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STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL 55155

April 3, 1990

The Honorable Robert E. Vanasek
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The State of Minnesota

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed Chapter 390, H. F. No. 2481/S. F. No. 2237, a bill that would permit a judge to sentence a criminal defendant to prison without first conducting a presentence investigation, if the sentence is in accord with the sentencing guidelines.

By eliminating presentence investigations for many defendants, this bill would remove the opportunity for the crime victim to address the court, request restitution, or express a sentencing preference. In the case of drug crimes, the bill removes the opportunity for an assessment of the impact of the crime on the community to be brought to the attention of the judge. The bill could also result in a shorter sentence for a criminal because a judge may not have complete information regarding the defendant's prior criminal history at the time of sentencing.

I understand that the purpose of this bill was to ease crowding in some county jails. However, this bill would eliminate significant rights of crime victims and weaken the sentencing process. Moreover, the bill is unnecessary because current law allows convicted felons to be moved from jail to prison while they await the results of the presentence investigation.

Sincerely,

RUDY PERPICH
Governor

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL 55155

April 4, 1990

The Honorable Robert E. Vanasek
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The State of Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I have the honor of informing you that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State the following House Files: