, H.F. 1551-Workman: Dept. of Transportation housekeeping bill. Signed by governor: 5/25/99. Effective date: Various dates.

Chap. 238, S.F. 2217-Johnson, J.B., H.F. 2387*-Molnau: Omnibus transportation and public safety appropriations. Filed without signature. Effective date: Various dates.

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