The bill was passed, as amended, and its title agreed to.

There being no objection, the order of business reverted to Petitions and Communications.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was received:

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SAINT PAUL 55155

March 27, 2002

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
The State of Minnesota

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter No. 280, H. F. No. 197, a bill providing grants to noncommercial television stations and authorizing bonds for a metropolitan bus garage.

In 1999, I line-item vetoed $113,000 for grants to noncommercial television stations in the omnibus state government finance bill. At the time, I was concerned about expanding the state's role beyond the substantial support already provided for public television. I expressed my view that digital TV conversion should be funded by non-state sources.

Last year, the legislature included $7.8 million for digital TV conversion in the state government finance bill passed during the special session. I signed that bill since it also included language requiring the Commissioner of Administration and the Minnesota Public Television Association to negotiate an agreement specifying uses for digital capability to serve state and local government needs before the grants could be distributed.

The parties were required to finalize an agreement by January 15, 2002, or the appropriation would cancel to the general fund. Upon reviewing the contract and in light of the state's economic condition, I decided not to enter into the grant contract with the Minnesota Public Television Association. While the contract included provisions to put project management and accountability processes into place, the state benefits defined in the proposed contract were not a sufficient return on the investment, particularly considering the communications gaps that exist in public safety and health. H. F. No. 197 still doesn't provide an adequate level of direct benefit for the state given the investment being made.

I am also uncomfortable with the way that this project is funded. This bill pays for digital TV grants by refinancing a Metropolitan Council general fund appropriation with bonds and using the general fund dollars for grants to public television stations. If the legislature wants to refinance the bus garage
appropriation with bonds, the project should be part of the overall bonding bill discussion. Finally, H. F. No. 197 adds to the state's obligations at a time when we have depleted our reserves and there is still a gap between revenues and expenditures, both in the current budget and the next. I cannot sign this bill into law while these budget problems remain unsolved.

For these reasons, I am vetoing this bill.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura

Governor

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MOTION TO OVERRIDE VETO

Bishop moved that H. F. No. 197, Chapter No. 280, be now reconsidered and repassed, the objections of the Governor notwithstanding, pursuant to Article IV, Section 23, of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota.

The question was taken on the Bishop motion to reconsider and repass H. F. No. 197, Chapter No. 280, the objections of the Governor notwithstanding, pursuant to Article IV, Section 23, of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota and the roll was called. There were 113 yeas and 20 nays as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Abeler  Dempsey  Hausman  Leighton  Otremba  Smith
Abrams  Dibble  Hilstrom  Lenczowski  Ozment  Solberg
Anderson, I.  Dorman  Hilty  Lieder  Pawlenty  Stanek
Bakk  Dorn  Holsten  Lipman  Paymar  Stang
Bernardy  Entenza  Howes  Mahoney  Pelowski  Swapinski
Biernat  Erhardt  Huntley  Mares  Penas  Swenson
Bishop  Evans  Jaros  Mariani  Peterson  Sykora
Blaine  Finseth  Jennings  Marko  Pugh  Thompson
Boudreau  Folliard  Johnson, R.  Marquart  Rhodes  Tinglestad
Bradley  Fuller  Johnson, S.  McElroy  Rifenberg  Tuma
Carlson  Gleason  Jordan  McGuire  Rukavina  Wagenius
Cassell  Goodno  Juhnke  Milbert  Ruth  Walker
Clark, J.  Goodwin  Kahn  Molnau  Schumacher  Walz
Clark, K.  Gray  Kelliher  Mullery  Seagren  Wasiluk
Daggett  Greiling  Knoblach  Murphy  Seifert  Westerberg
Davids  Gunther  Koskinen  Ness  Sertich  Westrom
Davnie  Haas  Kubly  Nornes  Skoe  Winter
Dawkins  Hackworth  Kuisele  Opatz  Skoglund  Spk.
Dehler  Harder  Larson  Osthoff  Slawik

Those who voted in the negative were: