

Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

January 11, 1985

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74th Minnesota Legislature Convenes

Lieutenant Governor Marlene Johnson called the 1985 Minnesota Senate to order Jan. 8, 1985 at noon.

The ceremonial first day saw the Senate elect its president, secretary, and other officers. The proceedings also included parting remarks from retiring Senate Minority Leader James Ulland.

Among the first resolutions passed was a resolution naming Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) Majority Leader and Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) Minority Leader for the 74th Minnesota legislative session.

Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood) was reelected president of the Senate. Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake) nominated Hughes for reelection, Senate Minority Leader Glen Taylor seconded the nomination.

In his last address to the Senate, Ulland urged the body to be a "gentle guide" in the legislative process.

Quoting Confucius, he reminded senators that, "Oppressive government is fiercer than any tiger." Ulland told those gathered in the Senate chamber that, "the (legislative) process works well in its methodical sureness."

Ulland resigned his Senate post to accept a position with the First Bank System. Gov. Rudy Perpich will call a special election in early February to fill the vacancy.

Moe, speaking for the DFL caucus wished Ulland well adding, "You have served with distinction. You have, through your toughness, intelligence, and knowledge of the process, the respect of all of us."

Resolutions passed by the Senate included an increase in postage allowance to 3,500 stamps. Another resolution, reflecting work by the Rules Committee earlier in the day, allows Taylor to leave the Senate Employment Committee, and Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) to join the Senate Taxes and Tax Laws Committee. The Senate also passed resolutions involving staffing and parking.

Moe announced that Senate committees would not meet Jan. 14 or 15 in order to allow Senators to attend a High Technology Conference. The conference, sponsored by the Senate Council and Research, The State Planning Agency and the Minnesota High Technology Council, will be held Monday and Tuesday at the Minnesota Science Museum. It is designed to explore the future of high technology in Minnesota. A highlight of the conference will be an address by former California Governor Jerry Brown. Brown is now the director of the National Commission on Industrial Innovation.

Home health care concerns Health and Human Services

Home health care was the topic of discussion at the Jan. 9 inaugural meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee chaired by Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). Home Health Task Force recommendations and the Department of Health's responses were presented by Mike Tripple, Assistant Division Director, Health Systems, who emphasized the need for insuring that "health care services are provided in a safe and appropriate manner."

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The Health Department's response to the establishment of a home health regulatory agency was favorable. Options receiving preliminary approval include: coordinating home health service with other services such as long-term and acute service, publishing a consumer guide, defining clients' rights and responsibilities, enforcement power, designation of the Health Systems division as the controlling body, establishment of a complaint department and possible expansion depending on fiscal constraints.

Financial aspects sparked some discussion as the limitations imposed by Diagnosis Related Groups, Medicare as the current federal funding program and the unknown number of institutions wanting licenses (thereby generating license fees) were weighed against the need for additional appropriations from the Legislature.

Regulation would be initiated on a temporary basis beginning Oct. 1, 1985, until permanent licensing procedures and rules could be established.

Currently 169 facilities are regulated under the Medicare program while an indefinite number operate independently and the family home is a "somewhat isolated situation," said Tripple.

Also, the status of the Free Standing Emergency Rules legislation passed last year was updated by Wayne Carlson, Special Projects Coordinator, Department of Health E.M.S. Unit. According to this legislation, a health care facility describing its services as emergency, trauma, critical or acute must meet personnel requirements, meet physical plant requirements, provide 24-hour service and be integrated into the emergency 911 network.

Donhowe presents financial overview

Lawmakers will have about \$11 billion dollars available for state spending in the 1986 biennial budget under the governor's proposal, Finance Commissioner Gus Donhowe told members of the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee at their Wednesday, Jan. 9, meeting.

Donhowe said the department anticipates \$12 billion to be available through tax revenues and other resources. From that amount, the governor intends to maintain a \$500 million budget reserve and to provide about \$600 million in tax relief, he said. He added that the \$11 billion available for spending allows for an annual increase of only 5.9 percent over the last biennium.

Donhowe told the committee, chaired by Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook), that the Legislature should maintain the \$500 million reserve fund to avoid having the state resume short-term borrowing. He said that short-term borrowing has cost the state about \$160 million since 1980, when the state first began experiencing budget shortfalls. He added that the state's short-term borrowing debt will be eliminated Jan. 16, 1985. Eliminating the debt is necessary in order for the state to earn a AAA bond rating.

Perpich gives State of the State Address

Saying that the challenge of the 1980's and '90's is to "achieve vigorous, sustainable economic growth in rapidly changing times," Governor Perpich said the state's top priority should be to reduce

income taxes and to simplify the state's tax forms.

In his State of the State Address before a joint legislative session, Perpich recommended a \$604 million income tax cut over the next two years, and asked legislators to make it effective retroactive to Jan. 1. In addition to the tax cut, the governor stressed the need for tax simplification and called for the creation of a one-page tax form.

The state's second priority should be spending control and fiscal stability, said Perpich, and he asked that the budget reserve be increased to \$500 million. Determined to control state spending, Perpich said he will submit a budget that holds average spending increases to less than six percent a year. Perpich also announced his support of a U.S. constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget.

Perpich stressed his commitment in making Minnesota a leader among states in foreign trade, saying the state should be ready to make an investment in economic development and international trade. "International trade means expanded business for Minnesota, and business expansion means more jobs for Minnesota workers," Perpich said. He added, "I will travel to any community in this state, any city in this nation, any corner of the world to bring jobs to Minnesota."

The governor said that the state should strive for education excellence through competition, and he urged state lawmakers to support a new education program. Among several proposed provisions for the different educational levels, his plan would allow 11th and 12th graders to choose their high school. "I want all Minnesotans to have access to the highest quality education . . . our brainpower will fuel the information-based industries already flourishing in our state," he said.

The governor indicated he is concerned about what he termed

the "depression" in rural Minnesota. The farm crisis, he said, "will require a massive bi-partisan effort that includes a major commitment from Washington." With the support of federal programs, he said he would like to develop long-term solutions for the economically depressed areas and shape Minnesota to benefit rather than suffer from the coming changes in our society.

Farm crisis examined

The crisis in Minnesota's agricultural community was the focus of the first meeting, Thurs. Jan. 10, of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) opened the hearing by bringing panel members up to date on the situation in rural Minnesota. "Between 10,000 and 15,000 farmers will lose their farms because of the economic difficulties being experienced in the agriculture community" Moe said. He stressed that the problem did not arise in the state legislature, but rather with the agricultural, conservational, and financial policies of the current administration in Washington. "We must not raise any false hopes," he said, but we would be remiss if we did not respond to the situation before the beginning of the next planting season in the areas of property taxation, transportation and farm financing. Moe concluded by emphasizing the need for effective government action in relieving the crisis situation.

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), were then further briefed on the farm situation by Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Rollin Dennistoun, Chancellor John Wefald of the State University System, Commerce Commissioner Michael Hatch, Rural Development Council Director Peg Michels of the Department of Energy and Economic Development and Roger Culhane of the Attorney General's office.

Preview

Monday, January 14, 1985

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 54-Davis: Providing a mechanism to aid restructuring existing farm loans.

The Senate will be in session at 11:30 AM.

Minnesota High Technology Conference

Science Museum of Minnesota
10th and Cedar Streets
St. Paul

Tuesday, January 15, 1985

Minnesota High Technology Conference

Science Museum of Minnesota
10th and Cedar Streets
St. Paul

Wednesday, January 16, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Committee report on PERA.

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation of Minnesota Business Partnership's Education Report, Don Frenette, 3M Company and Roger King, Graco Corporation.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 54-Davis: Providing a mechanism to aid restructuring existing farm loans.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Findings and recommendations of the Task Force on Poverty and Jobs, Barbara Stromer, State Planning Agency; Update on the Grant Diversion Project, Charles Schultz, Dept. of Human Services.

Finance, Chair: Gerald Willet

3:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: 1985-87 Financial Overview presentation by Dept. of Finance, Commissioner Gus Donhowe, Wilbur Maki, Jay Kiedrowski, and Nellie Johnson.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of Governor Perpich's income tax proposal.

Thursday, January 17, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Friday, January 18, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: PERA.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (18)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam
OFFICE NO.: G-24
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Berg	DeCramer	Merriam	Stumpf
Bernhagen	Frederickson	Novak	Wegscheid
Bertram	Isackson	Peterson, C. C.	Willet
Dahl	Laidig	Peterson, R. W.	
Davis	Lessard	Storm	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon
OFFICE NO.: 303
MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Dahl	Laidig	Samuelson
Anderson	Freeman	Luther	Solon
Belanger	Kroening	Peterson, D. C.	Wegscheid
Benson	Kronebusch	Petty	

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler
OFFICE NO.: 306
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Anderson	Kamrath	Olson	Reichgott
Dahl	Knutson	Pehler	Stumpf
Davis	Langseth	Peterson, D. C.	Taylor
Dicklich	Mehrkens	Peterson, D. L.	
Dieterich	Merriam	Peterson, R. W.	
Hughes	Nelson	Ramstad	

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (13)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
OFFICE NO.: 301
MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Dicklich	Langseth	Pehler	Taylor
Dieterich	Mehrkens	Peterson, D. C.	
Hughes	Merriam	Peterson, D. L.	
Knutson	Nelson	Peterson, R. W.	

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes
OFFICE NO.: 328
MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Frederickson	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, D. C.	Storm
Hughes	Luther	Peterson, D. L.	Willet
Johnson, D. E.	Moe, R. D.	Samuelson	

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski
OFFICE NO.: 325
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Diessner	Nelson	Vega
Brataas	Frank	Pehler	
Chmielewski	Frederick	Peterson, C. C.	
Dicklich	Kroening	Ramstad	

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega
OFFICE NO.: G-29
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Kamrath	Peterson, D. C.	Vega
Anderson	Kroening	Peterson, D. L.	
Frank	McQuaid	Pogemiller	
Freeman	Olson	Reichgott	

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet
OFFICE NO.: 121
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Brataas	Kroening	Nelson	Spear
Dahl	Kronebusch	Purfeerst	Taylor
Dicklich	Langseth	Ramstad	Waldorf
Frederickson	Lantry	Renneke	Willet
Hughes	Lessard	Samuelson	
Johnson, D. E.	Luther	Schmitz	
Knutson	Mehrkens	Solon	

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M.
OFFICE NO.: 309
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Benson	Knaak	Peterson, C. C.	Wegscheid
Berglin	Lantry	Pogemiller	
Frederickson	McQuaid	Renneke	
Jude	Moe, D. M.	Spear	

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIRMAN: Berglin
OFFICE NO.: 323
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Benson	Dicklich	Lantry	Waldorf
Berglin	Diessner	Moe, D. M.	
Brataas	Johnson, D. E.	Petty	
Chmielewski	Knutson	Solon	

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear
OFFICE NO.: G-27
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Freeman	Knaak	Petty	Sieloff
Johnson, D. E.	Luther	Pogemiller	Spear
Jude	Merriam	Ramstad	
Kamrath	Peterson, R. W.	Reichgott	

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Isackson	Reichgott	Wegscheid
Bertram	Kamrath	Renneke	
Davis	McQuaid	Schmitz	
Freeman	Olson	Stumpf	

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (14)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

DeCramer	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, D. L.	Storm
Dieterich	Jude	Purfeerst	Waldorf
Frank	Knaak	Sieloff	
Isackson	Novak	Spear	

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (26)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D.
OFFICE NO.: 208
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Johnson, D. J.	Nelson	Solon
Berglin	Knutson	Pehler	Spear
Bernhagen	Lessard	Peterson, C. C.	Taylor
Chmielewski	Luther	Purfeerst	Vega
Dieterich	Merriam	Renneke	Willet
Frederick	Moe, D. M.	Schmitz	
Hughes	Moe, R. D.	Sieloff	

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J.
OFFICE NO.: 205
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Davis	Merriam	Pogemiller
Benson	Dieterich	Moe, D. M.	Sieloff
Berg	Frank	Novak	Stumpf
Berglin	Frederick	Pehler	Vega
Bernhagen	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, C. C.	
Bertram	Jude	Peterson, R. W.	
Chmielewski	Laidig	Petty	

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C.
ROOM: 205
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Davis	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, C. C.
Berg	Dieterich	Laidig	Peterson, R. W.
Berglin	Frank	Merriam	Petty
Bernhagen	Frederick	Novak	
		Pehler	

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst
ROOM: 303
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Diessner	Lantry	Stumpf
Anderson	Frederick	Mehrkens	Vega
Berg	Kronebusch	Novak	
Bernhagen	Laidig	Purfeerst	
DeCramer	Langseth	Schmitz	

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard
ROOM: 328
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Berg	Chmielewski	Isackson	Samuelson
Bertram	DeCramer	Kronebusch	Schmitz
Brataas	Diessner	Lessard	Storm

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members—1985 Session

PHONE	PARTY	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.	PHONE	PARTY	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.
296-5981	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	235 Cap.	22	296-1279	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	132B SOB	44
6455	IR	Anderson, Don A.	103 SOB	12	8075	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	127 SOB	26
5975	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	107 SOB	41	4154	DFL	Merriam, Gene	G-24 Cap.	49
3903	IR	Benson, Duane D.	109 SOB	32	4264	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	309 Cap.	65
5094	IR	Berg, Charles A.	115 SOB	11	2577	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	208 Cap.	2
4261	DFL	Berglin, Linda	323 Cap.	60	4871	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	301 Cap.	31
4131	IR	Bernhagen, John	113 SOB	21	4334	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	203 Cap.	52
2084	DFL	Bertram, Joe	328 Cap.	16	1282	IR	Olson, Gen	132C SOB	43
4848	IR	Brataas, Nancy	139 SOB	33	4241	DFL	Pehler, James C.	306 Cap.	17
4182	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	325 Cap.	14	4135	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	205 Cap.	10
5003	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	G-24 Cap.	50	3988	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	141 SOB	29
2302	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	G-24 Cap.	18	4274	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	G-29 Cap.	61
6820	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	303 Cap.	27	8018	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	326 Cap.	19
2859	DFL	Dicklich, Ronald R.	306 Cap.	5	0760	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	323 Cap.	62
8298	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	325 Cap.	56	7809	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	G-24 Cap.	58
8867	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	235 Cap.	63	4167	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	303 Cap.	25
2877	DFL	Frank, Don	G-28 Cap.	51	9251	IR	Ramstad, Jim	123 Cap.	45
4123	IR	Frederick, Mel	119 SOB	30	2889	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	G-27 Cap.	46
8138	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	143 SOB	23	4125	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	117 SOB	35
9307	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	303 Cap.	40	4875	DFL	Samuelson, Don	121 Cap.	13
4183	DFL	Hughes, Jerome M.	328 Cap.	54	7157	DFL	Schmitz, Robert J.	235 Cap.	36
9305	IR	Isackson, Doran L.	151 SOB	28	4310	IR	Sieloff, Ron	135 SOB	64
3826	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	105 SOB	15	4188	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	303 Cap.	7
8881	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	205 Cap.	6	4191	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	G-27 Cap.	59
4248	DFL	Jude, Tad	235 Cap.	48	6238	IR	Storm, Donald A.	125 SOB	42
1240	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	133 SOB	20	8660	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	306 Cap.	1
1253	IR	Knaak, Fritz	149 SOB	53	9457	IR	Taylor, Glen	147 SOB	24
4120	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	121 SOB	38	4101	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	G-29 Cap.	39
4302	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	G-24 Cap.	57	3809	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	G-24 Cap.	66
1945	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	153 SOB	34	8091	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	309 Cap.	37
4351	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	145 SOB	55	4147	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	121 Cap.	4
3205	DFL	Langseth, Keith	G-24 Cap.	9	*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155				
8017	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	G-24 Cap.	67					
4136	DFL	Lessard, Bob	328 Cap.	3					
8869	DFL	Luther, William P.	205 Cap.	47					

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Briefly

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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review January 18, 1985

Ag panel moves foreclosure moratorium bill

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), took what was considered a "first step" towards helping farmers who are financially depressed by approving a bill designed to provide farmers with a better cash flow this spring.

The bill, approved Wednesday, Jan. 16, would allow lending institutions to agree to a four-month moratorium on farm foreclosures while reviewing farmers' troubled loans. Lending institutions would then determine if any loans should be submitted to the FmHA for loan guarantee or debt restructuring. If the farmer agrees to have the loan submitted to the FmHA for consideration, the state would pay lenders the interest due during the first sixty days of the moratorium on the loans submitted.

If the FmHA guarantees the loan, the interest on the loan during the second sixty-day period of the moratorium may be added to the principal. If the loan guarantee is rejected, the lenders would not be reimbursed for the interest lost during the second two-month period.

Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the author of the bill, said the state's obligation would be about \$9.2 million. He said that the bill, S.F. 54, is not the final solution. "It isn't envisioned as the answer," he said. "If we don't take a first step, how can we take a second one?" he added.

The committee defeated two amendments offered by Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio), who characterized the bill as a "Band-Aid approach." The first amendment called for a one-year foreclosure moratorium on personal and real property that is related to agriculture production. Speaking in opposition to the amendment, Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids) said, "This is the first bill we hope will get fast action . . . if financial institutions do not cooperate the way we think they will . . . we may then have to pass something like this."

Berg's second amendment would have required that the attorney general's personnel be used to represent persons facing repossession, foreclosure and foreclosure sales. Davis said that a similar bill will be introduced, and he asked committee members to review it on its own merits.

The bill was sent to the Finance Committee.

High-tech conference held

Senators held a brief floor session Monday, Jan. 14, to process the introduction of Senate bills. The Senate then adjourned, and legislators from both bodies attended a Conference on High Technology.

The conference, sponsored by the State Planning Agency, the Senate Office of Research and Counsel and the High Technology Council, was designed to inform legislators of the current status of high technology industry in Minnesota and the future economic opportunities inherent in the expansion of technology intensive industries.

The two-day conference consisted of two panel presentations,

an address by former governor and current director of the National Institute on Industrial Innovation, Jerry Brown and several tours of area high-tech industries.

Speakers throughout the conference stressed the need for a strong educational system in order to supply high quality workers for the rapidly expanding industry. In addition, speakers emphasized the need for Minnesota's public and private sectors to work together in a partnership to create the kind of entrepreneurial atmosphere necessary for technology intensive industry to flourish.

Martin Luther King, Jr. honored

A Senate Concurrent Resolution commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was given approval at the Thursday, Jan. 17, Senate session. The resolution, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), honors the late civil rights leader for his achievements in the fight against racism, poverty and injustice.

In other action, S.F. 122, the PERA bill, was introduced, amended and laid on the table pending further action during the Monday, Jan. 21 session. Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), chief sponsor of the measure had requested a suspension of the Rules in order to take immediate action on the bill. However, Moe acceded to the request of Minority Leader Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) and delayed taking final action on the bill. The proposal, which changes the structure and authority of the PERA Board of Trustees, was amended to specify that terms of a new board would expire Aug. 1, 1987.

Panel studies governor's tax proposal

Tom Triplett of the governor's staff and John Haynes of the Dept. of Finance presented an overview of the governor's income tax proposal at the Wed., Jan. 16, hearing.

The governor has proposed that income taxes be cut by \$604 million and made effective retroactively to Jan. 1, 1985. That would translate into an annual income tax reduction of ten percent, said Haynes. The governor also proposed that the state's income tax form be simplified to one page.

Haynes said that all income brackets will receive reductions. The reductions, he said, would be greater for one wage earner families in the middle income brackets, followed by two earner families. Single taxpayers would have the lowest reductions, he said. (One wage earner families are the most burdened under Minnesota's current system.)

Perpich's tax simplification plan would allow the average taxpayer to fill out the form in about fifteen minutes or less, said Haynes. The many separate pages of forms, schedules and worksheets would be greatly reduced. The plan, he said, adopts federal taxable income as the base, combines and automatically splits married taxpayers income, and reduces modifications to only a few. Because of the simplification plan, some people would pay more in taxes. Haynes said about 64 percent of taxpayers would have lower taxes, 24 percent would have higher taxes and 12 percent would have no change.

Committee Capsule

Education

Business Partnership's recommendations presented

Restructuring the state school system was the central theme of the Minnesota Business Partnerships's Education Task Force recommendations presented by Roger King, Vice President and Treasurer of the Graco Corporation, at the Jan. 16 session of the Education Committee chaired by James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

"Higher performance can be achieved by the mass bulk of students in Minnesota," King said.

The details of the proposed plan revolve around three areas. These include restructuring schooling, restructuring teaching and redistributing authority.

Restructuring schooling would involve the uniform reorganization of schools into elementary schools (grades K-6), academically focused common high schools (grades 7-10), and specialized schooling chosen by students (grades 11-12). Required state tests would then be taken at the 6th and 10th grade levels in addition to extra diagnostic tests given by individual schools. State course requirements would be deregulated, and students would be guaranteed certain Free Electives. During grades 7-10, about 50 percent of the courses taken would be basics (math, science, communications and social studies) while 33 percent would be local option and 17 percent would be student choice.

Restructuring teaching would involve converting instruction methods to "mastery learning" which would incorporate the practice of students teaching students and moving forward as a group. All schools would be required to maintain an Individual Learning Program for each student as well.

Teacher preparation and licensing would be revised and the teacher's role would change. Three categories of teachers —Lead Teacher, Teaching Assistant, and Adjunct Teacher (part-time supplied from the community) —would compose the teaching force and would work together as a team.

Redistribution of authority would be achieved through school-site management in which each school would determine its own curriculum and methods of instruction. In addition, school-level Community Boards of Education would be publically elected for each school.

In response to the issue of cost, King pointed out that the new system, after implementation, would cost no more than the present system. And, the transition cost could be funded by the projected enrollment decline which will produce a monetary surplus.

Topics generating discussion and debate included the establishment of incentives for women to enter the sciences, the place of disadvantaged students in the new program, the role of state government vs. local school districts and the issue of transportation for students.

The Minnesota Business Partnership is an organization made up of CEO's from more than 75 of Minnesota's largest companies who are interested in improving life in Minnesota. Their study was conducted by BW Associates of California.

Employment

Unemployment compensation reviewed

Representatives of business and labor expressed their views on the future of unemployment compensation in Minnesota at a Jan. 17 Senate Employment Committee meeting.

An overview of the current status of the unemployment fund was outlined by Department of Economic Security Assistant Commissioner for Unemployment Insurance Gene Sampson. According to Sampson, the unemployment insurance fund

continues to operate in the red. (As of Dec. 31, the debt was \$204 million.)

Committee Chairman Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake) has authored a bill designed to retire the federal loan one year early through accelerated payments and a three year continuation of a cap on benefits. Chmielewski estimates the bill would save Minnesota business \$26 million. "It's a sensible way to solve a problem that persists and put the fund in a solvent status," he said.

Sampson told Senators that if nothing is done, the federal penalty tax will increase to 1.1 percent. Sampson stressed that the federal government will collect the loan. Minnesota lawmakers have to decide how, he said. If the legislative decision is to pay the loan at a more gradual rate, the federal tax will increase, Sampson said.

Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry Director of Labor Relations, Francis Fitzgerald urged the committee to accelerate payment and continue the cap on benefits. "We don't like to see benefit payments increase when the program is in debt," said Fitzgerald. "We're not advocating a cut in benefits payments," said Fitzgerald. Instead, he said MACI is asking the legislature to hold the line.

Minnesota AFL-CIO President Dan Gustafson, in his testimony before the committee, said that a cap on benefits would represent a real cut to the unemployed. To avoid a cut, Gustafson suggested that benefits reflect cost of living increases. He urged Senators to allow the cap to expire, stating that only one-third of Minnesota's unemployed are receiving benefits, which shouldn't strain the fund. He said the answer to the problem is to either increase employment to prevent drawing on the fund and increase tax revenues, or increase the tax on large companies.

"We got too many employers with big salaries not paying their share," said Gustafson.

Committee members will consider amendments to the Chmielewski bill Feb. 5.

Finance

Finance Committee briefed on budget

Finance Commissioner Gus Donhowe emphasized the need for the \$500 million "rainy day" fund when he and members of his staff presented a financial overview for 1985-1987 to the Senate Finance Committee, Wed. Jan. 16.

The administration-supported reserve fund is important for two reasons, Donhowe said. It would prevent short term borrowing that caused the 1982-83 session financial trouble, and it will aid Minnesota in retrieving a triple A credit rating, Donhowe said. (Minnesota was recently up-graded to a double A plus rating.) Donhowe pointed to July, 1982, when Minnesota reached its all time high short term borrowing peak of \$850 million. An adequate reserve fund is needed to avoid, "cut and patch" tactics during hard times, Donhowe said.

Donhowe is forecasting 55 months of uninterrupted growth, but he tempered the optimistic view by indicating that forecasts are not written in stone. Senators reviewed a chart of Minnesota revenue forecast errors showing an average annual error of 7.9 percent. The proposed rainy day fund would comprise roughly 5 percent of the biennial budget. "It's always better to have positive variances than negative ones," said Donhowe.

Senator Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing) questioned the reserve fund in favor of a \$125 million tax relief package. Mehrkens and others contend it would be beneficial to Minnesota's economy to give tax-payers some of the reserve to spur growth. Donhowe urged lawmakers not to give relief unless it is certain that the relief can be sustained. "We think the cruelest act of state government is to be unreliable," said Donhowe.

Committee Chairman Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids) supported the reserve fund saying that it would be considered, "irresponsible accounting procedures," in the business world to have anything less than a 5 percent reserve.

State Economist Wilbur Maki continued the cautious budgeting theme during his remarks to the committee. Although Minnesota is outpacing the U.S. in growth right now, a recession typically hits Minnesota harder than the rest of the nation and Minnesota takes longer to bounce back. Maki also reminded Senators that not all of Minnesota is enjoying prosperity. Two-thirds of Minnesota's recovery, according to Maki, has occurred in the metro-area.

Deputy Finance Commissioner Jay Kiedrowski told the committee that the largest components of the biennial budget are aids to school districts and AFDC and MSA programs.

Assistant Commissioner for Budget Services Nellie Johnson walked Senators through higher education and income maintenance program forecasts for the coming biennium.

Governmental Operations

PERA bill advances

Members of the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), met Wed., Jan. 16, and completed work on their investigation of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA).

The panel moved quickly to approve a committee report detailing the results of a four month investigation into the activities of the PERA Board of Trustees and of the former executive director. The report concludes that "The PERA Board of Trustees is dominated by a faction that repeatedly has demonstrated a disrespect for its public obligations and an ignorance of and a disregard for its fiduciary responsibilities."

The report also states that "the major contributing factor to the corruption and the disability of PERA has been the strong and negative influence of John Allers." However, the report goes on to say "Allers' domination of PERA neither diminishes nor excuses the complicity of executive director Mike McLaren and the Board majority in the abuses which have occurred."

Committee members then turned their attention to proposed legislation that would change the structure and authority of the Board, specify the duties and qualifications of the executive director and clarify the status of PERA under other state law.

Under the proposed measure, sponsored by Moe, the size of the Board would be reduced from 15 members to six members appointed by the governor and the State Auditor. An amendment limiting the term of the new members to Dec. 31, 1986, was attached to the bill in order to allow time to consider the possibility of retaining an election process for some board members.

Other sections of the bill would, in effect, make PERA a state agency, subject to the same controls and requirements as other state agencies. In addition, the powers and duties of the Board are spelled out in detail in the new legislation.

The proposal received unanimous approval by committee members and was scheduled for immediate floor action.

Health and Human Services

Poverty and jobs programs examined

Findings and Recommendations of the Task Force on Poverty and Jobs were presented at the Jan. 16 meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee chaired by Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). "It is not a simple problem, and there are no simple answers," said Barbara Stromer, Director of the task force.

The report found that poverty had reached a high of 11.4 percent in Minnesota in 1982. The groups most affected include young single parents and their children and those who have lost jobs due to industry shut-downs as well as farm families and the elderly. Although more than 50 percent of those living in poverty are employed, the employment tends to be seasonal or part-time.

Some of the recommendations made for the future include refocusing on the clients rather than the programs and establishing education, training and service programs in order to meet the long-term needs of the client. Developing an integrated client-based information system and improved labor market forecasts also are needed. Support services including child care and health care as well as transitional programs for those coming out of unemployment were recommended. Finally, the incorporation of the private sector into the training programs was looked upon favorably.

A 1985-87 financial overview of the top seven state entitlement programs was also presented by Nellie Johnson, State Budget Director. And, an update on the Grant Diversion Project was given by Charles Schultz and Don Gralnek, Dept. of Human Services.

Preview

Monday, January 21, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: School district fund balances, levy certification information, Dept. of Education; Review of the foundation formula, Senate Research; Fund merger, Dept. of Education.

Tuesday, January 22, 1985

Rules & Administration Subc. on Permanent & Joint Rules,

Chair: William Luther

11:00 AM Room 237, Capitol

Agenda: Proposed rule changes.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Sen. Resolution #18-DeCramer: Requesting the Farmers Home Administration to amend proposed rules.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM

Agenda: Tour of Anoka State Hospital.

Wednesday, January 23, 1985

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by the Charitable Gambling Control Board on the adoption of rules; S.F. 90-Laidig: Resolution requesting action on determining the fate of M.I.A.'s in Southeast Asia.

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Report from the Commission on the Future of Post-Secondary Education, Elmer L. Andersen; Higher Education Coordinating Board's Teacher Education report, David Longanecker and Carol Kamper.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM

Agenda: Orientation and tour of new MTC Heywood Facility.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM DNR Building, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul

Agenda: Overview of DNR budget and tour of new DNR offices.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Medicaid cost containment efforts and projections, Deputy Commissioner Frank Giberson, including social HMOs, Medicaid demonstration project, nursing home moratorium, Medicaid prior authorization, AFDC HMOs; Medicaid report and Medicaid waivers, Al Hanzal, Dept. of Human Services; reorganization of the Dept. of Human Services.

Thursday, January 24, 1985

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Workers Compensation overview by Commissioner Steve Keefe, Dept. of Labor & Industry.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Presentations by Rose Hermodson, MFT; John Farmer, MEA; Barbara Barker, ASGSD; Gary Park, St. Paul; Larry Harris, Minneapolis; and Ron Soberg, Duluth.

Friday, January 25, 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Presentations by Carl Johnson, MSBA; Mary Roberts, AMSD; Norm Maguire, Mn. Association of School Administrators; and Bob Arnold, Mn. Association of Elementary School Principals.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 60-Wegscheid: Requiring certain persons to complete firearm safety instruction as condition for target practice or hunting with firearms.

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briefly

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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

January 25, 1985

Senate votes to replace PERA board

The Minnesota Senate voted unanimously to replace the 15-member elected PERA board of trustees with a new 7-member board. One member would be the State Auditor and the other six members would be appointed by the governor.

Final passage on S.F. 122 follows a Governmental Operations Committee report that Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul) said, "is replete with violations of law and replete with violations of public trust." Moe said that the report indicated mismanagement of funds and release of an illegally obtained membership list.

The measure would sunset the all-appointed board Aug. 1, 1987. At that time, lawmakers would re-evaluate the possibility of electing the board.

An amendment to both appoint and elect a 9-member board in 1986 failed on a 33 to 30 vote. Before offering the amendment, Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan) said, "I will vote for the bill whether or not my amendment is adopted."

The amendment would have four of the board of trustees members appointed by the Governor. Appointees would come from each of the following areas: counties, cities, school boards, and labor. The four elected members would come from: police and fire retirees, retirees, metro-area PERA members, out-state PERA members, and the ninth board member would be the State Auditor. Frederickson said that the amendment had two objectives: to protect PERA members right of election and to provide checks and balances between appointed members, elected members, and the State Auditor. Moe argued that appointment of a PERA board would save valuable time, calling board replacement "urgent".

Voluntary farm moratorium approved

The Senate convened on Jan. 22 to discuss S.F. No. 54, a bill establishing a voluntary 120 day moratorium on farm foreclosures. Introduced by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the bill was given final passage 54-7.

Arguing that the bill did not go far enough, Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio) offered three separate amendments to the bill. The second, in particular, drew attention; the amendment would have instated a mandatory one year moratorium on farm foreclosures. Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook) then amended the amendment to include all homesteads as well as farms because of all of the unemployment caused by poor federal policy.

"We'll have another Depression that is farm-led and farm-fed," declared Berg. "Credit is the lifeblood of our system."

A debate over the actual number of people who would be aided by S.F. 54 continued for some time, Davis offering an 8,000 figure while Berg offered a 2,000 or less figure.

All amendments were defeated.

Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) urged the passage of the bill as a "first step" because it was backed by both farm organizations and lending agencies.

Senate Resolution 18 was also approved on a voice vote. The resolution asks the Farmers Home Administration to reexamine its proposed regulations regarding loan deferrals.

M.I.A. resolution passed

Members of the Senate voted their unanimous approval of a resolution memorializing the governments of the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to take all possible actions to determine the fate of persons missing in action in Southeast Asia. The resolution, S.F. 90, sponsored by Sen. Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater), was approved during the Thurs., Jan. 24 floor session and forwarded on to the House of Representatives for immediate action. Rapid processing of the measure was necessary because Sun., Jan. 27, marks the 12th anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement and legislators from both bodies wanted to demonstrate their support of the families of those persons still listed as missing in action.

Tax commission presents report

St. Paul Mayor George Latimer and members of the Minnesota Tax Study Commission presented their report to the Senate Tax Committee Wed., Jan. 23. The commission's report, adopted last December, proposes significant changes in the state's tax structure.

Concerning personal income taxes, the commission called for tax reduction and simplification. The commission recommended that income taxes be cut \$477 million during each of the next two years.

The commission also recommended that the state's property tax system be simplified by reducing Minnesota's property tax classifications to three and by eliminating the property tax credits and refund programs. The commission recommended that the \$624 million spent in the present property tax credit system be used to reduce mill rates in order to equalize fiscal disparities. The commission also proposed that the \$179 million in the circuit breaker program be used for a revised relief program, which would aim relief to low and moderate income people by considering property value, income and taxes due.

Among the commission's more controversial proposals is their recommendation to expand the six percent sales tax to clothing and personal services. Latimer said the expansion would stabilize tax revenues.

Latimer explained that the commission's report is "aiming at the long haul and not at this legislative session." He explained that their proposals are intended to make the state's tax system more equitable, accountable, simple and competitive. "There is a confusion about our tax system," said Latimer. "We believe we have to pull things in line and make it more clear," he added.

Latimer told the committee that they should work to make the tax system simpler, and that relief provided in the present tax system should be done through spending programs.

In other action, the committee approved a bill that would extend the tax-exempt status for interest on mortgage subsidy bonds on those issued between July 18, 1985 and Dec. 31, 1987. The bill, S.F. 100, authored by Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton), would have included those issued since Jan. 1, 1984. Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) successfully amended the bill to the later date to avoid providing bond holders with a windfall. The bill would cost the state about \$2.7 million during the 1986-87 biennium.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Panel asks for better FmHA regulations

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee approved a Senate Resolution Tues., Jan. 22, asking the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) to reexamine its proposed regulations regarding loan deferrals.

According to James Massey of Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, Inc., the FmHA issued proposed regulations last November in response to several court decisions declaring that the FmHA was required to implement a loan deferral program. Those proposed regulations, he said, work against the intent of the court decisions.

Massey explained that the court decisions resulted from litigation against the federal government for its failure to implement a 1978 statute authorizing the program. The federal law authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to grant a deferral on loan payments and a moratorium on foreclosures when a FmHA borrower finds it impossible to make payments because of circumstances beyond his control.

Massey said that in a national class action suit on behalf of all FmHA borrowers, the judge ruled that FmHA borrowers have a right to receive family living and farm operating expenses from farm production income, even when the FmHA has a security interest in that income. According to Massey, that ruling may have saved more farms. Previously, the FmHA could have refused to release income for family and farm expenses. Without the money, borrowers had no income to buy food or pay local suppliers and creditors.

One proposed regulation eliminates the borrower's right to receive family living and farm operating expenses from their operations. Another proposed rule would exclude farmers from the loan deferral program if troubles arose solely because of the "cost-price squeeze" or economic conditions. Other proposals would limit deferrals to problems that occurred two years prior to the application; require borrowers to be current on other expenses, such as taxes; and require a borrower to try to adjust debts with other creditors before being eligible for a deferral.

Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), author of the resolution, said "We look at the FmHA as a lender of last resort. These rules appear to make it a lender of less resort."

Senate Resolution 18 was sent to the full Senate.

The committee toured the new Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) offices Wed., Jan. 23. Following the tour, the committee heard a brief overview of the department's budget. The department's budget proposals will be scrutinized by the Finance Committee this session.

Education

Math/science education needs expansion

"For educators to be driven 'back to the basics' is the wrong way to go," warned Von Valletta, Executive Director of the Minnesota Alliance for Science. She delivered the Alliance Report on math/science education to the Jan. 21 Education Committee meeting chaired by James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

According to the data gathered from math and science teachers via interviews and 2400 written surveys, teaching has not failed but rather societal changes have changed educational needs. While most Minnesota learners are above average in their comprehension of "the basics" in math and science, they need to be taught "higher order skills" such as creative problem solving and principle applications. This, said Valletta, is "where we are not doing an adequate job."

While Minnesota ranks high nationally in K-12 math and science education, it ranks at the bottom of the average industrialized nations on an international scale. Japan, in particular, exceeds all U.S. student performance standards. Japan ranks #1 internationally in learner performance and #1 in secondary school graduates; Japanese students attend school 270 days per year, six days a week.

"Between 1988 and 1998, we will have to replace almost all of the math and science teachers," Valletta noted. She explained that most of the Minnesota teaching cadre is older and will retire during the next decade. "If it is true, it gives us an opportunity to change how those teachers are educated," she added.

Stating that "excellence and equity" were the goals, Valletta outlined seven strategies to be implemented over the next six years to remedy the situation. These strategies included increasing parent involvement, linking teachers to resources, establishing uniform standards of achievement, renewing 1800 teachers (4th, 5th and 6th grades) for a period of one year, updating the content of secondary level education and preparing for the replacement of the entire teaching cadre.

The plan will cost \$13.5 million. The majority of this money, \$10 million, will come from the school districts themselves, said Valletta. The remaining funds will come from the Busch Foundation, the National Science Foundation, other alliances and the private sector.

The Executive Director of Minnesota Wellspring, Ed Hunter, also presented Wellspring recommendations for Minnesota education. Among the suggestions were: providing more money for equipment as well as research and development, establishing permanent learning centers rather than just demonstration sites and pilots, establishing schools as a resource for community people and community economic growth and providing a means for interaction between different components of the educational system. Hunter also added support to the establishment of more endowed chairs at the University of Minnesota and a continued commitment to the Super Computer Institute.

School district fund balances reviewed

School district financial conditions for fiscal year 1984 were presented by Ken Zastrow, Dept. of Education, at the Jan. 21 meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee chaired by Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

The fiscal report indicated that the unappropriated operating fund balance as of June 30, 1984 for the 437 school districts was \$305 million. This is the largest fund balance on record and a \$61 million improvement from the previous year. The \$305 million represents 13.7 percent of the annual operating fund revenues, meeting the 1981 Board of Education policy requiring a maximum of 20 percent and a minimum of 8-10 percent.

Thirty-two districts exceeded the annual expenditure limitations. These districts had a negative fund balance of over 2.5 percent of their annual unappropriated operating fund expenditures. They are obligated to submit "Special Operating Plans" to the Commissioner of Education.

A summary of the Fund Merger Study conducted by the Advisory Council on Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) was also presented by Zastrow. The study supports the use of separate, special purpose funds rather than one general fund in order to minimize competition between instructional program needs and items such as capital financing needs. The study also indicated that separate funds also give more accountability to taxpayers within a school district.

Teacher education draws attention

Seventeen recommendations concerning teacher education

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, January 28, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Permanent School Fund overview, presentation by the State Board of Investment; discussion of lakeshore leases, land exchange, peat preservation, Steve Thorne, DNR.**Judiciary**, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 196-Reichgott: Child abuse reporting.**Transportation**, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM

Agenda: Tour of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, 1246 University Ave. St. Paul**Legislative Commission on Employee Relations**

11:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Election of chair and vice chair; Review of pay equity report; Report on possible consolidation of the Public Employment Relations Board and Bureau of Mediation Services; Final report of the Advisory Council on Bargaining Impasse.**The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.****Education Subc. on Education Aids**, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Reports on programs for gifted children, including U of M Talented Youth Math Project, Task Force on Summer Academic Programs, MN Private College Council, Concordia Language Camp, and other gifted programs, Lorraine Hert, Dept. of Education.

Tuesday, January 29, 1985

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Report from Citizens Committee to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota.**Health & Human Services**, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Dept. of Health reorganization update, Commissioner Ashton; Dept. of Health cost containment report, Marianne Miller.**Energy & Housing**, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Review of the Legislative Audit Commission audit of the Dept. of Economic Security Energy Assistance Program.**Taxes & Tax Laws**, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continued discussion of the Tax Study Commission recommendations.

Wednesday, January 30, 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget overview.**Judiciary**, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 196-Reichgott: Child abuse reporting.**Transportation**, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM

Agenda: Tour given by the MN Motor Transport Association.**Agriculture & Natural Resources**, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 121-Peterson, C.C.: Tax credit for ag property; increasing limitation in farm loss modification; S.F. 169-Pehler: Exempting raising of horses from farm loss modification; S.F. 105-Jude and S.F. 74-Benson; Abolishing farm loss modifications.**Health & Human Services**, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Medicaid waiver for mentally retarded, Al Hanzal, Dept. of Human Services; Reports on Rule 14 & 36, Jay Bambery, DHS, grants for community support services and licensing of residential facilities for adult mentally ill persons; Testimony from Mental Health Association and Rule 36 providers; Reorganization of the Dept. of Human Services, Francis Giberson, DHS.**Taxes & Tax Laws**, Chair: Douglas Johnson

1:00 PM Room 200, State Office Building

Agenda: Joint hearing with the House Tax Committee on state taxation of corporations. Sponsored by the Masters in Taxation Program at William Mitchell College of Law.

Thursday, January 31, 1985

Rules & Administration Subc. on Permanent & Joint Rules,

Chair: William Luther

10:00 AM Room 237, Capitol

Agenda: Proposed rule changes.**The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.**

Friday, February 1, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of the State Board of Teaching, Dale Rapp.**Agriculture & Natural Resources**, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of the Dept. of Agriculture budget.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (18)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam
OFFICE NO.: G-24
MEETS: T, W, F, Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Berg	DeCramer	Merriam	Stumpf
Bernhagen	Frederickson	Novak	Wegscheid
Bertram	Isackson	Peterson, C. C.	Willet
Dahl	Laidig	Peterson, R. W.	
Davis	Lessard	Storm	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon
OFFICE NO.: 303
MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Dahl	Laidig	Samuelson
Anderson	Freeman	Luther	Solon
Belanger	Kroening	Peterson, D. C.	Wegscheid
Benson	Kronebusch	Petty	

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler
OFFICE NO.: 306
MEETS: M, W, F, Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Anderson	Kamrath	Olson	Reichgott
Dahl	Knutson	Pehler	Stumpf
Davis	Langseth	Peterson, D. C.	Taylor
Dicklich	Mehrkens	Peterson, D. L.	
Dieterich	Merriam	Peterson, R. W.	
Hughes	Nelson	Ramstad	

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (13)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
OFFICE NO.: 301
MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Dicklich	Langseth	Pehler	Taylor
Dieterich	Mehrkens	Peterson, D. C.	
Hughes	Merriam	Peterson, D. L.	
Knutson	Nelson	Peterson, R. W.	

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes
OFFICE NO.: 328
MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Frederickson	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, D. C.	Storm
Hughes	Luther	Peterson, D. L.	Willet
Johnson, D. E.	Moe, R. D.	Samuelson	

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski
OFFICE NO.: 325
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Diessner	Nelson	Vega
Brataas	Frank	Pehler	
Chmielewski	Frederick	Peterson, C. C.	
Dicklich	Kroening	Ramstad	

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega
OFFICE NO.: G-29
MEETS: T, W, F, Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Kamrath	Peterson, D. C.	Vega
Anderson	Kroening	Peterson, D. L.	
Frank	McQuaid	Pogemiller	
Freeman	Olson	Reichgott	

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet
OFFICE NO.: 121
MEETS: T, W, F, Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Brataas	Kroening	Nelson	Spear
Dahl	Kronebusch	Purfeerst	Taylor
Dicklich	Langseth	Ramstad	Waldorf
Frederickson	Lantry	Renneke	Willet
Hughes	Lessard	Samuelson	
Johnson, D. E.	Luther	Schmitz	
Knutson	Mehrkens	Solon	

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M.
OFFICE NO.: 309
MEETS: M, W, F, Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Benson	Knaak	Peterson, C. C.	Wegscheid
Berglin	Lantry	Pogemiller	
Frederickson	McQuaid	Renneke	
Jude	Moe, D. M.	Spear	

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIRMAN: Berglin
OFFICE NO.: 323
MEETS: T, W, F, Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Benson	Dicklich	Lantry	Waldorf
Berglin	Diessner	Moe, D. M.	
Brataas	Johnson, D. E.	Petty	
Chmielewski	Knutson	Solon	

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear
OFFICE NO.: G-27
MEETS: M, W, F, Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Freeman	Knaak	Petty	Sieloff
Johnson, D. E.	Luther	Pogemiller	Spear
Jude	Merriam	Ramstad	
Kamrath	Peterson, R. W.	Reichgott	

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Isackson	Reichgott	Wegscheid
Bertram	Kamrath	Renneke	
Davis	McQuaid	Schmitz	
Freeman	Olson	Stumpf	

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (14)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

DeCramer	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, D. L.	Storm
Dieterich	Jude	Purfeerst	Waldorf
Frank	Knaak	Sieloff	
Isackson	Novak	Spear	

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (26)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D.
OFFICE NO.: 208
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Johnson, D. J.	Nelson	Solon
Berglin	Knutson	Pehler	Spear
Bernhagen	Lessard	Peterson, C. C.	Taylor
Chmielewski	Luther	Purfeerst	Vega
Dieterich	Merriam	Renneke	Willet
Frederick	Moe, D. M.	Schmitz	
Hughes	Moe, R. D.	Sieloff	

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J.
OFFICE NO.: 205
MEETS: T, W, F, Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Davis	Merriam	Pogemiller
Benson	Dieterich	Moe, D. M.	Sieloff
Berg	Frank	Novak	Stumpf
Berglin	Frederick	Pehler	Vega
Bernhagen	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, C. C.	
Bertram	Jude	Peterson, R. W.	
Chmielewski	Laidig	Petty	

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C.
ROOM: 205
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Davis	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, C. C.
Berg	Dieterich	Laidig	Peterson, R. W.
Berglin	Frank	Merriam	Petty
Bernhagen	Frederick	Novak	
		Pehler	

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst
ROOM: 303
MEETS: M, W, F, Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Diessner	Lantry	Stumpf
Anderson	Frederick	Mehrkens	Vega
Berg	Kronebusch	Novak	
Bernhagen	Laidig	Purfeerst	
DeCramer	Langseth	Schmitz	

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard
ROOM: 328
MEETS: M, W, F, Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Berg	Chmielewski	Isackson	Samuelson
Bertram	DeCramer	Kronebusch	Schmitz
Brataas	Diessner	Lessard	Storm

were made by the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board at the Jan. 23 meeting of the Education Committee chaired by James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Dr. David Longanecker, Executive Director of the Board, outlined the six key objectives of the recommendations. Objectives included making teaching and teacher education more attractive professions for talented people, relieving an overcrowded undergraduate curriculum, promoting great coherence between teacher education and today's schools, improving accountability for outcomes of teacher education, easing the transition from pre-service education to the first teaching job and strengthening the state's commitment to continuing professional development of teachers.

Details proposed included providing more incentives for education majors such as scholarships and loans as well as providing quality controls such as state entrance exams and competency testing prior to licensure. Structural reforms such as expanding teacher education to five or six years and establishing alternative paths to licensure for those already holding college degrees were also proposed.

Discussion generated afterwards concerned the feasibility of mentor teachers and on-site evaluations as well as the role of the Board of Teaching.

Measures such as testing, said Longanecker, could provide the "rite of passage" needed to attract a larger percentage of bright people into the teaching field. He noted that 95 percent of the public believes teachers should be tested.

Employment

Workers' compensation improving

Deregulation of workers' compensation insurance has had a positive effect on the market, according to Commissioner of Labor and Industry Steve Keefe. He presented an overview to the Senate Employment Committee Thurs., Jan. 24. Keefe told the committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), that a complete report on workers' compensation cases under the new law would not be complete until next week. Despite the lack of hard data, Keefe expressed confidence that increased competition due to deregulation will result in declining rates. Of the top 20 insurance companies in Minnesota, 12 filed rates at or below last year's rates, said Keefe. He added that workers' compensation recipients are returning to work at a faster rate than ever before.

Keefe highlighted an encouraging trend toward friendlier relations between insurance companies, employers, employees, and the state. Keefe attributes the improved relations, in part, to mediation conferences. The informal conferences are designed to iron out differences between factions without any legal pressure.

Seminars to aid employers in bringing down workers' compensation costs are conducted by the department, said Keefe. Fifteen seminars were held throughout the state last year. Keefe added that employers could request, "a custom-made" workers' compensation plan at, "minimal or no cost."

Andrew Meuwissen, president of the state fund, a non-profit mutual insurance company funded by a \$5.7 million state loan, told committee members that the fund has written about \$5 million in premiums. He said the fund may need another \$10 million in the next few years, if business continues at its current rate. The increased capital is necessary to comply with Commerce Department recommendations, he explained.

Health and Human Services

Keeping health care costs down

Health and Human Services Commissioner Len Levine discussed methods to contain medicaid costs in Minnesota with the committee Wed., Jan., 23.

Levine reported a \$24 million budget surplus for his department. "For the first time in history, this account is in the black," he said. Two years ago, the budget was \$70 million in the red. The medical assistance (MA) budget in 1984 was \$418 million, according to Levine. The reason health care costs for the state have risen so fast, he explained, is a fee for service system. A system that Levine said, "guarantees budget excess." He emphasized the importance of providing incentives for efficiency. Levine told the committee that a pre-paid system would encourage cautious budget management.

Contracting services from health maintenance organizations (HMO's) provide a pre-paid service that saves money, according to Levine. Five thousand MA recipients are enrolled in HMO's on a voluntary basis now. Levine said, "HMO's are mainstream medicine and we feel their product is good." But he said, the state has a responsibility to monitor the quality of service HMO's provide MA recipients.

An increase in the population of Minnesota's elderly has put a strain on funds for long-term care, said Levine. Minnesota spends \$100,000 an hour on long term care. Contracting service from HMO's for the elderly is another way of containing costs. "Social HMO's expand long-term care services to help maintain the health of the elderly," said Levine.

Another way to contain budget costs is to provide services other than nursing homes to the elderly. "We institutionalize our elderly at almost twice the national average," said Levine. Alternative services for the elderly range from meals on wheels to respite care, said Levine. Senior citizens who do not need all of the services provided by a nursing home can also receive transportation and chore services according to Levine.

Levine called for a \$20 million budget increase to fund alternative community programs. "Every dollar spent on developing community options," said Levine, "saves four dollars by avoiding nursing home costs." The allocation is necessary to continue a moratorium on nursing home beds in the state put in place two years ago, according to Levine.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls), toured the Anoka State Hospital Tues. Jan. 22.

Veterans and General Legislation

Committee moves M.I.A. resolution

At their first meeting of the session, Wed., Jan. 23, committee members approved a resolution asking the governments of the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to do all that is possible to determine the fate of persons missing in action in Southeast Asia.

The resolution, S.F. 90, authored by Sen. Gary Laidig (R-Stillwater), states that 2,483 - Americans, including 50 Minnesotans, remain unaccounted for. The families of those who are missing have had a long and difficult wait, said Laidig, and the resolution is intended to encourage action in the hope of a true accounting of their loved ones. Chuck Ferguson of the American Legion said, "this resolution could be a stepping stone to getting things moving and getting them accounted for."

In other action, the committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), heard an update on the progress of the Charitable Gambling Board's adoption of rules. Thomas Carey, chairman of the board, said that the rules, which will regulate charitable gambling, will go into effect Mar. 1.

Excluding the money that will be bet at Minnesota's horse race track, \$1 billion in gambling money will "exchange hands legally" within a one-year period, said Carey. He said the state will receive about \$14.5 million in net income per year from taxes on charitable gambling.

The rules have drawn considerable opposition by various organizers of charitable gambling events. Lessard said the committee will be looking at some of the controversial rules this session.

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members—1985 Session

PHONE	PARTY	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.	PHONE	PARTY	SENATOR	ROOM*	DIST.
296-5981	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	235 Cap.	22	296-1279	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	132B SOB	44
6455	IR	Anderson, Don A.	103 SOB	12	8075	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	127 SOB	26
5975	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	107 SOB	41	4154	DFL	Merriam, Gene	G-24 Cap.	49
3903	IR	Benson, Duane D.	109 SOB	32	4264	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	309 Cap.	65
5094	IR	Berg, Charles A.	115 SOB	11	2577	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	208 Cap.	2
4261	DFL	Berglin, Linda	323 Cap.	60	4871	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	301 Cap.	31
4131	IR	Bernhagen, John	113 SOB	21	4334	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	203 Cap.	52
2084	DFL	Bertram, Joe	328 Cap.	16	1282	IR	Olson, Gen	132C SOB	43
4848	IR	Brataas, Nancy	139 SOB	33	4241	DFL	Pehler, James C.	306 Cap.	17
4182	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	325 Cap.	14	4135	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	205 Cap.	10
5003	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	G-24 Cap.	50	3988	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	141 SOB	29
2302	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	G-24 Cap.	18	4274	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	G-29 Cap.	61
6820	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	303 Cap.	27	8018	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	326 Cap.	19
2859	DFL	Dicklich, Ronald R.	306 Cap.	5	0760	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	323 Cap.	62
8298	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	325 Cap.	56	7809	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	G-24 Cap.	58
8867	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	235 Cap.	63	4167	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	303 Cap.	25
2877	DFL	Frank, Don	G-28 Cap.	51	9251	IR	Ramstad, Jim	123 SOB	45
4123	IR	Frederick, Mel	119 SOB	30	2889	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	G-27 Cap.	46
8138	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	143 SOB	23	4125	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	117 SOB	35
9307	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	303 Cap.	40	4875	DFL	Samuelson, Don	121 Cap.	13
4183	DFL	Hughes, Jerome M.	328 Cap.	54	7157	DFL	Schmitz, Robert J.	235 Cap.	36
9305	IR	Isackson, Doran L.	151 SOB	28	4310	IR	Sieloff, Ron	135 SOB	64
3826	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	105 SOB	15	4188	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	303 Cap.	7
8881	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	205 Cap.	6	4191	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	G-27 Cap.	59
4248	DFL	Jude, Tad	235 Cap.	48	6238	IR	Storm, Donald A.	125 SOB	42
1240	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	133 SOB	20	8660	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	306 Cap.	1
1253	IR	Knaak, Fritz	149 SOB	53	9457	IR	Taylor, Glen	147 SOB	24
4120	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	121 SOB	38	4101	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	G-29 Cap.	39
4302	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	G-24 Cap.	57	3809	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	G-24 Cap.	66
1945	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	153 SOB	34	8091	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	309 Cap.	37
4351	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	145 SOB	55	4147	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	121 Cap.	4
3205	DFL	Langseth, Keith	G-24 Cap.	9	*Capitol or State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155				
8017	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	G-24 Cap.	67					
4136	DFL	Lessard, Bob	328 Cap.	3					
8869	DFL	Luther, William P.	205 Cap.	47					

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Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

February 1, 1985

Brief floor sessions held

Senators met for two brief floor sessions this week in order to process bills at the desk and refer bills to the appropriate committees. Under Minnesota's constitution, the Senate must meet once every three days, excluding Sunday, during the legislative session unless both bodies pass a resolution allowing the postponement of a floor session.

Panel discusses child abuse reporting

The first meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Monday, Jan. 28, was devoted to discussion of a bill which would clarify several provisions of the Child Abuse Reporting Act. According to the chief author, Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), the clarifying amendments are necessary because the current law was declared unconstitutionally vague in a recent Hennepin County court case. In addition, Reichgott said that various concerned interest groups had also suggested improvements in the law that were incorporated into the new measure, S.F. 196.

According to Reichgott, the bill is intended to accomplish three goals: to encourage child abuse reporting; to be clear and constitutional; and to eliminate confusion.

Hennepin County Attorney Tom Johnson presented a section by section summary of the bill. Specifically, the new language clarifies the standards under which an individual must report child abuse and under which an individual could be prosecuted for failure to report abuse or neglect. In addition, the bill provides for a more complete summary of the disposition of a report of abuse to be given to the individual who made the abuse report.

The Wednesday, Jan. 30, committee meeting was also devoted to discussion of S. F. 196. Representatives from several organizations, including the Minnesota Federation of Teachers, the Minnesota Education Association, the Minnesota Medical Association and Victims of Child Abuse Laws (VOCAL) spoke to the various provisions of the measure. Most of the debate centered on the subtle differences in the legal interpretation of specific words. For instance, the standard used to determine when a professional is required to report cases of child abuse or neglect in the proposed measure is "knows or has reason to believe" rather than the language "has knowledge of or reasonable cause to believe" which is in the current law. The word "suspected" is deleted, under the language of the new bill, to clarify that "suspected" is not the standard for reporting abuse or imposing penalties.

Debate also focused on a provision specifying that a person who has "reason to believe" a child is being abused or neglected is guilty of a petty misdemeanor. Under current law the penalty is a misdemeanor charge and several senators argued that reducing the severity of the charge would dilute the strength of the child abuse reporting act.

Further discussion and action on the bill is scheduled for the Monday, Feb. 4, committee meeting.

Lawmakers study corporate taxation

The Senate and House Tax Committees held a joint meeting Wednesday, Jan. 30, to hear a presentation on the impact of state corporate taxation.

Professor James Papke of Purdue University's Graduate School of Management told lawmakers that a corporation's investment decision to expand or relocate is based on its after-tax rate of return. A state's tax structure is not a benign factor, he said.

Papke cited several studies to demonstrate that corporations consider, in their investment decisions, a state's climate, transportation costs, quality of education and work force, labor costs and tax structure. He said that for several industries, state and local taxes are small factors. In reference to one study, Papke said that 52 percent of the corporate executives interviewed agreed that taxes are among the top five factors considered in investment decisions, but less than one percent said that the state and local taxes influenced their final decision.

Committee members also listened to a debate on the unitary corporate tax. Under Minnesota's unitary corporate tax structure, the state apportions a share of all net income earned by a corporation and its U.S. affiliates. According to Professor Jennifer Brooks of William Mitchell College of Law, Minnesota's unitary corporate tax structure is "really a very attractive system for most businesses."

James Kleier of Morrison and Foerster Law Firm in San Francisco said what can be classified as a unitary business is distorted. He said until the issue is resolved, Minnesota will have to accept continued litigation from companies.

Legislature receives budget

Governor Rudy Perpich formally delivered his budget message to members of the Legislature Monday, Jan. 28. The \$11.4 billion budget represents the smallest percentage increase in state spending in 20 years.

In his message, Perpich said that the budget was designed to accomplish five major goals: to slow state spending by rethinking and redesigning the delivery of public services; to cut and reform the personal income tax; to sustain budget stability; to reinforce the state's commitment to quality education; and to maintain the state's commitment to those most in need.

The subcommittees of the Senate Finance Committee will begin a series of hearings next week to gain background information on the various parts of the budget package. The subcommittees will also begin a line-by-line analysis of the actual budget documents as they prepare their recommendations for setting the levels of state spending for the next biennium.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Firearm safety proposal fails

Members of the committee put aside a proposal, Fri., Jan. 25, that would have changed the requirements of who must complete firearm safety training.

The bill, S.F. 60, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would have required persons 13 years of age or older to have a firearm safety certificate in order to use a firearm for hunting. Also, anyone born after Dec. 31, 1972, would have needed a firearm safety certificate to purchase a license for taking big game by archery.

Persons excluded from the requirements would have been those hunting or target shooting when on their residential property or own land. Persons target shooting on a established target range would also have been excluded.

Wegscheid said the proposal was requested by several hunters who are concerned about the hunting practices of other hunters. He said the proposal would "improve safety in the field."

Several committee members said the proposed law would be difficult to administer in outstate areas and would create more "bureaucratic red-tape."

Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) said it is unlikely that the bill will be considered again this session.

Outdoor enthusiasts present concerns

Members of Minnesota's Sports Fishing Congress and the Governor's Commission to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota urged committee members Tues., Jan. 29, to take action to improve Minnesota's fish and wildlife resources.

Members of both groups claimed that the state's fish and wildlife resources cannot withstand increased recreational use without additional funding. They outlined specific recommendations to improve those resources.

The governor's commission recommended that the state spend \$60 million annually during the next ten years to enhance Minnesota's fish and wildlife. Glen Nyquist, commission member, said the state should designate 45 percent of that annual appropriation to wildlife, 45 percent to fisheries, and 10 percent to support and enforcement. Forty percent of the wildlife budget should be used for land and wetland acquisition, he said, and the remainder should be spent for habitat improvement on public and private land.

Bill Taunton from Minnesota's Sports Fishing Congress said the state could increase water resources for fishing by 45 percent if several lakes were aerated. He asked lawmakers to consider providing \$1,000 per aerator to cover the electrical costs.

Both groups said improved resources would attract more dollars to the economy and the state. But Nyquist stressed that the state's resources cannot endure increased recreational use gained from tourism promotion. "You have to have the asset before you advertise," he said.

Farm loss modifications examined

The panel devoted the entire Wed., Jan. 30, hearing to discussion and testimony on the public policy implications of the farm loss modification limits for income tax purposes. Four bills were heard, each of which dealt with one aspect of the tax law relating to farm loss modification limits.

Under current law all farm expenses and losses may be deducted from income for federal taxes, regardless of the amount of outside income. However, for Minnesota taxes there is a limit of \$30,000 in outside income that may be offset by farm losses and

expenses. In addition, the amount of farm expenses and losses that can be used to offset outside income is reduced by \$3 for every \$1 of income from another source between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

S.F. 121, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), would raise the limit on outside income from \$30,000 to \$50,000. S.F. 169, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), would eliminate the breeding, raising, feeding and training of horses from the \$30,000 cap for farm loss modifications and would specify that horse raising not be considered farming under the farm loss modification limit provisions in the law. S.F. 105, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Mound), and S.F. 74, sponsored by Sen. Darrel Peterson (R-Fairmont), would eliminate the farm loss modification provisions from the law.

Debate centered on questions concerning the amount of outside income an individual farmer could earn and still be classified as a full-time farmer, and on the possible effect the elimination of the farm loss modification limits could have on the price of agricultural lands in Minnesota. Discussion and action on the measures before the committee is scheduled for the Wed., Feb. 6, meeting.

Education

Permanent School Fund reviewed

The financial status of the Permanent School Fund was reviewed at the Monday, Jan. 28 meeting of the Education Committee chaired by Senator James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Howard Bicker of the State Board of Investment began with a broad overview of the Fund's current investments.

Steve Thorne, Deputy Commissioner of the Dept. of Natural Resources, followed with an in-depth report on the peatland of Minnesota which provides income for state education. The department, he said, would like to develop portions of the peatland, about one million of the four-six million acres in Minnesota. Fourteen hundred acres of peat are currently under cultivation. With Minnesota Power now burning both peat and coal at its Solaskan power plant and with other power plants on the horizon, Thorne predicted the beginning of a growing peat industry in Minnesota.

Thorne said the two major concerns of the department are the protection of peat and the impact of development on the Permanent School Fund. According to the plan, four areas would be labeled Scientific and Natural Areas and would be completely protected from development. Peatland Scientific Protection Areas would be available for partial development such as mineral exploration or mining with some controls. The third area would be the Watershed Protection Area; it would be the largest and would provide a buffer of land to prevent disruptions in the protected areas. Few use limitations would apply to this area.

Thorne recommended legislation that would provide protection for 18 areas as well as deal with the issues of land ownership, economic opportunities lost or gained, School Trust land compensation (if development occurs) and management of activities in the protected areas.

Rod Sando, Administrator of the Land Bureau, also outlined the lakeshore lease rate adjustment due to take effect on Jan. 1, 1986. The current rate of five percent of the appraised land value was implemented in 1975. However, after reappraising each of the 1,784 lakeshore leases, results show that land values have increased approximately 300 percent since 1975.

Ninety percent of the leases are located on school trust land. These leases currently generate approximately \$250,000 annually, but this figure should jump to approximately \$1 million in 1986.

Education Aids

Education representatives heard

Ten representatives of state education organizations announced their positions on current educational issues during the Thursday, Jan. 24 Education Aids Subcommittee meeting chaired by Senator Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

The agenda included presentations by Rose Hermodson, Minnesota Federation of Teachers; John Farmer, Minnesota Education Association; Barbara Baker, Association of Stable and Growing School Districts; Gary Park, St. Paul Public Schools; Larry Harris, Minneapolis Public Schools; Ron Soberg, Duluth Public Schools; Carl Johnson, Minnesota School Boards Association; Mary Roberts, Association of Metropolitan School Districts; Norm Maguire, Minnesota Association of School Administrators; and Bob Arnold, Minnesota Elementary School Principals.

Monetary concerns were the major topic as basic foundation aid and referendum levels were analyzed in light of current needs. "Recovery has not yet been a reality for school districts," emphasized Roberts.

Special programs such as busing for desegregation, special education, summer programs, teenage parent programs, chemical dependency programs and child abuse reporting were also discussed.

Gifted/Talented programs surveyed

Programs for the gifted and talented were examined at the Jan. 28 meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee chaired by Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

Lorraine Hertz, Dept. of Education, provided an overview of the financial status of Gifted and Talented Aids as well as the kinds of programs available to the gifted. State funds per gifted student in Minnesota are \$19 for 1985, and schools receive funds for five percent of the student population. The largest portion of the funds, or 39 percent, is used for salaries. Most school districts, Hertz indicated, must add money from the federal government or the private sector in order to provide a program. Programs include cluster classes which are a cluster of gifted students within a normal classroom, Omnibus programs which are taught by volunteers and enriched or advanced classes as well as summer school programs. Testing for identification of the gifted was also discussed.

Hertz also introduced several people directly involved in these programs. Dr. Janet Joseph spoke about the problems of gifted elementary children. She identified five major points of concern for this minority: repetitious teaching methods, markedly different entry levels of students, negative societal attitudes, lack of materials available to the classroom teacher and inadequate identification of gifted children.

Joel Anderson of the St. Louis Park school system emphasized the need for a K-12 program for the gifted. "There needs to be scope and sequence in a total program," said Anderson. He emphasized the diversity of this group which ranges in IQ scores from 130 to 200 as well as their emotional and social needs.

An overview of the University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Project was also given by Steve Watson. The program has grown from two classes of 55 students to 16 classes of 415 students. High school algebra is taught the first year, high school geometry the second, college calculus the third.

A final presentation was made by Dr. Larry Osness of the Minnesota Private College Council. He presented the Report by a Task Force on Summer Academic Programs for the gifted.

Recommendations included selection of model sites on college campuses and establishment of a clearinghouse of information for parents and students. Osness also emphasized the need for student aid and trained teachers.

Budget overview presented

An overview of the education budget was presented at the Jan. 30 meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee chaired by Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

Deputy Commissioner Jay Kiedrowski, Dept. of Finance, began with an overview of the Governor's 1985-87 education aids budget. The new proposal would produce "very dramatic changes in property taxes at the local level," said Kiedrowski.

Commissioner of Education Ruth Randall outlined the Governor's 8-part education proposal entitled "Access to Excellence." At the local level, there would be competition for design of innovative programs with an emphasis on math and science programs at first. There would be fewer restrictive mandates from the state. Three components include the provision of Legislative funds for local districts, the ability of 11th and 12th graders to choose their own public education program by 1986-87 and the provision of management assistance from the Dept. of Education when districts need request aid. Randall described the proposal as "evolutionary rather than revolutionary."

An overview of the policy and budget changes was also given by Daniel Loritz, Dept. of Education, and Kiedrowski. Major funds changes took place in basic foundation aid, special education, secondary vocational education, and transportation. New projects receiving funding include birth-3 handicapped education and an Indian education study.

Energy and Housing

Energy assistance reviewed

The Legislative Auditor's staff urged the Energy and Housing Committee to set more definite guidelines for the energy assistance and weatherization programs.

Tom Walstrom, director of a study reviewing the programs, made the suggestion at the committee's Tues., Jan. 29 meeting. He explained that the programs are funded by federal block grants, but that Congress gave individual states several areas of discretion. The Minnesota Department of Economic Security administers the programs through state, county, local and community levels. The state can, for example, set eligibility standards, define income, transfer federal funds to other block grants or programs, and set benefit levels. Since the program's inception in 1977, different eligibility criteria have been used each year, he said. Committee Chairman Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul) also emphasized the need for definite legislative limits. "People who are involved in the delivery of the service could count on percentages of what would be forthcoming (if guidelines were set)," he said.

Walstrom said Minnesota will see at least \$4 million less in federal funds this year due to re-organization of the program in Oct., 1984. Assistance for cooling costs as well as heating costs will be considered; that will shift funds from northern states to southern states, he said.

It is estimated that the federal government will provide \$82.2 million for energy assistance and weatherization programs for Minnesota in 1985, Walstrom said. Income guidelines in 1985 will be based on 50.3 percent of the state's median income, he said.

The Wed., Jan. 30, committee meeting was devoted to a tour of the Anoka CAP Agency in Spring Lake Park.

Health and Human Services

Cost containment concerns committee

"What we want is more economic discipline in the health care market," said Marianne Miller. She delivered the Dept. of Health's Cost Containment Report to the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls), at the Jan. 29 meeting.

The report made several recommendations involving the role of the state in health care delivery systems. For instance the report recommended that the state not set rates or capital controls for hospitals, that it continue its role as a "buyer" of health care, that it facilitate private health care competition and that it monitor the changes taking place in health care. "Competition vs. regulation" seemed to be the issue, said Miller.

Specific recommendations were made for private sector employers as well as the state as an employer. Employers were urged to move toward a policy of judicious consumer cost-sharing; they were encouraged to offer a variety of HMO's to employees while limiting the number somewhat so companies could bid to be listed.

Recommendations for the state included no standard health plan for employees, outlining recommended levels of benefits, seeking a waiver of the state and federal laws requiring a listing of all HMO's, enforcement of anti-trust laws in the HMO market and seeking a limited exemption from the federal ERISA preemption of state authority to regulate employer-provided health plans.

Miller also discussed the issue of information, or lack of information, available to consumers regarding HMO's, the services offered and the prices of health care delivery.

Discussion was generated about the financial and geographic access to health care for all individuals and the short and long-term implications involved.

An update on the reorganization of the Dept. of Health was also presented by Commissioner Sister Mary Madonna Ashton. Changes instituted include the creation of a Maternal & Child Health Division and the eventual consolidation of the two department of health laboratories at one centralized location.

Community programs for the mentally ill reviewed

Integrating the mentally ill and mentally retarded into the community is a major goal of the Department of Human Services. Representatives of the department outlined methods to reach that goal at the Wed., Jan. 30 meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.)

Assistant Commissioner for the department, Al Hanzal updated committee members on medicaid waivers (MA waivers) for the mentally retarded. Minnesota has the highest expense per mentally retarded person in the nation, according to Hanzal. He stressed the importance of providing care for the mentally retarded in the community and reducing the number of beds in institutions. Hanzal said the department's goal for the next six months is to transfer 100 clients from state hospitals to MA waiver programs. Hanzal called the goal, "realistic and very attainable." In the past six months, 82 counties have expressed interest in MA waivers and 61 counties have screened clients for the program.

Hanzal assured Senators that while the goals would be met, clients would receive quality care and benefit from participation in their communities.

Mental Illness Program Division Director Terry Sarazin described three mechanisms that are designed to fund community programs for the mentally ill.

Rule 36 sets standards for community residential treatment programs. These programs are more cost effective than state

hospitals, said Sarazin. The average cost for a state hospital client is \$98.50 per day, but the average cost for a rule 36 facility is only \$50.00 per day, he said.

Rule 12 is the funding mechanism for grants to counties to help pay for services required by rule 36.

Rule 14 sets standards and is the funding mechanism for grants to counties for community support programs.

Sarazin said one roadblock to continued movement in community based programs is lack of incentive for counties to place clients in the programs rather than in the more expensive state hospitals. Sarazin suggested that the Legislature raise the counties' share of the cost for state hospital services from 10 percent to 15 percent. He also suggested that rule 12 and 14 funds be folded into the Community Social Services Act (CSSA) on Jan. 1, 1987.

William Conley, Mental Health Association of Minnesota and Joan Hinderscheid, Mental Health Advocates Coalition voiced their opposition to combining rule 12 and 14 funds with those designated for CSSA. Both expressed concern that rule 12 and rule 14 would "get lost" in CSSA.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Members review tax reform proposals

Members of the Minnesota Tax Study Commission continued presenting their recommendations for improving the state's tax structure to the Senate Tax Committee Tues., Jan. 29.

Last week, St. Paul Mayor George Latimer and commission members outlined their support for income tax relief, simplification of the income and property tax structures, and the extension of the sales tax. But the commission proposed other changes in the tax system as well.

To insure sound fiscal management, the commission recommended that the state maintain a budget reserve. The commission also proposed that the Legislature pass a budget resolution before considering individual budget items. The resolution would serve as "fiscal boundaries" for determining the next biennial budget, but subsequent resolutions could be passed when fiscal conditions change.

Before the resolution would be set, the governor would announce spending goals for the next biennium. The governor would also describe the the impact of the budget goals on the quality of public service and the effect on state and local tax rates. Senate and House committees would then hold hearings to solicit public comment on the budget proposals.

Among several other proposed changes in the tax system, the commission advocated implementing a system of variable tax rates to allow the gas tax and license fees to increase automatically when highway costs rise.

Transportation

Members attend informational tours

The Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), attended two tours this week that were designed to inform members of various transportation issues.

The committee visited the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Mon., Jan. 28. During the tour, members talked with public safety officials about current DWI laws and the 55 MPH speed limit. They also discussed the federal mandate to move the drinking age to 21 years of age. On Wednesday, Jan. 30, the committee visited a truck terminal.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, February 4, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by the MN High Technology Council, John Malinka and Herb Johnson; Governor's Commission on Education and Economic Growth, William George and Wendell Anderson.**Judiciary**, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 196-Reichgott: Child abuse reporting.**Transportation**, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by Regional Transit Board Chairman Elliott Perovich on RTB budget, LRT and Metro Mobility.**Education Subc. on Post-Secondary & Higher Education**,

Chair: LeRoy Stumpf

12:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of the Higher Education Coordinating Board, David Longanecker, Executive Director.**The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.****Education Subc. on Education Aids**, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations on maximum effort loans, abatement aid, school lunch program, health screening, chemical dependency, non-public education, and Indian education-JOM.

Tuesday, February 5, 1985

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

9:00 AM

Agenda: Joint meeting with Taxes & Tax Laws Committee to tour development projects in Minneapolis, including sites of MN Convention Center and Technological Corridor, and the Super Computer Institute.**Employment**, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment insurance; regulating the payment, amount, and eligibility for benefits; setting employer contribution rates.**Agriculture & Natural Resources**, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 86-Wegscheid: Changing requirements for certain adulterated milk or cream; S.F. 89-Wegscheid: Resolution concerning higher minimum level of nonfat milk solids; S.F. 102-Willet: Terms of payment in county timber sales.**Health & Human Services**, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Dept. of Human Services reorganization, Deputy Commissioner Francis Giberson; Governor's Jobs Program, Tom Triplett, Director of State Planning Agency.**Health & Human Services Subc. on Social Services**, Chair: Marilyn Lantry

2:15 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 97-Frank: Expanding definition of mentally retarded, including autistic in programs; S.F. 51-Berglin: Home health care licensure.**Finance Subc. on State Departments**, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Trial Courts.**Agriculture & Natural Resources**, Chair: Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 263-Stumpf: Interest payments to certain lenders.

Wednesday, February 6, 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of the state assumption of the 23.5 mill maintenance levy.**Veterans & General Legislation**, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 93-Lessard: American Legion officer or employee election of state employee insurance benefits; S.F. 69-Chmielewski: Redesignating portion of Trunk Highway 23; S.F. 47-Frank: Increasing penalties for certain cruel acts against animals.**Judiciary****10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol****Agenda:** S.F. 46-Peterson, C.C.: Undistributed dissolved cooperative property; S.F. 148-Dieterich: Qualification of trustees; S.F. 252-Petty: Super majorities for publicly held corporations; Sentencing Guidelines Commission report on guideline changes, three-year evaluation, Stephen Rathke and Kay Knapp.**Transportation**, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 43-Langseth: Exempting certain farm vehicles from vehicle identification rule; Discussion of Legislative Audit of Mn/DOT Highway Maintenance; Discussion with Commissioner Richard Braun.**Agriculture & Natural Resources**, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 121-Peterson, C.C.: Tax credit for ag property; increasing limitation in farm loss modification; S.F. 169-Pehler: Exempting raising of horses from farm loss modification; S.F. 105-Jude: Abolishing farm loss modification.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Social Services Subc. report; State Hospital Study, Colleen Wieck, Dept. of Planning; Dept. of Human Services response to State Hospital Study, Assistant Commissioner John Clawson.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Social Services, Chair:

Marilyn Lantry

2:15 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: To be announced.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of Courts presentation, if necessary; Presentations by the Board on Judicial Standards, the Public Defender's Office, and Board of Public Defense.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of the Governor's property tax proposal.

Thursday, February 7, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Foundation formula overview; Levy certification data; Foundation formula-Governor's request; Teacher retirement.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Presentations by the Governor's Office, the Secretary of State and the Dept. of Finance.

Friday, February 8, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul

Agenda: School Effectiveness Overview for Legislators and the State Board of Education.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 25 Law Building, U of M West Bank

Agenda: S.F. 207-Spear: Sports bookmaking; S.F. 291-Merriam: Probate intestate succession; S.F. 278-Merriam: Patient access to medical records.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 53-DeCramer: Prohibiting mortgage foreclosure sales, repossession, etc.; S.F. 85-Berg: Prohibiting mortgage foreclosure sales, etc.

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briefly

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Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

February 8, 1985

Senate votes for tax exempt bonds

The Minnesota Senate gave preliminary approval to S.F. 100, Mon., Feb. 4. The bill would make interest on mortgage subsidy bonds tax exempt. Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton) and Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), sponsors of the bill, said it would conform state tax laws to federal tax laws. Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.) amended the bill to be retroactive to Dec. 31, 1983.

Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) and Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio) voiced opposition to the bill. Merriam said that the measure would provide a "windfall" for those who purchased the bonds. He also argued that Minnesotans who bought the bonds received word that they would become tax exempt at the beginning of the 1985 session. Johnson disagreed. He said some lawmakers said they would try to get tax exempt status for the bonds, but no guarantees were given to bond buyers.

Novak estimated the bill would save Minnesotans \$2.7 million.

Child abuse reporting law clarified

A bill designed to clarify provisions of Minnesota's Child Abuse Reporting Act was approved by Judiciary Committee members at the Mon., Jan. 5, hearing. Portions of the existing law had been declared unconstitutionally vague by Hennepin County District Judge Charles Porter, thus necessitating a bill to amend the existing law.

The bill's chief author, Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), said the measure, S.F. 196, was designed to clarify the current law and to encourage reporting of child abuse.

Discussion on the measure hinged upon the legal interpretation of the different nuances in meaning between phrases such as "reason to believe," "reasonable cause to believe," "should reasonably know," and "suspected."

In addition, the bill had contained a two tiered penalty provision that was amended to retain the penalties contained in current law. Thus, a person who "knows" that a child is neglected or abused, or a person who has "reason to believe" that a child is neglected or abused, would be guilty of a misdemeanor for failure to report.

The measure also encourages the voluntary reporting of child neglect or abuse by providing immunity from liability if the report was made in "good faith." Current law requires the report be made in "good faith" and with "due care."

Ag panel expands farm aid efforts

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), acted again to help troubled farmers get loans for spring planting by okaying a \$16 million proposal that would lower interest rates on farmers'

operating loans. That measure, together with the \$9 million voluntary moratorium proposal passed by the Senate earlier this year, puts the committee's proposed farm relief efforts at \$25 million for the session.

The bill, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would provide the funds to lower the interest rates on the first \$50,000 of farm operating loans. The state would pay lending institutions four and one-half percent of the loan's interest per year on the unpaid principal.

Farmers who could apply for the program would be those with a debt-to-asset ratio of 50 percent or above, which would be determined by the lending institution. The farmer would be required to complete a one-year farm management plan. If the plan demonstrates that the farmer has a positive cash flow at the lender's current rate of interest, the farmer would not be eligible for the interest reduction program.

Stumpf said that about 18,300 farmers would be eligible to apply for the program. He said that action must be taken because farmers "don't know which way to turn or what to do." "We have to address the situation if we are going to save what we really value in our rural communities," he said.

The bill, S.F. 263, also contains the voluntary moratorium proposal passed by the Senate earlier this session. The House of Representatives significantly changed the proposal, and Stumpf said it was included in his bill because it deserves a second consideration.

Senate holds short session

The Senate held a brief floor session, Thursday, Feb. 7, and granted final passage to S.F. 100. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) adopts federal changes relating to interest on single family dwelling mortgage subsidy bonds.

Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) announced tentative plans to hold the first evening floor session of the year, Tuesday, Feb. 12. Moe indicated that several measures dealing with the agricultural economic crises in rural Minnesota would be discussed.

Gustafson wins special election

Independent Republican James Gustafson won the special election held Tuesday, Feb. 5, to fill the seat vacated by former Minority Leader James Ulland. Ulland resigned to take a position with the First Bank System. Gustafson, owner of A & E Office Supply, Co. and former president of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce, will be take the oath of office Monday, Feb. 11. He is from the city of Duluth and will represent District 8 in the Senate.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Ag department outlines budget

Agriculture Deputy Commissioner Rollin Dennistoun outlined for committee members, Fri., Feb. 1, the Dept. of Agriculture's budget request for the 1986-87 biennium.

The department originally requested a biennial appropriation of \$63.3 million. However, Perpich approved only \$58.9 million for the two years.

The governor approved several departmental requests for additional dollars. Among those is an increase of \$320,000 for Farm Crisis Assistance. The increase would allow the department to maintain a staff of farm financial advisors, who provide counseling to farmers to help them maximize available credit sources and take advantage of federal programs. The governor also approved an additional \$450,000 for municipal pest control. The additional money would be used to help eliminate the Gypsy moth in Minnesota and to better inform the public about ways to combat shade tree disease.

Among programs not approved, the governor did not allow for funds to reimburse counties participating in the Agriculture Land Preservation Program. Also, the governor did not okay funding to expand the department's ability to provide soil and water conservation programs.

Adulterated milk definition studied

The committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), began to consider a proposal that would specify that milk or cream containing antibiotics, which were used to treat the cow, is impure and may not be sold.

Sen. Darril Wegscheid, author of the measure, said that present law defining adulterated milk is vague, and the proposal would insure that intentional offenders are prosecuted and penalties are uniform.

To achieve that, the bill would allow the county attorney to press misdemeanor charges or allow the commissioner to request that the attorney general bring a civil action in district court.

Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming) said because the law is vague, county attorneys are probably unwilling to prosecute. He suggested that the existing law be clarified and that the prosecuting responsibilities rest with the county attorney's office.

Merriam said the bill, S.F. 86, will be considered again this session.

Also at the Tues., Feb. 5, afternoon meeting, the committee approved a bill to alter the down payment required for timber sales. Authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), the bill, S.F. 102, would require a down payment of 25 percent of the appraised value of the timber land instead of 20 percent of the amount the land was sold for. The proposal would make the law consistent with county sales, said Willet.

Removal of farm loss modifications okayed

The committee approved a bill Wed., Feb. 6, that would eliminate the state's farm loss modification provisions in the state's tax laws.

Currently, Minnesota taxpayers can deduct all farm expenses and losses from income for federal taxes. But when figuring state income taxes, they can only deduct up to \$30,000 of their farm losses and expenses to offset non-farm income. The state law also reduces the amount of farm expenses and losses that can be used to offset non-farm income by \$3 for every \$1 of income from another source between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

The purpose of the law was to protect agricultural land from the "hobby farmer." However, opponents to the law argued that non-farm income is often necessary to start and maintain a farm. They also claimed that the law is discriminatory.

The bill, S.F. 105, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), encompasses the intent of the other bills heard in committee last week that deal with farm loss modification. S.F. 121 (Peterson, C.C.), which contains other tax proposals, was sent to the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee.

Education

Special education has options

Eligibility and effectiveness were the subjects of the Legislative Audit Commission Report on Special Education presented by Project Director John Yunker at the Friday, Feb. 1 meeting of the Education Committee chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Recommending that Dept. of Education guidelines for special education eligibility be more specific, Yunker called for more leadership from the department in developing and enforcing guidelines as well as monitoring the progress of programs and students.

Due to a variety of reasons such as lack of adequate eligibility criteria and poor quality tests and/or improper interpretation of those tests, Yunker said that too many students are placed in learning disabled programs. If properly identified, he said, they could be placed in programs more suited to their needs. For example, those with emotional and behavioral disorders, speech and language impairments and the educable mentally retarded could be placed in programs other than learning disabled.

Responding to the report, Norma Hale of the Dept. of Education outlined the department's reaction to each of the report's 31 recommendations. She said that activities were currently in progress regarding 25 of the recommendations. Birth-3 education for the severely handicapped generated some discussion as did the selection of a communication system for special educators.

Dale Wrapp, Chairman of the State Board of Teaching concluded with a brief summary of the Board's responsibilities. Attracting higher ranked students into the teaching field and providing provisional licenses for teachers retraining in a new academic area are two of the current projects of the Board, said Wrapp.

Reports request stiffer requirements

"There is a great deal of rebuilding that needs to be done," said Herb Johnson in reference to today's educational standards. As Chairman of the Minnesota High Technology Council (MHTC), he presented the Council's "one percent solution" at the Mon., Feb. 4 meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

The "one percent solution" proposed by MHTC would give education an additional \$50 million a year, or one percent of the state's total budget, for the next ten years. These funds would be used to be improve K-12 programs, post secondary instructional quality, research and graduate programs, base funding adjustments and capital funding in the areas of science, math and technology. The largest amount would be used for endowed chairs, increased salaries, additional scholarships, equipment and research funds for the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Institute of Technology.

Specifics of the recommended K-12 program were presented by Don Sullivan. Pointing to the low percentage of high school students who take three years of science and math, he recommended tougher high school requirements in these areas as

well as recognition for outstanding students. Stricter entry level requirements for teachers, more extensive B.S. requirements for those receiving teaching degrees and forgivable loans for those who teach math or science in rural areas were recommended.

The Governor's Commission on Education & Economic Growth also presented its report on "Action for Excellence." Co-Chair Wendell Anderson and Subcommittee Chairs William George and Linda Hoeschler made recommendations concerning K-12 education in Minnesota.

Education Aids

Education aids budget reviewed

Members of the Finance and Education Departments walked Senators of the Education Subcommittee through the biennial budget for special education programs Thurs., Jan. 31.

Ron Hackett, Director, School Aids and Pension Analysis, Department of Finance told the committee that he is concerned about long term deficiencies in the teachers' retirement fund (TRA). The fund is based on teachers' salaries and years of service, according to Hackett. He suggested that school districts contribute a greater share to the fund during years when salary increases exceed inflation allowances computed by the state. "The state shouldn't have to pay 100 percent of the cost for decisions that were made locally," he said.

The committee, chaired by Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) also heard testimony from: Dan Skoog, Jerry Kleve, David Beaulieu, and Jessie Montano, all of the Department of Education. The two largest areas of special education aids are speech handicapped and learning disabled. Both are experiencing little or no growth, according to Kleve. The two fastest growing programs are for the trainable mentally retarded and the emotionally disabled, he said.

HECB briefs subcommittee

Executive Director of The Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (MHECB) David Longanecker and MHECB member at large, Duane Scribner told the Senate Education Aids Subcommittee that long-range planning for Minnesota post secondary and higher education is more important now than ever. Longanecker and Scribner presented an overview of higher education to the subcommittee, chaired by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), Mon., Jan 4.

Longanecker said due to the "large and diverse" nature of the system, coordination is essential. The 11-member board oversees 63 campuses in Minnesota and handles a \$274 million budget. Seventy-five percent of the budget is supplied by the student loan fund. The fund comes from the sale of revenue bonds.

Longanecker said a major challenge of this session will be to maintain goals set in the board's 1983 agenda with limited dollars. The 1983 package was designed to adequately fund post-secondary education in Minnesota after a lean period in the late 1970s and 1980s, he said. Scribner also stressed the need for efficient administration of funds when budget purse strings are pulled tight. "When resources are limited . . . quality can suffer," he said. Scribner stressed the MHECB would continue to promote quality education. He also urged that higher education remain affordable and accessible. Longanecker told Senators that accessibility is in danger. He estimated that 25 percent of Minnesota students currently eligible for financial aid, would lose their eligibility if Reagan Administration financial aid cuts become law.

Longanecker said another MHECB goal is to extend financial aid to part-time students. Students must now register for at least six credits (half-time) to qualify for financial aid, he said. Extension of the aid would assist many Minnesotans in returning to higher education, said Longanecker. He also urged more financial aid support for graduate education and research.

Seven education budgets examined

The current status and future needs of seven education budgets were reviewed at the Mon., Feb. 4 meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

Budget presentations included maximum effort loans, Ron Laliberte; abatement aid, Don Piffner; school lunch program, Charles Matthew; health screening, Nan Skelton; chemical dependency, Paul Dibvig; non-public education, Bob Fischer; and Indian education, David Beaulieu.

Abatement aid reported a \$1.8 million deficiency which is needed for 1985. And Piffner recommended an increased funding level of just under \$6 million in order to meet the growing needs in this category. Abatement aid pays for 64 percent of the revenue loss at the local level; local districts levy for the remaining 36 percent. About 350 districts apply for this aid each year.

The school lunch program may experience major cuts in funding pending legislation at the federal level, said Matthew. The federal government presently funds approximately 70 percent of the meals; the state matches these Section IV monies at 30 percent as required by law. The milk program, the national breakfast program and the child care providers program are totally federally funded and may also be subject to upcoming cuts.

Property tax proposal raises questions

The implications of the state assumption of the 23.5 mill maintenance levy and the concurrent property tax reforms were discussed at the Wed., Feb. 6 meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

Goals of the property tax proposal were outlined by Jay Kiedrowski, Dept. of Finance. He stated the major goals as continued property tax relief and equalization, increased accountability, increased stability and increased simplification.

Details of the proposal were provided by John Haynes, Dept. of Finance. Beginning with a history of tax credits, Haynes explained that homestead credits and ag credits have been "self-sabotagers"; they have actually raised property tax rather than lowering it. Another culprit, said Haynes, has been the setting of a flat mill rate which does not allow for adjustment.

Steps involved in the proposal's implementation were also outlined. First, the state would assume the 23.5 mill levy costing \$717 million. The largest portion of these funds, \$654 million, would be transferred to the state from former tax credits. The remaining \$63 million would be acquired through a series of "balancing acts," said Haynes.

The new property tax would be balanced geographically and balanced according to the class and parcel of property. The new homestead credit would be based on the 1985 homestead credit adjusted for inflation for 1986 and on the number of homes in the district. The new credit would be financed locally but would provide the same current mill rate. The new homestead credit would also be merged with the taconite credit while the new ag credit would be merged with the prairie land, wet land and power line credits. The new credits would be fixed amounts and not responsive to local tax decisions.

Debate occurred over the possibility of the state not setting the foundation aid formula one year in advance for the individual school districts. The state would not be required to do so under the new system, and most other state agencies are required to estimate their own budgets in advance.

Finance

Legal aid for farmers recommended

The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willett (DFL-Park Rapids), voted to recommend passage of S.F. 223. The bill would allocate \$300,000 for legal assistance for financially

Committee Capsule

distressed farmers through June, 1985. The bill's chief author, Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton) told the committee the measure is needed "to help farmers with their backs to the wall."

Testifying on behalf of the bill were: Anne Kanten, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture; Jenny Willer, Minnesota Farm Advocate; Roger Culhane, Coordinator, Attorney General's Farm and Home Preservation Hotline and Twin Cities attorneys Kurt Anderson and Bill Kampf. "There is an enormous amount of ignorance amongst my clients and local lawyers (regarding agricultural and bankruptcy laws)," Kampf said. Anderson estimated the cost of chapter 11 bankruptcy at \$7,500 and said the cost of legal advice is out of the reach of most farmers. Willet told the committee that some farmers are foreclosed despite keeping up with their loan payments, because they have an undesirable debt/asset ratio. Some of these foreclosures could have been avoided if more farmers knew their legal rights, he said.

Davis had intended the bill to allocate \$968,000 through June, 1987 and to include a family farm law project to be administered through Hamline University. The project would have been designed to educate both farmers and attorneys on bankruptcy and agricultural law. Several Senators opposed the project, stressing that funds should be concentrated on supplying immediate legal advice. Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) said he agreed with the motive behind the bill, but urged the committee to take more time to consider a long-term legal education proposal while standing behind a "quick solution." Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar) agreed with Taylor. "I'd like to see this money go to farmers, not lawyers," he said.

Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) made the motion that amended the bill to reduce the expenditure from \$968,000 over a two year period to \$300,000 through June, 1985. He said the amendment would allow lawmakers more time to fine-tune a long term legal education and assistance plan.

Subcommittee hears budget requests

Officials from the judicial branch of state government made biennial budget requests before the Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.) Tues., Feb. 5 and Wed., Feb. 6.

The new Court of Appeals has lightened the case load of the Supreme Court, but increased the number of cases handled at the state level overall, said Sue Dosal, State Court Administrator. She requested an appropriation for a law clerk to assist Chief Justice Douglas K. Amdahl, an accounting assistant for the Supreme Court and two clerical positions.

Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals Peter Popovich stressed the need for staff attorneys in the new appellate court. Citing an increase in case load, he requested seven attorneys and two secretaries. The positions would speed up the time between case filings and replies. He added, "justice delayed is justice denied." He also asked for \$25,000 for a "Weslaw" computer service. The West Publishing service would increase productivity and eliminate the need for some books and written resources, he said.

The State Court Administrator's office needs to expand a Trial Court Information Service (TCIS), said Dosal. The automated record keeping system is in operation in the 10th judicial district. Dosal requested \$273,000 in 1986 and \$290,000 in 1987 to implement and maintain TCIS in the 7th judicial district.

Regulation is needed for new community operated dispute resolution centers, said Dosal. The informal centers handle neighborhood disputes outside for the courts. She requested \$100,000 in each year of the biennium to regulate and assist the centers.

State Law Librarian Marvin Anderson requested \$31.1 million in 1986 and \$28.3 million in 1987 for staff and a computer system to

provide access to legal resources for public libraries throughout the state. Anderson explained that due to budget cuts to public libraries, more demand is being placed on his library.

Board on Judicial Standards Executive Secretary Richard Aretz requested \$26,000 to retain outside counsel for hearings and two secretaries.

Board of Public Defense Chairman, Judge Kevin Burke requested one staff person. The 7-member board has no staff now.

State Public Defender C. Paul Jones told the subcommittee that cases increased 25 percent last year. That increase necessitates two additional attorneys and one secretary, he said.

Health & Human Services Governor's Jobs Program disclosed

Describing jobs as the "cornerstone for economic recovery in this state," Tom Triplett, Director of the State Planning Agency, set forth the "subsidized wage approach" as the basis of the Governor's program. Triplett provided an outline of the forthcoming bill at the Tues., Feb. 5 meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). "We view this bill as part of the Governor's overall program," said Triplett.

Based upon a model of the successful MEED program, the Governor's program would provide a priority list of services to clients with a special focus on AFDC and GA recipients. Employment priorities would be as follows: (1) private sector, permanent unsubsidized employment and/or relocation, (2) private sector, permanent subsidized employment, and/or relocation; or training, (3) non-profit sector, permanent subsidized employment, (4) temporary, part-time subsidized employment and job search assistance in non-profit agencies or governmental units. Other services, such as counseling, job search assistance, day care and transportation, would accompany each of the categories.

The primary funding mechanism for this program, said Triplett, would be grant diversions. The grant monies normally refused by the client would be sent to the employer. If a client refused to accept a job offer, his or her assistance would be terminated.

An overview of the reorganization of the Dept. of Human Services was also presented by Deputy Commissioner Francis Giberson. The reorganization was needed to improve communication between divisions and to improve efficiency in the department, said Giberson.

State Hospital Study Received

The State Hospital Study was delivered by Colleen Wieck, Ph.D., Executive Director, Developmental Disabilities Program/Council of the State Planning Agency, at the Wed., Feb. 6 meeting of the Health & Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls).

The study, developed under the guidance of the Institutional Care and Economic Impact Planning Board, is composed of eight documents. Minnesota State Hospital facilities are listed as are possible alternative uses of these facilities. Energy use and cost are outlined. A profile of Minnesota State Hospital employees and the resident/patient population is provided. The economic impact of these hospitals and their cost to the state is defined. In addition, an extensive study of public opinion about state hospitals was included; this involved nine town meetings, requested letters and phone calls.

Finally, four future options were proposed. All state hospitals could be maintained with a substantial patient/employee shift from mental retardation to mental illness units. A second option would be decentralization into a state operated community-based system. Third, hospital efficiency could be increased through the

introduction of competition. Or all state hospitals could be closed after the effects had been determined and dealt with in advance.

Assistant Commissioner John Clawson, Dept. of Human Services, described the study as "essential to long-range planning." Clawson said the department plans to "downsize" facilities because of surplus space in the system. In regard to alternative uses, he said that "options are fairly limited." Compliance with federal waiver 19 was also updated.

Home health licensure bill heard

Amendments and testimony concerning S.F. 51, a bill initiating home health care licensure, were heard at the Tues., Feb. 5 and Wed., Feb. 6 meetings of the Social Services Subcommittee of the Health & Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul). The hearing will continue next week.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), defines home care services, establishes a licensing system for home care agencies, provides for information and referral services, requires the Office of Health Facility Complaints to handle home care complaints and changes the Vulnerable Adults Act to require home care agencies to report instances of abuse or neglect of home care clients.

A bill of rights for home care clients is also listed and interpreted in the bill. The measure requires all clients to be given a copy of the rights. Included in the bill of rights are the right to receive care and services according to a suitable, up-to-date plan; the right to be told about treatment and the right to refuse that treatment; the right to know the limits of and changes in service; the right to know of other available services and the right to change or choose between services; the right of privacy of information; the right to trained professional service; and the right to complain.

Testimony was given by Mike Tripple, Dept. of Health; Grace Nelson, Minnesota Senior Federation; Harold Bernsen, Metropolitan Senior Federation; Jim Faber, Minnesota Legislative Committee, American Association of Retired Persons; Burnett Voss, Minnesota Board on Aging; Carol Watkins, Social Services Division, Dept. of Human Services; Barbara Kaufman, Minnesota Association of Voluntary Social Services Association; Linda Sandvig, Minnesota Hospital Association; and Jacquie Hossler, Minnesota Alliance of Nursing Services. All those testifying were in favor of the bill although concern was voiced over various individual issues such as definition of home care services and dual licensure.

Two amendments offered by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro) aroused some debate. The first would have eliminated temporary emergency rules; permanent rules would have become effective immediately. The second, excluding non-medical personnel from licensure, was passed.

Judiciary

Panel approves three bills

Members of the committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) approved three measures and heard a brief report from the chairman of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission at the Wed., Feb. 6, hearing.

The first measure, S.F. 46, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), allows a cooperative in the process of dissolution, to authorize a trustee to distribute property five years after the dissolution to certain charitable organizations.

The second measure, S.F. 148, sponsored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), changes the requirements for qualifying a trustee of a will. Under the bill, qualification would be necessary only if an interested person demanded qualification in writing or by petition to the court.

The third bill, S.F. 252, carried by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), changes the provisions relating to the proportion of corporate

shareholders required to approve an amendment to the articles of incorporation. The measure specifies that corporations, other than closely held corporations, require a larger vote only when the amendment would reduce an existing requirement that a specified type of business be conducted with a "super" majority.

Stephen Rathke, chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, reported that a major issue before the commission in 1984, was the sentencing procedure for those found guilty of child sexual abuse. Rathke indicated that the commission felt the need for more legislative direction on the issue because of the high number of departures, or stayed sentences, from the current sentencing guidelines.

Local & Urban Government

Panel tours projects

The Local & Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), held a joint meeting with the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee on Tuesday, Feb. 5 to tour development projects in Minneapolis. Project sites of the Minnesota Convention Center, the Technological Corridor, and the Super Computer Institute were viewed.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Gambling regulation may be delayed

Changing the effective date of state licensure of charitable gambling by the charitable gambling control board was the subject of S.F. 328, a bill introduced by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul) at the Feb. 7 meeting of the Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries Committee.

Under the bill, charitable gambling would not be licensed or regulated by the board until March 1, 1986 although local regulations would remain intact until that date. The change from paying six percent of the gross earnings to ten percent of the net earnings would also be delayed. Wholesalers and distributors of gambling equipment and supplies, however, would be licensed and regulated by the board effective March 1, 1985.

The bill also eliminates the requirement that revenue collected by the board be dedicated to grants for programs, construction, maintenance and operation of one or more schools for the arts.

Testimony was given by Tom Carey, Chairman of the Charitable Gambling Control Board; Jim Adams, St. Paul Bingo Association; Chuck Harding, American Legion, fourth district; Robert Finnerty, Minnesota Tipboard Co.; Charles Tierney, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis; Dick Wetterstrom, Ducks Unlimited; and Jim Fitzpatrick, Guardian Angels Church.

Although no one opposed the bill, all parties requested a delay of at least 90 days in which to further clarify the operating rules and communicate these rules to the public. The lack of provisions for large raffle events and the definition of allowable expenses, especially advertising, were cited as major problems.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Property tax proposal reviewed

The Wed., Feb. 6, committee meeting was devoted to a discussion of the governor's proposal to restructure Minnesota's property tax system. Officials from the Dept. of Finance and the Dept. of Revenue explained the new proposal and the rationale behind it.

According to John Haynes, of the Dept. of Finance, the proposal was designed to provide local accountability for property tax changes, to change the mechanism by which state funds reach local areas so that the state's primary responsibility is confined to

basic educational costs, to eliminate incentives for property tax increases and to eliminate several sources of instability.

The proposal provides that the state would assume 100 percent of the costs of the basic foundation formula for education, including the 23.5 mills currently levied at the local level. The funds to finance the total state assumption of the foundation formulas are funds redirected from other state property tax relief programs, such as homestead credit, agricultural school credit and wetlands credit. Property tax credit programs would not be abolished but they would be merged and restructured. The dollar difference between the assumption of the foundation formula and the restructured aids would be taken from the funds available for state categorical education aids to school districts. Local school districts would then increase levies to offset reductions in categorical aids while new property tax credits are financed within the local taxing jurisdiction through increased levies.

In his remarks, Haynes noted that the primary target for tax relief is the state's personal income tax. "It was a conscious decision," he said, "that maximum effort be aimed at personal income tax because that is where Minnesota is out of line with other states.

However, committee chairman, Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook) said, "I am concerned about the lack of property tax relief for farmers, high tax homesteads and small businesses." Johnson, along with other committee members expressed doubts that the new proposal would be more understandable or provide more accountability.

Transportation

Panel reviews transit board, funding

Elliot Perovich, chairman of the Regional Transit Board (RTB), presented members, Mon., Feb. 4, with an overview of the board's organization.

Last session, the Legislature created the 15-member RTB to coordinate and fund transit services in the seven-county metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) was reduced from nine members to three and was limited to providing regular route transit service.

According to Perovich, the RTB will have a difficult time trying to increase transit ridership. Operating revenues are declining due to a fall in ridership, and federal funds are being cut. Perovich said that the federal administration has proposed a 67 percent reduction in federal transit assistance funds for fiscal year 1986; the elimination of start-up monies for rail; and a closing of all regional Urban Mass Transit Agency (UMTA) offices.

Perovich explained that state funds for transit have also declined since 1980, while property tax revenues have increased. He said that the board will be asking for an increase in state appropriations for this biennium.

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Legislative Auditor presents Mn/DOT report

The Dept. of Transportation should use a more systematic approach when making maintenance management and highway improvement decisions. That was the general findings of the Legislative Auditor's highway maintenance report, which was presented to the committee Wed., Feb. 6.

Allan Baumgarten, who headed the evaluation program, detailed their five main recommendations. Concerning legislative action, the report recommended that lawmakers appropriate separate budgets for snow and ice control and routine maintenance. This would stabilize the maintenance funding and aid managers in planning and scheduling work, said Baumgarten.

The recommendations proposed that the department take action as well. According to Baumgarten, the department should develop and implement a maintenance management system to set a structure for budgeting, allocating staff and planning work. Also, the department should continue to examine the feasibility of contracting with private firms and local governments for maintenance.

Baumgarten explained that other recommendations encourage the department to continue its efforts to develop a pave management system and work to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project. The department should also improve its management of the road maintenance and preservation program.

Veterans and General Legislation

Members designate road to honor veterans

A bill that would rename the Evergreen Memorial Drive the "Veterans' Evergreen Memorial Drive" gained the committee's approval Wed., Feb. 6.

The bill, S.F. 69, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would also require the Dept. of Transportation to erect signs that mark the route with its new name. The drive is part of Highway 23 and runs between the cities of Duluth and Askov.

The committee, chaired by Vice-chairman Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), also approved a bill that would allow employees of the state office of the American Legion to purchase state group insurance coverage at their own expense. The measure, S.F. 93, is authored by Chairman Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

The committee began to consider a proposal designed to discourage intentional abuse of animals. The bill, S.F. 47, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would increase the penalty for animal abuse from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor. Frank told committee members that some offenders should have received stiffer penalties. He said the bill would allow the judge the discretion to do that.

Members of the committee were concerned that the bill would mandate that the gross misdemeanor penalty be imposed in every case. The bill was laid over and will be considered later this session.

briefly

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Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, February 11, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Policy overview of the Dept. of Education budget.**Judiciary**, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on the appointment of Linda Johnson as Commissioner of Human Rights; Sentencing Guidelines three-year evaluation, Kay Knapp; S.F. 177-Petty: Criminal sexual conduct definition of "mental impairment"; Bills not completed Friday, Feb. 8.**Transportation**, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM

Agenda: Tour of Orchard Gardens Computerized Weigh Scale in Burnsville for committee members.**Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources**, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 45-DeCramer: Recodifying the drainage law with some modifications.**The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.****Education Subc. on Education Aids**, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations on secondary vocational, secondary vocational handicapped, capital expenditure-regular, special and hazardous.**Commission on the Economic Status of Women**

3:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Election of the chair and vice-chair; Discussion of legislative issues.

Tuesday, February 12, 1985

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 328-Dieterich: Changing the effective date for licensing by Charitable Gambling Control Board; Eliminating dedication of tax revenue to the arts.**Employment**, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 125-Lantry: Changing the definition of plumber's apprentice for licensing purposes; S.F. 342-Lantry: Requiring that plumbing inspectors be licensed as master or journeyman plumbers.**Local & Urban Government**, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Program Evaluation Division of the Office of Legislative Auditor Study of the Metropolitan Council.**Rules & Administration Subc. on Permanent & Joint Rules**, Chair: William Luther

10:00 AM Room 237, Capitol

Agenda: Proposed rule changes.**Agriculture & Natural Resources**, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Amendments to the Environmental Response and Liability Act, S.F. 300-Merriam and S.F. 6-Diessner.**Energy & Housing**, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Dept. of Energy & Economic Development overview on energy issues.**Health & Human Services Subc. on Income Maintenance**,

Chair: Ron Dicklich

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 96-Frank: Health benefits for the unemployed; S.F. 251-Berglin: Education for nursing home consumer councils; S.F. 331-Adkins: Pituitary removal by coroner.**Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Agriculture**,

Chair: Joe Bertram

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 88-Wegscheid: Agriculture, establishment of certain fees by rule; changing certain fees and procedures; S.F. 87-Wegscheid: Changing requirements for state livestock weighing services.**Finance Subc. on State Departments**, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by the Dept. of Administration.**TENTATIVELY, the Senate will be in session at 7:30 PM.**

Wednesday, February 13, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the policy overview of the Dept. of Education budget.**Judiciary**, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 85-Berg: Farm mortgage foreclosure moratorium (pending action by Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee on Friday, Feb. 8).**Transportation**, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 304-DeCramer: Systematic upgrade of state trunk highways to 80,000 pounds.**Elections & Ethics**, Chair: Jerome Hughes

11:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of full-time legislature vs. part-time legislature, California State Senator H.L. Richardson.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 219-Davis: Restricting mowing of ditches outside of cities; S.F. 279-Merriam: Changing penalties imposed on the owners of dogs that kill deer.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Dept. of Energy & Economic Development overview on energy issues.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of teenage pregnancy.

Rules & Administration Subc. on Committees, Chair: Roger

Moe

1:30 PM Room 237, Capitol

Agenda: Appointments to legislative commissions.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Social Services, Chair:

Marilyn Lantry

2:30 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 243-Wegscheid: Physical therapy.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the Dept. of Administration budget.

Thursday, February 14, 1985

Education Subc. on Post-Secondary & Higher Education,

Chair: LeRoy Stumpf

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of the Board of Vocational Technical Education, Joseph Graba, State Director and John Ostrem, Budget Information Services Manager.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations on community education, early childhood education and adult education.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by the Dept. of Revenue.

Friday, February 15, 1985

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills on Dram Shop liability: S.F. 334-Luther: Aggregate insurance policy limits; S.F. 301-Dieterich: Recoverable damages; S.F. 318-Samuels: Recoverable damages, time limits; S.F. 120-Samuels: Repeal of actions.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 101-DeCramer: Changing certain soil and water conservation priorities; S.F. 202-DeCramer: Changing requirements for a soil conservation tillage program; S.F. 286-Merriam: Reducing the amount of fees chargeable by the Pollution Control Agency.

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Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review February 15, 1985

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Gustafson assumes Senate seat

The highlight of the Monday, Feb. 11, Senate floor session was the administration of the oath of office to newly elected state Senator James Gustafson (IR-Duluth). Gustafson, who won a special election Feb. 5, was sworn in by his brother, Earl B. Gustafson, Judge of the Minnesota Tax Court.

In other action, Senators granted final passage to a measure on the Consent Calendar and gave preliminary approval to a bill on the General Orders Calendar.

Bills on the Consent Calendar are non-controversial and are taken up for final consideration after being acted upon by the appropriate committee. Bills on the General Orders Calendar have been heard by one or more committees and approved with a recommendation to pass. The Senate resolves itself into one large "Committee of the Whole" in order to debate the bill and consider amendments. The measure is then voted upon for preliminary passage.

The bill granted final passage, S.F. 46, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), allows a cooperative association in the process of dissolution to authorize a trustee to distribute property, five years after the dissolution, to certain charitable organizations. The measure given preliminary approval, S.F. 69, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), designated a portion of trunk highway 23 as Veterans Evergreen Memorial Drive.

Senate acts on farm aid proposals

The Senate held a special evening session Tuesday, Feb. 12, to consider proposals aiding Minnesota's troubled farmers. Before the evening ended, members okayed a proposal to help farmers get loans for spring planting, approved a bill allocating funds to help farmers obtain legal assistance, and called on Congress to take action to end the farm crisis.

The first proposal, S.F. 263, would spend about \$16 million to lower interest rates on farmer's operating loans. The state would pay part of the interest on the first \$50,000 of the loan. To be eligible for the program, the farmer must have a debt-to-asset ratio above 50 percent and must not have a positive cash flow at a 14.5 percent interest rate.

Stumpf said the bill could provide operating loans for 8,000 to 10,000 farmers who would otherwise not receive them.

Stumpf's proposal also contains the \$9 million voluntary moratorium proposal passed earlier this session. That proposal establishes a 120-day voluntary moratorium on foreclosures and encourages lenders to submit troubled loans to the FmHA for debt restructuring and loan guarantee.

The Senate also approved a bill establishing a legal assistance program to help financially distressed farmers.

The bill, S.F. 223, authored by Sen. Chuck Davis (DFL-Princeton), appropriates \$300,000 to the commissioner of

agriculture for the program. The commissioner would award non-profit organizations with state grants for providing the legal service to the farmers.

The Senate also approved a resolution asking Congress to hold hearings on the farm crisis and to determine what actions should be taken to end the crisis.

All three measures were sent to the House.

Mortgage moratorium bill advanced

A bill imposing a one-year farm mortgage moratorium was advanced to the Senate floor without recommendation at the Wednesday, Feb. 13, meeting of the Judiciary Committee. The measure, S.F. 85, sponsored by Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio) failed to gain the committee members approval on a 7-7 vote. However, the bill was forwarded on to the full Senate, without recommendation, on an 8-6 vote.

The bill is designed to provide relief for farmers caught in the crunch between low commodity prices and the high cost of farm credit, according to Berg.

Opponents of the measure, however, said that the bill would have dire consequences on the capital markets in Minnesota, and would drive away investors.

The bill also contains a section declaring a public economic emergency and designates the bill as the "Emergency Agricultural Relief Act of 1985."

Child abuse reporting changes gain

Most of the Thursday, Feb. 14, floor session was devoted to discussion of a bill clarifying Minnesota's child abuse reporting law. The measure, S.F. 196, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), is designed to clarify the standards under which child abuse must be reported and to encourage the voluntary reporting of child abuse and neglect. Several amendments were debated. One amendment, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), reinstates the "due care" standard of responsibility on the part of social workers for purposes of immunity. Amendments offered by Sen. Fritz Knaak (IR-White Bear Lake), included clarifying the circumstances under which teachers and school administrators could use reasonable force to administer lawful discipline and a provision prohibiting the disclosure of the name of the person making a child abuse report during the course of the investigation. The bill was approved on a unanimous vote.

In addition, the Senate also approved a resolution calling upon the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, John Block, to authorize loan advances through the Commodity Credit Corporation in order to fund spring planting. The resolution was sponsored by Sen. Doran Isackson (IR-Storden).

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

One-year foreclosure moratorium gains

On a 9-2 vote, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee okayed a proposal placing a one-year moratorium on mortgage foreclosures. The moratorium would apply to farm operating and ownership loans.

The bill, S.F. 85, applies to mortgages and security interests that exist before Feb. 1, 1985. It does not apply to contracts for deed, however. The bill does apply to mortgages held by the federal government and private lenders, and to security interests in agriculture crops and livestock, and all personal property used for agricultural production.

The measure, authored by Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio), would allow mortgages and security interests to be repossessed or foreclosed by court order. The court may order the repossession, foreclosure or sale to take place if the parties to the security interest or mortgage agree; if there is no equity in the property or if the court determines that "there is no reason for the sale not to be held." Also, the court may prevent a foreclosure sale for up to one year during the moratorium period. Thus, forced sales could be stopped for up to two years.

Berg said the bill is necessary to save agriculture in Minnesota. "It's the guts of our agriculture that's in trouble, and that's what we've got to save," he said.

Clint Kurtz from Norwood Citizens Bank said, "A moratorium could very definitely threaten the vitality of banks." Opponents to the bill argued that the proposal would provide false hope to some farmers and would reduce the amount of credit available for farmers not facing foreclosures.

Members okay changes to Superfund

The committee approved proposed changes to Minnesota's Environmental Response and Liability Act that were designed to help businesses obtain environmental impairment liability insurance. The proposed bill, S.F. 300, was approved Tues., Feb. 12, and re-referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Authored by chairman Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), the bill changes parts of the law that deal only with personal injury and economic loss liability. Specifically, the bill would remove the retroactive liability provision and would hold businesses liable for wastes dumped since July 1, 1983. The bill would also hold a company liable only for its share of damages. Under current law, one of several companies responsible for injury can be required to pay more than its share of damages if the other companies are unable to pay. The bill also tightens the language in the law relating to proof of causation of injury.

The committee defeated an amendment offered by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes) that would have kept the current law but tightened the language concerning proof of causation. Peterson said the proposed bill was reverting back to common law to protect victims. He told committee members that innocent victims should be compensated for their injuries. "It costs people their lives, it costs them the ability to earn money, and they ought to be compensated," he said.

Speaking in support of the bill, Jeff Peterson of Chemical Specialties Manufacturing Association said the current law is viewed nationally as a negative factor for doing business in Minnesota. He said adopting S.F. 300 into law would help turn that around.

Panel approves ditch mowing restrictions

The committee approved a proposal Wed., Feb. 13, prohibiting

the mowing of ditches. The bill, S.F. 219, is intended to improve wildlife habitat by allowing roadside grass to grow.

Sen. Chuck Davis (DFL-Princeton) said the mowing of ditches disrupts the nesting of different wildlife species, such as pheasants. He said that roadside management would increase pheasant production.

The proposal would allow the ditches to be mowed only during the month of August. Also, the ditches could be mowed to control noxious weeds and to insure highway safety. The commissioner of transportation may call for mowing under other circumstances.

According to the proposal, road authorities would be able to mow the first eight feet of grass that is adjacent to the road.

In other action, the committee approved changes to the law allowing persons to kill dogs that are chasing deer.

The Legislature enacted a law last year that requires a conservation officer to kill a dog giving chase to a deer. The law also allows individuals the same right. Furthermore, the individual and the officer are not liable for damages, and the owner of the dog can be charged with a petty misdemeanor. Generally, dogs do not catch the deer. However, in late winter, when the snow is topped with a crust, dogs can catch the deer because its paws allow it to run atop the snow. The deer's hoofs, on the other hand, cause it to sink. According to Dept. of Natural Resources officials, many deer are killed by dogs. The intent of the law is to protect the big game and to encourage owners to control their dogs.

The bill, S.F. 279, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), removes the requirement that a conservation officer must kill a dog that gives chase to a deer, and leaves the discretion with the officer. Individuals can only kill the dog between Jan. 1 and July 14, which excludes the hunting season. The purpose is to avoid having a careless hunter shoot the dog. The bill also states that the owner of a dog that kills or pursues big game or domestic livestock is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and may be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000.

Education

School Effectiveness program attended

An overview of the School Effectiveness program, held in the Minnesota Science Museum on Fri., Feb. 8, was attended by the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). The presentation highlighted the current status of individual programs at the 26 pilot sites.

Department structure examined

The structure of the Dept. of Education in relation to state policies and budget requirements was outlined during the Mon., Feb. 11, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

The functions of staff and services were delineated by Deputy Commissioner Curman Gaines, Dept. of Education. Gaines identified "structure" as "what our responsibilities are" and the "organization chart" as "how we are going to carry out the responsibilities" and discussed each separately.

Residential Schools Administrator Carl Johnson presented information about the Minnesota Braille and Sight Saving School and the Minnesota School for the Deaf located in Faribault. "We function as a public school system," said Johnson, emphasizing that their K-12 program is 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Discussion of the schools centered around cost-cutting measures and provision of services to outside school districts.

Government Relations Director Daniel Loritz also provided an overview of the Program Effectiveness Division. Sections experiencing growth include Assessment, Technology and

Curriculum Integration and a special section created for Instructional Effectiveness. Special Education will need additional funds, said Loritz, due to a loss of federal monies this year.

Structure overview continued

The Dept. of Education structure overview was continued at the Feb. 13 meeting of the Education Committee. Commissioner Ruth Randall, Dept. of Education, provided opening remarks.

The Partnerships Division structure was explained by Assistant Commissioner Nan Skelton. The division, she said, "serves learners of all ages." Life-long learning; community learning environments; partnership among schools, community, business and other agencies; equity, equality and access in education; and innovation of new strategies for life-long learning are some of the goals of the division, said Skelton.

The Management Effectiveness Division was outlined by Assistant Commissioner Daniel Skoog. This division provides technical and financial assistance to school districts on a voluntary basis; there are currently 60-70 assistance requests. "Each manager is doing a voluntary school project," said Skoog. Discussion centered around the Minnesota Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and its relationship to the Faribault residential schools.

Board of Teaching functions were also detailed by Kenneth Peatross, Executive Secretary of the Board. This organization serves as an independent state licensing authority for the 27 teacher education programs in the state. Accreditation and license revocation were topics of concern.

Education Aids

Budget data supplied to committee

A variety of education budget data was supplied at the Thurs., Feb. 7, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

John Haynes, Dept. of Finance, continued an explanation and discussion of the Governor's property tax proposal. Details of the one-time adjustment from the old system to the new system as well as the future effects of the new system were major concerns. Assistant Commissioner Dennis Erno, Dept. of Revenue, also presented a brief report explaining how fluctuating E.A.R.C. values contribute to the instability of property tax, thereby making the school aid formula a poor mechanism for property tax relief.

A brief overview of levy certification during the last four years as well as the present school year was provided by Tom Melcher, Dept. of Education. Major trends were identified. For example, statistics show that most school districts levy approximately 90 percent of the maximum allowed by law. The referendum levy showed the greatest growth.

Changes in the current foundation formula for 1985-86 were reviewed by Joel Sutter, Senate Research. The alternative foundation formula recommended by the Governor was also presented by Gary Farland, Dept. of Education.

Secondary vocational ed discussed

"We are fortunate to have a vocational education system in Minnesota," said Tom Strom, Manager of the Secondary Vocational-Technical Education Programs. He spoke at the Mon., Feb. 11, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

Pointing out the importance of the "opportunity to apply basic skills" in these programs, Strom described how and where programs have been made available, categorical aids provided for programs and levies made available for equipment. Evaluation procedures and cooperative incentives were also talked about.

Fiscal details of the program were explained by Gary Farland, Director of Education Aids and Levies. Farland outlined the Governor's proposal, which would set secondary vocational aid at

\$20 million for each year of the next biennium. This would "limit the state obligation in salary-driven aids," said Farland. Also, with the expansion of tiers, less categorical aid is needed in this area. Inflation would be adjusted at 4 percent for the first year and 4.5 percent for the second year of the biennium according to the Governor's plan.

Secondary Vocational Handicapped programs were detailed as well. These programs, said Strom, are moving in the direction of helping the more moderately and severely handicapped. The handicapped budget provides 70 percent reimbursement for salaries and 50 percent for equipment, supplies and travel; normal vocational programs are reimbursed at 45 percent. Federal funds for the handicapped total \$230,000 per year at the present time.

Objectives and financial data from the regular, special purpose and hazardous substance capital expenditures were presented by Greg Sogaard, Dept. of Education. Twelve districts received regular aid, six received special purpose aid and six received hazardous substance aid.

Teacher Retirement budget data was also presented by Ron Hackett, Dept. of Education.

Elections and Ethics

Length of sessions discussed

A presentation on the merits of a part-time Legislature by California state Senator H. L. Richardson was the focus of discussion at the first meeting of the Elections and Ethics Committee, Wed., Feb. 13.

Richardson, a 19 year legislative veteran, spoke of the advantages and disadvantages of switching to a full-time legislature. He stated that "a part-time, citizen legislature is of greater benefit to everybody . . . it is more efficient, it is quicker and it is closer to the people."

Richardson added that he felt there had been a deterioration of the legislative process in California since the legislature made the change to full-time in 1967.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), will hold a number of hearings dealing with the size and structure of the legislature throughout the course of the session.

Employment

Panel passes plumbing bills

The Senate Employment Committee recommended two bills for passage Tues., Feb. 12. The two bills, sponsored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would place new regulations on the plumbing industry.

S.F. 125 would require plumbers apprentices to be registered with the commissioner of health. Lantry told the committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), that the bill would allow the commissioner to monitor apprentices' progress through the four-year training program.

S.F. 342 would require all plumbing inspectors to be licensed. Lantry explained that this would not require small municipalities to hire inspectors, just license the inspectors they employ.

Robert Adelman, Minnesota State Plumbers Association and Rochester plumber Ray Purves voiced support of the bill. Assistant Commissioner of Health Mark Skubic, said, "they (plumbing inspectors) are not as familiar as they should be with plumbing or with state plumbing code." The bill would improve inspectors' ability, he said.

Energy and Housing

Increased bond bill gains

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee supported a bill designed to provide single digit interest rates to qualifying first

Committee Capsule

time home buyers. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), would increase the state's bonding authority by \$70 million to help finance \$185 million in single family home mortgages this spring. Moe said the bill "would help about 2,700 Minnesota families realize the American dream of owning their own homes."

The measure would also provide \$40 million in financing for apartment development.

Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield) expressed concern about stability of interest rates. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Executive Director James Solem said that declines in interest rates have been "substantial" and should remain stable in the near future. "Conventional wisdom is that we will not go up dramatically until the second half of the year," he added.

Energy report heard

Energy and Economic Development Commissioner Mark Dayton cautioned against "complacency" during times of energy abundance. "Minnesota's energy predicament is not a stable one," he told the Senate Energy and Housing Committee. He reminded Senators that Governor Rudy Perpich declared an Energy Emergency in 1977, and added, "last winter we narrowly avoided another crisis."

The committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega, (DFL-South St. Paul) heard the biennial report on energy issues Tues., Feb. 12, and Wed., Feb. 13. Reports were presented by: Tony Perpich, Deputy Commissioner, Energy Division; Gail Suchman, Policy Advisor, Energy Division; Frank Altman, Assistant Commissioner, Energy Finance; Lee Munich, Assistant Commissioner, Energy Division; John Gostovich, Community Energy Program Director, Energy Division and Dan Quillan, Energy Specialist, Energy Analysis.

Conservation and use of alternative energy fuels are "powerful tools" for reducing oil and gas prices, said Dayton. He pointed to a 26 percent home energy efficiency increase and a 24 percent commercial energy efficiency increase as promising economic signs. Munich added, "energy cost savings are used to purchase other goods and services in Minnesota."

Perpich said there are several ways government can increase conservation efforts. The department is currently developing a home energy rating system to compare the efficiency of Minnesota

Finance

Farm loan bill gains

A bill reimbursing lenders for interest on farm operating loans gained the support of the Senate Finance Committee Thurs., Feb. 7. S.F. 263 also contains the Senate-approved \$9 million voluntary moratorium on farm foreclosure. The bill's sponsor, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), said the measure is necessary if farmers are to plant spring crops. He stressed that quick action is needed to lower interest rates in time for spring operating loans. "Do we want the responsibility to rest on us whether or not farmers can put in their crops?" he asked. Chairman of the committee, Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), said the problem is critical. "They (farm families) don't even have enough to eat. That's how bad it is," he said.

The bill would allocate \$25 million in interest payments to lenders through the commissioner of commerce. The money would lower interest rates on the first \$50,000 of operating loans. The maximum interest payment per farmer would be no more than \$2,500. Eligible farmers would have at least a 50 percent debt/asset ratio.

Don Morrison, President First National Bank, Blooming Prairie, testified on behalf of the bill. "Our farmers are bleeding, and

they're bleeding bad. When they're bleeding we're all bleeding," he said.

Assistant Agriculture Commissioner Anne Kanten urged support for the bill and stressed the need to pressure the federal government for a long term solution. "We're not going to solve it (the farm crisis) in six months or one year or two years," she said.

Opponents of the bill argued that it only offered a false sense of hope. "We're simply going to get them (farm crops) in the ground one more year and increase farm indebtedness," said Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul). He argued that if the state had an interest reimbursement program in place, the federal government would be less likely to initiate a program. Waldorf unsuccessfully attempted to amend the bill to delete the interest reimbursement portion of the bill, leaving only the \$9 million voluntary moratorium measure.

Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul) questioned the bill's effectiveness. "I just don't see that glimmer of hope," she said. "I come from the city," she added, "my people want me to cut taxes." Stumpf countered by saying that a farm crisis would stretch beyond rural boundaries. "The food chain is a human chain," he said.

Panel votes to increase bonds

A bill to increase the state's bonding authority to finance single family home mortgages cleared the Senate Finance Committee Wed., Feb. 13. S.F. 412, authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), would provide single digit interest rates to qualifying home buyers this spring. The bill would increase the state's bonding authority by \$70 million to \$185 million.

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Executive Director, James Solem, urged quick action on the bill. He said the agency could finance mortgages for 2,700 families in time for the spring construction season.

Solem estimated that 55 percent of the money would be spent in the metro area. Committee Chairman, Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), urged the agency and Senators to encourage participation of out-state lenders. The up-front profit of participation is only the tip of the iceberg, he said. Home owners may borrow money in the future for a car or remodeling projects, he added.

Budget Requests heard

Secretary of State Joan Growe requested a \$777,800 biennial budget increase Tues., Feb. 12.

The Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls), also began budget hearings for the Department of Administration.

Growe's request included three staff positions. "We are a fee-for-service operation," she said. The additional staff is necessary to maintain that service, she added.

Growe emphasized that her office collects more money in fees than it needs to operate and that the surplus adds to the balance of the general fund. She estimated that \$6.5 million will be collected in fees during the next biennium and the cost of operating the office will be \$3.6 million.

Department of Administration Commissioner Sandra Hale and staff began presentation of the five-part budget Tues., Feb. 12, and Wed., Feb. 13. Senators urged Hale and Deputy Commissioner Babak Armajani to exert more control over office space budgets for state agencies. Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) said one state agency is renting prime downtown office space while space exists in a nearby state-owned building in his district. Armajani said the department does encourage efficient use of space, but added that some agencies need to be centrally located to be accessible to citizens.

The department requested two positions for the Capitol grounds crew. Increased use of Capitol facilities was cited as the reason for the request. Luther suggested that profit-making organizations, such as the Taste of Minnesota, be made to help the state with clean-up costs. Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) disagreed. "The Capitol belongs to the people," he said, "and they should not be discouraged from using it."

Health & Human Services

Teenage pregnancy concerns examined

Teenage pregnancy was the topic of concern at the Wed., Feb. 13, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). Berglin described teenage pregnancy as a growing problem in both education and income maintenance and jobs programs.

The teenage pregnancy rate, defined as the number of pregnancies per 1000 women age 15-19, is dropping. According to Ruth Algren, Minnesota Health Department, this decline is due to better sex education and an increased use of contraceptives. The actual teenage population has also decreased. However, Algren warned, "Teenage pregnancy is a problem that hasn't gone away."

The impact of teenage pregnancy on welfare was delineated by Charles Schultz, Assistance Payments Policy Operation, Dept. of Human Services. There are approximately 1000 first-time pregnant teenagers who become AFDC recipients every year; they enter at the rate of 150-200 per month. Any child born out-of-wedlock, said Schultz, has an 85-95 percent chance of being raised under the AFDC program, at least initially. Schultz also outlined the proposed federal regulation, which would require minor caretakers (those under 18) to reside in the parental home in order to receive AFDC; exceptions were also discussed.

Paternity issues were presented by Esther Wattenberg, Professor, University of Minnesota. She recommended that paternity issues be closely examined by a state commission and that administrative procedures in obtaining paternity information at birth be tightened. She emphasized that "equal responsibility" has been both "overlooked and underplayed."

The St. Paul Maternal and Infant Care Project's efforts within schools were outlined by Ann Ricketts. These high school clinics have made progress in preventing first pregnancies, preventing second births and providing higher quality prenatal care. Marie Blackburn also discussed the operation of Special Schools in Minneapolis, which provide education for teenage mothers.

Subcommittees hear several bills

In other action, the Income Maintenance Subcommittee okayed two bills at the Feb. 12 meeting. Education and training programs would be established for resident and family councils in nursing homes and board and care homes by S.F. 251, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). Financing for programs would be acquired by increasing the license fees for homes by \$2 per bed. Also approved was S.F. 331, a bill authorizing the county coroner to remove the pituitary gland during an autopsy and give it to the National Pituitary Agency, or other research organization. The agency provides human growth hormone, extracted from the pituitary, to patients on a cost-free basis.

The Social Services Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), also began hearing S.F. 243. Authored by Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), the bill would allow physical therapists to practice "by the order or referral" of a licensed medical doctor or dentist. Currently, a physician's direct order is required. An amendment to the bill extended referral authority to "a person licensed or registered by the commissioner of health or a health-related licensing board."

Judiciary

Sports bookmaking defined

The Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls), met Fri., Feb. 8, at the Law School Building at the University of Minnesota. The hearing was held, at the request of the Law School, in order to provide an opportunity for law students to observe a legislative committee and to experience the legislative process.

Although several bills were discussed, only one measure received committee action at the hearing. S.F. 207, sponsored by Spear, allows the Commissioner of Public Safety to make grants to local officials for the cooperative investigation of cross jurisdictional criminal activity relating to several crimes, including sports bookmaking.

In addition, the measure defines the activity of sports bookmaking as the activity of intentionally receiving, recording or forwarding within any 30-day period more than five bets, or offers to bet, that total more than \$2,500 on any one or more sporting events.

U of M president names to be private

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted to classify as private the names of University of Minnesota presidential finalists, Mon., Feb. 11. The bill's sponsor, Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), said it is designed to protect candidates from "embarrassment." He told Senators that several candidates would not participate in the process if their names were to be public. Committee Chairman Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) amended the bill to sunset one year after a new president is selected. Waldorf supported the amendment. He said he did not intend the bill to set a precedent.

Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield) amended the bill to classify as private information about the candidates that could reveal their identities.

Two University of Minnesota students testified against the bill. David Bogenschulz, representing Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG), said the bill would infringe on students' right to participate in the selection process. Jeff Nelson, a U of M law student, called the bill "inappropriate." Any U of M presidential candidate has no need to be embarrassed, he said. Sen. Dean Johnson (DFL-Willmar) questioned the bill's ability to keep names private. "There are no secrets in the newspaper business," he said. "I would rather the media have accurate information rather than work on rumors," he added.

The committee also voted to confirm Linda Johnson as Human Rights Commissioner over the objections of labor representatives and the National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota. Johnson has been acting commissioner since August, 1984. Jane Richey and Harley Ogata of the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE) asked the committee to postpone confirmation of Johnson until seven grievances with the department were settled. Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Wayzata) urged the committee to confirm Johnson calling her, "highly qualified and very objective." Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope) commended Johnson's work on whittling down the case backlog. Johnson estimated that the backlog would be cleared by Sept., 1985.

The committee also heard a report from Sentencing Guidelines Commission Director Kay Knapp. A three year evaluation of the guidelines indicates movement toward uniformity and proportionality in sentencing, she said. Knapp indicated that coordinating sentencing with available facilities is a major goal of the commission. Knapp said the commission is concerned about sentencing in child sex abuse cases and would like more guidance from the legislature on the matter.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, February 18, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 319-Moe, D.M.: State Board of Investment and related topics.

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Condition of Education in Minnesota, Will Antell, Dept. of Education.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Higher Education Coordinating Board budget.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 291-Merriam: Intestate succession, ante-mortem probate; S.F. 177-Petty: Criminal sexual conduct definition of "mentally impaired".

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 40-Frank: Requiring use of seat belts by motor vehicle drivers and passengers.

Legislative Commission on Employee Relations, Chair: Rep. G. Knickerbocker

10:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Review of Pay Equity Report; Review of PERB report.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 45-DeCramer: Recodifying drainage law.

Education Subc. on Post-Secondary & Higher Education,

Chair: LeRoy Stumpf

12:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of the community college system, Gerald Christenson, Chancellor.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations on instructional effectiveness, local assessment programs, test item bank, PER process aid, subject area in-service and outcome-based education programs.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the Dept. of Administration budget.

Tuesday, February 19, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 375-Wegscheid: Authorizing domestic companies to purchase or sell certain futures contracts; S.F. 244-Storm: Savage detached banking; S.F. 333-Mehrkens: Cannon Falls detached banking; S.F. 106-Johnson, D.J.: Tofte detached banking.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Dram shop liability continuation: S.F. 334-Luther, S.F. 301-Dieterich, S.F. 318-Samuels, and S.F. 120-Samuels.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 63-Peterson, C.C.: Fergus Falls port authority; S.F. 211-Peterson, C.C.: Detroit Lakes port authority; S.F. 183-Ramstad: Prohibiting cities and counties from excluding height of amateur radio antennas; S.F. 358-Pogemiller: Private bond issuance.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Board of Electricity, Mn Safety Council, Mn Humane Society, Disabled American Veterans and Uniform Laws Commission.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Economic Security.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on the Governor's appointment of Tom Kalitowski, Director, Pollution Control Agency; S.F. 72-Benson: Use of Mn grown grapes by farm wineries; S.F. 284-Wegscheid: Sale of land to Hastings; S.F. 228-Lessard: Exempting certain game farm hunters from pheasant stamp requirements.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Strategy on Aging report, Nellie Johnson, Dept. of Finance and James Solem, Mn Housing Finance Agency.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Income Maintenance, Chair: Ron Dicklich

2:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 332-Berglin: Parent contribution for full assistance; S.F. 311-Frederickson: Springfield rural doctor; S.F. 290-Dicklich: Increase in personal needs allowance for M.A.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations by the state auditor, treasurer, lieutenant governor and Dept. of Finance.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 450-Jude: Revenue Dept. compliance bill; S.F. 472-Johnson, D.J.: Revenue Dept. property tax bill.

Wednesday, February 20, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 319-Moe, D.M.: State Board of Investment and related topics.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 47-Frank: Increasing penalties for certain cruel acts against animals; S.F. 247-McQuaid: Memorial to Korean War veterans in Court of Honor.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Higher Education Coordinating Board and Dept. of Finance - Average cost funding.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 379-Sieloff: Nonprofit corporation address; S.F. 374-Sieloff: Uniform Transfers to Minors Act; S.F. 276-Spear: Uniform Notarial Act; S.F. 455-Jude: Uniform Conservation Easement Act.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 5-Diessner: Raising drinking age to 21.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Mn/Wisc. Boundary Area Commission, Mn Horticultural Society, Citizens Council on Voyageurs National Park, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of Dept. of Economic Security budget.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearings on the Governor's appointments to EQB, Martha Brand and Caryl Buchwald; S.F. 272-Storm: Requiring Comm. of Agriculture to find that reasonable economic necessity exists for licensure and construction of new dairy processing plants.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Social Services, Chair: Marilyn Lantry

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 51-Berglin: Home health care licensure; S.F. 146-Samuelson: Interstate contracts for mental health; S.F. 243-Wegscheid: Physical therapy. (Continues Fri. Feb. 22, if necessary.)

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

2:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Report from Income Maintenance Subcommittee: S.F. 331-Adkins: Pituitary removal by coroner; Pending subc. approval - S.F. 332-Berglin: Child support; S.F. 311-

Frederickson: Springfield rural doctor; S.F. 290-Dicklich: Increased personal needs allowance for M.A.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations by Board of Investment, CAAPB, Office of Administrative Hearings and Dept. of Employee Relations.

Thursday, February 21, 1985

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of proposed Local Government Aid Formula changes and strategies for implementation, Mary Anderson, League of Mn Cities.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 31-Diessner: Watercraft DWI.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:30 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of Dept. of Economic Security budget; Mn Partnership Board.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations on transportation, interdistrict transportation, school bus safety study, motorcycle safety, gifted and talented, academic excellence, and summer institute financial aid.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Presentations by the Dept. of Revenue and Mn Tax Court.

Commission on the Economic Status of Women

3:30 PM Room 400N, State Office Building

Agenda: Election of chair and vice chair; Discussion of legislative proposals; Adoption of budget.

Friday, February 22, 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations on CQE innovative grants, R. & D. recommendations and report, summer instruction, summer education improvement, school management assessment center, extended leave, part-time teaching, and early retirement.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 300-Merriam: Environmental Response and Liability Act (Superfund) amendments. To be continued Monday, Feb. 25.

Education Subc. on Educational Operation and Governance, Chair: Gregory Dahl

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Prohibiting school from starting before Labor Day: S.F. 117-Stumpf, S.F. 24-Peterson, C.C. and S.F. 192-Lessard.

Local and Urban Government

Panel discusses Met Council

Members of the Local and Urban Government Committee met Tues., Feb. 12, to discuss the findings and recommendations contained in the Legislative Auditors Report on the Metropolitan Council.

Deputy Legislative Auditor Elliot Long presented the report and summarized the recommendations. In his remarks, Long emphasized that the report was primarily an evaluation of several selected areas: comprehensive land use planning; oversight of the metropolitan agencies; internal organization; and accountability.

One of the major recommendations contained in the report was that the council prepare a report justifying and explaining any proposed changes in the Council's planning philosophy and practice. Such a report would include a clear statement of objectives and an evaluation of the impact of the Council's planning functions on local governments and the metro commissions. The Legislative Auditors report also recommended that the Met Council demonstrate greater leadership in informing the legislature about council and commission issues by including explanations of the Council's proposals regarding the commissions and summarizing the commissions' reactions. As for the Council's internal program development and budgeting, the report recommended that the agency examine current staff levels and the adaptability of the agency in light of emerging metropolitan issues. Finally, Long said, the report recommended strong external oversight, on the part of the legislature, to increase the Council's accountability and to insure that the "Council fulfill its broad and difficult mission."

The committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), also heard from Metropolitan Council Chair Sandra Gardebring.

Gardebring indicated that she agreed with many of the recommendations and had expressed many of the same concerns prior to accepting her appointment a few months ago. She also pointed out that the Council has already initiated several changes designed to remedy the concerns reflected in the report. For instance, the Council staff is currently engaged in revamping the comprehensive Development Guide to land use planning in order to accurately portray the changes that have occurred in recent years. In addition, Gardebring applauded the recommendation calling for more legislative oversight and said that the Council and its staff would look forward to reestablishing a good working relationship with the legislature. Finally, Gardebring indicated that the Council would submit several legislative proposals to insure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's oversight function in relationship to other metropolitan agencies.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Gambling regulation raises controversy

A 90-day delay in the anticipated March 1, 1985 initiation of the state takeover of charitable gambling regulations was recommended at the Tues., Feb. 12, meeting of the Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul). The recommended delay is the result of an amendment to S.F. 328, authored by Dieterich.

Designed to prevent the commercialization of charitable gambling in Minnesota, a \$1 billion a year business, the amended bill would delay licensure and regulation of charitable organizations by the Charitable Gambling Control Board until June 1, 1985. The licensure and regulation of wholesalers and distributors of gambling equipment and supplies would remain March 1, 1985.

Representatives of wildlife organizations opposed the bill on the grounds of their loose organization, volunteer status and relatively small number of events; they preferred repeal, exemption or a 12 month delay. An upcoming bill authored by Sen. Collin Peterson would give them exempt status. A second faction supported the bill but proposed a 3-12 month delay for educational implementation purposes. A third group supported immediate implementation for the protection and benefit of all parties involved.

Two amendments reinstating the repealed dedication of collected funds to arts education were proposed by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook). Both failed.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Property tax plan scrutinized

The Tax Subcommittee on Property Taxes and Local Government Aids, chaired by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), met Wed., Feb. 13, to hear the reactions of various groups to the governor's property tax proposal.

Representatives from local government groups and from educational organizations responded to specific parts of the proposal. Morrie Anderson from the Association of Minnesota Counties said that while counties supported the general concept behind the plan, the overall proposal was flawed. Carl Johnson of the School Board Association said that his organization was concerned about the loss of local control if the state assumes 100 percent of the funding for foundation aids for education. Other hearings will be held at a later date to discuss the proposal in more detail.

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Briefly

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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

February 22, 1985

Senate passes foreclosure moratorium

On a 37-27 vote, the Senate passed a bill Thursday, Feb. 21, that prohibits foreclosures for one year on farmer's mortgages and operating loans. The proposal, which received preliminary approval Monday, was sent to the House.

Authored by Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio), the bill, S.F. 85, would apply to mortgages and security interests that exist before Feb. 1, 1985. It applies to mortgages held by the federal government and private lenders, to security interests in crops and livestock, and all personal property used for agricultural production. The bill does not apply to contracts for deed.

The bill allows mortgages and security interests to be repossessed or foreclosed by court order. Courts may also prevent a foreclosure sale for up to one year during the moratorium period.

During Monday's debate, an amendment extending the foreclosure moratorium to homesteads was defeated twice on 32-32 votes. Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), author of the amendment, said it would provide protection to those in northern Minnesota who worked in the mining and timber industries and are now unemployed.

Berg said his proposal would provide stability during the farm financial crisis. The moratorium would prevent farmland from being sold, which results in lower farmland prices, he explained. "This bill will give them [the farmer] some protection—at least it will give them some time," Berg added.

Opponents of the bill claimed a moratorium would reduce the availability of credit. "I think in a long run it is a disservice to the farmers and the business community in Minnesota," said Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar).

Also during the Monday, Feb. 18, session, the Senate gave final passage to a bill delaying for 90 days the enactment of the gambling board's rules regulating charitable gambling.

The proposal, S. F. 328, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), delays the licensing and regulation of charitable organizations by the state's Charitable Gambling Control Board until June 1, 1985. Wholesalers and distributors of gambling equipment would be licensed and regulated effective Mar. 1, 1985, however.

Last week, a Senate committee repealed a provision that required a portion of the gambling revenue to be used for a state school for the arts. The Senate adopted an amendment offered by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) that would use part of the gambling proceeds for arts education programs.

The Senate also gave final passage to a bill that would provide lower interest rates to first-time home buyers this spring. The author of the proposal, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), said those interest rates could be in the single digits. The bill, S.F. 412, increases the state's bonding authority to finance single family home mortgages.

The bill clarifying Minnesota's child abuse reporting law also gained final passage. The Senate gave preliminary approval to the bill, S.F. 196 (Reichgott), last week.

Bill raising drinking age advances

A proposal to raise Minnesota's drinking age to 21 gained the Transportation Committee's approval Wednesday, Feb. 20, and was sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Because the bill, S.F. 5, complies with the drinking age guidelines established by the federal government last year, it would secure federal funding for state highways.

Gene Ofstead from Mn/DOT said five percent of the federal funds would be cut if the state does not enact the bill by Oct. 1, 1986. Thus, he added, the state would lose about \$33 million during the first two years it is not in compliance. However, Ofstead told lawmakers that the main reason they should enact the bill is to reduce automobile deaths, injuries and accidents.

The committee defeated two amendments that would not have kept the bill in compliance with the federal guidelines. The first amendment, offered by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), would have allowed 19-21 year-olds to purchase alcohol in a controlled setting, such as a bar. The second amendment, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), would have allowed 3.2 beer to be sold to minors 19 years and older.

The bill is sponsored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton).

Senate acts on several bills

The Senate began taking action on bills during the Thursday, Feb. 21, session by granting final passage to the bill creating a one-year moratorium. In addition, members granted preliminary approval to several other measures.

One proposal approved by the members changes the law allowing persons to kill dogs that are chasing or trying to kill deer. Last year, the Legislature enacted a law requiring a conservation officer to kill a dog giving chase to a deer. The law also allows individuals the same right. Furthermore, the current law provides that the individual and the officer are not liable for damages, and the owner can be charged with a petty misdemeanor. The intent of the law is to protect the big game and to encourage owners to control their dogs.

The bill, S.F. 279, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), amends the current law by giving the conservation officer the discretion to kill the dog giving chase. Also, individuals would only be able to kill dogs between Jan. 1 and July 14, which would exclude the hunting season. The purpose, explained Merriam, is to protect the deer when they are most vulnerable and to avoid having a careless hunter shoot a pet dog. The bill also states that the owner of a dog that kills or pursues big game or domestic livestock is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and may be subject to a civil penalty or up to \$1,000.

The Senate also granted preliminary approval to S.F. 252 (Petty) changing the amount of votes required by shareholders to approve an amendment to the articles of incorporation; S.F. 102 (Willet) changing the down payment required for state timber sales to make it consistent with county sales; and S.F. 207 (Spear) clarifying the definition of sports bookmaking.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Bill reducing hazardous waste fees gains

A bill appropriating \$344,000 to help pay for the Pollution Control Agency's hazardous waste regulation program gained the committee's approval Fri., Feb. 15.

Sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), the bill would provide the funds in order to reduce the amount of money the agency must collect through fees. In 1983 the Legislature okayed the agency's request to spend \$794,400 during the 1983-85 biennium for the program. But lawmakers decided that the money should be raised through fees. According to agency director Tom Kalitowski, that was the first time the agency was required to collect fees.

Kalitowski explained that the agency has a fee schedule in place that raises \$450,000. In order to meet the \$794,400 figure, fee increases for several hazardous waste generators would be needed. Raising the fees for waste generators would actually discourage hazardous waste control compliance, he explained.

The bill, S.F. 286, was sent to the Finance Committee.

Members okay bill to aid new wineries

The committee okayed a bill Tues., Feb. 19, that would aid newly-formed farm wineries in Minnesota.

The bill, S.F. 72, extends the state's existing tax incentives that are provided to farm wineries using state-grown grapes to those wineries starting new operations. According to the bill's author, Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), new farm wineries must purchase grapes grown elsewhere to produce the wine until they can establish a suitable grape crop. New farm wineries can apply for a one-year tax break, but the process takes too long, he explained. "It's gets harder and harder for these people to take advantage of tax credits," Benson said. The bill would expire Aug. 1, 1989.

The committee also approved a bill, S.F. 284, that would transfer state land to the city of Hastings. Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), author of the proposal, said the land would be used for an energy park. The land, he said, is adjacent to the Veterans' building, and the building's steam boilers could produce heat and electricity for buildings located in the park.

In other action Tuesday, the committee approved the appointment of Tom Kalitowski as director of the Pollution Control Agency.

Proposed review of new dairy plants heard

Members began considering a bill preventing the use of municipal revenue bonds to finance a new or expanding dairy plant when it is determined that there is no economic necessity for that plant.

Sponsored by Sen. Don Storm (IR-Edina), the bill would require the commissioner of agriculture to determine the "reasonable economic necessity of the plant." To determine the necessity, the commissioner would use the contested case procedure under the Administrative Procedures Act. The plant would be able to be constructed despite the judgement of the commissioner, but the commissioner must agree that a need exists for the plant before public financing is approved.

Storm said that Minnesota has an adequate number of dairy processing facilities. He added that the federal government is paying dairy farmers to cut back on production in order to reduce surpluses. Minnesota ranked second in the nation for those payments received during the first three months of 1984, he said.

Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) testified in opposition to

the bill. Samuelson represents Little Falls, where plans for constructing a cheese plant are underway. Samuelson said investors will establish a plant in Wisconsin if one is not constructed in Minnesota. He said the proposed plant in Little Falls would create jobs for people now unemployed in that area, and it would give dairy farmers a better price for their product through increased competition.

The bill, S.F. 272, will be considered later this session.

In other action Wednesday, the committee approved the appointments of Martha Brand and Caryl Edward Buchwald to the Environmental Quality Board.

Economic Development and Commerce

Panel okayes detached banking bills

Three bills allowing detached banking cleared the Senate Economic Development and Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), Tues., Feb. 19.

S.F. 333, sponsored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing) was recommended to pass over the objections of a Cannon Falls bank president. The bill would allow White Rock State Bank to operate a detached facility in Cannon Falls. The bank is now located eight miles outside of town. The measure would allow banks within a 25 mile radius to operate detached facilities in Cannon Falls. President of the First National Bank of Cannon Falls, Paul Bringgold, opposed the bill. He said he doesn't mind the White Rock State Bank operating a detached facility in Cannon Falls, but he objects to other banks moving into town. He estimates the bill could allow 35 area banks to operate additional facilities in Cannon Falls.

S.F. 106, sponsored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), would allow the Grand Marais State Bank to establish a detached facility in nearby Tofte.

S.F. 244, sponsored by Sen. Donald Storm (IR-Edina), would allow Suburban National Bank to operate a detached facility in Savage.

S.F. 375, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would alter statutory language to clarify domestic life insurance companies' right to buy and sell options.

Education

Vo Tech requests heard

The AVTI system status was presented by Joseph Graba, State Director of the Board of Vocational Technical Education, at the Thurs., Feb. 14, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Leroy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

Overall enrollment in the 33 institutes has declined, said Graba, and full-time enrollment will continue to decline because of a shrinking student population. However, part-time enrollment of a slightly older population has dramatically increased to offset the decline. There are currently 273,000 part-time students, representing approximately seven to eight percent of the total state population. Some 700 programs train people for about 200 occupations.

The 1983-1984 change in governance and resulting benefits and problems were discussed. While the state system planned for a nine percent increase in salaries, local salary settlements increased by 15 percent. This situation resulted in substantial cutbacks in other areas, said Graba. Budget cuts eliminated 32 programs and reduced 20 programs.

Legislative initiatives were outlined by John Ostrem, Budget Informational Services Manager. A repeal of the required 17 to 1

student-teacher ratio and 51 percent placement ratio is requested. A second proposal would allow the state board more flexibility in awarding Associate of Applied Science degrees through cooperation with other post-secondary systems. Joint cooperation, adult vocational licensure exemptions and capital improvement bonding requests were also presented.

State educational conditions examined

A preliminary report on the condition of education in Minnesota was presented by Dr. Mildred Mueller, Dept. of Education, at the Mon., Feb. 18, meeting of the Education committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). Public education was analyzed in light of its organization, financing, professional staff, enrollment, programs and educational outcomes. "The picture has changed in the past ten years," said Mueller.

Statistics show that 28 percent of the student population is located in the ten largest school districts while only three percent are located in the state's 87 smallest districts. The density, or students per square mile, is also greater in these smaller districts. Thus, Mueller concluded, "Education is more expensive in some of those smaller districts."

The average 55 percent in state support for education and 40-45 percent in local support reversed during 1983, but is now returning to previous levels, said Mueller. In the national arena, Minnesota's level of funding has been higher than the national average, but the gap is closing; Minnesota has dropped in rank from 11th in 1972-73 to 16th in 1982-83.

Enrollment figures have dropped by approximately 195,000 or 21.7 percent during the decade 1973-74 to 1983-84. Consequential staff reductions are approximated at 5,700 or 11.3 percent. This decline, said Mueller, will probably continue until 1992 but at a much slower pace. After that a slight increase or leveling is predicted. At the present time, elementary enrollment is increasing while secondary enrollment is continuing to decrease. The minority student population has also increased dramatically in the last ten years largely due to the Southeast Asian population.

In the teaching field, the number of teachers under age 35 has decreased from about 50 percent to 24 percent during the last ten years. Also, there has been a 60 percent decrease in the number of graduates receiving teaching degrees.

Outcome statistics were also presented. Minnesota's retention rate is now ranked second in the nation. (North Dakota is first.) The PSAT scores identify a Minnesota strength in the area of math skills while verbal skills are approximately equal to the national average.

Community college services prosper

The growth of community college services was described by Gerald Christenson, Chancellor of the colleges, at the Mon., Feb. 18, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee. There is a need for this "phenomenon of the 20th century," said Christenson.

During a 21 percent decrease in the number of high school graduates from 1980-84, there was a 14 percent increase in the number of community college students. "Community colleges are serving a much different clientele," Christenson pointed out. Over 58 percent of the students are women, and over 50 percent are part-time.

Cooperative programs have become a major thrust of the community college system, said Christenson. Cooperation with AVTI's and state universities as well as an increasing number of businesses, including Northwestern Bell, General Motors and the National Guard, has begun. The community college system can continue to work as a statewide economic development resource for company employees needing retraining or for the newly unemployed, Christenson emphasized.

Tuition, which is the third highest in the nation, is a major problem; the percentage increases in the last three years have far exceeded inflation, said Christenson. (Tuition is \$1,100 in Minnesota as compared to a \$550-\$600 national average.) One-third of the budget is acquired through tuition while two-thirds is appropriated by the Legislature. In addition, there is a serious lack of scholarship and grant money available to part-time students. Ninety-six percent of the part-time students receive no federal or state grants.

Increasing costs demand a reorganization and individual audit of each of the 18 colleges with possible consolidation and increased cooperation. Although 73 percent of the faculty is at the top of the pay schedule, salaries have increased less than five percent per year in the last biennium as compared to 15 percent for K-12 teachers in the last biennium. Administrations at each of the colleges will be requested to make appropriate decisions, said Christenson. Closing campuses would be a last resort, he said.

Quality Education Council heard

The Council on Quality Education presented reports concerning grants, research and development and Minnesota Improved Learning at the Wed., Feb. 20, meeting of the Education Committee.

Under the grant program, 11 new projects and 19 continuing projects were funded for FY 1985 with an average of \$20,000 per project. Improved Learning Program grants increased from 14 to 18 and averaged \$8,500 per grant.

Comprehensive communications curriculum and higher order thinking skills curriculum were recommended as well as programs for underachievers; establishment of measured achievement levels was recommended. Staff development and computer resource centers for the staff were also recommended.

The vagueness of the research proposals and evaluation procedures as well as the school district's ability to apply for such grants were major topics of concern in light of the \$5 million research appropriation being requested for the next biennium.

University service differentiated

The Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee met Thurs., Feb. 21, to discuss the state university system. Chancellor Jon Wefald presented an overview of the seven state universities located in Winona, Mankato, St. Cloud, Moorhead, Bemidji, Marshall and the metro area. The universities serve 48,000 students.

Wefald reaffirmed the universities' goal of providing a quality liberal arts undergraduate education to regional Minnesota. The services provided, said Wefald, are instruction, research and public service. Instruction is provided to a 93 percent undergraduate population and a 7 percent graduate population; 18-25 percent are part-time and 13-16 percent are over age 24. Applied research is carried on, and public services to the community involve cultural events, social events and economic resource development.

The future enrollment decline, said Wefald, will have some effect on the universities in the near future but long-term enrollment projections are remaining constant. The universities will continue to eliminate old programs and initiate new ones in such areas as biotechnology, engineering, food processing and international business.

The requested budget for state universities is \$382 million in comparison to the governor's recommendation of \$352 million. Tuition is expected to increase by 15 percent during the next biennium, said Wefald.

Committee Capsule

Education Aids

Community education discussed

Community, early childhood and adult education were the topics of discussion at the Thurs., Feb. 14, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

During the 15 year history of the community education program, the number of participating districts has increased from 58 to 390. Although originally thought of as a "fun and games program," said Bob Ramstead, Dept. of Education, the program also involves "activities of a more substantive nature but far less visible." Services such as child care, summer school, refugee services, newsletters and community tours are often made available.

The governor's recommendation is to fund the existing community education program, limiting the monies to the more "substantive activities." Projected funding would be provided at \$5.25 per capita with a maximum of \$7,000 for 1986 and \$5.50 per capita with a maximum of \$7,315 for 1987. The formula change undergone between 1983 and 1985 changed the funding base; current funding is levied at 8/10 of a mill.

Early childhood education has also experienced a tremendous increase in participation. With financial formula incentives of 25 cents per capita for 1984 and 50 cents per capita for 1985, the district participation grew from 40 in 1984 to 253 for 1986. The governor's recommendation is to fund the current program.

Adult education programs have declined in number, said Ramstead, due to the increasing involvement of other agencies in this area. However, financial needs have increased because of staff salaries and the impetus to reach the "hard to reach, hard to teach." The governor's recommendation is to fund a deficiency appropriation for 1985 of \$385,000 and to provide an inflation adjustment.

Budget items reviewed

Instructional Effectiveness, Subject Area Inservice and Outcome-based Education Programs were reviewed at the Wed., Feb. 20, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

The \$25,000 per year appropriation for the establishment of the Instructional Effectiveness Program should be reduced to a \$15,000 ongoing appropriation in order to continue the program, according to the governor's recommendation. The 26 pilot sites are currently provided with free training in such areas as goal setting, discipline, environment and evaluation; regional facilitators are also provided. With an additional 100 districts expected to join the program, all facilitators will become full-time employees, covering up to 20 sites each over the next biennium.

Subject Area Inservice, which updates teachers in the areas of math, science and social studies would be given an appropriation of \$515,000 for 1985. An additional \$60,000 was appropriated last year to include language arts and to begin an ongoing inservice program. Beginning in FY 1987, \$8.5 million would be distributed to individual school districts to use for inservice needs.

The Outcome-based Education Programs will eventually incorporate the Instructional Effectiveness Program. Outcome-based Education funds will also be provided for a PER Committee, local assessment, a test item bank and new test development.

Employment

Mediation bill gains

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), okayed a bill modifying the mediation process for teachers and school districts. S.F. 118 sponsor Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), said the bill is designed to

speed-up the settlement process and alleviate pressure to strike before it's absolutely necessary.

Paul Goldberg, Director of the Bureau of Mediation Services, told the committee a provision requiring the mediation period to begin at the time a mediator initiates the process, has his support. "In many cases the statutory mediation period expires before any mediation sessions have taken place," he said.

The bill would reduce the 60 day mediation period to 30 days. After an intent notice is filed, there would be a "cooling-off" period followed by 15 days when a strike could occur. If the two sides were close to an agreement, they could extend the 15 days by 5 days.

Chmielewski amended the bill to allow school districts and teachers to set the duration of a contract for a two or three year period. The bill would also allow districts to set dates for the contract period. Current law requires all contracts expire June 30.

The bill was supported by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators and the Minnesota School Board Association. The Minnesota Education Association and the Minnesota Federation of Teachers expressed neutral positions on the bill.

Finance

HECB budget request heard

The Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) is seeking a \$153 million budget increase over the next biennium. HECB Executive Director David Longanecker made the request at the Mon., Feb. 18, meeting of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul).

The budget request represents a \$71.6 million increase in 1986 and \$81.7 million in 1987. The 27 percent increase includes a proposal to extend scholarship and grant programs to part-time students.

The 11 member board is assisted by a 67 member staff. Board Vice President, Robert Ferguson told the subcommittee that a major goal of the HECB is to promote quality higher education in Minnesota.

Governor's office holds the line

The Governor's Office requested no increase in its biennial budget and the Department of Revenue requested a \$4.2 million increase over the next two years. The Senate Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), heard the requests Thurs., Feb. 14.

The Governor's Chief of Staff, Terry Montgomery, told the panel that some internal dollar shifts would be made, but the overall budget would remain at \$4.2 million for the coming biennium.

Department of Revenue Commissioner Art Roemer requested a \$2.1 million increase in each year of the two year budget period. Roemer said the additional funds are necessary to, "continue to assist tax-payers in meeting their obligations under the law."

Semi-State budget requests heard

Five semi-state agencies made their biennial budget requests Tues., Feb. 19, at the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation, and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

Minnesota Humane Society Executive Director Barbara Raye said, "we would like to see the state's participation increase." She said funding was cut back during Minnesota's budget crisis, and more money is needed to replace lost dollars. She cited an expected increase in horse abuse cases as another reason for the \$87,600 total biennial budget request.

The Minnesota Safety Council's budget request remained at its current \$50,000 level, said Council President Robert Anderson.

Board of Electricity Executive Secretary John Quinn requested \$1.5 million for the coming biennium.

Disabled American Veterans representatives requested no change in the organization's \$50,000 appropriation.

The Uniform Laws Commission requested \$24,800 over two years.

Constitutional officers budgets heard

Budgets for three state constitutional officers were reviewed by the Subcommittee on State Departments, Wed., Feb. 19. The Offices of the Lieutenant Governor, the State Treasurer and the State Auditor along with the Department of Finance made their budget presentations.

Average cost funding discussed

The Subcommittee on Education examined the progress of average cost funding, Wed., Feb. 20. Finance Commissioner Gus Donhowe told the panel that declining enrollment necessitates consolidation of programs. Higher education institutes should specialize, rather than attempt to provide a full range of programs, he said. "Programs that require continuing support would be eaten-up by fixed cost spending," he added.

Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) suggested that a mechanism be put in place to monitor the success of average cost funding. He said it is unclear if the system is being used at all levels.

Higher Education Coordinating Board Executive Director David Longanecker briefed the subcommittee on Governor Perpich's educational initiatives. An enterprise development partnership would pair universities and area businesses in research and new business developments, said Longanecker. A second initiative is designed to replace lost federal dollars from the National Science Foundation. More money is needed to purchase computer and technological equipment, he said. The Governor hopes to educate teachers on new technological developments through use of instructional teacher development centers, said Longanecker.

Ag budget requests heard

The Department of Agriculture put a 21 percent budget increase before the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation, and Semi-States, at the Thurs., Feb. 21, meeting. Deputy Commissioner Rollin Dennistoun told the subcommittee members that the request includes 23 new positions. He said the department expected to battle a possible gypsy moth plague and needed to monitor the feed and fertilizer industries more closely.

State investments examined

A decline in return on investments prompted questions from the Subcommittee on State Departments, Wed., Feb. 20.

State Board of Investments Executive Director Howard Bicker defended a decline in return on investments last year by pointing to a corresponding 10.2 percent decline in the Dow Jones average. Bicker requested a \$1.5 million appropriation for each year of the coming biennium.

The Office of Administrative Hearings budget could decline by \$1.7 million in each year of the biennium. Chief Hearing Examiner Duane Harves said Workers Compensation activities would be funded by the Workers Compensation Special Revenue Fund rather than the general fund.

The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board requested a \$65,000 biennial budget increase. A goal of the board is to extend the Capitol mall into downtown St. Paul, said Executive Secretary Gary Grefenburg.

Department of Employee Relations Commissioner Nina Rothchild requested \$4.7 million in each year of the biennium. A major goal of the department is affirmative action, she said. "There

has been a slow but steady increase over the years of protected groups employed by the state," she said.

National park use questioned

Members of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation, and Semi-States questioned usage of the Voyageurs National Park at a Wed., Feb. 20, budget hearing. Irv Anderson, of the Citizens Council on Voyageurs National Park, requested a continuation of its \$148,000 appropriation. Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing) said the park is "tremendously under-used." Anderson explained that "Northern Minnesota today has to depend on tourism."

Minnesota/Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission Executive Director James Harrison, requested a \$158,700 biennial budget.

Horticultural Society spokesman Glen Ray requested a \$92,900 appropriation for each year of the coming biennium. The major thrust of the society will be volunteer coordination for planting and landscaping around the state.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Adjutant-Quartermaster John O'Neill requested a \$5,000 biennial budget increase. The total budget request for the two years is \$60,000.

Economic Security budget reviewed

Economic Security Commissioner Barbara Beerhalter told the Subcommittee on Health and Human Services that cuts in federal dollars are anticipated next biennium. She requested \$103 million in state dollars to make up for the loss, but she told the subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), that Governor Perpich is calling for a \$56 million expenditure. Beerhalter detailed the budget for Senators at hearings Tues., Feb. 19, Wed., Feb. 20, and Thurs., Feb. 21.

Governmental Operations

State Board of Investments discussed

The executive director of the State Board of Investments, Howard Bicker, briefed members of the Governmental Operations Committee, Mon., Feb. 18, on the history and current activities of the SBI.

Bicker explained to the committee, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), that the SBI had undergone significant changes in fiscal year 1984. Specifically, Bicker pointed to the redesign of the Basic Retirement Funds' investment management structure, which began in 1983 with the hiring of external common stock managers. In addition, he said that the Board also hired a master custodian, constructed a common stock index fund, retained external bond managers, and continued to implement its alternative equity investment program. Bicker emphasized the "disciplined long term" investment policies in regard to the Basic Retirement Fund. He acknowledged the fund's "disappointing -5.5 percent total rate of return," but added that the changes in the investment management structure and changes in "the inhospitable investment environment" has resulted in the portfolio now being positioned to "produce superior long-term performance."

Bicker also pointed out that the SBI's other major fund, the Post Retirement Investment Fund, did perform well in fiscal 1984, permitting a 6.9 percent benefit increase for its participants.

SBI discussions continue

The Wed., Feb. 20, meeting was also devoted to matters pertaining to the State Board of Investment. Specifically, discussion centered on the SBI's membership in the Council on Institutional Investors, a recently organized group of pension fund administrators founded by California State Treasurer Jesse Unruh.

In addition, the panel also took action on a bill, S.F. 319,

Committee Capsule

clarifying the powers and duties of the State Board of Investment. Under the measure, sponsored by Sen. Don Moe, the Board is permitted to include small supplemental funds, such as the growth share account and the income share account, to the combined investment funds in order to achieve greater efficiency and economy. The bill also allows the rate of return on the fixed-return account to be set monthly rather than annually; clarifies that the Board's authority extends to investments in obligations issued by entities that do not fit the traditional definition of a governmental agency; clarifies the language that sets the interest standards of unrated corporate obligations; and permits the Board to invest in insurance contracts with a guaranteed rate of return.

Health & Human Services

Strategy On Aging considered

The Strategy On Aging Report was delivered by Nellie Johnson, Assistant Commissioner of the Dept. of Finance, at the Tues., Feb. 19, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls).

The governor is recommending a \$30 million increase in funding for the Aging Strategy, said Johnson. Approximately \$8 million would fund the MSA program, \$1.6 million would fund housing and \$20 million would fund community services. "With the moratorium [on nursing home beds], we have an obligation to fund the community services program," said Johnson.

Community service funding would be distributed differently in order to provide fiscal incentives. According to the recommendations, the state-county match in funds, which is now 90-10, would become 75-25. The \$34 million the state would save would then be given back to the counties according to need. The additional \$20 million recommended for preadmission screening for nursing homes is the "largest discretionary increase" in the governor's budget, Johnson noted.

MSA and housing recommendations were also discussed. The new MSA program would set no limit on home equity but would set a minimum monthly payment from the state at \$500. Housing options being considered include an accessibility program which would provide deferred loans to the elderly for making structural changes in their homes as well as a shared residence or roommate matching program. Nonelderly roommates would be matched with elderly homeowners with cash rent and/or services expected of the nonelderly person. A third option would convert large homes or small apartments into housing units with private rooms and some common facilities.

Subcommittee hears bills

The Income Maintenance Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), recommended three bills for passage to the full committee at the Tues., Feb. 19, meeting.

The first bill, S.F. 332 authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls), would reinforce actions to collect payments from parents for the costs of AFDC assistance. Under this bill, the parent would be liable for assistance furnished for the benefit of the caretaker as well as the child and regardless of whether the child is currently on AFDC. Also, liability would be assessed according to whether the parent has had the ability to pay in the past rather than whether he/she is currently able to pay.

A bill allowing Springfield to qualify for the rural physician shortage forgivable loan program, S.F. 311 authored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (R-Morgan), was okayed also. Federal legislation formerly excluded Springfield from this program.

S.F. 290, authored by Dicklich, would increase the personal needs allowance for nursing home inhabitants on Medical Assistance from \$40 to \$50 per month.

Subcommittee work continued

A clarifying amendment was added to a bill concerning home health care licensure before the proposal passed to the full committee at the Wed., Feb. 20, meeting of the Income Maintenance Subcommittee. The bill, S.F. 51, is authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls).

The amendment clarifies the definition of "home care service" and adds a definition of "home care agency." Procedures for avoiding dual licensing are also included.

Conflicts with the Nurse Practice Act, patient and family responsibilities and providers' rights concerned those testifying; the definition of "homemaker" and "housekeeping services" was also questioned.

Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul) attempted passage of several amendments exempting "self-employed individuals."

Four bills gain

Bills acted upon earlier by the Income Maintenance Subcommittee were recommended for passage at the Wed., Feb. 20, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Gaining approval were S.F. 332-(Berglin) dealing with the collection of child support, S.F. 311-(Frederickson) providing for the acquisition of a forgivable loan for a physician agreeing to practice in Springfield, S.F. 290-(Dicklich) dealing with an increase in personal needs allowance for M.A. recipients and S.F. 331-(Adkins) allowing coroners and medical examiners to remove pituitary glands in order to acquire growth hormone for research. All bills except S.F. 331 were referred to the Finance Committee.

Judiciary

Dram shop bills heard

Four bills relating to dram shop insurance were discussed by the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Law, chaired by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), Fri., Feb. 15.

Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) authored S.F. 120 and S.F. 318. He told the panel that his district relies heavily on the hospitality industry, and that the bills are supported by the Minnesota Resort, Restaurant, and Hotel Association. "S.F. 318 would put the dram shop law in the same category as the wrongful death law," he said. The bill would also require that a dram shop claim be filed within 120 days of the injury instead of 120 days after hiring an attorney.

S.F. 301, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), limits types of damages recoverable in dram shop actions. Loss of income, medical expenses, rehabilitation expenses, funeral and burial expenses, income to survivors and property losses are recoverable damages according to the measure. Dieterich said a plaintiff would have to try to recover losses through auto liability insurance before filing a dram shop claim.

S.F. 334, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would place an annual \$300,000 aggregate limit on dram shop policy.

Commerce Commissioner Mike Hatch presented an overview of the current dram shop law to the panel. Hatch said that one major problem is "shot-gunning" which occurs when a plaintiff or attorney sends dram shop notices to several bars in a claim. Insurance companies consider a notice a claim, even if a suit is not filed, he added. Hatch estimated that some Minnesota bars are being charged as much as 16 times the appropriate amount for dram shop insurance.

The subcommittee members continued their discussion of the issue of dram shop insurance at the Tues., Feb. 19, meeting. Public testimony was heard and panel members debated the approaches

contained in the bills. Further debate and subcommittee action on the bills is scheduled for Wed., Feb. 26.

Intestate succession bill gains

The full Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), met Mon., Feb. 18, and took action on two bills.

S.F. 291, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), makes changes in the laws dealing with the disposition of a deceased person's estate if that person did not leave a will. The bill adopts some provisions of the Uniform Probate Code and clarifies the laws relating to intestate succession, the spouse's elective share and omitted spouses and children.

An amendment, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), removed a section of the bill dealing with ante-mortem probate, a process which provides for an action establishing the validity of a will before the testator dies.

S.F. 177, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), substitutes the words "mentally impaired" for the words "mentally defective" in the section of the law dealing with criminal sexual conduct. Bill Neiman of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office said the new language focuses on the victim's ability to give "reasoned consent," and it is designed to aid prosecution of those cases in which the victim's reasoned consent is impaired because of a "substantial psychiatric disorder of thought or mood." An amendment allowing the out-of-court statements of a mentally impaired person to be used in evidence under certain circumstances was also approved.

Both bills were approved and forwarded on to the full committee.

Panel advances four measures

Three measures that were the product of work done by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws gained committee approval at the Wed., Feb. 20, Judiciary Committee meeting.

The Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, S.F. 374, sponsored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul), simplifies the process whereby an individual can transfer property to a minor under the age of 21 and still control or manage the property for the minor's benefit without going through guardianship proceedings.

The Uniform Notarial Act, S.F. 276, sponsored by Spear, clarifies and simplifies the process for recognizing notarizations from other states and from other countries.

The Uniform Conservation Easement Act, S.F. 455, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), clarifies the process of conveying an easement to a unit of government or a nonprofit corporation in order to protect the natural or historic resources of the property without relinquishing ownership of the property.

In addition, the committee approved a measure, S.F. 379, authored by Sieloff, which requires nonprofit corporations to specify an address in their articles of incorporation.

Watercraft DWI debated

The Criminal Law Subcommittee met Thurs., Feb. 21, to begin work on a bill, S.F. 31, that would strengthen the prohibitions and penalties regarding the operation of watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), clarifies the penalty provisions by specifying that the penalty would be a misdemeanor except in those cases in which individuals had had a conviction within the previous five years. A repeat conviction would carry a gross misdemeanor penalty.

Debate on the measure centered on a section of the bill that would make watercraft operators subject to an implied consent provision similar to the motor vehicle implied consent law.

However, panel members expressed concern about the enforcement of the provision. The subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), delayed action on the measure in order to work out language that would insure constitutionality and enforcement of the implied consent provision.

Local & Urban Government

Port Authority recommended

A bill granting Port Authority status to Fergus Falls, S.F. 63 authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), was amended to include S.F. 211, which granted Port Authority status to Detroit Lakes, at the Tues., Feb. 19, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

These two cities "are trying to revitalize their economic base," said Peterson, pointing to the Fergus Falls unemployment rate of 10.6 percent in December. Rural financial problems have affected these cities, and the area has been impacted by border cities legislation, effectively making them the new border in Minnesota.

The bill would give the cities housing and redevelopment authority for sewer and road projects in order to attract new businesses. The body handling such matters would be a seven member commission, two of whom would be members of the City Council. All final decisions would be subject to the approval of the City Council.

The escalating number of cities petitioning for Port Authority powers in Minnesota as well as required referendums were topics of concern.

A bill providing an allocation procedure for any 1984 state-private activity bond issuance authority which was not used on or before Dec. 31, 1984, was also recommended for passage and placed on the Consent Calendar. S.F. 358, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller, changes the Dec. 31, 1984 date to Feb. 28, 1985. An amendment would allow the Higher Education Coordinating Board to receive funds; other funds would flow to pollution control projects in the state.

Local Government Aid discussed

The League of Minnesota Cities reported on their proposed new Local Government Aid (LGA) formula at the Thurs., Feb. 21, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee.

"Most cities support and endorse this formula for the sake of unity," said Mary Anderson, President of the league. Although LGA has been a "divisive issue" in the past, said Anderson, the Policy Task Force incorporated all viewpoints into the proposal in order to arrive at a "consensus opinion."

The formula was explained by Diane Loeffler, Legislative Representative for the league. LGA would be set at 53 percent of a city's basic municipal expenditure multiplied by an averaged property tax figure. Basic municipal expenditures would be assessed on a rolling three year average; expenditures include public safety, streets, sanitation, libraries, redevelopment and general government.

This property tax relief proposal would require a state expenditure of \$400 million over the next five to seven years, the estimated time required for transition to the new formula. The phase-in would begin in 1986 with a ten percent increase of \$27 million allocated for LGA. Loeffler noted that in the face of a cutback, the formula would still be effective with each amount proportionately reduced.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Committee okays two department bills

Members of the committee approved two bills presented by the

Dept. of Revenue that clarify existing language in the statutes and ease procedures for administering the tax laws. Department bills are considered each year, and they generally have no impact on state revenues or spending.

The first bill, S.F. 450, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), is referred to as the "1985 Tax Compliance Bill." The most substantive portion of the bill amends the uniform state tax lien statute to conform to the federal tax lien law. According to department officials, this change causes the state tax lien to arise at the time of the state tax assessment, rather than the date of filing the lien. According to department officials, this would not change the substance in law, but would allow the state tax liens to compete in priority with federal tax liens.

One section of the bill generated discussion among committee members. That section would clarify state law to insure that third party record holders are protected from frivolous lawsuits when presenting a person's financial records in accordance to a lawfully issued subpoena from the Dept. of Revenue. Committee members defeated an amendment offered by Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio) that would have relinquished the department's subpoena power. Berg said the department should not use the power simply for "exploratory reasons." Opponents to the amendment felt the issue should be studied in more detail.

The second bill approved, S.F. 472, authored by committee chairman Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), clarifies requirements dealing with property and special taxes.

The committee did approve an amendment offered by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes) that would raise the taxes on sample packs of cigarettes, which are issued for free. Distributors now pay a tax of 18 cents for a pack of 20 cigarettes. The amendment would require them to pay 72 cents for a pack of 20 cigarettes that is given away for free.

Farm property taxes explored

Members of the Tax Subcommittee on Property Taxes and Local Government Aids, chaired by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), devoted the Wed., Feb. 20, meeting to hearing background information about Minnesota's farm property taxes.

According to committee administrative assistant Keith Carlson and Revenue Department officials, most comparisons of farm property taxes are based upon data supplied by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and show that Minnesota lies near the U. S. median in most categories. However, Carlson said, the figures used by the U. S. Department of Agriculture are averages and conceal a significant disparity in actual farm property tax burdens in Minnesota based up size and location of property. The reason, he said, is that Minnesota targets farm tax relief to smaller farms.

Carlson cited statements made by Dr. Steven Gold, the Tax Study Commissions consultant on the taxation of agriculture, that Minnesota is the only state which utilizes a two-tier classification system for farm assessments, is one of only three states to provide a credit specifically designed for farm land and graduates its credit by farm size more steeply than do other states. Thus, Carlson

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concluded that averages in Minnesota are not as representative of farm property taxes may be the case in other sates.

Transportation

Members consider mandatory seat belt law

Minnesota drivers and front seat passengers would have to "buckle-up" or face a fine of \$20, according to a proposal considered by the committee Mon., Feb. 18.

The bill, S.F. 40, holds the driver responsible for insuring that a minor is wearing the seat belt while sitting in the front seat. Back seat passengers under 10 years of age must also be buckled.

Persons who would not have to comply with the law would be a driver backing up a vehicle; a passenger in a seat where all the seat belts are being used; a person with a written medical exemption, which is approved by a doctor; and a worker whose job requires frequent stops or deliveries, such as a mailman.

Paul Tschida, Commissioner of Public Safety, said, "The time has come for Minnesota to have a seat belt law. The purpose is to save lives in Minnesota." Tschida explained that belted drivers maintain better control of their automobile following the collision. Un-belted drivers and passengers cause secondary accidents, he said.

The bill, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), originally set the penalty at \$25. However, members adopted an amendment to lower the fine to insure that car manufacturer's comply with a federal order. That order, issued by the federal Dept. of Transportation, requires all cars to be equipped with automatically-adjusting seat belts or airbags by Sept. 1, 1989. However, car manufacturers' would not have to comply with that ruling if states comprising two-thirds of the U.S. population enact a mandatory seat belt law that sets a penalty of \$25.

Committee time was largely devoted to hearing testimony from the bill's proponents. Opponents will have an opportunity to testify at a later hearing.

Veterans and General Legislation

Tougher animal abuse penalties okayed

Persons committing cruel acts or torturing animals would be charged with a gross misdemeanor penalty, according to a bill approved by the committee Wed., Feb. 20.

Under current law, animal abuse offenders face a misdemeanor penalty. The bill, S.F. 47, maintains the misdemeanor penalty for persons abusing animals through improper care. The sponsor of the proposal, Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), said higher penalties would be charged against "those who truly deserve that type of penalty."

The committee also advanced a bill requiring that memorial plaques honoring Minnesota veterans of all wars be placed in the Court of Honor, which is located on the Capitol grounds. The plaques would be furnished by the various veterans' organizations. The bill, S.F. 247, is authored by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park).

briefly

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Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, February 25, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 518-DeCramer: Authorizing establishment of joint vocational technical districts.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the University of Minnesota.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 300-Merriam: Environmental Response and Liability Act (Superfund) amendments.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:30 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Dept. of Corrections budget hearing.

Rules & Administration Subc. on Bill Referrals, Chair: William Luther

1:00 PM Room 237, Capitol

Agenda: Committee assignments for S.F. 285-Kronebusch, S.F. 352-Freeman, S.F. 425-Dicklich, S.F. 474-Merriam, S.F. 522-Johnson, D.J.; Governor's appointments to the World Trade Center.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Technical integration centers, technical inservice, courseware aids, regional coordinators, K-12 innovative centers.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing on the Dept. of Natural Resources.

Tuesday, February 26, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 230-Wegscheid: Industrial loan and thrift bill; S.F. 485-Dicklich: Franchise assignment, transfer or sales; S.F. 296-Wegscheid: Insurance, prohibiting family exclusions.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Dram shop liability continuation - S.F. 334/H.F. 265-Luther: Aggregate insurance policy; S.F.301-Dieterich and S.F. 318-Samuelson: Recoverable damages.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Boards of Abstractors; Accountancy;

Architecture, Land Survey & Landscape Architecture; Barber Examiners; and Boxing.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of Dept. of Corrections budget hearing.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on the Governor's appointment of Erica Sitz; S.F. 384-Johnson, D.J.: Conveying lands to the federal government for Voyageurs National Park; Continuation of S.F. 89-Wegscheid: Resolution requesting that milk sold in the U.S. contain a higher minimum level of nonfat milk solids.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Proposed legislation on the Energy Assistance Program.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Dept. of Corrections report, Mn Programs for Battered Women; Displaced Homemaker program report; Report on Rule 185.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Income Maintenance, Chair: Ron Dicklich

2:15 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Alternatives for intermediate care facilities bed reductions; S.F. 337-Waldorf: Bed reductions ICFMR; S.F. 147-Purfeerst: Shared service agreements for hospitals.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the Dept. of Natural Resources budget hearing.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 42-Langseth: Including replacement parts in the definition of farm machinery.

Education, Chair: James Pehler

7:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of the Governor's Education Initiatives "Access to Excellence".

Wednesday, February 27, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 94-Lantry: Providing for status of seasonal employees of the Dept. of Revenue; S.F. 411-Moe, D.M.: Prohibiting any governmental entity from engaging a lobbyist.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 351-Jude: Regulation of hand-held candles in religious and civil ceremonies; S.F. 441-Bertram: Changing minimum pay for certain enlisted persons (National Guard).

Education, Chair: James Pehler
8:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Legislative Commission on Public Education Report; Pending subc. action: S.F. 117-Stumpf: Prohibiting commencing school year prior to Labor Day; S.F. 483-Stumpf: Capital loan to I.S.D. #690, Warroad.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for University of Minnesota.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 245-Pogemiller: Merit selection of judges; S.F. 424-Bertram: Part-time peace officer standards; S.F. 432-Johnson, D.E.: Mn Automated Fingerprint Identification Network.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst
10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 19-Wegscheid: Regulating traffic at unmarked T-intersections; Continuation of S.F. 43-Langseth: Truck regulatory changes.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Transportation Regulation Board, Public Utilities Commission, and Dept. of Public Service.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of Dept. of Corrections budget hearing.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 546-Wegscheid: Appropriating money for U of M agricultural extension service.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Proposed legislation on the Energy Assistance Program.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM

Agenda: Tour of Sheltered Workshop, 666 Pelham Blvd., St. Paul.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the Dept. of Natural Resources budget.

Taxes & Tax Laws Subc. on Property Taxes & Local Govt.

Aids, Chair: C.C. Peterson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of agricultural property taxes.

Legislative Commission of Waste Management, Chair: Rep. Dee Long

6:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Waste Management Board biennial report; Status of hazardous waste processing and collection programs; State Planning hazardous waste incineration study; Metro county ordinances; PCA financial report on

Superfund; Household Hazardous Waste Task Force report.

Thursday, February 28, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon
8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 71-Schmitz: Farm machinery inventory buyback; S.F. 152-Frank: Insurance, maternity benefits for unmarried women; Overview by William Dietrich, Asst. Commissioner, Minnesota Trade Office.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski
10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Overview of Gov. Perpich's jobs program, Tom Triplett; S.F. 210-Frank: Workers comp insurance, requiring notice of premium increases to insureds; S.F. 557-Frank: Removing limits on credits offered on workers comp insurance premiums.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 81-Diessner: Washington County condominium floor plans, county auditor and treasurer; S.F. 82-Diessner: Washington County condominium floor plans, county surveyor; S.F. 64-Lessard: Consolidation of Int'l Falls and South Int'l Falls.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Science Museum of Minnesota

Agenda: Budget hearing for the Science Museum and tour.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty
12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 35-Diessner: Reporting of knife wounds; S.F. 448-Wegscheid: Assault of firefighters, paramedics; S.F. 33-Pogemiller: Hit and run penalties.

Education Subc. on Post-Secondary & Higher Education, Chair: LeRoy Stumpf

12:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Policy overview of the University of Minnesota.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:30 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for the Corrections Ombudsman and Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

Rules & Administration, Chair: Roger Moe

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Reports from Bill Referral and Permanent & Joint Rules subcommittees.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the Dept. of Natural Resources budget.

Legislative Commission on Waste Management, Chair: Rep. Dee Long

6:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Waste Mgmt. Board interim report on Estimate of Need; Waste Mgmt. Board Landfill Insurance Study; Proposed solid waste legislation.

Legislative Commission to Review Administrative Rules,
 Chair: Carl Kroening
 7:00 PM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: LCRAR FY 1986-87 budget; Cosmetology ventilation requirements; PCA, lime sludge; Dept. of Health, formaldehyde levels in housing units; DEED, Mn. Model Energy Code; Dept. of Human Services, AFDC rule and county board responsibilities for the mentally retarded; Dept. of Commerce dram shop liability, assigned risk pool; Dept. of Economic Security Community Action block grants.

Friday, March 1, 1985

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
 10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for U of M and presentation by the MN High Tech Council.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty
 10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 527-Spear: Powers of peace officers off duty and/or outside jurisdiction.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst
 10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: Overview of St. Lawrence Seaway as it relates to Port of Duluth.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation & Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth
 12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol
Agenda: Budget hearing for the Academy of Science and Dept. of Commerce.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
 1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 221-Davis: Providing for prevention of economic waste in marketing of certain ag crops produced in Mn. by establishing minimum prices.

Legislative Coordinating Commission, Chair: Roger Moe
 2:00 PM Room 120, Capitol (Possible room change)
Agenda: Job audit report, DCA-Stanton; Review of budgets of the 15 agencies under the jurisdiction of the LCC.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
 3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Continuation of the Dept. of Natural Resources budget hearing.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (19)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam VICE CHAIRMAN: Davis
 OFFICE NO.: G-24 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4157
 MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Berg DeCramer Lessard Storm
 Bernhagen Frederickson Merriam Stumpf
 Bertram Gustafson Novak Wegscheid
 Dahl Isackson Peterson, C. C. Willet
 Davis Laidig Peterson, R.W.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon VICE CHAIRMAN: Freeman
 OFFICE NO.: 303 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4158
 MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Adkins Dahl Laidig Samuelson
 Anderson Freeman Luther Solon
 Belanger Kroening Peterson, D. C. Wegscheid
 Benson Kronebusch Petty

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler VICE CHAIRMAN: Stumpf
 OFFICE NO.: 306 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4185
 MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Anderson Kamrath Olson Reichgott
 Dahl Knutson Pehler Stumpf
 Davis Langseth Peterson, D. C. Taylor
 Dicklich Mehrkens Peterson, D. L.
 Dieterich Merriam Peterson, R. W.
 Hughes Nelson Ramstad

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (14)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
 OFFICE NO.: 301 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4871
 MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Dicklich Langseth Olson Peterson, R. W.
 Dieterich Mehrkens Pehler Taylor
 Hughes Merriam Peterson, D. C.
 Knutson Nelson Peterson, D. L.

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes VICE CHAIRMAN: Luther
 OFFICE NO.: 328 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-8866
 MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Frederickson Johnson, D. J. Peterson, D. C. Storm
 Hughes Luther Peterson, D. L. Willet
 Johnson, D. E. Moe, R. D. Samuelson

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski VICE CHAIRMAN: Diessner
 OFFICE NO.: 325 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-8865
 MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
 MEMBERS:
 Belanger Diessner Kroening Vega
 Brataas Frank Nelson
 Chmielewski Frederick Pehler
 Dicklich Gustafson Ramstad

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega VICE CHAIR: Peterson, D. C.
 OFFICE NO.: G-29 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-8864
 MEETS: T, W, F; Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Adkins Kamrath Peterson, D. C. Vega
 Anderson Kroening Peterson, D. L.
 Frank McQuaid Pogemiller
 Freeman Olson Reichgott

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet VICE CHAIRMAN: Dicklich
 OFFICE NO.: 121 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-6436
 MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Brataas Kroening Nelson Spear
 Dahl Kronebusch Purfeerst Taylor
 Dicklich Langseth Ramstad Waldorf
 Frederickson Lanry Renneke Willet
 Hughes Lessard Samuelson
 Johnson, D. E. Luther Schmitz
 Knutson Mehrkens Solon

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M. VICE CHAIRMAN: Wegscheid
 OFFICE NO.: 309 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4175
 MEETS: M, W, F, Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Benson Knaak Peterson, C. C. Wegscheid
 Berglin Lantry Pogemiller
 Frederickson McQuaid Renneke
 Jude Moe, D. M. Spear

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIR: Berglin VICE CHAIRMAN: Petty
 OFFICE NO.: 323 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4151
 MEETS: T, W, F, Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Benson Dicklich Lantry Waldorf
 Berglin Diessner Moe, D. M.
 Brataas Johnson, D. E. Petty
 Chmielewski Knutson Solon

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear VICE CHAIR: Reichgott
 OFFICE NO.: G-27 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4191
 MEETS: M, W, F, Room G-15; 10-12 noon
 MEMBERS:
 Freeman Knaak Petty Sieloff
 Johnson, D. E. Luther Pogemiller Spear
 Jude Merriam Ramstad
 Kamrath Peterson, R. W. Reichgott

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz VICE CHAIR: Adkins
 OFFICE NO.: 235 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4150
 MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
 MEMBERS:
 Adkins Isackson Reichgott Wegscheid
 Bertram Kamrath Renneke
 Davis McQuaid Schmitz
 Freeman Olson Stumpf

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (15)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich VICE CHAIRMAN: Jude
 OFFICE NO.: 235 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-1767
 MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
 MEMBERS:
 DeCramer Isackson Novak Spear
 Dieterich Johnson, D.J. Peterson, D. L. Storm
 Frank Jude Purfeerst Waldorf
 Gustafson Knaak Sieloff

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (27)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D. VICE CHAIRMAN: Luther
 OFFICE NO.: 208 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4196
 MEETS: On Call
 MEMBERS:
 Belanger Johnson, D. J. Moe, R. D. Sieloff
 Berglin Knutson Nelson Solon
 Bernhagen Laidig Pehler Spear
 Chmielewski Lessard Peterson, C. C. Taylor
 Dieterich Luther Purfeerst Vega
 Frederick Merriam Renneke Willet
 Hughes Moe, D. M. Schmitz

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J. VICE CHAIRMAN: Novak
 OFFICE NO.: 205 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4839
 MEETS: T, W, F, Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Belanger Davis Merriam Pogemiller
 Benson Dieterich Moe, D. M. Sieloff
 Berg Frank Novak Stumpf
 Berglin Pehler Pehler Vega
 Bernhagen Johnson, D. J. Peterson, C. C.
 Bertram Jude Peterson, R. W.
 Chmielewski Laidig Petty

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C. TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4135
 ROOM: 205
 MEETS: On Call
 MEMBERS:
 Belanger Davis Johnson, D. J. Pehler
 Berg Dieterich Laidig Peterson, C. C.
 Berglin Frank Merriam Peterson, R. W.
 Bernhagen Frederick Novak Petty

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst VICE CHAIRMAN: DeCramer
 ROOM: 303 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-4186
 MEETS: M, W, F, Room 112; 10-12 noon
 MEMBERS:
 Adkins Diessner Lantry Stumpf
 Anderson Frederick Mehrkens Vega
 Berg Kronebusch Novak
 Bernhagen Laidig Purfeerst
 DeCramer Langseth Schmitz

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard VICE CHAIRMAN: Bertram
 ROOM: 328 TELEPHONE NO.: 296-1771
 MEETS: M, W, F, Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
 MEMBERS:
 Berg Chmielewski Isackson Samuelson
 Bertram DeCramer Kronebusch Schmitz
 Brataas Diessner Lessard Storm

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Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

March 1, 1985

Mentally impaired gain protection

The Senate gave preliminary approval to a bill Monday, Feb. 25, that provides better legal protection for mentally impaired persons who have been sexually abused.

The bill, S.F. 177, clarifies the standard that determines when a mentally impaired person has been sexually abused, and it allows out-of-court evidence provided by a mentally impaired person to be permissible in court. Authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), the proposal states that a sexually abused victim's "reasoned consent" to the act is impaired when the victim lacks the ability to judge the act. The bill also substitutes the words "mentally impaired" for the words "mentally defective" in the section of the law dealing with criminal sexual conduct.

The Senate also gave preliminary approval to a bill making changes in the law concerning the disposition of a deceased person's estate if that person failed to leave a will. Authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), the bill, S.F. 291, adopts provisions of the Uniform Probate Code and clarifies the law relating to intestate succession, the spouse's elective share and omitted spouses and children.

A bill requiring plumbers apprentices to be registered with the commissioner of health also gained preliminary approval Monday. The proposal, S.F. 125, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would allow the department to monitor the progress of the apprentices.

The Senate granted preliminary passage to three other bills: S.F. 148 (Dieterich) changing the requirements for qualifying a trustee of a will be making it necessary only if an interested person demanded qualification in writing or by petition to the court; S.F. 106 (Johnson, D.J.) allowing the Grand Marais State Bank to have a branch in the city of Tofte; and S.F. 244 (Storm) allowing Suburban National Bank to operate a detached facility in Savage.

In other action Monday, the Senate gave final passage to several bills: S.F. 73 (Wegscheid) clarifying law to allow domestic life insurance companies to buy or sell options; S.F. 252 (Petty) changing the amount of votes required by shareholders to approve an amendment to the articles of incorporation; S.F. 102 (Willet) changing the down payment required for state timber sales to make it consistent with county sales; S.F. 207 (Spear) clarifying the definition of sports bookmaking; and S.F. 279 (Merriam) changing the provisions that allow persons to kill dogs chasing deer.

The Senate also confirmed the appointments of Linda Collins Johnson as the commissioner of human rights and Thomas J. Kalitowski as director of the pollution control agency.

Gambling regulations delayed

During a brief session Tuesday, Feb. 26, the Senate agreed to the House amendments to a bill delaying the licensing and regulating of charitable organizations by the state's Charitable Gambling Board. The bill, S.F. 328, sponsored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), was re-passed and sent to the governor.

The changes to the bill permit charitable organizations to obtain licenses by the board during the 90 day suspension period; delay

the licensing of wholesalers and distributors by 90 days as well; delete the dedication of charitable gambling revenues to school arts programs by requiring that all money be placed in the general fund; and allow city and counties to adopt emergency ordinances to license and regulate the charitable gambling organizations during the suspension period.

The Senate also appointed conference committee members to S.F. 54, which is sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton). The bill, passed earlier this session by the Senate, spends \$25 million in state money for farm relief programs. The bill designates about \$16 million to lower interest rates on new farm operating loans. An additional \$9 million is used to encourage lenders to submit troubled loans to the FmHA for debt restructuring and loan guarantee. That portion of the bill also establishes a 120 day voluntary moratorium period. The House bill also spends \$25 million, but all the money is to be used to lower interest for farmers on new loans.

Tougher animal abuse penalties okayed

The Senate gave preliminary approval to a bill charging persons with a gross misdemeanor penalty if found guilty of torturing animals or treating them in a cruel manner.

Under current law, animal abuse offenders face a misdemeanor penalty. S.F. 47, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Sprink Lake Park), would keep the misdemeanor penalty for persons found guilty of abusing animals through improper care or neglect.

The Senate also gave preliminary approval to the following bills: S.F. 333 (Mehrkens) allowing White Rock State Bank to operate a detached facility in Cannon Falls; S.F. 379 (Sieloff) requiring the articles of incorporation for nonprofit corporations to contain a mailing address; S.F. 455 (Jude) clarifying the process of conveying a conservation easement to a unit of government; S.F. 331 (Adkins) permitting a county coroner to remove a person's pituitary gland during an autopsy so it can be used for research; S.F. 450 (Jude), the 1985 Dept. of Revenue Tax Compliance Bill, easing procedures for administering the tax laws; and S.F. 276 (Spear) simplifying the process for recognizing notarizations from other states and countries.

The Senate granted final passage to S.F. 52 (Samuelson) exempting three-wheel off-road vehicles from being licensed by the Dept. of Natural Resources when they are licensed by the Dept. of Public Safety. The Senate also gave final passage to several bills considered Monday: S.F. 125 (Lantry) requiring plumbers apprentices to be registered with the Dept. of Health; S.F. 177 (Petty) clarifying the standard that determines when a mentally impaired person has been sexually abused and allows out-of-court evidence provided by a mentally impaired person to be used in court; S.F. 291 (Merriam) adopting provisions of the uniform probate code; and S.F. 106 (Johnson, Douglas) allowing the Grand Marais State Bank to establish a branch in Tofte.

The Senate also confirmed the appointments of Caryl Edward Buchwald and Martha Brand to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Pheasant stamp exclusion advances

The committee okayed a bill Fri., Feb. 22, allowing people to hunt pheasants on a shooting preserve in Northern Minnesota without a pheasant stamp.

According to Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), author of S.F. 228, pheasants are pen-raised on the reserves and cannot survive in the northern area of the state. He said hunters on the reserves must pay for each bird shot, and that they should only be required to purchase a pheasant stamp when hunting in southern Minnesota. The proceeds from the stamp should only be used to aid the pheasant habitat in southern Minnesota, where pheasants do survive, he added.

A bill setting weight standards for a cord of rough green aspen was also approved Friday. The bill, S.F. 170, sets a cord of aspen at 4,300 pounds for the months of May through October. The weight of a cord is increased to 4,500 pounds for the period November 1 through April 30.

According to Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), author of the proposal, the timber industry improved its method of determining a cord of wood by using a computerized scale. However, the industry used different weight formulas, he said. The bill, which establishes a uniform weight, will insure that the timber producers receive a fair and consistent price for their wood.

In other action Friday, the committee approved a measure establishing fertilizer and commercial feed inspection accounts. Currently, fertilizer and commercial feed inspection is funded through the general fund. The bill, S.F. 88, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), allows the fees raised through the programs to be put into the special funds. This would provide more money for the inspection programs, said a Dept. of Agriculture official.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), okayed a measure exempting three-wheel off-road vehicles from being licensed by the Dept. of Natural Resources when they are licensed for highway use by the Dept. of Public Safety. The bill, S.F. 52, is sponsored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

Land donation to national park okayed

A bill donating two parcels of state land to Voyagers National Park was approved by the committee Tues., Feb. 26.

Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), author of S.F. 384, said the land, which is currently leased to the federal government, would be developed into a park. If the land is not donated, the state would have to return to the federal government about 1,000 acres out of Black Bay, which was part of the national park, he explained. The bay, he added, is a prime duck hunting area. The two parcels that would be donated are about 19 and 120 acres.

Members also approved a resolution memorializing the President and Congress to require that milk sold in the United States contain a higher minimum level of nonfat milk solids. Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), author of the resolution, S.F. 89, said increasing the level of nonfat milk solids would improve the taste of the milk and would increase overall consumption.

In other action Tuesday, the committee delayed action on confirming the Governor's appointment of Erika Sitz to the Water Resources Board.

Farm management program gains

Members of the committee took another step to help Minnesota farmers by approving a bill Wed., Feb. 27, that provides more funding for farm management education programs.

The bill, S.F. 546, appropriates \$967,800 to the Board of Vocational-Technical Education and \$402,500 to the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension for "farm crisis intervention services." The bill helps deal with the farm crisis on a short-term basis and would make the money available during this biennium.

The short-term program would release 40 agricultural extension agents and 28 vo-ag instructors for a six-month period to assist farmers who are in serious financial difficulty. The instructors would utilize computers and other educational programs to aid farmers in making short and long-term decisions. The program, which is designed to reduce the number of farm failures, would help farmers develop better farm management plans. They would learn how to control production costs, minimize risks and increase profits, said proponents.

To deal with the long-term plan, the bill appropriates \$1.42 million to the Board of Vocational Technical Education for farm management programs and \$1.2 million to the University of Minnesota for their Project Support program, which provides financial planning and stress management. This money would be available for the next biennium.

The strategy is to increase the number of farm management instructors and educational tools to establish programs in areas where farmers do not have access to long-term farm management education. The program would also create in-service training to update county agents and vo-ag instructors in the latest techniques for farm planning and family counseling. The program would also provide scholarships to farmers who cannot afford to pay for the education program but would benefit from long-term management education.

The author of the bill, Sen. Darril Wegscheid, said the thrust of the proposal is to "help the farmer make better farming decisions—to be a better farm manager."

Economic Development and Commerce

Franchise bill gains

A bill designed to limit "unfair" cancellation of franchise agreements gained the support of the Economic Development and Commerce Committee, Tues., Feb. 26. Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), sponsor of the bill, told the panel that small businesses need recourse in the courts to settle franchise cancellation disputes. Current law does not require franchisors to give a reason for cancelling a franchise agreement. "Clear and convincing evidence must be provided by the franchisor under this bill," said Dicklich.

Carol Drazenovitch testified before the committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth). She said she was forced into bankruptcy in 1982 after Baskin Robbins refused to allow her to sell her Hibbing franchise operation to buyers at \$10,000 less than the original purchase price.

Panel okayes three bills

The committee approved three bills at the Thurs., Feb. 28, meeting. S.F. 230, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), modifies practices of industrial loan and thrift companies. Under the proposal, the companies would be allowed to issue travelers and cashiers checks. In addition, the regulatory requirements for deposits would be lifted, said Wegscheid.

An amendment that would have allowed a two percent lenders fee to cover the cost of processing small loans was defeated. "The total amount loan and thrifts could charge would be 35 percent under this amendment," said Wegscheid. The proposal is designed to make small loans more available, he said.

S.F. 71, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), would

require farm implement manufacturers and distributors to pay the retailer for returned machinery and parts within 90 days of the date that the items were returned to the dealer. Schmitz added that a 1.5 percent interest rate per month could be charged by the retailer after the 90 period until repayment.

S.F. 152, sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would mandate maternity benefits for minors. Frank said the bill would "close a loophole." Current law mandates that Minnesota based insurance companies provide the benefit, but companies based outside the state can side-step the requirement, he said.

Judy Kuster, a volunteer of Birthright in New Ulm, supported the measure, calling denial of the benefit "a probable human rights violation."

Vice President of Northwestern National Life Insurance Larry Fredrickson said he opposed mandated benefits in general, more than the minor maternity benefit proposal. "Mandated benefits would significantly increase our administrative costs. Those costs will be passed on to employers," he said.

Education

School start change approved

The Education Subcommittee on Educational Operation and Governance, chaired by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), approved a bill prohibiting schools from starting classes before Labor Day at the Fri., Feb. 22, meeting. The bill, S.F. 117, is authored by Sen. Leroy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

Proponents of the bill pointed out the business, job and tax benefits for the state. Tourism would benefit as would the schools, they said. The health and safety of teachers would be better protected, and all extracurricular activities could begin simultaneously across the state. Opponents, representing school boards and administration, argued for the right to set their own date.

An amendment to the bill would make the uniform starting date effective for the 1986-87 school year.

AVTI consolidation plan heard

A bill authorizing the formation of joint vocational technical districts, S.F. 518, was heard at the Mon., Feb. 25, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). Authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), the bill would allow the cities of Canby, Pipestone, Jackson and Granite Falls to consolidate their four AVTI's into one Southwest AVTI.

Representatives of the four districts testified in favor of the bill. Each emphasized that consolidation would be geographically and economically beneficial and that the efficiency of centralized control would enhance marketing and recruiting as well as programming and innovation.

The bill, which would establish a joint board in each joint district, would restrain levying authority, said Joe Graba, State Director of AVTI's. Graba recommended that the state assume 100 percent of the construction costs in joint districts because of multiple district ownership. Debt redemption funds would not be transferable under the bill.

Amendments under consideration concern seniority pay scales, the protection of insurance rights and time limitations within the bill.

"Access to Excellence" introduced

"Access to Excellence," the governor's proposed education program, was introduced at the Tues., Feb. 26, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). The governor believes the plan "will allow students to realize their full potential."

The program would allow 11th and 12th grade students to attend school outside their resident districts "for curricular offerings," said Commissioner Ruth Randall. However, the potential receiving district could decide whether or not to participate in the program. Students would have to apply by Dec. 1, and acceptance would be granted by Feb. 1. The application deadline for schools or students within districts with desegregation requirements would be Nov. 1. Desegregation requirements and limited space would be the only two legitimate reasons for denial.

Foundation aid and tier revenues would follow the student to the district chosen. Also, the state would pay for transportation up to 30 miles and additional transportation costs incurred in attending post-secondary classes. If a post-secondary class was attended, part of the student's aid would flow to the post-secondary institution. The entire program would become available to all students, including elementary students, in 1988-89.

Committee recommends bills

Three bills were recommended for passage at the Wed., Feb. 27, meeting of the Education Committee.

A bill authorizing a \$1.295 million capital loan to the school district of Warroad was unanimously okayed. The bill, S.F. 483, will allow the rapidly expanding district to build a new junior and senior high school. Payback is scheduled to begin in 2006 and conclude in 2015 at which time the remainder of the principle and accrued interest will be forgiven. The bill is authored by Sen. Leroy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

S.F. 117 was also recommended for passage. Authored by Stumpf, the bill prohibits schools from starting classes before Labor Day. School district cooperation (enhanced by a uniform starting date), parent support and tourism dollars were listed as the major reasons for the bill. Weather factors and state fair dates also played a role. School administrators testified against the bill.

S.F. 518, which authorizes the formation of joint vocational technical districts, was recommended and referred to the Tax Committee. The bill author is Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent).

Education Aids

Various issues examined

Various reports, budgets and one bill were examined at the Thurs., Feb. 21, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

Gifted and Talented Program requests were made by Lucy Taylor, Minnesota Council for Gifted and Talented. An increase to \$40 per student, rather than the \$30 per student set in 1979, and a study group to assess gifted education were requested. The governor's recommendation provides no additional funds.

The Private College Council Report on Summer Programs was summarized by John Osness. Increasing the number and availability of summer enrichment programs on college campuses for those in junior high through high school was the intent of most colleges, said Osness. However, an information clearinghouse on these programs is needed for teachers, students and parents as is financial assistance for students, Osness emphasized. Under the governor's recommendation, \$500,000 of summer institute financial aid would become available for the summer of 1986; aid would be distributed according to HECB guidelines.

The Academic Excellence Foundation's programs, designed to recognize students and teachers with honors and awards, were outlined by Toyse Kyle, Director of the foundation. In addition, the recommendations of the Task Force on School Bus Safety were presented by Dr. Rodney G. Dobey.

Committee Capsule

A bill granting a capital loan of \$1.295 million to Independent School District No. 690, Warroad, was also approved. The community is growing due to industrial expansion and would use the money to build a new junior and senior high school. The bill, S.F. 483, is authored by Sen. Leroy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

The motorcycle safety budget was also reviewed; it is funded entirely by license fees.

Budget items reviewed

Grants, summer education and teaching programs were reviewed at the Fri., Feb. 22, meeting of the subcommittee.

The Council on Quality Education outlined the innovative grant program which was begun in 1971. Thirty grants were funded for FY 1985, including eleven new grants; the average grant was \$20,000. School management assessment centers were also reviewed; centers provide preservice and inservice training for principals.

Summer instruction would again be available to all students in 1985, according to the governor's plan. With previous cutbacks, the program has been limited to handicapped students in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Summer education improvement aid would provide an additional \$10.65 per pupil to be used for additional programs during the school year.

Teaching programs were also reviewed. New extended leave commitments to teachers were ended in 1984 although standing commitments will carry into 1988. Part-time teaching programs involve only 67 participants in 44 school districts and would continue to be funded. Finally, early retirement under the Rule of 85 was discussed; possible measures to be taken for the approximate 175 people not covered by the Rule of 85 were considered.

Technology Sites parade

An overview of the Technology Demonstration Sites raised enthusiasm at the Mon., Feb. 25, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee. The "hopes and dreams" of two years ago have become reality, said Director Gilbert Valdez. "We're proud of what we've done," he said, emphasizing that the program is now ready to "move from the awareness state to the use state."

Inservice funding and courseware package evaluation were outlined by Valdez. Inservice grants in the amount of \$702,000 provided state and regional workshops as well as regional coordinators. In courseware, approximately 368 packages have been evaluated and another 500 are being processed. Additional space is needed as the library grows, said Valdez, and decisions are needed concerning the purchase or acquisition of duplicating rights by other states or interested parties.

An evaluation summary of the program was presented by Diane Morehouse, Dept. of Education. Of the 15 sites, about half of them are new this year, said Morehouse. Approximately 6,000 educators and visitors have been served, and 59 percent of the \$6 million cost (\$3 million for equipment) has been funded by local school districts. Problems encountered included construction, equipment and FCC licensing delays as well as some burnout caused by demonstration status and large numbers of visitors. Courseware availability, male/female equity, rich/poor school districts and teacher competency in technology remain major areas of concern.

Representatives from the Blue Earth BEACON site and the Cambridge ECMECC discussed the use of computers and two-way interactive television in the classroom.

Valdez requested a refunding of 13 of the 15 sites at present levels and additional money for the other two. He also requested extensive evaluation over the next two years because, he said, "We have more questions than answers at this time."

The governor has recommended \$2.25 million for each year of the next biennium and the establishment of competitive grants for the five to eight sites which will become permanent.

Elections and Ethics

Larger legislatures provide advantages

Larger legislatures tend to be more innovative, spend less money on a per capita basis, have shorter sessions, and are more efficient in passing legislation within a shorter time frame than those with fewer members. Those were some of the conclusions of Professor Virginia Gray's study "Does Size Make a Difference." Gray, who is from the Humphrey Institute, presented her findings to the committee Wed., Feb. 27.

Gray said that members of larger legislatures are more specialized and can provide more expertise to resolving problems. She also found that larger bodies can provide more oversight to state departments. Because they have more members, larger legislatures can also be more accessible to constituents, she said.

On the other hand, smaller legislatures tend to rely more on interest groups and have larger staffs, said Gray. Reducing the size of the legislature could create higher campaign costs because candidates have a wider geographical area to cover, she said. Rural legislators would be adversely affected by reducing the size, she added, because they would be less accessible to their constituents.

Finance

Animal board budget heard

Board of Animal Health Executive Secretary, Tom Hagerty, requested a \$37,330 biennial budget at the Thurs., Feb. 21, meeting of the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation, and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon). The Governor's budget recommendation is \$32,911 for the biennium. Hagerty told the panel funds are needed for pseudorabies vaccination. He stressed the need to improve testing of the swine vaccine's effectiveness.

Average cost funding argued

University of Minnesota Vice President for Institutional Relations, Dr. Stanley Kegler, voiced opposition to "pure average cost funding," at budget hearings for the Finance Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), Mon., Feb. 25 and Wed., Feb. 27. "We are not opposed to average cost funding. We are opposed to pure average cost funding without augmentation," he said. Kegler pointed to, "six unique programs," that would be in danger under average cost funding. The veterinary medicine program is one of the six programs. Kegler said veterinary medical students pay 15.7 percent of their educational costs. If students in the program had to pay 33 percent of the costs, as average cost funding suggests, "the program would be priced out of business," said Kegler. Waldorf acknowledged that some problems would have to be worked out, but added that he doubted average cost funding would result in a "crisis."

Kegler detailed a \$795 million biennial budget request for the panel.

Corrections budget called "modest"

Department of Corrections Commissioner Orville B. Pung made a 5.5 percent biennial budget increase request before the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Sen. Don Saumuelson (DFL-Brainerd), Mon., Feb. 25 and Tues., Feb. 26. The request includes a 1.3 percent increase consisting of 22 positions. Pung called the increase "very modest" adding that in

many states, corrections departments are the highest appropriation. He said sentencing guidelines and housing DWI offenders in alternative facilities aid in taking pressure off of correctional facilities.

Semi-State budgets heard

The subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States heard five budget requests for semi-state boards Tues., Feb. 26.

Board of Accountancy Executive Secretary Pam Azer cited increased costs in administering the CPA exam when she presented a \$500,000 budget request for the coming biennium.

Board of Abstractors Commerce Finance Director Tammy Wetterling requested a \$7,800 biennial budget.

Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, and Landscape Architecture Executive Secretary Lowell Torseth requested \$554,500 for the biennium. The request includes a part-time seasonal staff member to assist in license processing and application renewal during the summer.

Board of Barber Examiners Executive Secretary Adam Mikrot told the panel that Minnesota's 1300 barber shops are inspected annually. He requested a \$239,900 biennial budget.

Board of Boxing Executive Secretary Jim O'Hara requested a \$98,200 biennial budget.

U of M role to evolve

A stronger emphasis on graduate education at The University of Minnesota (U of M) is necessary during coming years of declining enrollment. That's the message U of M Acting President David Keller had for the Subcommittee on Education during the continuation of the university budget presentation, Wed., Feb. 27.

Keller's goals for the U of M include eliminating associate degree programs, cutting undergraduate nursing programs and establishing more rigorous entrance standards. "We are not going to be out there drumming the bushes to keep enrollments up," he said. Two year associate degrees would still be available from U of M campuses at Waseca and Crookston under Keller's suggestion. He added that entrance standards at Waseca and Crookston would remain at their current levels.

DNR budget request heard

Members of the Finance Subcommittee on State Departments devoted the entire week to scrutinizing the budget requests made by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Deputy Commissioner Steve Thorne emphasized that the budget setting process for the department was very complex because of the variety of programs and the many funding sources. By program the department was requesting a total of \$104.6 million. Thorne pointed out that the increase in the DNR's total budget, taking inflationary factors into account, had remained very stable and that the department's request amounted to less than two percent of the entire state budget. He added that the general fund's share of the budget is 44.4 percent and that much of the department's funding comes from fees paid into dedicated funds. Subcommittee members, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), devoted the rest of the week to a program by program analysis of the change requests contained in the budget.

Governmental Operations

Lobbyist bill discussed

A bill prohibiting any governmental unit from hiring a professional lobbyist generated most of the debate at the Wed., Feb. 27, meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee. According to the chief author, Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), the

bill, S.F. 411, "is designed to stop the placement of intermediaries between local units of government and legislators," and increase the level of communication between various governmental units and the Legislature. Moe also said that the measure was an "attempt to curb a growing practice which is subject to abuse."

Opponents testified that the measure was discriminated against smaller units of government which could not afford to hire staff for lobbying purposes. The measure allows governmental units to hire full-time employees to engage in lobbying activities.

In addition, the measure also allows governmental units to belong to organizations such as the League of Minnesota Cities or the League of Minnesota Counties which have employees who lobby on behalf of those organizations.

No action was taken on the bill, however Moe indicated that committee members would vote on the measure at a later date.

In other action, the committee, chaired by Moe, discussed a bill, S.F. 94, which would clarify the status of the Department of Revenue's seasonal employees. Under the measure, sponsored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), the seasonal employees would be placed in the classified civil service. Currently, those employees are designated as unclassified. The measure was laid over for further consideration.

Health & Human Services

Subcommittee hears bills

The Social Services Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), heard two bills at the Fri., Feb. 22, meeting. S.F. 146, authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), was recommended for passage. The bill authorizes Minnesota counties to contract with mental health agencies/facilities in bordering states for services to Minnesota residents. The agreement is reciprocal.

A bill allowing "a person licensed or registered by the commissioner of health or a health-related licensing board" to refer patients to a physical therapist was layed over. An amendment to the bill denied referral authority to chiropractors. The bill, S.F. 243, is authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley).

Rule 185 causes controversy

A Report on the new Rule 185 raised some controversy at the Tues., Feb. 26, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.).

Assistant Commissioner Al Hanzal, Dept. of Human Services, outlined the new rule which would require counties to case manage all mentally retarded clients within their jurisdiction, including those in state hospitals, shelters and community-based systems. In reference to the specificity of the new bill, Hanzal said, "A good rule can keep everybody out of court."

The emergency rules proposed by the department as well as the estimated \$9 million cost to the state met with opposition from the Legislators. County officials also objected to the cost and the rules, which they described as "prescriptive" and program-inhibiting.

Also, Minnesota Programs for Battered Women were outlined by Director Maggie Arzdorf-Schubbe, and the Displaced Homemaker Program was reviewed by Coordinator Susan Johnson from the Dept. of Economic Security.

The committee also met on Wed., Feb. 27, to tour the Sheltered Workshop at 666 Pelham Blvd., St. Paul.

Subcommittee hears testimony

The Income Maintenance Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), convened on Tues, Feb. 26, to hear bills. A bill allowing state hospitals to share their laundry facilities with

Committee Capsule

for-profit organizations was recommended for passage. The bill, S.F. 147, is authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault).

Testimony concerning a second bill, S.F. 337, was also begun. Assistant Commissioner Al Hanzal, Dept. of Human Services, provided an overview of alternatives for intermediate care facilities' bed reductions. "No program of bed reduction should be undertaken at this time," concluded Hanzal. He pointed to the lack of viable alternatives in the face of declining state hospital populations. Estimates approximate a cost of \$7.7 million for the removal of 250 beds from the system over the next three years.

Judiciary

Panel considers Superfund changes

Members of the Judiciary Committee devoted two meetings, Fri., Feb. 22 and Mon., Feb. 25, to hearing testimony on a measure that would make several changes in Minnesota's Environmental Response and Liability Act.

The measure, S.F. 300, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), would make three major changes in the current law. First, the bill removes statutory references to joint and several liability which under current law could require a company partly responsible for an injury to pay more than its proportionate share. Secondly, the bill removes statutory references to "causation," which under current law made it easier for a plaintiff to get a case before a jury though the plaintiff still had to prove a link between the injury and waste produced or disposed of by the defendant. Finally, the measure removes the retroactive liability portions of the bill which under current law specified that companies could be held liable for economic loss or personal injury damages for hazardous waste releases occurring or after Jan. 1, 1960, or Jan. 1, 1973, even if the release did not result from abnormally dangerous activity. S.F. 300 specifies that there is no liability for releases occurring wholly before July 1, 1983.

Testimony at the Friday hearing, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), focused on the difficulty several Minnesota businesses had experienced in obtaining Environmental Liability Insurance after the enactment of the 1983 MERLA law. According to an advisory sent out by the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association "the risks associated with operating a facility where hazardous or toxic substances are present on an uninsured basis and under the existing law may be too great to justify expanding or locating in Minnesota."

Opponents of the measure were heard at the Monday committee hearing. Environmental groups and individuals testified against changing the existing law. Specifically, opponents testified that the existing law was the most appropriate mechanism to allow victims attempt to recover damages. Because of time constraints no action was taken on the bill.

Dram shop hearings continue

The Subcommittee on Civil Law, chaired by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), met Tues., Feb. 26 to continue hearing testimony on dram shop liability insurance. In addition to discussing the general issue, subcommittee members also focused on the provisions of S.F. 334, one of several bills dealing with dram shop insurance before the panel. The bill, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), changes the liability insurance requirements for dram shop to provide that the policy may include an annual aggregate policy limit of \$300,000. Subcommittee members were forced to delay action on the measure because of time limitations.

Judicial appointments bill gains

A bill establishing a mechanism for the merit selection of judges was approved by the Judiciary Committee, Wed., Feb. 27.

According to the bill's sponsor, Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), the measure is "a bipartisan effort to create a rational merit system for the selection of judges and codifies the trend, in recent years, to have commissions aid the governor in judicial appointments."

Specifically, S.F. 245 establishes a Committee on Judicial Vacancies to recruit and screen nominees for all judicial vacancies except for those on the Supreme Court and the Tax Court. Four members would be appointed by the governor and four members would be appointed by a majority of the Supreme Court. In addition, one attorney representing each judicial district would be appointed by the governor and the judges in each district would elect a member. The representatives of the judicial districts would participate only in nominations for district, county or county municipal court vacancies. The governor would also appoint two special members of the committee for those nominations. The bill also spells out the standards for evaluating candidates and specifies that the committee must consider female and minority candidates. In addition, the committee must solicit recommendations from groups representing women and minorities.

In other action, the committee approved two additional bills. S.F. 424, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), requires that an individual appointed as a part-time peace officer must provide proof to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board that the individual has satisfied the standards of the POST Board then in effect, has successfully completed a Board recognized course in first-aid and firearms training and has successfully passed the licensing examination. S.F. 432, authored by Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar), requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to administer and operate the Minnesota Automated Fingerprint Identification System and authorizes moving the main frame computer from the St. Paul police headquarters to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The measure was re-referred to the Governmental Operations Committee.

Local & Urban Government

Condominiums cause concern

Condominium regulations were the topic of concern at the Thurs., Feb. 28, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

Requiring Washington County condominium floor plans to be approved by the county surveyor before recording and an optional fee for the service was the subject of S.F. 82. The bill, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), was recommended for passage.

A second bill, S.F. 81, also sponsored by Diessner, was temporarily laid over. S.F. 81 would require Washington County condominium floor plans presented for transfer to be filed and recorded in the same manner as a deed or plat. The county auditor would also be required to sign the transfer documents in order to certify that all delinquent and current taxes had been paid. Legislators were unsure about the need for this extended consumer protection. Making the bill effective statewide at a later date was also considered.

A bill relating to the consolidation of International Falls and South International Falls was also recommended for passage. Due to former citizen opposition, a referendum will allow both cities to vote on the issue before consolidation begins. However, consolidation is thought both feasible and beneficial due to the newly strained economic conditions of the area. The bill, S.F. 64, is authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

Taxes and Tax Laws

Tax cut on farm equipment parts gains

The committee approved a bill Wed., Feb. 26, reducing the sales tax on repair and replacement parts for farm machinery.

Proposed by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), the bill, S.F. 42, would reduce the sales tax on the parts from the current rate of six percent to four percent. The lower rate now applies to farm machinery. Langseth told the committee he would like to lower the rate even further, but the four percent rate "is a responsible position."

Julie Bleyhl from the Farmers Union said that for the farmers, "a reduction in income taxes is not seen as [tax] relief." They don't have the income to benefit from the relief, she added. Most farmers cannot afford to buy new equipment, and sales tax on the parts "adds up in a hurry," said Bleyhl. Langseth said the bill would save the farmers about \$8 million through the next biennium.

Panel okays delay of farm tax

In another move to aid ailing farmers, the Subcommittee on Property Taxes and Local Government Aids advanced a proposal delaying the collection of farm property taxes.

Under the proposal, farmers would not need to pay their agricultural homestead property taxes due May 15 until October 15 of 1985. Local units of government, which levy and collect property taxes, would be able to borrow money from the state to cover the loss in revenue. The state would lend money to the local units of government with a five percent interest rate charge. The local taxing districts would then repay the state after the agricultural property taxes are collected in October.

The author of the bill, subcommittee chairman Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), amended the proposal to allow the interest charged on the loan to decrease when a taxing district's proportion of property taxes deferred increases. Peterson said, "While it [the measure] is not a cure-all, it is a step in the right direction." He also said that local units of government should bear some of the burden of helping troubled farmers.

The full committee will consider the bill, S.F. 604, next week, said committee chairman Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook). Members of the committee indicated that they would like to amend the bill to insure that it helps those farmers who truly need the deferment and to ease the burden on the local units of government.

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Transportation

Intersection right-of-way clarified

The committee advanced a bill Wed., Feb. 27, clarifying which car must yield at unmarked intersections shaped as the letter T or Y.

Present law requires that at an unmarked intersection, the car on the left shall yield to the car on the right. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), requires the driver on an uncontrolled approach to a T-or Y-shaped intersection to yield to the cross traffic. Wegscheid said the proposal, S.F. 19, provides the more "common sense" approach since that driver is already slowing down to turn.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), also approved a measure making minor changes to the state's trucking regulations. Among the most significant provisions, S.F. 43, authored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Lyndon), eliminates the identification requirement for farm trucks with four or fewer axles. Current law requires the farmers' name and address to be posted on their truck's door. The proposal also eliminates the regulation requiring farmers to keep farm truck service records. Also, the bill excludes one who moves "modular homes" from the definition of "building mover."

Veterans and General Legislation

Panel okays use of candles

A bill permitting hand-held candles to be used in religious and civil ceremonies won the committee's approval Wed., Feb. 27.

Authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), the bill allows the local fire chief to permit the use of the candles. Hand-held candles are presently prohibited under the state fire code. Because it is illegal, explained Jude, insurance companies are unwilling to insure churches that use the candles in their ceremonies. The purpose of S.F. 351 is to help churches obtain insurance and to provide local units of government the discretion to "legally" permit the use of candles in religious and civil ceremonies, Jude said.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), also okayed a bill raising the minimum daily rate for National Guard members when they are ordered to duty. The current minimum daily rate is \$50. The bill, S.F. 441, raises that figure to \$75.

Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), author of the measure, said the minimum rate had not been increased since 1982, when it went from \$35 to the current \$50 rate. He said the bill would provide an incentive for people to stay in the National Guard. The bill was sent to the Finance Committee.

briefly

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Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, March 4, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Legislative Commission on Public Education report; S.F. 377-Pehler: Permanent School Fund land exchange; S.F. 568-Dieterich: Advisory committee on nonpublic schools.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 363-Pogemiller: Amendment, eliminating office of state treasurer; S.F. 645-Pogemiller: Amendment, eliminating offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and auditor; Other proposals relating to constitutional officers.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the University of Minnesota (Cont'd).

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 198-Reichgott: Torrens; S.F. 143-Peterson, R.W.: Foreclosure validations; S.F. 33-Pogemiller: Hit and run penalties; S.F. 35-Diessner: Reporting of suspicious wounds; S.F. 448-Wegscheid: Assault of firefighters, paramedics; S.F. 527-Spear: Peace officer powers.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 40-Frank: Requiring use of seat belts by motor vehicle drivers and passengers.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 45-DeCramer: Recodifying drainage law.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Public Safety

Education Subc. on Post-Secondary & Higher Education,

Chair: LeRoy Stumpf

12:30 PM Room 237, Capitol

Agenda: HECB Review and Systems Plan, Dave Longanecker, Director.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: School management assistance; education aids analysis and management; Children in Crisis report; Report on school district cash flow; Micro Fin report; S.F. 172-Nelson: School endowment fund.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing on the Dept. of Revenue (Cont'd).

Tuesday, March 5, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Overview by William Dietrich, MN Trade Office (Cont'd); Liquor liability assignment risk plan, Commerce Commissioner Michael Hatch.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Dram shop liability continuation - S.F. 334/H.F. 265-Luther: Aggregate insurance policy; S.F.301-Dieterich and S.F. 318-Samuelson: Recoverable damages.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM

Agenda: Tour of League of MN Cities office, 183 University Ave.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Public Safety (Cont'd).

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 272-Storm: Requiring Comm. of Agriculture to find that economic necessity exists for licensure and construction of new dairy processing plants.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Case mix report of Interagency Board; S.F. 251-Berglin: Nursing home consumer advisory council education; S.F. 146-Samuelson: Interstate contracts for mental health; S.F. 147-Purfeerst: Shared service agreements for hospitals; S.F. 51-Berglin: Home health care.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for State Planning Agency and MN Zoo.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 518-DeCramer: Joint vocational technical districts; S.F. 604-Peterson, C.C.: Farm property tax deferral; S.F. 63-Peterson, C.C.: Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes port authorities.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Agriculture,

Chair: Joe Bertram

6:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 556-Freeman: Increasing number of deputy commissioners of agriculture; S.F. 601-Davis: Transferring authority for administration of Rural Rehabilitation Corp.

Wednesday, March 6, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 411-Moe, D.M.: Prohibiting governmental entities from engaging a lobbyist.

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: MN Association of Colleges for Teacher Education report, Bill Salesses, Chair; State Board of Teaching, Dale Rapp; Commission on the Future of MN Post-Secondary Education report, Elmer L. Andersen, Chair.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the State University Board.

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember Reichgott

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 591-Luther: Attachment procedures; S.F. 459-Spear: Guardianship in forma pauperis.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 70-Schmitz: Acquisition and relocation assistance in hardship cases; S.F. 219-Davis: Restricting mowing of highway rights-of-way outside cities; S.F. 159-Dicklich: Exempting sales of certain cars from motor vehicle excise tax.

Elections & Ethics, Chair: Jerome Hughes

11:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Study of the Legislature, Testimony of former Senate members W.B. Dosland, Karl Grittner, Wayne Popham and Harold Schultz

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Public Safety.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing of Governor's appointments to Board of Animal Health, Sharon Hurley and Henry Banal; S.F. 453-Reichgott: Reducing certain state park fees for handicapped persons; S.F. 395-Lessard: Aspen recycling program.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills not completed on Tues. Mar. 5.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Social Services, Chair:

Marilyn Lantry

After Full Committee Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 555-Berglin: Maternal and child health.

Legislative Coordinating Commission, Chair: Rep. David Jennings

2:00 PM Room 400 S. State Office Building

Agenda: Report of the Subcommittee on Salary and Budget Review on job audit and legislative commission budgets.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the Pollution Control Agency.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear
7:30 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Hazardous substance victims compensation fund: S.F. 571-Peterson, C.C.; S.F. 572-Wegscheid; and S.F. 599-McQuaid; S.F. 300-Merriam: MERLA (Superfund) amendments.

Thursday, March 7, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon
8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 393-Dahl: Modifying motor vehicle sales and distribution regulations; Report on M.E.E.D., a two-year review, Commissioner Mark Dayton.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski
10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Workers compensation report, Commissioner Steve Keefe; S.F. 116-Mehrkens: Relating to labor, creating an employees social responsibility act, providing penalties.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: R.W. Peterson
10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 137-Ramstad: Watercraft liability insurance; S.F. 609-Reichgott: Waiver of human rights act remedies; S.F. 567-Luther: Contract for deed cancellation notice; S.F. 144-Peterson, R.W.: Multi-party bank accounts.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 287-Dicklich: Defining term of Mayor; S.F. 303-Spear: Mpls. special service districts; S.F. 435-Chmielewski: Free distribution of **Minnesota Statutes** to certain libraries; S.F. 7-Diessner: Residency requirements for employment.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,
Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol
Agenda: Budget hearings for the Police Officer Standards and Training Board, Racing Commission and Charitable Gambling Control Board.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Fish & Wildlife,
Chair: C.C. Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 237, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 603-Peterson, C.C.: Transporting of firearms and bows.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson
3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 481-Nelson: Fund transfers; S.F. 476-Pehler: Teacher tests; S.F. 478-Nelson: Technology integration centers; S.F. 482-Reichgott and S.F. 380-Olson: Gifted education.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget presentations by the LCMR, Waste Management Board, World Trade Center Board and Water Resources Board.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 174-Kamrath: Agricultural limited partnerships of limited duration, preserving homestead status.

Friday, March 8, 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson
8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 606-Peterson, D.C.: Birth-Age 3 Handicapped.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Mayo Medical School budget hearing and St. Thomas engineering program.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 500-Spear: Parental, guardian notice of day care, residential facility abuse investigations; S.F. 611-Petty: Child abuse victim data privacy.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 461-Schmitz: Changes in Family Farm Security Program; S.F. 101-DeCramer: Changing certain soil and water conservation priorities; S.F. 202-DeCramer: Changing requirements for a soil tillage program.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin
1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Task Force on Sexual Exploitation by Counselors and Therapists legislative report, Orville Pung, Commissioner of Corrections.

Health & Human Services Subc. on State Institutions, Chair:
Eric Petty

After Full Committee Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 37-Wegscheid: Municipal industrial development; S.F. 545-Petty: Study Report Public Guardianship.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (19)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam
OFFICE NO.: G-24
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Berg DeCramer Lessard Storm
Bernhagen Frederickson Merriam Stumpf
Bertram Gustafson Novak Wegscheid
Dahl Isackson Peterson, C. C. Willet
Davis Laidig Peterson, R. W.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon
OFFICE NO.: 303
MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Adkins Dahl Laidig Samuelson
Anderson Freeman Luther Solon
Belanger Kroening Peterson, D. C. Wegscheid
Benson Kronebusch Petty

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler
OFFICE NO.: 306
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Anderson Kamrath Olson Reichgott
Dahl Knutson Pehler Stumpf
Davis Langseth Peterson, D. C. Taylor
Dicklich Mehrkens Peterson, D. L.
Dieterich Merriam Peterson, R. W.
Hughes Nelson Ramstad

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (14)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
OFFICE NO.: 301
MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Dicklich Langseth Olson Peterson, R. W.
Dieterich Mehrkens Pehler Taylor
Hughes Merriam Peterson, D. C.
Knutson Nelson Peterson, D. L.

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes
OFFICE NO.: 328
MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Frederickson Johnson, D. J. Peterson, D. C. Storm
Hughes Luther Peterson, D. L. Willet
Johnson, D. E. Moe, R. D. Samuelson

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski
OFFICE NO.: 325
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Belanger Diessner Kroening Vega
Brataas Frank Nelson
Chmielewski Frederick Pehler
Dicklich Gustafson Ramstad

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega
OFFICE NO.: G-29
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Adkins Kamrath Peterson, D. C. Vega
Anderson Kroening Peterson, D. L.
Frank McQuaid Pogemiller
Freeman Olson Reichgott

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet
OFFICE NO.: 121
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Brataas Kroening Nelson Spear
Dahl Kronebusch Purfeerst Taylor
Dicklich Langseth Ramstad Waldorf
Frederickson Lantry Renneke Willet
Hughes Lessard Samuelson
Johnson, D. E. Luther Schmitz
Knutson Mehrkens Solon

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M.
OFFICE NO.: 309
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Benson Knaak Peterson, C. C. Wegscheid
Berglin Lantry Pogemiller
Frederickson McQuaid Renneke
Jude Moe, D. M. Spear

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIR: Berglin
OFFICE NO.: 323
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Benson Dicklich Lantry Waldorf
Berglin Diessner Moe, D. M.
Brataas Johnson, D. E. Petty
Chmielewski Knutson Solon

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear
OFFICE NO.: G-27
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Freeman Knaak Petty Sieloff
Johnson, D. E. Luther Pogemiller Spear
Jude Merriam Ramstad
Kamrath Peterson, R. W. Reichgott

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Adkins Isackson Reichgott Wegscheid
Bertram Kamrath Renneke
Davis McQuaid Schmitz
Freeman Olson Stumpf

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (15)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
DeCramer Isackson Novak Spear
Dieterich Johnson, D. J. Peterson, D. L. Storm
Frank Jude Purfeerst Waldorf
Gustafson Knaak Sieloff

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (27)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D.
OFFICE NO.: 208
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:
Belanger Johnson, D. J. Moe, R. D. Sieloff
Berglin Knutson Nelson Solon
Bernhagen Laidig Pehler Spear
Chmielewski Lessard Peterson, C. C. Taylor
Dieterich Luther Purfeerst Vega
Frederick Merriam Renneke Willet
Hughes Moe, D. M. Schmitz

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J.
OFFICE NO.: 205
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Belanger Davis Merriam Pogemiller
Benson Dieterich Moe, D. M. Sieloff
Berg Frank Novak Stumpf
Berglin Frederick Pehler Vega
Bernhagen Johnson, D. J. Peterson, C. C.
Bertram Jude Peterson, R. W.
Chmielewski Laidig Petty

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C.
ROOM: 205
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:
Belanger Davis Johnson, D. J. Pehler
Berg Dieterich Laidig Peterson, C. C.
Berglin Frank Merriam Peterson, R. W.
Bernhagen Frederick Novak Petty

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst
ROOM: 303
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Adkins Diessner Lantry Stumpf
Anderson Frederick Mehrkens Vega
Berg Kronebusch Novak
Bernhagen Laidig Purfeerst
DeCramer Langseth Schmitz

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard
ROOM: 328
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Berg Chmielewski Isackson Samuelson
Bertram DeCramer Kronebusch Schmitz
Brataas Diessner Lessard Storm

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members—1985 Session

DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*	DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*
22	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	296-5981	235 Cap.	47	DFL	Luther, William P.	296-8869	205 Cap.
12	IR	Anderson, Don A.	6455	103 SOB	44	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	1279	132B SOB
41	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	5975	107 SOB	26	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	8075	127 SOB
32	IR	Benson, Duane D.	3903	109 SOB	49	DFL	Merriam, Gene	4154	G-24 Cap.
11	IR	Berg, Charles A.	5094	115 SOB	65	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	4264	309 Cap.
60	DFL	Berglin, Linda	4261	323 Cap.	2	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	2577	208 Cap.
21	IR	Bernhagen, John	4131	113 SOB	31	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	4871	301 Cap.
16	DFL	Bertram, Joe	2084	328 Cap.	52	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	4334	203 Cap.
33	IR	Brataas, Nancy	4848	139 SOB	43	IR	Olson, Gen	1282	132C SOB
14	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	4182	325 Cap.	17	DFL	Pehler, James C.	4241	306 Cap.
50	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	5003	G-24 Cap.	10	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	4135	205 Cap.
18	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	2302	G-24 Cap.	29	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	3988	141 SOB
27	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	6820	303 Cap.	61	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	4274	G-29 Cap.
5	DFL	Dickdich, Ronald R.	2859	306 Cap.	19	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	8018	326 Cap.
56	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	8298	325 Cap.	62	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	0760	323 Cap.
63	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	8867	235 Cap.	58	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	7809	G-24 Cap.
51	DFL	Frank, Don	2877	G-28 Cap.	25	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	4167	303 Cap.
30	IR	Frederick, Mel	4123	119 SOB	45	IR	Ramstad, Jim	9251	123 SOB
23	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	8138	143 SOB	46	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	2889	G-27 Cap.
40	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	9307	303 Cap.	35	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	4125	117 SOB
8	IR	Gustafson, Jim	4314	132 A SOB	13	DFL	Samuelson, Don	4875	121 Cap.
54	DFL	Hughes, Jerome M.	4183	328 Cap.	36	DFL	Schmitz, Robert J.	7157	235 Cap.
28	IR	Isackson, Doran L.	9305	151 SOB	64	IR	Sieloff, Ron	4310	135 SOB
15	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	3826	105 SOB	7	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	4188	303 Cap.
6	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	8881	205 Cap.	59	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	4191	G-27 Cap.
48	DFL	Jude, Tad	4248	235 Cap.	42	IR	Storm, Donald A.	6238	125 SOB
20	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	1240	133 SOB	1	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	8660	306 Cap.
53	IR	Knaak, Fritz	1253	149 SOB	24	IR	Taylor, Glen	9457	147 SOB
38	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	4120	121 SOB	39	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	4101	G-29 Cap.
57	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	4302	G-24 Cap.	66	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	3809	G-24 Cap.
34	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	1945	153 SOB	37	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	8091	309 Cap.
55	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	4351	145 SOB	4	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	4147	121 Cap.
9	DFL	Langseth, Keith	3205	G-24 Cap.					
67	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	8017	G-24 Cap.					
3	DFL	Lessard, Bob	4136	328 Cap.					

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

Senate Public Information Office

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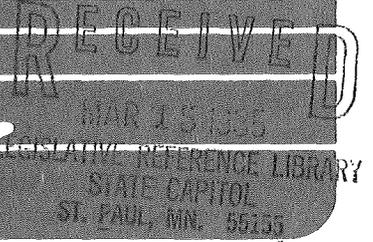


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P 248

Briefly



The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

March 8, 1985

Senate passes farm relief compromise

Conference committee members to S.F. 54, the farm relief bill, worked out the differences between the Senate and House proposals during the late evening hours of Thursday, Feb. 28. The next morning, the Senate met in session and approved the compromise package on a 55-4 vote.

The new proposal spends \$15.8 million to lower interest rates on new farm operating loans and an additional \$9.2 million on a program to encourage lenders to submit troubled loans to the FmHA for debt restructuring and loan guarantee. The voluntary foreclosure moratorium period originally contained in the Senate proposal was revised to a 90 day grace period. That provision prohibits lenders from foreclosing on any existing farm loan submitted to the FmHA for consideration until the FmHA either approves or denies the loan or until the grace period is expired.

The state would pay lenders the interest due during the first 60 days on any loan submitted to the FmHA. The interest paid would be on the first \$25,000 of an operating farm loan and the first \$25,000 of an ownership farm loan.

To qualify for the interest buy-down program for new operating loans, a farmer must have a debt-to-asset ratio of at least 50 percent and cannot show a profit at the current rate of interest. Lenders would have to loan the money to the farmer at a 7 to 10 percent interest rate in order to receive the state subsidy. The state would pay the lender two-thirds of the interest foregone. The program would be for operating loans of up to \$75,000.

The Senate defeated a motion offered by Sen. Charles Berg (IR-Chokio) to send the bill back to conference committee. Berg, who was a conference committee member, said the bill should be tightened to better protect the state's investment in the program and to better protect the farmer. "The bankers come out like bandits with this bill, farmers, as usual, got plowed under and the taxpayers got ripped off," he said.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), who sponsored the legislation along with chief author Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), said the bill is a compromise that better protects the state's investment and will help the farmers.

Senate holds short session

Because the Monday, Mar. 4, session was cancelled due to the storm, the Senate held a brief session Tuesday, Mar. 5. In addition to the routine work of referring bills to the appropriate committees, the Senate gave final passage to several bills granted preliminary approval last week.

The bills passed include: S.F. 244 (Storm) allowing Suburban National Bank to operate a detached facility in Savage; H.F. 68 (Dieterich) changing the requirements for qualifying a trustee of a will by making it necessary only if an interested person demanded qualification in writing or by petition to the court; S.F. 333

(Mehrkens) allowing White Rock State Bank to operate a detached facility in Cannon Falls; S.F. 47 (Frank) charging persons with a gross misdemeanor penalty if found guilty of torturing animals or treating them in a cruel manner; S.F. 455 (Jude) clarifying the process for conveying a conservation easement to a unit of government; S.F. 276 (Spear) simplifying the process for recognizing notarizations from other states and countries; S.F. 331 (Adkins) permitting a county coroner to remove a person's pituitary gland from a body for research purposes; and S.F. 450 (Jude), the Dept. of Revenue Tax Compliance Bill, easing the procedures for administering the tax laws.

Also during the Tuesday session, Majority Leader Roger Moe paid tribute to the Senate's Sergeant-at-Arms Marvin Raiola. Raiola, who began working for the Senate in 1977 and became sergeant-at-arms in 1980, died Sunday, Mar. 3.

Senate okays other farm aid bills

In another effort to aid Minnesota's troubled farmers, the Senate granted preliminary approval to a bill reducing the sales tax on repair and replacement parts for farm machinery and a proposal providing more funding for farm management education programs.

The first proposal, S.F. 42, sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), reduces the six percent sales tax on farm machinery parts to four percent. The lower rate presently applies to farm machinery. Langseth said the measure would save farmers about \$8 million through the next biennium.

The second proposal, S.F. 546, appropriates \$967,800 to the Board of Vocational Technical Education and \$402,500 to the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension for "farm crisis intervention services." The portion of the bill helps deal with the farm crisis on a short-term basis and would make the money available during this biennium.

To improve farm management education programs on a long-term basis, the bill appropriates \$1.42 million to the Board of Vocational Technical Education for farm management programs and \$1.2 million to the University of Minnesota for their Project Support program, which provides financial planning and stress management.

The purpose of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), is to reduce the number of farm failures by helping farmers develop better farm management plans.

In other action Thursday, Sen. Charles Berg (Chokio) announced that he is suspending his relationship with the Senate IR Caucus. Berg said he was frustrated with the lack of effort by the federal administration and several Minnesota House IR members in aiding the farmers. He said he appreciated the support from several Senate IR members for farm relief proposals, but said "It's my feeling for the good of my constituents that I temporarily suspend ties with the IR label."

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Members consider minimum pricing

A bill establishing minimum prices for farm commodities was presented to the committee Fri., Mar. 1.

Sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the bill would set the minimum prices between 80 to 100 percent of parity for farm commodities such as milk, corn, soybeans, oats, rye, flaxseed, sunflowers and sorghum. The minimum price would only become effective when 60 percent of the commodity is under similar minimum pricing laws, which would occur when other states enact the laws.

The measure is the same proposal passed by the Senate two years ago, said Davis. If enacted, the minimum price standards would increase gross farm income for Minnesota farmers by nearly \$3.2 billion, he said. Receiving reasonable prices is "the only way they [the farmer] have of gaining income," he added.

The committee did not take action on the bill—S.F. 221.

Panel okays bill aiding forests, loggers

The committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), approved a bill Wed., Mar. 6, that would rejuvenate the state's aspen forests and provide work for many of the state's unemployed loggers.

Authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), the bill appropriates \$2 million for the next two years to fund the cutting of 20,000 acres of overly mature aspen trees. The money would provide work for unemployed loggers, many of whom lost their jobs when Boise Cascade closed its insulite plant last December.

The loggers would cut 10,000 acres per year of overly mature aspen trees, which are over 50 years old. Ray Hitchcock from the Dept. of Natural Resources said overly mature aspen has exceeded its useful age and generally stands until it rots. (Aspen is used to produce waferboard, paper and lumber.) By the year 2010, Minnesota will have very few young aspen stands, Hitchcock explained, and the amount harvested will not meet industry's demand. Industries that use aspen depend on an annual, marketable yield, he said.

Cutting the overly mature aspen stands will also improve the wildlife habitat for Whitetail deer and grouse, said Lessard. One avid outdoorsman, Bud Grant, urged committee members to support the bill because it provides "the opportunity for the people of the north country to benefit . . . and benefits the wildlife."

In addition to aiding the wildlife habitat, Lessard said the bill "provides a sound forestry practice . . . and it will help those loggers who have no income or little income as a result of Boise's action."

Economic Development and Commerce

Panel calls for investigation

The Senate Economic Development and Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), moved to form a subcommittee to investigate the operations of the Department of Commerce, Thurs., Mar. 7.

The action came after Commerce Commissioner Michael Hatch responded to questions raised by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro). Hatch addressed the panel, presided over by Vice Chairman Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), Tues., Mar. 5.

Benson said actions surrounding the failure of the Guaranty

State Bank and creation of an assigned risk dram shop insurance plan should be the focus of the investigation.

Sen. William Belanger (IR-Bloomington) made a motion to request that the Attorney General investigate the Commerce Department. The motion was tabled.

Hatch said an attempt to convert the failing commercial bank to a savings and loan association was "logical" because conversion of a savings and loan to a commercial bank is permitted. Benson said the conversion was designed to bring interstate banking to Minnesota by attracting an out of state buyer for the bank.

Hatch said creation of the assigned risk plan was necessary after three companies writing dram shop insurance in Minnesota went out of business.

The panel also recommended H.F. 241, carried by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), for passage. The bill reduces the time period that a motor vehicle manufacturer can audit a dealer's claims and warranty records from two years to one year.

Energy and Economic Development Commissioner Mark Dayton and Deputy Commissioner Kathleen Callahan presented a two year department review to the panel. Callahan told the committee that there have been 115 successful business expansions in Minnesota. She added that \$112 million in private funds have been raised for economic development and expansion.

Trade Office overview heard

The Governor's Special Trade Representative, William Dietrich presented an overview of the Minnesota Trade Office for the committee Thurs., Feb. 28 and Tues., Mar. 5.

The Trade Office, established in July, 1983, is designed to improve international trade of Minnesota products and services, said Dietrich. He told the committee that efforts are being focused on northern and western European and Pacific rim countries. "There are windows of opportunity in some of those countries as their standard of living improves," he said. Dietrich said branch offices are being operated in Sweden and Norway.

Trade efforts are also being focused on small businesses that are hesitant to enter exporting because of a lack of capital or know-how, added Dietrich.

Education

U of M cutbacks outlined

University funding mechanisms and the present status of university planning were the topics of discussion at the Thurs., Feb. 28, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee.

"We are opposed to pure average cost funding as a kind of formula," said Vice President Stan Kegler. In explanation, he pointed to the medical and dental programs which are needed by the state but which cannot support themselves. Average cost funding then forces the other 40,000 students to support these special programs with additional tuition. High tuition, in turn, forces some students to attend elsewhere. Wisconsin students are partially subsidized by university students as well. Kegler requested augmentation to the formula or an adjustment in all matrixes.

Graduate study and research, and undergraduate study progressing in that direction, will become the future focus of the university, said Richard Heydinger, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. Under Interim President Ken Keller's proposed plan, all two year degree programs would be terminated, and professional program reductions would be made in management, education, nursing and veterinary medicine.

Reports summarized

Reports concerning public education and teacher education were summarized at the Wed., Mar. 6, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

The Legislative Commission on Public Education presented a report recommending research of individual learning programs (IEP's) and study of organizational structures which promote learning. Transitional curriculum changes were also recommended as were strategies to combat the negative attitude toward teaching careers. Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) presented the report.

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education conducted a "self-study" of teacher education in response to public concern, said Chairman Bill Salesses. The study identified the "common concerns" of the University of Minnesota, the state university system and private colleges in the field. Placing a new emphasis on recruitment and admission retention as well as identifying a "common data base" (liberal arts, academic specialty, professional pedagogical skills) which would be required of all teachers were two of the major recommendations. The current teacher education program approval and institution approval required every five years was also discussed. Replacing or adding competency testing to those required approvals and removing incompetent teachers were topics of concern.

Dale Rapp of the State Board of Teaching also presented the Board's Legislative initiatives. A task force to study future teacher education, new criteria for admittance to teacher education, improved staff development for new as well as veteran teachers and reinstatement of provisional licensing for teachers were recommended.

Bills advanced

Two bills were advanced at the Thurs., Mar. 7, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Committee, chaired by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

S.F. 126, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would require identical general education requirements for Associate of Arts degrees across the state. The bill would also provide course equivalency guides for transfer students and a common course numbering system throughout the state. Possible exemptions for the AVTI system were discussed.

S.F. 235 would establish a Student Advisory Council to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB). The bill is authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood).

A post-secondary intersystem cooperation report was also given by Nancy Wangan.

Education Aids

Cooperation incentives argued

Do we need to pay for school district cooperation? That was the major question at the Thurs., Feb. 28, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

The current cooperation system in Minnesota was outlined by Mike Trepanier, Dept. of Education. Trepanier pointed to the problems of sparsity and inequitable access to funding in explaining the unequal access to programs in technology, math/science, secondary vocational technical and special education.

Trepanier recommended fiscal incentives from the state to increase cooperation and access among districts. Guidelines for cooperation would require a minimum of 10,000 students, ten districts or 7,500 square miles. The ECSU organizations could serve as facilitators in the cooperative venture.

The state's response was presented by Dan Loritz. The state, he said, would prefer to inflate basic foundation aid and tier aid rather than provide additional monies for cooperation.

A report concerning educational access in rural Minnesota was also presented by Ruth Thomas, University of Minnesota. The four variables which can be moved in a cooperative arrangement are students, teachers, information and facilities, said Thomas; the best model in rural areas seemed to be movable trailer classrooms.

Open enrollment bill introduced

The first article of the governor's proposed education program was introduced in bill form at the Fri., Mar. 1, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee. Testimony concerning this plan for access to schools and programs outside resident districts was begun.

The Minnesota State High School League, represented by Orv Bies, testified in favor of the proposed plan. "Transfer rules could be accommodated within this system," said Bies. He went on the outline specific transfer rules for students who have moved or whose school has closed as well as rules for foreign exchange students, students who are wards of the state and handicapped students. In questionable circumstances, athletes become ineligible for one year. However, special requests can be made for "unseen, unavoidable or unusual circumstances," Bies noted.

The majority of those testifying were in favor of this "pro-choice" program, pointing out the psychological benefits of both parents and children choosing their own program and school. Most thought the program would improve schools, via competition, and increase public support of schools.

Testimony concerning the open enrollment bill was continued at the Tues., Mar. 5, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee. Arguments for and against the proposed bill were heard.

Former Governor Al Quie came forward as a major supporter, stating that the bill deserves bi-partisan support. Open enrollment would "break up the monopoly control the district has now on students," Quie said. Again, the benefit of choice for both the child and parent(s) was emphasized. The inequity of the present system, which allows only those students with parents who can afford to move into desirable school districts or pay public or private tuition, was pointed out as were the benefits of competition among schools.

Jean Olson of the MSBA led the opposing testimony, calling the governor's plan "an early-exit proposal" which would encourage early specialization and divert secondary school money to higher education. Students choosing to remain behind in smaller schools would lose access to many programs, said Olson. Another testifying superintendent added that cooperative academic agreements between schools are much harder to obtain than cooperative extracurricular agreements.

Elections and Ethics

Former Senators present views

Four distinguished former State Senators presented their views on the size and operation of the Legislature to members of the committee Wed., Mar. 6.

The former Senators, Judge Harold Schultz, W.B. Dosland, Karl Grittner and Wayne Popham, had different views on what the size of the Legislature should be. Schultz, who served in the Senate from 1950 to 1962, said the "vast majority of the citizens feel that the size of the Legislature is too large." He said reducing the numbers "would look like a positive step." Grittner agreed. He suggested that the Senate should consist of 33 members and the House should be a 99-member body. However, Dosland and

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Popham said the present size of the Minnesota Legislature aids in reducing costs and affords members better access to their constituents.

The Senators had other suggestions as well. Schultz said that the public does not fully understand the legislative process. He suggested that the Legislature improve its media relations to better inform the public about legislative activities. He also said many citizens feel that the Legislature does not provide adequate public input. More can be done to notify the people about legislation being considered, he added.

Grittner, who served in the Legislature from 1952 to 1970, said that Minnesota's Legislature should remain bicameral. A unicameral Legislature is more influential by its leadership and special interest groups, he said.

A State Senator from 1962 to 1972, Wayne Popham said the Legislature should attract people with a variety of occupations and backgrounds. "Those things in the process that attract more people, more occupations . . . is as important as anything else in the Legislature," he said. He said by meeting every two years, the Legislature would attract more people who have established careers to serve.

Dosland, who served in the Senate from 1958 to 1972, said it was a mistake for the Legislature to meet annually, and he suggested that they return to biennial sessions. He also told lawmakers that they should increase their oversight responsibilities in order to make necessary corrections and improvements in existing laws.

Employment

Jobs program discussed

Committee members heard an overview of Governor Perpich's jobs program proposal from State Planning Director Tom Triplett at the meeting Thur., Feb. 28. Under the proposal, current state jobs programs would be consolidated and the emphasis of the programs would be on job training and placement rather than on income maintenance. Triplett said that the consolidation of programs would save an estimated \$13 million. Although the proposal does not include the Minnesota Employment and Economic Development (MEED) program, the proposal would target funds to those areas of the state with unprecedented high levels of unemployment, Triplett said.

In other action, the committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), discussed two measures dealing with workers compensation insurance. S.F. 210 would require insurance companies to notify their clients of premium increases. S.F. 557 would remove the limits on credits on workers compensation insurance premiums. Both measures, which are sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), were laid over for further discussion.

Responsibility act gains

The committee recommended S.F. 116, sponsored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing), for passage, Thurs., Mar. 7.

The "Employees Social Responsibility Act of 1985" is designed to prevent employers from unfairly penalizing employees who report employer wrong-doing. The bill covers both public and private employers. Under the proposal, an employer that unfairly discharges, threatens, or discriminates against an employee, would face a \$1,000 fine.

Labor and Industry Commissioner Steve Keefe outlined a workers' compensation report for the panel. Keefe told Senators

that both litigation and time-off are down 30 percent since enactment of the new workers' compensation law. He also predicted an increase in workers' compensation insurance rates. "Several companies have lost a lot of money last year," he said. Those losses will be passed on to employers, he added.

Energy and Housing

Energy assistance proposal debated

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), heard opposing views surrounding a draft energy assistance bill, Tues., Feb. 26, Wed., Feb. 27 and Tues., Mar. 5.

Committee Administrative Assistant Tom Dimond outlined energy assistance changes proposed in the draft bill. Eligibility standards for energy assistance would be based on 125 percent of the U.S. poverty level. Currently, Assistance eligibility is based on 50.3 percent of Minnesota's median income.

Community Assistance Program Director Steve Watson and Energy Assistance Director for Ramsey Action Program, Mike Gravel, opposed the proposed eligibility standards. "It would cut out many low income seniors," said Watson. Gravel added that a proposed asset limit would also hurt senior citizens as well as small business owners.

Asset limits in the measure include any property other than homestead, personal property valued at \$1,000 and a \$1,500 value on one car for each licensed driver in the household, explained Dimond.

A proposed 15 percent transfer of funds from energy assistance to weatherization was opposed by Watson. He estimates that 15,000 households would lose energy assistance if funds are shifted.

Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.) questioned a provision of the proposal that would allow parents to deduct child support payments from their incomes. Peterson called the proposal "inequitable." Parents who receive payments would count child support as income and parents paying child support would deduct payments from income when applying for energy assistance. Peterson said only one parent is allowed a deduction for child care expenses under the proposal. Current policy does not allow either parent to deduct child care costs.

Finance

Farm finance service bill gains

The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), recommended S.F. 546 for passage, Fri. Mar. 1. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would appropriate \$1.6 million for farm financial crisis services. The money would be used by the State Board of Vocational Technical Education and the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service to educate farmers on management and financial analysis.

The bill was amended to appropriate the funds through June, 1985, rather than June, 1987, to allow time for further discussion of a long-term proposal.

Lease program to save millions

Public Safety Commissioner Paul Tschida and staff detailed a \$145.8 million biennial budget request for the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), Tues., Mar. 5 and

Wed., Mar. 6. The budget includes an estimated \$2.9 million savings due to a "master lease program." The program is one of the Governor's initiatives and has been detailed by the Finance Department. Under the program, state agencies would lease vehicles from the Finance Department. Finance Committee Chairman, Gerald Willet, said state-wide effects of the "master lease program" will be discussed at an upcoming full committee meeting.

The Subcommittee heard a \$978,800 biennial budget request for the Minnesota Science Museum, Thurs., Feb. 28.

Museum President James Peterson and Director Phil Taylor accompanied the subcommittee on a tour of the Science Museum.

Academy of Science Executive Director Buzz Harrigan and President Dr. Wayland Ezell requested a \$41,100 biennial budget, Fri., Mar. 1.

Commerce Commissioner Michael Hatch presented a \$17 million biennial budget to the Subcommittee, Fri., Mar. 1.

High-Tech Council urges excellence

The Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), heard an overview from the Minnesota High Technology Council, Fri., Mar. 1.

"There is a severe need for technology-oriented graduates," said Council Chairman Herb Johnson. He pointed to a "gradual decline" in quality of education since the 1950's. "Ten years is a realistic goal to rebuild it, although results will become apparent before then," he said. Council Board of Directors member, Chuck Denny, echoed the need for technology-minded graduates. He estimated that Minnesota is producing about half of the engineers that the state will require. "The University of Minnesota Institute of Technology has not received funding that would have allowed them to maintain a standard of excellence," he said.

Corrections budgets heard

Sentencing Guidelines Commissioner Kay Knapp requested a \$384,600 budget for the coming biennium, Thurs., Feb. 28, before the Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

The request includes \$24,000 for a staff position to reinstate training of sentencing guidelines. Sen. Gerald Willet questioned the need for the position. "The state shouldn't pay to educate lawyers on sentencing guidelines," said Willet.

Ombudsman for Corrections, John Poupart, requested a \$625,600 biennial budget including a one-time \$15,000 appropriation for data processing costs.

DNR budget request heard

The Fri., Mar. 1, meeting of the State Departments Subcommittee was devoted to the completion of the Departments of Natural Resources budget presentations. DNR officials briefed committee members on youth programs, enforcement, special services and planning and research. In addition, executive director Ray Quinn explained the powers and duties of the Minnesota Environmental Education Board.

The Tues., Mar. 5, meeting focused on an overview of the State Planning Agency and on consideration of the Minnesota Zoological Garden's budget request. Tom Triplett, Director of the State Planning Agency, detailed the governor's recommendations regarding the Minnesota Zoo. In addition, Steve Iserman, director of the Minnesota Zoological Gardens, gave a presentation on current, and future, planned activities.

Pollution Control Agency Director Tom Kalitowski and Deputy Director Mike Robertson presented a \$15.4 million biennial

budget to the State Departments Subcommittee, Wed., Mar. 6.

Robertson told the committee a 450 percent increase in hazardous waste generator and facility permit fees is not as expensive as it appears. He estimated that a medium-sized facility (above 1,000 kilograms per month) would pay under \$500 in annual fees.

Outdoor Committee Consultant, Ted Shields, told the panel that he opposed permit fees. "The money should come from the general fund," he said.

Governmental Operations

Lobbyist bill amended

Members of the Governmental Operations Committee delayed taking final action on a bill prohibiting governmental units hiring professional lobbyists. The measure was laid over Wed., Mar. 6, after a substantial amendment was placed on the bill. The measure, S.F. 411 sponsored by Committee Chairman Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), would have prohibited any political subdivision, including cities, towns and school districts, from hiring outside lobbyist to act on their behalf before the legislature. The proposal did allow full time employees of governmental units to engage in lobbying activities.

The amendment, offered by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), changed the scope of the bill by limiting the application to state government only. Under the amendment, only the state and its agencies would be prohibited from hiring lobbyist. Further, the amendment specifies that any lobbyist who is engaged by the state and the person engaging a lobbyist on the part of the state may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000. After adoption of the amendment, Moe indicated that he would bring the measure before the committee for further discussion at a later date.

Health & Human Services

Nursing homes draw attention

The new case mix reimbursement methodology for nursing homes was explained at the Tues., Mar. 5, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls). The methodology, developed by the Interagency Board for Quality Assurance, was presented by Executive Secretary Pamela Parker.

Operating costs of nursing homes would be based more accurately on individual residents' needs under the new state system, said Parker. There would be eleven different resident care classifications reflecting the costliness of the care, and the classification would be determined by resident assessments upon admission and every six months thereafter. Incentives for providing heavy care as well as light care alternatives are balanced, Parker said. The projected date of operation is July 1, 1985.

S.F. 147, authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), was recommended for passage and placed on the Consent Calendar. The bill allows for-profit organizations to use state hospital laundry facilities. Also, testimony was continued on S.F. 51-(Berglin), a bill initiating regulation of home health care. Mike Trippe, Dept. of Health, presented the Commissioner's response to the bill.

Licensure recommended

After a considerable number of hearings and amendments, the bill initiating home health care licensure was recommended for

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passage at the Wed., Mar. 6, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee.

Mike Tripple, Dept. of Health, outlined the process of complaint investigation by the department, and final testimony was taken. Tom Barrows of the Minnesota Alliance for Nursing Services objected to the Health Department's enforcement power to suspend or revoke a license, the licensing procedures and the publishing of financial data considered "contrary to the competitive spirit." The process of establishing different classes of licenses and license fees also caused concern.

The AFL-CIO, represented by Tobey Lapakko, raised questions about the vagueness of the regulations and the extended authority given to the Commissioner of Health prior to the permanent rulemaking process. John Diehl, representing Home Health Plus, also advocated due process for rulemaking rather than emergency temporary rules and cautioned against the bill becoming a price-regulating mechanism. The bill, S.F. 51-(Berglin), was referred to the Finance Committee.

S.F. 251-(Berglin) was also recommended for passage and referred to the Finance Committee. The bill establishes an education program for resident and family councils in nursing homes and board and care homes. The program would be supported by an annual fee of \$2 per licensed bed.

Judiciary

Four measures advance

Members of the Criminal Law Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), met Thurs., Feb. 28 and Fri. Mar. 1, and advanced four bills to the full committee.

S.F. 35, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), requires health professionals to report "suspicious wounds" to law enforcement authorities. Under the bill, "suspicious wounds" includes wounds inflicted by firearms, knife wounds and wounds caused by any device or instrument capable of producing bodily harm.

S.F. 448, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), extends the same legal protection from assault to firefighters and emergency service personnel as that provided to police officers.

S.F. 33, carried by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the wording of the statute detailing the penalties for individuals guilty of hit and run.

S.F. 527, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the powers of peace officers when they are off duty or outside their jurisdiction. The bill provides that an off duty police officer may make an arrest at any time if the officer is in his own jurisdiction; clarifies that if the officer is on duty but leaves the jurisdiction pursuant to the course and scope of employment, the officer retains his authority; and provides that an off duty peace officer, outside his jurisdiction, has arrest authority when confronted with deadly force. The bill also defines a peace officer as a "trained licensed professional" and clarifies insurance provisions.

Dram shop bill gains

A bill changing the dram shop liability insurance requirements to provide that the policy may include an annual aggregate policy limit of \$300,000 was approved by the Subcommittee on Civil Law at a Tues., Mar. 5, hearing. The measure, H.F. 265, carried by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), is one of several bills before the subcommittee dealing with the issue of dram shop insurance. The panel, chaired by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), will continue their deliberations on the matter Wed., Mar. 13.

Guardianship bill refined

The Judiciary Subcommittee on Judicial Administration, chaired by Sen. Ember Reichgott, (DFL-New Hope), met Wed., Mar. 6, forwarded one measure on to the full committee and began discussion on a second bill.

S.F. 459, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the conditions for awarding expense payments to individuals action as guardians or conservators. According to the bill courts are required to order payment of costs if the guardian or conservator is not a relative and the guardianship or conservatorship is necessary to protect a vulnerable adult. The bill also prohibits denying a request for fees solely because the ward or conservatee is a recipient of medical assistance, and provides for the award of costs in cases where a county employee serves as a guardian or conservator.

A second bill, S.F. 591, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), which updates and clarifies the statutes dealing with the attachment of property, was discussed and laid over for future consideration.

Victims compensation bills debated

A special evening meeting of the Judiciary Committee was called Wed., Mar. 6, to hear further testimony on S.F. 300, the bill proposing changes to the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act, and to discuss three measures that would establish hazardous substance victims' compensation funds.

The three bills, S.F. 571, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), S.F. 572, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), and S.F. 599, authored by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park), are all designed to compensate the victims of hazardous waste releases. However, all three measures approach the establishment of a victims' compensation fund in a different manner.

S.F. 571, said Peterson, differs from the other two proposals in that it sets up a non-adversarial process for victims to receive compensation. In addition, S.F. 571 provides for compensation for both personal injury and property damage resulting from the release of hazardous wastes.

Wegscheid said that S.F. 572 differs from the other measures in that it stresses the use of existing structures by allowing for the collection of expenses related to hazardous waste releases from the Catastrophic Health Expense Protection Act.

S.F. 599, said McQuaid, is designed to establish a mechanism to address the problems of innocent victims and would cover 100 percent of uninsured out-of-pocket medical expenses for up to five years and 80 percent of uninsured actual lost wages, up to \$20,000 for five years. The McQuaid measure and the Peterson bill both have a \$250,000 limit on the total amount of compensation that could be recovered from the fund.

After several hours of discussion, Committee Chairman Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), indicated that action on the bills would be delayed to allow more time for debate.

Local & Urban Government

Issues considered

The Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), considered several bills at the Thurs., Mar. 7, meeting.

S.F. 287, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), was recommended for passage and placed on the Consent Calendar. The bill requires the mayor of Hibbing to serve a four-year term rather than a two-year term and staggers the election years of

Hibbing city council members beginning with the 1986 general election.

S.F. 435 was also recommended for passage. Authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), the bill would require the revisor to distribute free copies of the Minnesota Statutes, supplements and Laws of Minnesota to each public library of the largest municipality of each county. This bill would provide copies to Cloquet, Hutchinson and LeSueur.

S.F. 7 was laid over after considerable testimony was heard. The bill would allow a city or county located in the seven-county metro area to impose employee residency requirements if there is a "demonstrated, job-related necessity." This would bring the metro area into compliance with the same laws governing outstate areas passed last year. Argument arose over the "time or distance" issue being required as part of the collective bargaining process and the lack of representation of many of those affected. The bill is authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton).

Testimony was begun on S.F. 303, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.). The bill would establish a special service district in the Hennepin-Lake St. commercial area of uptown Minneapolis. Due to the "intensive use" of this area, additional street cleaning, snow removal and parking facilities are needed; the services would be paid for by a 15 percent property tax within the 20 block area. The owners would also have veto power.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Ag property tax deferment gains

The committee advanced another proposal Tues., Mar. 5, that is designed to help financially troubled farmers. The bill, S.F. 604, delays the collection of farm property taxes in order to provide farmers with a better cash flow this spring.

According to the proposal, owners of farm homesteads would not need to pay property taxes due May 15 until October 15, 1985. Local units of government, which levy and collect property taxes, would be able to borrow the money from the state to cover the loss in revenue. Local units of government would not be charged interest on the money borrowed, and they would have to reimburse the state by Oct. 22, 1985.

Members of the committee expressed concern that farmers who are not experiencing financial difficulties would be able to defer their property tax payments. Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), sponsor of the bill, said, "I don't know of any farmer who will have a positive cash flow this year . . . With that, I don't think you can make a case that there is a farmer in this state who doesn't need this."

Peterson said the proposal could provide the farm economy with an additional \$82 million this spring.

In other action Tuesday, the committee approved a bill establishing a joint vocational technical district. The bill, S.F. 518, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), allows the cities of Canby, Pipestone, Jackson and Granite Falls to consolidate their four AVTI's into one Southwest AVTI.

The joint vocational technical board, which would operate the new district, would have the authority to levy taxes to pay for the state auditor costs, judgements and insurance premiums. The former AVTI district, which has transferred its facility to the joint district, would still be able to levy for three years in order to offset

its district service fees; however, the amount it may levy would significantly decrease during that time. The bill was referred to the Governmental Operations Committee.

The committee also approved a bill allowing the cities of Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes to establish port authorities. The port authorities would handle economic development in their respective cities. The bill, S.F. 63, is authored by Sen. Collin Peterson.

Enterprise zones debated

A discussion of the impact of enterprise zone legislation was the focus of the Wed., Mar. 6, meeting of the Taxes and Tax Laws Subcommittee on Economic Development. Specifically, the subcommittee members, chaired by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), discussed the economic impact of legislation passed in 1983 and 1984 on the cities of Moorhead and Mankato. According to Charles Schaffer of the Small Business Assistance Office, tax incentives were offered to qualified businesses in designated enterprise zones in order to stimulate private investment and to create jobs in distressed areas of the state.

The question of whether the impact of the enterprise zone legislation could be quantified and assessed as the primary reason for job creation or retention also generated some debate. Lary Forsythe, director of Economic Development in Mankato and Scott Hutchins, Moorhead Community Development Director, both agreed that measuring the specific impact of the legislation was very difficult, but both assured subcommittee members that economic development legislation played a significant role in a business's decision to stay or expand in Minnesota.

Transportation

Sales along proposed highways aided

A bill to help homeowners who are having difficulty selling their property because it is located within a proposed highway corridor gained the committee's approval Wed., Mar. 6.

The bill, S.F. 70, permits the Metropolitan Council to make loans to counties, towns and cities within the metropolitan area in order to acquire the homeowners property. The loans would only be provided under the following conditions: the owner is unable to sell on the open market because of the proposed highway; the owner requests acquisition or assistance; no federal purchase program is available; the council approves the appraised value of the property; and the owner suffers some type of hardship—must pay high medical expenses, must move because of a job transfer or cannot maintain the property.

The local units of government would then sell the land to the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation before construction of the highway begins. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

The committee began to consider a bill exempting persons who purchased a car for under \$1,500 from paying the motor vehicle excise tax. Sen. Ron Dicklich, author of the proposal, said some people actually pay more than they should for the tax because it is being based on the blue book value of the car instead of its price. He said a better method would be to establish a flat fee because it would provide equity and fairness in the system. The bill, S.F. 159, will be considered later this session

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, March 11, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 377-Pehler: Permanent School Fund land exchange; S.F. 568-Dieterich: Advisory committee on nonpublic schools; S.F. 647-MN Educational Computing Corporation powers; MECC report, Ken Brumbaugh; MN High School League report, Orv Bies.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 363-Pogemiller: Amendment, eliminating office of state treasurer; S.F. 645-Pogemiller: Amendment, eliminating offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and auditor; Other proposals relating to constitutional officers.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for AVTT's.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 448-Wegscheid: Assault of firefighters, paramedics; S.F. 198-Reichgott: Torrens; S.F. 143-Peterson, R.W.: Foreclosure validations; S.F. 33-Pogemiller: Hit and run penalties; S.F. 35-Diessner: Reporting of suspicious wounds; S.F. 527-Spear: Peace officer powers.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 352-Freeman: Annual compressed natural gas user permit in lieu of gas taxes; S.F. 622-Johnson, D.E.: Book racks and MN designation on school buses; S.F. 547-DeCramer: Licensing and bonding requirements for motor vehicle auctions.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 45-DeCramer: Recodifying drainage law.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Dept. of Transportation, including tour of Mn/DOT computer facilities.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Dept. of Health, Health Related Boards.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 748-Nelson: Staff development.

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember Reichgott

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 591-Luther: Attachment procedures.

Conference Committee, Chair: Donald Moe

4:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

S.F. 122/H.F. 110-Moe, D.M.: PERA bill.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Agriculture,

Chair: Joe Bertram

7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 237-Johnson, D.E.: Exclusions from gross income for deposits in or interest earned to provide agriculture loans; S.F. 539-Bertram: Repealing requirement for a dept. slogan on printed matter; S.F. 601-Davis: Transferring authority for administration of the Rural Rehabilitation Corp., Trust Liquidation Act to Commissioner of Energy & Economic Development.

Tuesday, March 12, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 239-Dicklich: Horse racing, racing days at county fairs; S.F. 359-Dieterich: Roseville off-sale liquor license fees; S.F. 360-Dieterich: Roseville, increased number of on-sale liquor licenses; Confirmation hearings on the appointments of Janna King and Eugene Trimble, Cable Communications Board; and Robert O'Keefe, Public Utilities Commission; S.F. 688-Frank: Prohibiting practices by licensees which may increase consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Elections & Ethics, Chair: Jerome Hughes

8:15 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 307-Mehrkens: School boards; S.F. 486-Peterson, D.C.: Mailgrams; S.F. 139-Dahl: Precinct lists; S.F. 365-Hughes: Election judges; S.F. 292-Merriam: Income tax credit; S.F. 673-Hughes: Secretary of State's housekeeping bill.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment compensation, regulating benefits, setting employer contribution rates;

S.F. 138-Frederick: Unemployment comp benefit requalification after voluntary quit or discharge for misconduct; S.F. 142-Dieterich: Unemployment comp, quarterly reporting of wages.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Dram shop liability continuation - S.F.301-Dieterich: Recoverable damages; S.F. 318-Samuels: Recoverable damages; time limits.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 344-Lessard: Insurance for officers and employees with nonprofit organizations; S.F. 194-Lessard: Increased levy for cemetery; S.F. 471-DeCramer: Lismore G.O. bonds; S.F. 505-McQuaid: Comprehensive municipal plans; S.F. 597-Taylor: North Mankato Port Authority.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for the Ethical Practices Board and Municipal Board.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 502-Berg: Walleyed pike fingerling production; S.F. 127-Benson: Deer bow & arrow license fees for nonresident students at resident rates; S.F. 356-Chmielewski: Alcohol fuel pilot project.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Energy overview by public utilities.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for the Dept. of Labor & Industry and Workers Comp Court of Appeals.

Taxes & Tax Laws Subc. on Property Taxes & Local

Government Aids, Chair: Collin Peterson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 751-Pogemiller: Enterprise zones, mortgage registry and deed taxes, welfare aids to counties, local collection of taconite taxes, etc.; S.F.——Peterson, C.C.: Governor's reclassification bill.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

7:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of Departments of Finance and Revenue budgets.

Wednesday, March 13, 1985

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 495-DeCramer: Additional asst. adjutant general; S.F. 330-Stumpf: Permitting churches to display Christmas trees with decorative lights.

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:15 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Joint meeting with House Education for election of U of M Board of Regents from the First, Fourth, Sixth and Seventh congressional districts.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of Dept. of Human Rights, Linda Johnson, Commissioner; S.F. 648-Spear: Requiring preparation of state agency affirmative action plans; incentives; S.F. 119-Spear: Creating council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of the U of M budget hearing.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Hazardous substance victim compensation fund: S.F. 571-Peterson, C.C., S.F. 572-Wegscheid and S.F. 599-McQuaid

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 40-Frank: Mandatory seat belts.

Elections & Ethics, Chair: Jerome Hughes

11:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing and overview for the Dept. of Transportation.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget review for Dept. of Human Services.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on Governor's appointments to Water Resources Board, Erika Sitz and Marlin Rieppel; S.F. 474: Merriam: Youth conservation corps; S.F. 598-Davis: Requiring the repair, refund, or replacement of new motor vehicles used for agricultural purposes.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Energy overview by public utilities

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Joint meeting with House Commerce; Discussion of bills relating to the sale and consumption of alcohol; Presentation by Anheuser-Busch companies.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for the Attorney General's office, Bureau of Mediation Services, Public Employment Relations Board, and Dept. of Military Affairs.

Taxes & Tax Laws Subc. on Income Taxes, Chair: Steven Novak

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 665-Merriam: Department federal update bill; S.F.—Reichgott: Department corporate income tax bill.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Fish & Wildlife, Chair: C.C. Peterson

7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 110-Kronebusch: Allowing one deer to be taken by each method of hunting; S.F. 719-Stumpf: Authorizing Commissioner of DNR to permit, on experimental basis, taking of two deer by one hunter.

Thursday, March 14, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon
8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearings on the Governor's appointments to the World Trade Center Board; S.F. 437-Petty: Regulation of fraternal benefit societies.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 220-Freeman: MEED III; S.F. 522-Johnson, D.J.: Northeastern Employment and Training; S.F. 264-Dicklich: Establishing employment demonstration project; S.F. 305-Samuelson: Work experience program; S.F. 425-Dicklich: Jobs and Training; S.F. 513-Spear: Transfer sliding fee to Dept. of Economic Security; S.F. Pogemiller: Full productivity council; S.F. Diessner: Unemployment insurance as income maintenance for jobs training; If time permits S.F. Pogemiller: Governor's jobs bill; S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Regulating the payment, amount and eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits; S.F. 181-Ramstad: Unemployment compensation, nonreimbursements of benefits; S.F. 491-Ramstad: Providing an exception for unemployment compensation contributions and coverage for self-employed business owners.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: R.W. Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 137-Ramstad: Watercraft liability insurance; S.F. 609-Reichgott: Waiver of human rights act remedies; S.F. 567-Luther: Contract for deed cancellation notice; S.F. 144-Peterson, R.W.: Multi-party bank accounts.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 282-Adkins: Removing levy limits for fire protection; S.F. 429-Peterson, C.C.: Fergus Falls IDB deposit refund; S.F. 430-Peterson, C.C.: Refund of IDB deposits; S.F. 355-Willet: Beltrami tourist, ag and industrial development

promotion. S.F. 580-Schmitz: Lakeville IDB deposit refund.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:30 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget review for Dept. of Human Services.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 477-Pehler: Community experts; S.F. 171-Hughes: Education districts; S.F. 21-Wegscheid: Vision and hearing; S.F. 582-Pehler: Health awareness; S.F. 498-Hughes: Early childhood; Microfin report and amendment; Community education article.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Departments of Veterans Affairs and Human Rights.

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember Reichgott

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 388-Knaak: Criminal record information; S.F. 422-Knaak: Ramsey County referees salary; S.F. 347-Benson: Judicial election procedures.

Friday, March 15 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Arts high school report; S.F. —Merriam: Arts education programs; Math & science high school report.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Report on Capitol maintenance, James Ware, Dept. of Administration; S.F. 518-DeCramer: Authorizing joint vocational-technical districts; S.F. 752-Moe, D.M.: Creating position of State Capitol architect; restructuring CAAPB; S.F. 247-McQuaid: Memorial to veterans in Court of Honor.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 5-Diessner: Raising the drinking age to 21.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for the Dept. of Transportation Aeronautics Division.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on Governor's appointment to Waste Management Board, Mary Robinson and Ernest Lund; S.F. 507-Frederickson: Use of artificial lights in protecting livestock from predators; S.F. 540-Merriam: Eliminating license requirement for fur farmers; S.F. 569-Merriam: Granting conservation officers certain authority of peace officers; specifying jurisdiction.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (19)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam
OFFICE NO.: G-24
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Berg DeCramer Lessard Storm
Bernhagen Frederickson Merriam Stumpf
Bertram Gustafson Novak Wegscheid
Dahl Isackson Peterson, C. C. Willet
Davis Laidig Peterson, R.W.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon
OFFICE NO.: 303
MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Adkins Dahl Laidig Samuelson
Anderson Freeman Luther Solon
Belanger Kroening Peterson, D. C. Wegscheid
Benson Kronebusch Petty

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler
OFFICE NO.: 306
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Anderson Kamrath Olson Reichgott
Dahl Knutson Pehler Stumpf
Davis Langseth Peterson, D. C. Taylor
Dicklich Mehrkens Peterson, D. L.
Dieterich Merriam Peterson, R. W.
Hughes Nelson Ramstad

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (14)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
OFFICE NO.: 301
MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Dicklich Langseth Olson Peterson, R. W.
Dieterich Mehrkens Pehler Taylor
Hughes Merriam Peterson, D. C.
Knutson Nelson Peterson, D. L.

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes
OFFICE NO.: 328
MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Frederickson Johnson, D. J. Peterson, D. C. Storm
Hughes Luther Peterson, D. L. Willet
Johnson, D. E. Moe, R. D. Samuelson

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski
OFFICE NO.: 325
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Belanger Diessner Kroening Vega
Brataas Frank Nelson
Chmielewski Frederick Pehler
Dicklich Gustafson Ramstad

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega
OFFICE NO.: G-29
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Adkins Kamrath Peterson, D. C. Vega
Anderson Kroening Peterson, D. L.
Frank McQuaid Pogemiller
Freeman Olson Reichgott

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet
OFFICE NO.: 121
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Brataas Kroening Nelson Spear
Dahl Kronebusch Purfeerst Taylor
Dicklich Langseth Ramstad Waldorf
Frederickson Lantry Renneke Willet
Hughes Lessard Samuelson
Johnson, D. E. Luther Schmitz
Knutson Mehrkens Solon

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M.
OFFICE NO.: 309
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Benson Knaak Peterson, C. C. Wegscheid
Berglin Lantry Pogemiller
Frederickson McQuaid Renneke
Jude Moe, D. M. Spear

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIR: Berglin
OFFICE NO.: 323
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Benson Dicklich Lantry Waldorf
Berglin Diessner Moe, D. M.
Brataas Johnson, D. E. Petty
Chmielewski Knutson Solon

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear
OFFICE NO.: G-27
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Freeman Knaak Petty Sieloff
Johnson, D. E. Luther Pogemiller Spear
Jude Merriam Ramstad
Kamrath Peterson, R. W. Reichgott

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Adkins Isackson Reichgott Wegscheid
Bertram Kamrath Renneke
Davis McQuaid Schmitz
Freeman Olson Stumpf

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (15)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
DeCramer Isackson Novak Spear
Dieterich Johnson, D. J. Peterson, D. L. Storm
Frank Jude Purfeerst Waldorf
Gustafson Knaak Sieloff

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (27)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D.
OFFICE NO.: 208
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:
Belanger Johnson, D. J. Moe, R. D. Sieloff
Berglin Knutson Nelson Solon
Bernhagen Laidig Pehler Spear
Chmielewski Lessard Peterson, C. C. Taylor
Dieterich Luther Purfeerst Vega
Frederick Merriam Renneke Willet
Hughes Moe, D. M. Schmitz

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J.
OFFICE NO.: 205
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Belanger Davis Merriam Pogemiller
Benson Dieterich Moe, D. M. Sieloff
Berg Frank Novak Stumpf
Berglin Frederick Pehler Vega
Bernhagen Johnson, D. J. Peterson, C. C.
Bertram Jude Peterson, R. W.
Chmielewski Laidig Petty

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C.
ROOM: 205
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:
Belanger Davis Johnson, D. J. Pehler
Berg Dieterich Laidig Peterson, C. C.
Berglin Frank Merriam Peterson, R. W.
Bernhagen Frederick Novak Petty

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst
ROOM: 303
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Adkins Diessner Lantry Stumpf
Anderson Frederick Mehrkens Vega
Berg Kronebusch Novak
Bernhagen Laidig Purfeerst
DeCramer Langseth Schmitz

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard
ROOM: 328
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Berg Chmielewski Isackson Samuelson
Bertram DeCramer Kronebusch Schmitz
Brataas Diessner Lessard Storm

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members—1985 Session

DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*	DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*
22	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	296-5981	235 Cap.	47	DFL	Luther, William P.	296-8869	205 Cap.
12	IR	Anderson, Don A.	6455	103 SOB	44	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	1279	132B SOB
41	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	5975	107 SOB	26	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	8075	127 SOB
32	IR	Benson, Duane D.	3903	109 SOB	49	DFL	Merriam, Gene	4154	G-24 Cap.
11	IR	Berg, Charles A.	5094	115 SOB	65	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	4264	309 Cap.
60	DFL	Berglin, Linda	4261	323 Cap.	2	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	2577	208 Cap.
21	IR	Bernhagen, John	4131	113 SOB	31	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	4871	301 Cap.
16	DFL	Bertram, Joe	2084	328 Cap.	52	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	4334	203 Cap.
33	IR	Brataas, Nancy	4848	139 SOB	43	IR	Olson, Gen	1282	132C SOB
14	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	4182	325 Cap.	17	DFL	Pehler, James C.	4241	306 Cap.
50	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	5003	G-24 Cap.	10	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	4135	205 Cap.
18	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	2302	G-24 Cap.	29	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	3988	141 SOB
27	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	6820	303 Cap.	61	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	4274	G-29 Cap.
5	DFL	Dicklich, Ronald R.	2859	306 Cap.	19	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	8018	326 Cap.
56	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	8298	325 Cap.	62	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	0760	323 Cap.
63	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	8867	235 Cap.	58	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	7809	G-24 Cap.
51	DFL	Frank, Don	2877	G-28 Cap.	25	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	4167	303 Cap.
30	IR	Frederick, Mel	4123	119 SOB	45	IR	Ramstad, Jim	9251	123 SOB
23	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	8138	143 SOB	46	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	2889	G-27 Cap.
40	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	9307	303 Cap.	35	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	4125	117 SOB
8	IR	Gustafson, Jim	4314	132 A SOB	13	DFL	Samuelson, Don	4875	121 Cap.
54	DFL	Hughes, Jerome M.	4183	328 Cap.	36	DFL	Schmitz, Robert J.	7157	235 Cap.
28	IR	Isackson, Doran L.	9305	151 SOB	64	IR	Sieloff, Ron	4310	135 SOB
15	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	3826	105 SOB	7	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	4188	303 Cap.
6	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	8881	205 Cap.	59	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	4191	G-27 Cap.
48	DFL	Jude, Tad	4248	235 Cap.	42	IR	Storm, Donald A.	6238	125 SOB
20	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	1240	133 SOB	1	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	8660	306 Cap.
53	IR	Knaak, Fritz	1253	149 SOB	24	IR	Taylor, Glen	9457	147 SOB
38	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	4120	121 SOB	39	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	4101	G-29 Cap.
57	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	4302	G-24 Cap.	66	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	3809	G-24 Cap.
34	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	1945	153 SOB	37	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	8091	309 Cap.
55	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	4351	145 SOB	4	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	4147	121 Cap.
9	DFL	Langseth, Keith	3205	G-24 Cap.					
67	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	8017	G-24 Cap.					
3	DFL	Lessard, Bob	4136	328 Cap.					

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

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Briefly

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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

March 15, 1985

Farm bills gain final passage

Three measures granted preliminary approval last week cleared the Senate and were given final passage at the Monday, Mar. 11, floor session. S.F. 42, sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), reduces the sales tax, from four to six percent, on replace parts for farm machinery. S.F. 546, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), appropriates money for the state board of vocational technical education and the agricultural extension service of the University of Minnesota in order to provide education programs to aid farmers in farm management. S.F. 71, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), provides for a payment schedule by farm implement manufacturers, wholesalers or distributors, who repurchase inventory from farm implement retailers.

Another measure designed to provide short term property tax relief to Minnesota's farmers generated considerable debate when it was considered for preliminary passage. The measure, S.F. 604, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), would allow homesteaded agricultural property taxes due on May 15 to be deferred until October 15 of this year. Further, the measure allows local units of government to apply to the state for interest free loans to make up for the amount of the deferred revenue.

Debate centered on an amendment, offered by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), which would require a financial officer to certify that the property tax deferment was necessary for the reasons of sound fiscal management. The proponents of the amendment argued that it would aid in insuring that the proposed relief would be targeted at those farmers who really needed financial relief. Opponents argued that the farm crisis is such that all farmers are experiencing cash flow difficulties and are eligible for the deferment. The amendment failed to be adopted. The bill was then given preliminary approval.

Senators also granted final passage to one measure on the Consent Calendar. S.F. 147, sponsored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), authorizes a state hospital to enter into shared service agreements with for profit organizations as well as nonprofit organizations.

Seat belt bill clears first hurdle

The mandatory seat belt proposal passed its first test when the Transportation Committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), approved it on a voice vote Wednesday, Mar. 13.

According to the bill, S.F. 40, Minnesota drivers and front seat passengers would have to "buckle-up" or face a possible fine of \$20. The committee also adopted an amendment to insure that the federal government does not repeal its requirement that all newly-manufactured cars be equipped with airbags or automatically-

adjusting seat belts by 1990. Car manufacturers would have to install those safety features unless states comprising two-thirds of the U.S. population enact mandatory seat belt laws that follow certain standards.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), holds the driver responsible for insuring that a minor is wearing the seat belt while sitting in the front seat. Back seat passengers under 10 years of age must also be buckled.

Persons who would be exempted from the law would be a driver backing up a vehicle; a passenger in a seat in which all the seat belts are being used; a person with a written medical exemption, which is approved by a doctor; and a worker who makes frequent stops or deliveries, such as a mailman.

Robert Illingworth from the Minnesota Concerned Citizens Coalition told committee members that they should not approve the bill. He said it would allow car manufacturers to circumvent the mandate to install airbags or automatically-adjusting seat belts.

Speaking in support of the bill, Dr. Rayman Mayron said, "You can do more to save lives by passing this legislation than we [in the medical field] can ever hope to achieve."

Teacher mediation changes approved

A bill to help teachers and school districts resolve their contractual disagreements received preliminary approval from the Senate Thursday, Mar. 14.

Sponsored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), the proposal puts more emphasis on mediation, limits strike notices that can be given and permits contracts of up to three years. Specifically, the bill, S.F. 118, states that the mediation period does not begin until a mediator initiates the process. The proposal also specifies a "cooling off period" after teachers have filed a notice of intent to strike. During that time, the parties would attempt to settle their differences. If the parties are close to an agreement, the proposal allows that period to be extended by five days. Also, teachers are limited to one notice of intent to strike for each contract negotiation period.

The Senate gave preliminary approval to two other bills: S.F. 319 (Moe, D.) clarifying powers of the State Board of Investment; and S.F. 155 (Willet) specifying a standard of weight to determine a chord of freshly cut aspen.

Bills given final approval were: S.F. 287 (Dicklich) fixing the terms of Hibbing's mayor and city council members; and S.F. 604 (Peterson, C.C.) delaying the collection of property taxes and special assessments on agricultural homesteads.

The Senate also approved the appointments of Henry Banal and Sharon Hurley to the Board of Animal Health.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Farm partnership proposal withdrawn

Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby) withdrew his proposal that encouraged troubled farmers to form limited partnerships after committee members approved an amendment requiring outside investors who hold a majority of the shares to live on the farm or be actively involved in farming. The bill, S.F. 174, was before the committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), Thur., Mar. 7.

Kamrath's proposal would have allowed farmers to form limited partnerships with outside investors. The farmer would have been the general partner and would have retained the control of the farm. The limited partners would have compensated the farmer for his labor, and they would have shared the profits and losses of the farm operation. Also, the farmer would have been able to purchase the limited partner's interests at the current market value.

Kamrath said his proposal would provide troubled farmers with capital. Even though limited partnerships may be formed under current law, Kamrath said his proposal would provide them with special tax considerations. The tax on the farmers capital gains would have been exempted, and the limited partnership would have been able to classify the farm property as a farm homestead.

After hearing opponents, mainly farmers, testify that the proposal would encourage the formation of corporate farms, Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes) successfully amended the bill to require majority shareholders to live on the farm. Under Kamrath's proposal, the farmer could have owned one percent of the total share and still maintained control of the operation; however, the investors controlling the majority of the shares could have lived off the farm.

Members promote conservation tillage

The Soil and Water Conservation Board would spend about \$800,000 to promote conservation tillage, according to a proposal approved by the committee Fri., Mar. 8.

The funds would be used to demonstrate to farmers the effectiveness of different tillage techniques. The state board could spend the money to purchase conservation tillage equipment for local demonstration programs and to establish demonstration farms that promote the proper use and management of conservation tillage systems.

According to Ronald Nargang, director of the board, conservation tillage "pays all the way around." It lowers farming input costs, produces higher yields per dollar, and protects the soil, he explained.

The bill, S.F. 202, is sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent).

The committee also approved a bill requiring that 70 percent of the available soil and water cost-sharing funds be allocated by the board to address "high priority" soil erosion, sedimentation or water quality problems. Authored by DeCramer, the bill, S.F. 101, simplifies existing law, which also requires that at least 50 percent of the total funds be used to control high priority erosion problems.

Resident license for students expanded

A person who does not reside in Minnesota but is a full-time student at a public or private school in the state would be able to purchase a resident license to hunt big game, according to a bill okayed by the committee Tues., Mar. 12.

Non-resident students can now purchase a resident license to take fish or small game. The bill, S.F. 127, sponsored by Sen.

Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), would reduce the price of taking big game for students from the nonresident fee of \$75 to the current resident fee of \$16.

In other action Tuesday, the committee began to consider a bill that would appropriate \$140,000 to Operation Walleye, a nonprofit organization that raises walleye fingerlings. Sen. Charles Berg (IND-Chokio), author of S.F. 502, said the organization's "aim is to do whatever they can to make fishing better in the area, and they are doing a relatively good job. With this bill, they can do even better."

Opponents to the bill said money should be given to the Dept. of Natural Resources to distribute to private fisheries throughout the state. Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids) said other volunteer groups that raise walleye fingerlings are probably as worthy of a state contribution. The bill will be considered again this session.

The committee also delayed action on a bill that would spend \$399,700 to fund an alcohol fuel pilot project at the Pine City Vo-Tech Institute. The bill, S.F. 356, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would help farmers find alternative uses for grain by establishing an alcohol fuel plant. Farmers and students would also learn how to use a greenhouse that would be heated by the plant.

Members of the committee expressed concern that the project would simply repeat research that has already been done. The proposal will be considered again this session.

Bill expanding youth jobs corps considered

The committee began considering a proposal during the Wed., Mar. 13, meeting that would expand the youth conservation corps program.

Authored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam, the proposal would employ people between the ages of 16 and 26 to improve and conserve the state's natural and historical resources. Corps members would be paid the federal minimum wage, and they would be eligible for an education voucher worth \$750 if they work in the program for one year. The voucher would be for payment of tuition and fees at any post-secondary institution. Youth working for a shorter period of time would also be eligible for a voucher. In addition, the program would provide various educational and training opportunities for the members.

The program would employ about 250 people a year on a full-time basis. Individuals living in areas where substantial unemployment exists would be given preference in the selection process.

The committee will take action on the bill, S.F. 474, later in the session.

The committee also delayed action on a bill that would apply the provisions of the "lemon car law" to new farm vehicles. According to the proposal, S.F. 598, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), manufacturers would have to replace any farm vehicle under warranty that is defective and cannot be fixed. The consumer may opt for a full refund instead of having the vehicle replaced.

The bill, S.F. 598, will also be considered at a later date.

In other action, the committee approved the appointments of Erika Sitz and Marlin Rieppel to the Water Resource Board.

Economic Development and Commerce

Brewer presents alcohol abuse program

Anheuser-Busch Director of State Affairs Ed Miles presented an alcohol abuse prevention program to a joint meeting of the Senate and House Committees on Economic Development and Commerce, Wed., Mar. 13.

Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) and Rep. Tony Bennett (IR-Shoreview) presided over the meeting.

Miles outlined a program called "Operation Alert," consisting of consumer education and a broadcasting campaign urging responsible drinking. Another program, T.I.P.S. is designed to instruct bartenders and waitresses on how to handle customers who abuse alcohol. Miles described the programs as "the most comprehensive, positive program to tackle the problems at the local level where they occur."

World Trade Center Board discussed

Committee members discussed the activities of the World Trade Center Board at the Thurs., Mar. 14, meeting. Chairman Richard Nolan outlined the responsibilities of the Board and detailed plans for future activities. Nolan also provided an update on the status of the construction and occupancy plans for the new world trade center building.

Committee members approved the confirmation of the governor's appointments to the World Trade Center Board. The appointments included Richard M. Nolan, Bjorn Biornstad, Ronald Bosrock, Willis Eken, Martha Firling, Thomas Foster, Pete Petrafeso, Irving Stern and Paul Thatcher.

In other action, the panel approved two bills. S.F. 437, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), rewrites the chapter of law governing fraternal benefit societies. S.F. 490, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), makes permanent the time price differential rate on certain motor vehicles. The time price differential is similar to the interest rate paid on an installment loan but only applies to car dealer initiated financing.

Education

MECC causes controversy

The Minnesota Education Computing Corporation (MECC) would be allowed to form its own subsidiaries in order to market its products nationwide under the provisions of S.F. 647, sponsored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). The bill was recommended for passage and referred to Governmental Operations at the Mon., Mar. 11, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Pehler.

"There is a definite multi-million dollar savings for the schools," said Ken Brumbaugh, Executive Director of MECC. Subsidiary profits made from the sale of software outside the state would return to subsidize the software provided to Minnesota schools. Subsidiaries would be under the management control of the MECC board directors.

S.F. 377 was also recommended for passage and referred to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Authored by Pehler, the bill would require the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to exchange Permanent School Fund land located in state parks or state waysides for lands that are economically beneficial. An inventory of the remaining land and recommendations for its use would also be required of the DNR.

S.F. 568, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), was also approved. The bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to form a 15-member advisory committee on nonpublic schools. Private school representatives and the Dept. of Education testified in favor of the bill.

U of M Regents nominated

A joint meeting of the Senate Education Committee and the House Education Committee, held Wed., Mar. 13, heard caucus nominations from the First, Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Congressional Districts for election of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Incumbent Charles Casey, a veterinarian from West Concord, was nominated by the First District while incumbent Mary Schertler, a teacher from St. Paul, was nominated by the Fourth District. Former Governor Wendell Anderson was nominated by the Sixth District, and Stanley Sahlstrom, retiring administrator of the University of Minnesota, Crookston, was nominated by the Seventh District. Sahlstrom, replacing unseated Regent William Dosland, said he would bring a "concern for rural Minnesota and the coordinate campuses" to the position. Regents serve six year terms.

All candidates were questioned by committee members before being approved by voice vote and named in the Committee Report to the Joint Convention scheduled for Mar. 19. Issues of concern were rural Minnesota, accessibility, the land grant mission, the University's role in K-12 education and tuition.

AVTI policy changed

Five bills concerning AVTI's were heard at the Thurs., Mar. 14, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Committee, chaired by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

S.F. 562 (DeCramer) would discontinue the elimination standards of 51 percent placement and 17-1 class size while S.F. 564 (Davis) would change certain licensure requirements and establish emergency licensing rules. These two bills were combined with S.F. 563 (Stumpf) which would allow AVTI's to award associate degrees in cooperation with collegiate institutions.

S.F. 561 (Stumpf), also approved, would allow some budget, allocation, aid and grant procedures for AVTI's to be set by state board policy as is the case for other post secondary institutions.

A bill granting state agency status to an already existing AVTI state council was also recommended for passage. The bill, S.F. 814 (Peterson, Randolph), brings the council into compliance with federal audit procedures.

Education Aids

Vehicle bill introduced

The education aids vehicle bill, S.F. 172, was introduced by author Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) at the Thurs., Mar. 7, meeting of the Education Aids Committee, chaired by Nelson. Testimony on bills to be encompassed within S.F. 172 was begun.

S.F. 481 (Nelson) was recommended for passage. The bill would require school districts wanting to transfer funds to supply an application to the UFARS advisory council for recommendation. The State Board would then use council guidelines to approve requests.

Teacher testing was the subject of S.F. 476, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). The bill would require those applying for initial teaching licenses or licenses in additional fields to complete two examinations—one for academic knowledge in the field of licensure and one for skills in reading, writing and math. The current lack of adequate academic tests and the lack of teaching ability tests raised concern. The bill was recommended for passage.

S.F. 478 (Nelson), which would establish technology integration centers, was also recommended for passage. The centers, three mobile and two fixed, would provide statewide access to educational courseware packages.

Testimony was also heard on two bills concerning gifted education, S.F.482 (Reichgott) and S.F. 380 (Olson). Both bills would increase the amount of state aid provided per student and set a minimum of \$500 per school district. S.F. 380 would also provide \$35,000 for an advisory council study on gifted education. The bills will be combined at a later date.

Committee Capsule

Birth-3 handicapped considered

A bill making school districts responsible for the education of handicapped children under the age of five beginning in 1986-87 was considered at the Fri., Mar. 8, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

Authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), the bill would make early education available to all students, encourage interagency cooperation and provide family support services and maintenance programs. Amendments to the bill would enable the State Board of Education to grant variances to facilities without currently licensed personnel and would allow school districts to contract for outside services such as those provided by Development Achievement Centers.

Opponents to the bill recommended that the responsibility, and the subsequent funding, be given to the state and/or the counties instead of school districts. The high cost of special education and accompanying state and federal guidelines make these programs difficult to manage, said Mary Roberts, Association of Metropolitan School Districts.

Birth-3 bill advanced

The bill authorizing the education of birth-3 handicapped students by school districts was recommended for passage at the Mon., Mar. 11, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

Additional amendments to the bill, S.F. 606 (Peterson, Donna), encourage school districts to collaboratively contract with Developmental Achievement Centers for both services and funds and make FY 1985 the base year for future funding levels. Discussion was generated over services provided to children "whose primary disability cannot be determined" as well as the difference between medical and educational services at such a young age.

S.F. 748, authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), was also approved. The bill establishes categorical grants for staff development and inservice training and deletes present program funds in this area. The legislation would also create an "Excellence in Teaching" program which would provide dollars and resources to the school districts. Funding would be available at a rate of \$500 per elementary or secondary staff member with a minimum of \$12,000 per district. Sixty percent of the funds would be used for Instructional Effectiveness training, technical training inservice and subject area inservice while 40 percent would fund "Excellence in Teaching" programs.

Elections and Ethics

Contribution tax credit extended

Persons contributing to a candidate's campaign for local public office would be able to take credit against their income taxes, according to a bill approved by the committee Tues., Mar. 8.

Current law provides a tax credit of up to \$50 for contributions to candidates for state and federal public offices. The bill, S.F. 292, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), extends that credit for local campaign contributions.

The committee acted on several other bills during the Tuesday meeting. One proposal, S.F. 673, would require all counties in Minnesota to provide voter pre-registration. That provision was amended to the Secretary of State's housekeeping bill, which clarifies language in existing law to ease administrative procedures. Among the more substantive changes, the bill would only allow a candidate for office to use a nickname on the ballot if that person is generally called that name in the community.

Another bill approved Tuesday would require that a candidate for school district office be a qualified voter. The proposal, S.F. 307, is authored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing).

Other bills advanced Tuesday include: S.F. 486 (Peterson, Donna) permitting campaign contributions to be reported to the Ethical Practices Board by mailgram or certified mail; S.F. 139 (Dahl) requiring the county auditor to make available each year precinct caucus lists and to update them 15 days before a primary; and S.F. 365 (Hughes) allowing members of the county board, city council or town board to serve as election judges.

Absentee ballot changes supported

The committee approved a bill Wed., Mar. 13, that would permit voters to send their absentee ballot application without the signature of a notary public or a military officer. Instead, the voter could include their passport number or military identification card number.

The bill, S.F. 231, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), would also require that absentee ballots be delivered to the election official at least 30 days prior to the election. Current law requires that they be delivered 20 days before the election. Also, the bill increases by two weeks the time when candidates must file for office prior to the primary or general election. Candidates have six to four weeks before the election to file, and the proposal would extend that to eight to six weeks.

The committee laid over three proposals that would allow local governments to shorten voting hours. Proponents said towns and municipalities would be able to save money if the polls were opened for a shorter period of time. However, Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids) said that requiring the polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. is good policy. It "provides easy access to the polls," he said. He added that it is not worth sacrificing voting opportunities for a few dollars.

In other action, the committee okayed the appointments of Martin McGowan and Ellen Sampson to the State Ethical Practices Board.

Employment

Unemployment comp bill heard

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), heard testimony on S.F. 41, Tues., Mar. 12. Chmielewski, the bill's sponsor, said the measure would establish an alternative for unemployment compensation qualification. Under present law, earning 15 or more credit weeks in insured work within the base period, qualifies an individual for benefits. The proposal would also qualify those who have earned 30 or more alternative credit weeks in insured work from one or more employers during the base period.

The measure also extends the cap on maximum weekly benefits. The current cap is \$198. Under the bill, the cap would be \$208 in 1986 and \$228 in 1987.

Creation of a training program for the structurally unemployed is another proposal of the bill. Employers would pay trainees at least minimum wage and guarantee to employ them for at least a year after training.

MACI Labor/Management Relations Director Francis Fitzgerald opposed a portion of the bill that would phase-out the "split wage base." All employers would pay unemployment compensation tax contributions on the same wage base, under the proposal.

National Federation of Independent Business spokesman Mike Hickey also opposed the split wage phase-out. "We just won a tough battle with the federal government to keep split wage," he said.

Elsa Carpenter, Employers Association of Greater Minneapolis, suggested a \$200 maximum benefit cap.

Legal Services Advocacy Project Attorney Steve Swanson expressed support for the credit proposals in the bill. The current system provides benefits for part-time workers who earn a high

hourly wage, but does not provide for many half-time workers, he said. Currently to qualify for benefits, an employee must work at least 30 hours per week at minimum wage to qualify.

No action was taken on the bill.

Jobs and training package gains

The committee recommended a comprehensive jobs bill for passage, Thurs., Mar. 18.

S.F. 818, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), is based on the Governor's Jobs Program and nine Senate bills relating to employment and training.

The proposal is designed to streamline and coordinate Minnesota's employment, training and delivery systems, Pogemiller said. "We want to decrease unemployment and welfare costs simultaneously. Instead of reacting to people's labels, we want to react to their skills," he added.

A major goal of the bill is to consolidate current jobs and training activities into the new "Department of Employment and Training." The consolidation will make the system more accessible to the unemployed, said Pogemiller. The bill would also create a temporary "Office of Full Productivity an Opportunity," which would be terminated when the consolidation is complete. The office would oversee the streamlining of state jobs and training activities. Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park) said he would work with Pogemiller on setting a sunset date for the temporary office.

According to Pogemiller, the new system would better train and place the unemployed. Placement, which would be done through a priority system, would be directed first to permanent, full-time, non-subsidized, private sector jobs. The second priority would be to subsidize full-time, private sector jobs. And the third priority would be to subsidize full-time, non-profit jobs. Allocating funds for paychecks rather than income maintenance is better for the state's economy, said Pogemiller, because the previously unemployed would be employed taxpayers.

Training and subsidizing part-time nonprofit or public employment comprise the fourth and fifth priorities in the tiered system. Pogemiller stressed that a "safety net" of income maintenance programs would remain in place for those who could not find employment through the system.

St. Paul Mayor George Latimer expressed his support of the bill. "Eighty percent of federal funding for training and job placement activities have been pulled out of St. Paul," he said. He called the bill "a new form of self-reliance," adding, "we will do what Minnesotans have always done: take leadership."

Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser also supported the bill. "No other state has had a program like ours, he said.

Jobs Now Coalition spokesman Monte Bute said he would support a bill that resembles the current MEED (Minnesota Emergency Employment Development) program. A Meed inspired portion of the bill was originally embodied in S.F. 220, sponsored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield).

The bill will not include an appropriation amount until the April revenue forecasts are available, said Pogemiller.

After three hours of testimony from the public and private sector, the bill was re-referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

The committee also recommended S.F. 823 for passage. The bill, sponsored by Sen. William Diessner (DFL-Afton), would create a training and jobs program for structurally unemployed workers in Minnesota.

Energy and Housing

Utilities present outlook

Minnegasco Government Relations Director Carl Cummins presented an overview to the Senate Energy and Housing

Committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), Tues., Mar. 12.

Cummins predicted no great natural gas price increase until 1990. He added that wholesale gas prices have decreased two percent since Dec., 1982. The level price is due, in part, to slight growth in demand, he said. Cummins cited increased use of efficient energy equipment and alternative energy as a reason for the stable demand.

Minnegasco would welcome total de-regulation, said Cummins, but Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), added that regulation has had positive effects on Minnegasco. "Regulation helps to ensure you a reasonable profit," he said.

Northern State's Power presented an overview to the committee, Wed., Mar. 13.

NSP Energy Forecasting Manager Mark McGree predicted that electricity prices will increase at the rate of inflation for the next 20 years. He added that annual growth of need would increase at a rate of 2.1 percent.

McGree stressed that because of the long range nature of energy forecasting, the accuracy rate is about 50 percent.

Finance

Education budgets heard

The Finance Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), devoted two meetings to hearing budgets for higher educational institutions, Fri., Mar. 8 and Mon. Mar. 11.

Community College System Chancellor, Dr. Gerald Christenson, stressed the changing role of community colleges in presenting the \$195 million two-year budget. The system is not a "junior college," he said. Half of Minnesota's community college students are part-time and one-third are over 25, he said. There is a growing need for retraining, especially for re-entering the job market, he said.

Minnesota community college tuition is third highest in the nation. Christenson said the high tuition is "handicapping the Community College System."

Mayo Medical School Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Dr. R.S. Rogers outlined a \$2 million request for the panel. Rogers said tuition is comparable to other medical school's tuition. Tuition will average \$9,000 per student in 1987, he said.

St. Thomas Engineering Program Provost, Dr. Charles Keffer, requested a \$1.2 million biennial budget. He cited a Minnesota High Technology Council study indicating a need for more engineering and computer graduates in making the request.

Health budgets heard

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), heard budget requests from the Department of Health and 10 health boards.

Health Commissioner Sister Mary Madonna Ashton presented a 4.5 percent biennial increase. The two year department budget request is \$55 million. Ashton stressed the department's reliance on federal funds. She said because of state and federal matching fund programs, a cut in state spending would result in a loss of federal dollars.

Minnesota Board of Nursing Executive Secretary Joyce Schowalter outlined 10 health board budget requests.

Racing spokesman gives optimistic report

Minnesota Racing Commission Executive Secretary Rick Evans, predicted a "hugely successfully pari-mutual horse-racing industry" when presenting a \$1.4 million biennial budget to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), Thurs., Mar. 7.

Evans said that a growing horse-racing industry will expand to a "booming" breeding industry.

Committee Capsule

The panel also heard a \$1.8 million budget request from Charitable Gambling Control Board Executive Director Roger Frank.

Peace Officer Standards and Training Board Executive Director Mark Shields requested a \$2.9 million budget for the coming biennium. Shields told the panel that the Governor's recommendation includes only an inflationary spending increase.

The panel heard a \$399,000 biennial budget request from Ethical Practices Board Chairwoman Mary Smith, Tues., Mar. 12.

Minnesota Municipal Board Executive Director Terry Merritt presented a \$431,000 budget request to the panel.

Evening hearings begin

The Finance Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.) began holding evening meetings as members continued their examinations of various state agency budget requests. The Thurs., Mar. 7, hearing was devoted to budget presentations by staff from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources, the Waste Management Board, the World Trade Center Board and the Water Resources Board.

The Mon., Mar. 12, meeting was devoted to a continuation of the discussion of the Pollution Control Agency's budget request. Subcommittee members also heard a presentation on the Minnesota Tax Court.

Officials from the Department of Labor and Industry and the Workers Compensation Court of Appeals gave detailed budget presentations at the Tues., Mar. 12, afternoon meeting. The evening meeting was devoted to a discussion of the budget requests made by the Department of Finance and the Department of Revenue.

Staff from the Attorney General's Office, the Bureau of Mediation Services, the Public Employment Relations Board and the Department of Military Affairs presented their budget recommendations at the Wed., Mar. 13, meeting of the subcommittee.

DOT begins budget presentation

The Minnesota Department of Transportation began its budget presentation for the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation, and Semi-States, Wed., Mar. 13.

Senators expressed concern over construction bid-rigging court cases in southern Minnesota last year.

DOT Deputy Commissioner Bob McDonald told the panel that current law allows the DOT to exclude convicted bid-riggers from submitting estimates for construction projects, for up to three years. "We're working on legislation to put a one year minimum on the de-barrment," he said.

McDonald and Financial Management Director Ed Cohoon began a detailed overview of the \$1.7 billion biennial budget.

Human Services budget heard

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services devoted three meetings to a budget hearing for the Department of Human Services.

Human Services Deputy Commissioner Frank Giberson, told the panel of a need for more licensing examiners. The Governor's budget recommendation approved the request for 14 additional examiners. "We watch out for people who literally cannot protect themselves," he said.

Giberson detailed a \$1.9 billion biennial budget, Tues., Mar. 12, Wed., Mar. 13 and Thurs., Mar. 14.

Governmental Operations

Constitutional officer changes debated

Testimony on changing or eliminating functions currently performed by three of the state's constitutional officers was heard at two meetings of the Governmental Operations committee, Fri., Mar. 8 and Mon., Mar. 11. Committee members, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), were considering two proposals authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.). Both bills would require amendments to the state constitution. S.F. 363 would eliminate the office of state treasurer. S.F. 645 would eliminate the offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and state auditor and create a single constitutional officer to carry out the functions of the offices that would be eliminated.

State Auditor Arne Carlson testified at the Fri., Mar. 8 hearing and offered several suggestions on restructuring the three constitutional offices. Citing the lack of checks and balances within departments, Carlson recommended more internal controls over each agency's financial proceedings through the centralized control of a state comptroller who would be either elected or appointed depending on the Legislature's policy decision. Carlson also recommended that the elections function, currently administered by the office of the secretary of state, remain under the auspices of an elected official, rather than become an administrative function in another department. He also stressed the importance of the independence of the audit function.

Committee members heard testimony from State Treasurer Robert Mattson and Secretary of State Joan Grove at the Mon., Mar. 11 hearing. Mattson endorsed the concept of eliminating the three constitutional offices and creating an office of comptroller general. In addition, Mattson suggested that the role of the lieutenant governor be expanded and that the lieutenant governor be elected separately from the governor.

Grove, in her remarks, stressed the importance of having the elections function administered through the office of an elected official, rather than through another state agency. "The bottom line I have," said Grove, "is that elections remain under an elected officer and that the public be better served by the consolidation of offices.

The committee members will continue their discussion of the two proposals at a future hearing.

Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans endorsed

A bill creating a Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans was approved at the Wed., Mar. 13, committee meeting. The measure, S.F. 119, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), would create a 13 member council, similar in structure and duties to the Council on Black Minnesotans and Spanish Speaking Affairs Council. The measure, Spear said, is an attempt to forge a united groups to articulate the needs of Minnesota's Asian minority. Under the bill, the Council would perform an advisory function about the needs and policies of Asians; would act as a conduit between the Asian community and state and local government; would aid in information gathering and dissemination; would provide aid in economic development; and would assist the state and private industries in establishing international trade.

Committee members also heard a presentation from Linda Johnson, Commissioner of Human Rights, about the activities of the department, and began discussion on a bill to strengthen the implementation of the state's affirmative action plan. Because of time constraints discussion on the bill, S.F. 648, will be continued at a later date.

Health & Human Services

Subcommittees take action

The Social Services Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), began hearing testimony on S.F. 555 at the Fri., Mar. 8, meeting. Authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), the bill would change the formula used by the Health Department to allocate federal Maternal and Child Health block grant funds.

Described as a "rationing decision" in the face of federal cuts, S.F. 555 would phase out the existing funding at a rate of not less than 80 percent of the current rate for 1986-87 and not less than 60 percent of the current rate for 1988-89. Under the new formula, Community Health Services agencies would submit applications to compete for funds distributed by the Health Department Commissioner. Fifteen percent of the block grant could be used for special projects.

The State Institutions Subcommittee recommended S.F. 545 for passage at the Fri., Mar. 8, meeting. The bill would establish a task force to study public guardianship issues. Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.) is the bill author.

Interstate contracts okayed

A bill authorizing Minnesota counties to contract with mental health agencies and facilities in bordering states for services to Minnesota residents was recommended for passage at the Tues., Mar. 12, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.). The provision is reciprocal and was designed to meet the needs of southeastern Minnesota and bordering Wisconsin. The bill, S.F. 146, is authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

S.F. 545 (Petty), a bill authorizing a study report on public guardianship, was also recommended for passage. The Commissioner of Human Services is responsible for the guardianship of over 6,000 people, mostly mentally retarded, but only one person keeps records of these people, said chief author Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.). He emphasized that additional information and recommendations are needed.

Subcommittees continue work

The Social Services Subcommittee met on Tues., Mar. 12, to extensively amend S.F. 555 (Berglin). Recommended for passage, the bill would determine the rationing procedure for federal Maternal and Child Health block grant funds.

The Income Maintenance Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), also recommended two bills for passage. S.F. 600, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would maintain a subsidy for families with developmentally disabled children until the child was 21 rather than 18. This would allow the child to live at home and attend school for a longer period of time. Also, the bill would require the development of a plan for children upon completion of education. Current funding is limited.

S.F. 337, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), would allow rate exemptions for Intermediate Care Facilities for Mentally Retarded that have bed reduction plans approved by the Commissioner of Human Services. This would be a voluntary bed reduction plan with larger facilities having priority. The Dept. of Human Services opposed the bill because of bed reduction costs to the state.

Training site set

A bill requiring businesses which deal with hazardous substances to file an inventory of these substances with the local fire department was approved at the Wed., Mar. 13, meeting of the

Health and Human Services Committee. The bill, S.F. 631, is authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids). Another bill, S.F. 523 (Pehler), establishing a hands-on training site for immediate response to hazardous waste releases by emergency personnel in St. Cloud, was added as an amendment to S.F. 631.

S.F. 589, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), was also recommended for passage. The bill would ban the use of pipes and solders containing lead in any plumbing installation connected to a potable water supply, and would require schools having lead solder pipe joints to flush the system periodically.

S.F. 813, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), was approved. The bill would authorize a statewide mosquito research program. The program would outline habitats, methods of control, possible extent of state control and cost of controls.

Two bills referred from subcommittees were also approved. S.F. 600 (Lantry) would provide a subsidy for families with developmentally disabled children. And, S.F. 555 (Berglin), would ration federal Maternal and Child Health block grant funds according to a new formula. The \$7.5 million would be divided into thirds, with one third each for staffing, special projects and projects on the formula.

Judiciary

Parental notification bill heard

Members of the Criminal Law Subcommittee devoted most of the Fri., Mar. 8, hearing to discussing a bill outlining the conditions under which parents must be notified of a child abuse investigation being conducted in their child's day care facility. H.F. 213, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), also changes some provisions of the Vulnerable Adult Reporting Act to clarify the procedures for notifying the families or guardians of vulnerable adults of an investigation being conducted in a residential facility.

Controversy about the bill centered on the timing of the notification and on whether the families of children not directly involved in an abuse investigation should be notified of every investigation.

Specifically, the bill clarifies that children may be interviewed in the course of an investigation but, prior to the interview, the child's parents or guardian must be notified and given specific information. Further, the measure allows the investigating agency to notify the parents of other children in the facility if the abuse charges are substantiated. The bill also specifies that when the investigation has been completed, every parent or guardian who has been notified must be provided with certain information in a written report. The bill also includes provisions for notification of the parents, guardian, conservator, spouse or legal representative of a vulnerable adult alleged to have abused or neglected.

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), delayed taking action on the bill in order to draft amendments resolving the controversial sections of the proposal.

In other action, the subcommittee approved a measure clarifying current law prohibiting public access to data identifying certain youthful victims of criminal sexual behavior. The measure, S.F. 611, was authored by Petty.

Panel advances five bills

The Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), met Mon., Mar. 11 and advanced five measures on to the full Senate.

Two noncontroversial bills were recommended for the Consent Calendar. S.F. 198, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), eliminates the necessity of a court order before requiring registered land surveys and authorizes the use of registered land

Committee Capsule

surveys for multilevel tracts. S.F. 143, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), changes the effective dates contained in current law that validate foreclosure sales by advertisement.

The three other measures were recommended for placement on the General Orders Calendar. S.F. 33, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the wording in the statute detailing the penalties for individuals guilty of hit and run violations. S.F. 448, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), extends the same legal protection from assault to firefighters and emergency service personnel as that provided to police officers. S.F. 527, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the powers of peace officers when they are off duty or outside their jurisdiction.

Victims Compensation Fund debated

The entire Wed., Mar. 13, meeting was devoted to consideration of one of the measures creating a hazardous waste victims compensation fund. S.F. 571, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), sets up a victims compensation fund, creates a board to administer the fund and establishes a "non-adversarial" procedure for compensation of personal injury or property damage resulting from a release of a hazardous substance.

Most of the debate centered on an amendment defining the losses compensable by the fund for property damage. Under the bill, such damages were not limited. The amendment limits the compensation to the reasonable cost of replacing or decontaminating the primary source of drinking water up to a maximum of \$5,000. A provision which would have allowed compensation of 75 percent of the actual loss of market value of the property, up to \$25,000, if the claimant sold the property and realized the loss, was deleted from the amendment. The amendment was offered by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul). An amendment, offered by Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar), which deleted the provisions designating proceeds from the surtax on hazardous waste generators to fund part of the victims compensation fund, was also adopted.

Action on the measure was delayed pending the completion of discussion on several additional proposed amendments.

Dram shop hearings continue

Subcommittee on Civil Law, chaired by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), continued work Tues., Mar. 12, on two measures dealing with dram shop insurance. S.F. 301, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), and S.F. 318, sponsored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), would limit the recoverable damages under a dram shop insurance claim. Subcommittee members delayed taking action on the in order to continue their discussion on the effect of the bills on dram shop insurance rates.

The Subcommittee on Judicial Administration, chaired by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), devoted the Mon., Mar. 11, hearing to consideration of a measure specifying the procedures for attachment of property. The subcommittee approved the measure, S.F. 591, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park).

The Wed., Mar. 14, meeting of the Civil Law Subcommittee focused on a bill which would repeal a statutory prohibition on waiver of remedies under the human rights act. S.F. 609, which was presented by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul), was laid over in order to allow time to draft an amendment that would specify a "cooling off" time period between the time an employee is terminated and the time an employee is presented with a release which would waive the right to further remedies under the state's human rights act. The subcommittee also considered a bill which would require boat owners to purchase liability insurance. However, the panel decided that the measure, S.F. 137 authored by Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Wayzata), was mistakenly assigned to the Judiciary Committee and rightfully belonged in the Economic Development and Commerce Committee.

Local & Urban Government

City powers granted

Bills granting a variety of city powers were recommended for passage at the Tues., Mar. 12, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

S.F. 597, authored by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), would grant port authority powers to the city of North Mankato. This would allow the city to replace a bridge and relocate part of the business district.

S.F. 344 would allow small political subdivisions within nonprofit organizations to enter into joint insurance arrangements for their officers and employees. The bill was initiated in response to an already existing insurance pool on the Range which is not provided for in statute. The bill is authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls).

A second bill authored by Lessard, S.F. 194, would increase the amount a town or statutory city may levy to jointly support and maintain a public cemetery from \$5,000 annually to \$10,000 annually.

S.F. 505, authored by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park), would make zoning and comprehensive municipal plan approval requirements uniform. Adopting or amending comprehensive municipal plans would require a two-thirds vote of the governing body rather than a simple majority; the change would apply after June 30, 1985.

S.F. 471, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent) would authorize the city of Lismore to issue general obligation bonds for \$60,000 outside their net debt limit and to levy taxes to pay for the bonds without regard to their tax levy limits. The money would be used to build an \$80,000 fire hall-community center-city hall. The city has no outstanding indebtedness and has approved the bill.

IDB refunds favored

Industrial Development Bond refunds were approved for the cities of Fergus Falls and Lakeville at the Thurs., Mar. 14, meeting of the committee. A statewide bill authorizing refunds was also approved.

The statewide bill, S.F. 430, would allow cities to obtain full refunds of 1984 application deposits for IDB issuance authority that was forfeited for failure to attract business and issue the bonds. A total of \$504,000 would be refunded to cities. The bill is authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes). S.F. 429, also authored by Peterson, would provide a refund to Fergus Falls, and S.F. 580, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), would provide a refund to Lakeville.

Also approved was S.F. 282, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael). This bill would remove the levy limit on towns for providing fire protection for special fire protection districts. Currently the levy limit is one and two thirds mills.

A bill appropriating \$80,000 to the Moose Lake-Windemere Sewer District was recommended for passage. The funds would pay for federal planning costs rendered useless due to changes in federal funding conditions. The bill, S.F. 50, is authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

S.F. 7, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), was permanently laid over. The bill would have given metro areas the ability to establish residency requirements for city and county employees.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Alcohol policies debated

A bill prohibiting certain practices of licensees that sell alcoholic

beverages on the premises was debated at the Tues., Mar. 12, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul).

The bill, S.F. 688, would prohibit specific practices which may tend to increase consumption of alcoholic beverages. Free alcoholic beverages, delivery at one time of more than two drinks to one person or of pitchers of more than 32 ounces to an individual would be prohibited. Contests promoting drinking and fixed pricing for specific drinks and numbers of drinks would also be prohibited. The bill would also abolish late night "happy hours."

The purpose is the prevention of drunken driving and subsequent accidents and fatalities, said Forest Lowery, Dept. of Public Safety. He presented statistics showing that 60 to 80 percent of all DWI's are incurred by people who have been at a bar or restaurant and that the majority of fatalities occur after these establishments have closed.

Three Governor's Appointments were also confirmed by the committee. Robert J. O'Keefe, a St. Paul journalist, was confirmed as one of five members of the Public Utilities Commission. Incumbents Janna King and Eugene F. Trumble were again confirmed as members of the Cable Communications Board.

Liquor licenses discussed

Liquor licenses were the subject of two bills advanced at the Thurs., Mar. 14, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee.

S.F. 360, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), would permit the city of Roseville to increase the number of on-sale liquor licenses to 30. The city currently is authorized to issue 18 licenses plus an additional six granted under a special 1984 law.

A second bill authored by Dieterich, S.F. 359, would have permitted Roseville to set the fee for off-sale liquor licenses within its borders; an amendment, making the bill statewide, would allow cities with populations of 10,000 or more to set the fee up to \$1,000 annually. The current state fee is \$200 for second class cities such as Roseville. The fee for cities with 5,000 to 10,000 people would be \$300 while cities with under 5,000 people would have a fee of \$200.

S.F. 239, which would allow the Minnesota racing commission to set up to 20 racing days for horse racing at county fairs, was approved with an amendment limiting the bill to St. Louis County. Ten of the days must coincide with the county fair, and the other ten must immediately precede or follow the fair dates. The bill is authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing).

Taxes and Tax Laws

New enterprise zones proposed

The Subcommittee on Local Government Aids began to consider a bill Tues., Mar. 12, that would authorize the creation of two new types of enterprise zones—economic opportunity and arts enterprise zones.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), defines an economic opportunity zone as "an area in which a specific investment is proposed for a project that will create jobs." An arts enterprise zone is an area that provides housing for artists or gives them space for meetings, practice, rehearsals, recordings or studios. The Dept. of Energy and Economic Development would be required to evaluate and designate economic opportunity zones, and the agency would work with the State Arts Board in designating one arts opportunity zone, which will serve as a demonstration project. Tax incentives, special grants and low interest loans would be provided within those zones.

The bill, S.F. 751, also makes minor changes to the state's property tax system. Among the more substantive changes, the proposal modifies the manner in which circuit breaker benefits are

determined, reduces the maximum annual increase in local government aids beginning in 1986 from 6 percent to 4.5 percent, and requires property tax claims to be filed by August 15 instead of by August 31.

The subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), also considered a bill reducing the number of property tax classifications. The bill, 790, sponsored by Peterson, will be reviewed again this session.

Federal tax conformity bill gains

The Subcommittee on Income Tax, chaired by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton), met Wed., Mar. 12, to consider the bill that would alter provisions of Minnesota tax laws in order to be in conformity with federal tax law. The bill, S.F. 665, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), was approved and forwarded on to the full committee

Transportation

Natural gas vehicle tax advances

The committee okayed a proposal Mon., Mar. 8, that would simplify the process for collecting the gas tax from owners of natural gas powered vehicles.

To help pay for the state's highways, owners of natural gas powered vehicles pay 17 cents per 105 cubic feet of natural gas, which is determined to be equivalent to a gallon. The proposal, S.F. 352, would require owners to pay the highway fees when they purchase a yearly registration permit from the department of public safety. The annual fees would be based on weight and would range from \$92 for a vehicle under 12,000 pounds to \$240 for a vehicle over 36,000 pounds.

According to Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), 250 vehicles in Minnesota use natural gas. Freeman explained that because the vehicles operate about 20 percent of the time on gasoline, the fees are set at 80 percent of the "amount of gas tax these vehicles would normally be expected to pay in a year." The fee structure is not intended to raise additional revenue, he said.

The committee also approved a bill permitting school buses to contain book racks. Sponsored by Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar), the measure, S.F. 622, also requires that school bus bodies manufactured after 1985 contain "MN" in the identification number of the bus. The purpose is to certify that the bus body complies with Minnesota's manufacturing standards, Johnson said.

Veterans and General Legislation

Tree lights in churches okayed

Churches would be able to hang low voltage Christmas tree lights on natural trees, according to a bill approved by the committee Wed., Mar. 13.

Natural Christmas trees can only be displayed in churches if lights and candles are not used. The bill, S.F. 330, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), originally permitted U.L.-listed electric lights to be used on natural trees. That would have allowed the lights to be charged from a high voltage line. However, because of the concern of state fire chiefs, the proposal was amended to allow only low voltage lights in order to minimize the possibility of the tree catching fire.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), also approved a bill permitting the adjutant general to appoint two assistant adjutant generals for the army national guard. Present law only permits one assistant to be appointed. The bill, S.F. 495, is authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent).

In other action Wednesday, members okayed a bill memorializing the 100th anniversary of the birth of Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States. The proposal, S.F. 723, is sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley).

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, March 18, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: MN High School League report, Orv Bies; S.F. 561-Stumpf: AVTI Board allocation; S.F. 563-Stumpf: AVTI associate degree; S.F. 814-Peterson, R.W.: State council on vocational education; S.F. 468-Pheler: annual meeting for ESCU; S.F. 235-Hughes: Student advisory council to HECB; S.F. 126-Lantry: Post-secondary, credit transfer.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 516-Schmitz: Veterans advisory task force; S.F. 492-Wegscheid: Requiring Dept. of Veterans Affairs to provide grave markers; S.F. 284-Wegscheid: Sale of surplus state land in Dakota Co. to Hastings.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 648-Spear: State agency affirmative action plans; S.F. 432-Johnson, D.E.: Automated fingerprint identification network system; S.F. 708-Moe, D.M.: Expanded authority of Legislative Coordinating Commission.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for State University system.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 5-Diessner: Raising the drinking age to 21; S.F. 77-Dicklich: Mortgage foreclosure relief.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 547-DeCramer: Licensing and bonding requirements for motor vehicle auctions; S.F. 219-Davis: Restricting mowing of highway rights-of-way outside cities; S.F. 406-Schmitz: Regulating van-type motor homes.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 400, State Office Building

Agenda: S.F. 45-DeCramer: Recodifying drainage law; S.F. 506-Dicklich: Lease rates, state-owned campgrounds; S.F. 136-Ramstad: Repeal of license requirements for cross-country skiers.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the Historical Society.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 500/H.F. 213-Spear: Notification of child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse investigations; S.F. 693-Spear: Forfeiture of criminal proceeds, computers.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 704-Pehler: Student testing; S.F. 240-Benson: All-day kindergarten; S.F. 376-Dicklich: Student evaluation task force.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Energy & Economic Development.

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember Reichgott

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 644-Wegscheid: Recovery of costs in unconstitutional statute cases; S.F. 764-Frank: Prejudgment interest on arbitration awards.

Tuesday, March 19, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 131-Solon: Modifying finance charge on credit sales.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 469-Johnson, D.J.: Authorizing a casino gaming facility in Ely; S.F. 888-Dieterich: Exemption from state regulation for certain lawful gambling. (See 7:00 PM meeting.)

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

9:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 144-Peterson, R.W.: Multi-party bank accounts; S.F. 567-Luther: Contract for deed cancellation; S.F. 444-Peterson, D.L.: Debt judgments; S.F. 763-Frank: Foreclosure procedures, redemption; S.F. 623-Reichgott: Spousal maintenance.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment compensation, regulating benefits, setting employer contribution rates; S.F. 596-Ramstad: Unemployment comp, regulating benefits; S.F. 181-Ramstad: Unemployment comp, nonreimbursement; S.F. 805-Spear: Regulating long term sheltered workshop; S.F. 798-Solon: I.S.D. #709, educational assistants from civil service; S.F. 788-Chmielewski: Workers comp reinsurance association.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 55-Samuelson: County authority to employ accountants; S.F. 99-Jude: Hennepin Co. Park Reserve; S.F. 581-Wegscheid: Investments, securities; S.F. 542-Freeman: Advertising for bids; S.F. 676-Chmielewski: Town business outside town.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 556-Freeman: Increased deputy commissioners, trade office; S.F. 343-Wegscheid: Prohibiting harassment of hunters and anglers; S.F. 526-DeCramer: Soil & Water

Conservation Board; S.F. 552-Lessard: Itasca Co. expenditures; S.F. 614-Merriam: Interstate forest fire prevention agreements.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth
12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Historical Society fiscal agents.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 503-Peterson, D.C.: Mn Housing Finance Agency bonding authority; S.F. 543-Berglin: Home equity conversion study.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 881-Berglin & S.F. 784-Berglin: Swing beds; S.F. 793-Berglin & S.F. 797-Berglin: Moratorium; S.F. 484-Berglin: Preadmission screening; S.F. 789-Berglin: Recover federal share of overpayments; S.F. 590-Berglin: Long term care commission; S.F. 544-Berglin: Revenue bonds; S.F. 903-Berglin: Reimbursement procedures, nursing homes; S.F. 548-Berglin: Conformance to federal limits, SSI; S.F. 725-Berglin: Long term care insurance; S.F. 865-Berglin: Aging strategy; S.F. 381-Lantry: Nursing home noncompliance.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Energy & Economic Development.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Agriculture,

Chair: Joe Bertram

7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 369-Chmielewski: Clarifying food handling licensing; S.F. 87-Wegscheid: Changing requirements for state livestock weighing services; Bills providing income tax incentives to landowners who sell or lease land to beginning farmers.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

7:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 808-Pogemiller: Abolishing the Cable Communications Board.

Wednesday, March 20, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: To be announced.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Lottery bills: S.F. 1-Purfeerst, S.F. 345-Lessard and S.F. 28-Diessner.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 363-Pogemiller: Eliminating office of state treasurer; Other proposals relating to constitutional officers.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for AVTT's.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 281-Petty: Community work programs; S.F. 501-Freeman: Fire security, arson; S.F. 566-Jude: Foreign money judgments; S.F. 611-Petty: Child abuse victim information; S.F. 613-Peterson, R.W.: Second degree assault; S.F. 709-Jude: Conciliation court limits; S.F. 710-Freeman: Tax court judges; S.F. 803-Spear: Extradition under treaty.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 675-Schmitz: Minimum maintenance roads; S.F. 730-Schmitz: Conflict of interest requirements for court-appointed commissioners in condemnation.

Elections & Ethics, Chair: Jerome Hughes

11:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 84-Berg: Regulating lobbying; S.F. 551-Dieterich: Prohibiting payment of honorariums to legislators during session; S.F. 25-Jude: Changing state primary date; S.F. 190-Dicklich: Presidential primary; S.F. 8-Diessner: Changing number of legislative districts; S.F. 182-Ramstad: Reducing size of legislature.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the Dept. of Transportation.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 643-Wegscheid: Prohibiting spearing in muskellunge lakes.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 711-Vega: Refuse derived fuel; S.F. 712-Vega: Energy conservation plan reporting.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 818-Pogemiller: Jobs bill; Bills from Mar. 19; S.F. 337-Waldorf: Rate exemption M.A.; S.F. 703-Merriam: Services to deaf and blind.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Energy & Economic Development.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Income Maintenance,

Chair: Ron Dicklich

5:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Rule 185, MR waiver; Rules on AFDC emergency assistance/continued absence.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Social Services, Chair:

Marilyn Lantry

5:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 532-Berglin & S.F.—Dicklich: CSSA.

Health & Human Services Subc. on State Institutions, Chair:

Eric Petty

5:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 37-Wegscheid: Municipal industrial development; S.F. 626-Samuels: M.R. community based services demo project; Rule on formaldehyde level in housing.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 356-Chmielewski: Alcohol fuel project; S.F. 617-Storm: Solid waste disposal; S.F. 866-Merriam: Solid waste.

Thursday, March 21, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 271-Solon: Securities registration fees modifications; S.F. 519-Freeman Insurance; use of funding agreements; S.F. 882-Peterson, D.C.: Registration omnibus bill.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment compensation, regulating benefits, employer contribution rates; S.F. 315-Petty: Regulating use of video display terminals; S.F. 188-Diessner: Workers compensation benefits.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: R.W. Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 318-Dieterich: Dram shop.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 303-Spear: Mpls. special service district; S.F. 423-Benson: Regulating mandates to local government; S.F. 655-Adkins: Permits county auditor and treasurer consolidation; S.F. 662-Schmitz: Real property sales, uniform municipal contracting law.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Transportation.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don

Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget review for Dept. of Human Services.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 31-Diessner: Watercraft DWI; S.F. 745-Peterson, R.W.: Partial stay of sentence; S.F. 746-Peterson, R.W.: Restitution; S.F. 810-Merriam: Escape from custody of persons committed after insanity defense. (See 7:30 PM meeting.)

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 57-Samuelson: Minimum aid; S.F. 549-Nelson: Peer tutoring; S.F. 585-Dahl: Aid for referendum levy; School management assistance; Ed. aids analysis and mgmt; Children in Crisis report; Cash flow report; Transportation article.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Energy & Economic Development. (See 7:00 PM meeting.)

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember

Reichgott

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 761-Pehler: Traffic penalties; Bills remaining from Thurs., Mar. 14.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 221-Davis: Establishing minimum prices for certain agricultural crops.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

7:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Administration.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty

7:30 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Child abuse: S.F. 917-Reichgott, S.F. 899-Petty and S.F. 847-Petty.

Friday, March 22, 1985

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Article 3 (Special Education) and Article 6.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Lottery bills: S.F. 1-Purfeerst, S.F. 345-Lessard and S.F. 28-Diessner.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Education.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for the Arts Board.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills from Mar. 19 & 20; Bills from subc. Mar. 20; S.F. 243-Wegscheid: Physical therapy; S.F. 908-Berglin: Medical eligibility changes, nonconform; S.F. —Lantry: Management information systems revolving fund; S.F. —Petty: County cost of MI treatment, state hospitals; S.F. —Petty: Rule 14 programs fund for MI.

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Briefly

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MARCH 22 1985

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

March 22, 1985

Panel okays Ely casino

A casino in Ely would provide "a chance for these people to have a job," said Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), speaking to Ely citizens and Legislators at the crowded Tuesday, Mar. 19, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul). "No city has been hit as hard," Johnson asserted as he introduced S.F. 469.

Due to federal legislation establishing the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in 1978, mining and logging as well as tourism have been restricted, essentially removing the means of economic survival in Ely, said Johnson. In the face of immobile federal legislation and impossible state financial solutions, Johnson said his bill proposes a new tourism industry, fueled by gambling, as the only remaining alternative.

S.F. 469 would allow the city of Ely to own and operate the casino while building and managing contracts would be subject to the approval of a joint committee drawn from the Ely City Council and the State Charitable Gambling Control Board. The casino would be taxed at ten percent of the gross receipts less prizes, and two-thirds of the profits would be divided between the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB) and Minnesota Indian tribes for the purpose of economic development.

Citizens from Ely pointed to the 45 percent loss of resorts, the 38 percent unemployment rate, the 50 percent devaluation of property and the population decline from 6,200 to 4,300 in requesting support for the bill. Opponents pointed to the unconstitutionality of gambling in the state and the subsequent social problems created by compulsive gamblers. The committee, with notable opposition, approved the bill and referred it to the Tax Committee.

Legislature elects regents

Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives met in joint convention Tuesday, Mar. 19, in order to formally elect members to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents. Four of the 12 regents were elected by the legislators this year. Traditionally, eight of the 12 regents represent congressional districts and four are elected at-large; all 12 serve six year staggered terms. As a result of the joint legislative convention Wendell Anderson, Stanley Sahlstrom, Mary Schertler and Charles Casey were named to the Board of Regents.

Drinking age bill advances

An amended version of the bill to raise Minnesota's legal drinking age to 21 was approved by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Two committee hearings, Friday, Mar. 15 and Monday, Mar. 18, were devoted to discussion of the measure before S.F. 5, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee.

As proposed by Diessner the measure would have changed the legal drinking age from 19 to 21, effective July 1, 1985. However, an amendment adopted by the committee changed the effective date to Sept. 30, 1986 with the requirement that all states

bordering Minnesota must have established 21 as the legal drinking age by Sept. 30, 1986. Another amendment specified that the legal drinking age would be 21 for a period of two years, until Sept. 30, 1988, at which time the legal age would again drop to 19. In addition, an amendment was adopted that would nullify the bill if the federal law, which would withhold highway funds from states that have a drinking age below 21, is repealed or found unconstitutional. A final amendment provided that the drivers license reinstatement fee be raised from \$100 to \$150 with the increase revenue earmarked for alcohol and chemical abuse education programs.

Debated on the measure focused on two major issues. First, proponents argued that raising the drinking age would decrease the number of alcohol related accidents and fatalities. Opponents countered that statistics indicated persons between the ages of 21 and 25 were involved in the greatest number of alcohol related accidents and DWI's, and that the strengthening of Minnesota's drunk driving laws has resulted in a decrease in the number of alcohol related accidents and fatalities involving persons under 21.

Secondly, debate centered on the effects of the federal legislation requiring states to enact laws raising the drinking age to 21 before receiving federal highway funds. According to officials from the Minnesota Transportation Department, if Minnesota did not raise the drinking age to 21 by Oct. 1, 1986, the state would lose \$33 million over the next biennium.

The bill was approved on a 10 to 3 roll call vote.

Senate moves seat belt bill

Minnesota drivers and front seat passengers would have to wear seat belts or face a possible fine of \$20, according to a proposal given preliminary passage by the Senate Thursday, Mar. 21.

The bill, S.F. 40, holds the driver responsible for insuring that a minor is wearing the seat belt while sitting in the front seat. Back seat passengers under 11 years of age must also be buckled.

Persons who would be exempted from the law would be a driver backing up a vehicle; a person with a written medical exemption, which is approved by a doctor; a passenger in a seat in which all the seat belts are being used; and a worker who makes frequent stops or deliveries.

The bill also contains a provision to insure that the federal government does not repeal its requirement that all newly-manufactured cars be equipped with airbags or automatically-adjusting seat belts by 1990. Car manufacturers would have to install those safety features unless states comprising two-thirds of the U.S. population enact mandatory seat belt laws that follow certain standards.

The author of the bill, Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), said, "This bill doesn't cost a dime, will save lives and will save money." If Minnesota had a mandatory seat belt law and at least 85 percent of the drivers had complied, the state could have saved 95 lives last year, Frank said.

Speaking in opposition to the bill, Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls) said, "How long can we dictate people's lives from the cradle to the grave.. how long can we dictate common sense?"

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Officers' arresting authority expanded

Conservation officers would have the same authority as other peace officers to make arrests, according to a bill okayed by the committee Fri., Mar. 22.

While working, conservation officers would be able to make arrests for all criminal offenses committed in their presence. Persons arrested for crimes other than those relating to the game and fish laws would have to be detained and then referred to the appropriate local law enforcement agency.

The proposal would allow the conservation officer, for example, to detain a person suspected of drunk driving. Currently, a conservation officer could not arrest a drunk driver because they only have the authority to enforce the game and fish laws. According to Joe Alexander, the Commissioner of Dept. of Natural Resources, conservation officers must complete police training. They could aid in insuring public safety if their authority is expanded, he said.

The bill, S.F. 569, is sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids).

The committee also approved a bill expanding the youth conservation corps program. The bill, S.F. 474, sponsored by Merriam, would employ people between the ages of 16 and 26 to improve and conserve the state's natural and historic resources. Individuals from high unemployment areas would be given preference in the selection process.

Corps members would be paid the minimum wage, and they could receive an education voucher of \$750 if they successfully complete the program. The voucher would be for tuition costs and fees at any post-secondary institution. The bill was also amended to allow the corps members to opt for a stipend of \$250 instead of the voucher. The program would also provide the members with various education and training opportunities.

The committee approved another bill sponsored by Merriam. S.F. 540 would eliminate the licensing requirement for fur farmers and allow them to register with the Dept. of Agriculture. By registering, the fur farmers could take advantage of department programs designed to aid the raising of fur bearing animals.

Ban on harassing hunters advances

On a 8-6 vote, the committee approved a bill Tues., Mar. 19, that would prohibit someone from intentionally interfering with persons who are legally hunting or fishing on private lands.

The bill, S.F. 343, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), originally included public lands. However, that was successfully amended out of the bill by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), who said the proposal would lead to numerous law suits because many actions could be construed as intentional interference.

When on private land, a person would also be prohibited from intentionally disturbing wild animals. Also, a person could not interfere with someone who is preparing to hunt or fish, which would include hunters or anglers who are camping or traveling.

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The committee also approved a bill formalizing the Minnesota Trade Office into law. Sponsored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), S.F. 556 creates the position of deputy commissioner to head the office. The proposal establishes a special trade office fund, which would be used for promotional activities. Money for that fund would be raised from advertising, publications and seminar fees. The bill also classifies certain information secured by the office as private.

A bill allowing Koochiching and Itasca counties to spend more money on tourist promotion also gained the committee's approval. The money spent would be generated from the sales of forfeited land. The bill, S.F. 552, is authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls).

Muskie protection bill moves forward

A bill designed to improve the size and quantity of muskies in Minnesota waters earned the committee's approval Wed., Mar. 20.

The bill, S.F. 643, raises the fines for spearing muskies from \$700 to \$1,000; repeals the restriction on the amount of waters that can be designated as muskie waters; and establishes procedures to guide the Dept. of Natural Resources in designating more muskie waters.

By designating waters as muskie waters, the Dept. of Natural Resources can enact rules to protect the Muskie population in the designated lakes. Specifically, the department could restrict spearing and angling from a darkhouse; limit the fishing season for that lake; and limit the type and size of fish that can be kept.

Before adopting those rules, the department would be required to hold public hearings. Rules protecting the muskie would be effective for five years and could be extended if the muskie population in the lake improves during that time.

The bill originally contained stricter spearing regulations. However, the author of the proposal, Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), amended the bill to allow the department to decide if spearing of northern pike or pickerel should be allowed.

Proponents said the bill would not only improve the muskie population, but it would bring more anglers to Minnesota.

Step taken towards mandatory recycling

By the year 1990, solid waste generated within the metropolitan area would be sent first to resource recovery facilities, according to a bill advanced by the committee. Committee members took that action Wed., Mar. 20, in an effort to abate solid waste disposal.

Committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam, sponsor of the bill, said, "The time has come when we aren't going to use landfills anymore." He added that 94 percent of the metropolitan solid waste is not being recycled and is ending up in landfills.

Landfills can cause problems, according to Sandra Gardebring, chairperson of the Metropolitan Council. Waste from 13 of the 15 existing or closed landfills are leaking into the groundwater, she said.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1990, waste disposal facilities within the metropolitan area could not accept mixed municipal solid waste unless it is from a resource recovery facility, according to S.F. 866. The bill also reiterates that counties may require households and other generators to separate their waste for processing.

Mandatory recycling would likely raise household garbage bills, said Sen. Darril Wegscheid. However, Merriam responded that the bill may not please everyone, but it is better approach than what has occurred.

The committee amended another bill, S.F. 617, to the Merriam proposal. Sponsored by Sen. Don Storm (IR-Edina), the amendment requires that the expansion of Flying Cloud and Freeway landfills in Burnsville undergo a certificate of need review by the Metropolitan Council.

In other action Wednesday evening, the committee approved a bill permitting the State Board of Vocational Technical Education to establish an alcohol fuel plant. The bill, S.F. 356, is sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

Economic Development and Commerce

Credit rate increase bill gains

A bill raising the credit rate ceiling for major retailers and oil companies with credit programs in Minnesota gained the support of the Senate Economic Development and Commerce Committee, Tues., Mar. 19.

S.F. 131, authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), would allow retailers with more than \$25 million in sales to charge 18 percent on credit accounts. Current law permits retailers with sales less than \$25 million to charge 18 percent, while the eight larger retailers in Minnesota are limited to 16 percent.

President of the Minnesota Retailers Association John Van Doorn voiced support for the bill. The cost to retailers to provide credit exceeds the amount received through finance charges, he said. He stressed the need for competitiveness with neighboring states. Minnesota's surrounding states are either deregulated or have higher credit rate ceilings, he said.

Dayton Hudson Vice President of Credit James Durlin also supported the bill. "Retailers provide the only revolving credit that is available to young and low income Minnesotans," he said.

AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer Bernard Brommer opposed the bill. "Obviously they're not losing money. These retailers and large oil companies are enjoying record profits," he said.

Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) attempted to amend the bill to allow the interest increase for firms with annual gross sales under \$10 billion. The amendment was intended to prevent major oil companies from increasing credit rates, he explained. The amendment failed on a 6-8 vote.

Committee okays two bills

The committee, chaired by Vice Chairman Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), advanced two bills, Thurs., Mar. 21.

S.F. 271, sponsored by Sen. Solon, would increase registration fees for aggregate offering prices of certain securities. The increase from .05 percent to .067 percent would be coupled with a \$1,500 fee cap and \$100 fee for every registration application.

Solon estimated the bill would cost the state about \$1 million, but explained that the state had a budget surplus and sending a pro-business message would be worthwhile.

S.F. 882, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would require real estate brokers and salespersons to disclose which party is represented in a real estate transaction.

Commerce Commissioner Mike Hatch supported the measure. "Many home-buyers assume a realtor showing them a house is representing their interests, when, in fact, they are representing the seller," he said. The bill would allow realtors to represent both parties in a transaction, but Hatch said the dual agency practice is becoming less common. "This is for the benefit of the consumer," he said.

Education

AVTI procedures examined

Two AVTI bills were considered at the Mon., Mar. 18, meeting of Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

S.F. 561, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would add part-time instruction funds as well as a repair and betterment fund to AVTI budgets. The AVTI aid payment schedule would also change from 85 percent in the current year, 15 percent in the following October to 100 percent in the current year. The State Vocational Technical Board would be granted authority to set

additional budget allowances and aid and grant procedures. S.F. 563, also authored by Stumpf, would allow AVTIs to grant associate degrees in cooperation with collegiate institutions. S.F. 561 was recommended for passage, and S.F. 563 was laid over.

A bill creating a student advisory council to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) was approved. The council would also provide a nonvoting member to the HECB. The bill, S.F. 235, is authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood).

A Minnesota High School League Report was presented by Executive Director Orv Bies. Academic League issues and the effect of open enrollment on fine arts activities were discussed.

Financial aid increased

Post-secondary financial aid would be extended for part-time students under a bill recommended for passage at the Mon., Mar. 18, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer).

The bill, S.F. 454, was amended to include the provisions of three other bills: S.F. 112 (Kronebusch), S.F. 428 (Pehler), and S.F. 533 (Peterson, D.C.). Authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope) the bill would provide state financial aid to students who attend post-secondary institutions longer than four calendar years in pursuit of a degree. The bill would also provide aid to part-time students, those taking between 6 and 12 credits during 1985-86 and those taking fewer than 6 credits after July 1, 1986. "We've been serving very few students," said Reichgott, comparing the current two percent of part-time students who receive aid to the 25 percent of full-time students who receive aid.

The four-year aid extension would cost \$3 million during the next biennium, and the part-time aid would cost approximately \$9 million for the biennium, said David Longanecker of the HECB. The bill would make loan information available to the public.

U of M chairs discussed

A bill annually appropriating the income from the Permanent University Fund to the Board of Regents for the purpose of providing one-half of the funds needed to endow 50 to 70 professorial chairs in academic disciplines was approved at the Wed., Mar. 20, meeting of the Education Committee. Private sources would provide matching funds for the professorial chairs.

Authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), the bill, S.F. 832, would allow the approximate \$2.5 million income from the fund to be used for university chairs rather than being subtracted from the general appropriation given to the university. Money not used to establish chairs would revert to the state.

Two AVTI bills were also approved. S.F. 563, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would allow AVTIs to grant associate degrees in cooperation with collegiate institutions and would grant the state board certain policy-setting powers. S.F. 814, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), would establish a State Council on Vocational Education. This council, based upon an existing one, would have state agency status and would conform to federal funding regulations.

A bill requiring post-secondary institutions to adopt uniform educational requirements for associate degrees, publish course equivalency guides and establish a common course numbering system was also approved. The bill, S.F. 126, is authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul).

S.F. 468, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), was also recommended for passage. The bill requires each ECSU to conduct an annual meeting for districts with joint powers agreements and for districts offering cooperative services.

Committee Capsule

Fees established

The Educational Operation and Governance Committee, chaired by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), met on Wed., Mar. 20, to continue hearing testimony on several bills.

S.F. 466, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), would increase the surety bond amount for a school to \$30,000 and increase the initial and renewal license fees for schools. The bill would also require the preservation of student permanent records. Other provisions increase the amount a school can keep when a student withdraws and authorize a study of refund policies for public and private vocational schools. The bill was approved.

Also approved was S.F. 891, authored by Hughes, which would authorize the State Board of Education to establish fees for evaluation services provided to private business, trade and correspondence schools.

S.F. 902 was recommended for passage also. Authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), the bill would transfer authority for regulating private proprietary schools from the Dept. of Education to the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

University issues gain

Two bills were approved at the Thurs., Mar. 21, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee.

S.F. 660, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), would establish a science and technology resource center at Southwest State University. The bill would provide money for a new food production, processing and distribution program at university.

Also approved was S.F. 944, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul). The bill would authorize the state university board to sell and maintain computers and related products.

Education Aids

Ed bills considered

A bill providing \$500,000 in state matching funds to business contributions aiding the Academic Excellence Foundation was approved at the Thurs., Mar. 14, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin). The bill, S.F. 477, would also allow school districts to hire nonlicensed community experts upon the approval of the Board of Teaching. S.F. 477 is authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

S.F. 171, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), was also approved. The bill would provide financial incentives for interdistrict cooperation between schools by establishing education districts. An amendment changed education district requirements from 10,000 pupils, 10 districts or 7,500 square miles to 5,000 pupils, 4 districts or 2,000 square miles.

Article 4 of S.F. 172 (Nelson) was approved. The article provides funding for community education, early childhood family education and adult handicapped programs.

S.F. 582, authored by Pehler, would establish health awareness and healthy lifestyles programs in elementary and secondary schools. The bill was approved, but the attached \$35,000 appropriation was deleted by amendment.

S.F. 21, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), was laid over; the bill would establish vision and hearing assessment in public schools.

Arts high school advances

A bill authorizing additional arts education aid as well as the establishment of a state high school for the arts was recommended for passage at the Fri., Mar. 15, meeting of the Education Committee.

The bill, S.F. 820, would provide elementary arts education aid equal to \$2 times the ADM in grades K to 6 for 1985-86. The Comprehensive Arts Planning Program (CAPP) would also be extended to 40 additional sites with \$2,500 per site provided for each of two years. And, the Minnesota School of the Arts would be established in conjunction with a Resource Center which would provide information, materials and teaching staff to the rest of the state. The bill is authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids).

An amendment removing the high school but retaining the resource center failed on a six-five vote. Art educators and promoters as well as current CAPP site representatives testified in favor of the bill. The School Board Association testified against the proposed state school.

Testing defined

Establishing tests that assess local curriculum and individual achievement is the intent of S.F. 704, a bill approved at the Mon., Mar. 18, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

Authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), S.F. 704 would require schools to test two of the core curriculum areas (communications, math, science, social studies) at three different grade levels. State general outcomes would be evaluated every two years. The Governor's budget would provide \$1.14 million for this local assessment and the development and use of a test item bank.

A bill initiating funding for all-day Kindergarten generated considerable public support at the meeting also. "Children peak as learners between age four and five," said author Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro). The bill, S.F. 204, would weight pupils enrolled in full-day session Kindergarten throughout the school year as one full pupil unit, providing the financial incentive for schools to spend time teaching socialization skills as well as academic skills to the youngsters. Enduring educational benefits, as presented in several studies, were argued. The legislation was then laid over due to the estimated \$62 million cost to the state.

Another bill establishing a student evaluation task force was laid over for future consideration. The bill, S.F. 376, is authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing).

Elections and Ethics

Fundraising bill laid over

Committee chairman Jerome Hughes laid over a proposal Wed., Mar. 20, that would prohibit state legislators and legislative candidates from soliciting contributions from registered lobbyists during the legislative session. Hughes said the bill, S.F. 84, needed more study.

Author of the proposal, Sen. Charles Berg (IND-Chokio), labeled legislator's fund-raising events during the session as a "form of extortion." He said many registered lobbyists who have bills pending in the legislative process feel obligated to contribute. He estimated that lobbyists spend about \$2,000 a year on those events. The bill would prevent a legislator from using a list of registered lobbyists as a "happy hunting ground" in order to solicit funds, he said.

Berg, who asked the committee to vote on the bill, said that he would use a parliamentary procedure to bring the proposal to a vote on the Senate floor.

The committee laid over two other proposals. S.F. 551 (Dieterich) would prohibit legislators from accepting any compensation, honorarium or fees for speaking to a group during the legislative session. The second bill, S.F. 25 (Jude), would change the date of the state primary from September to June.

Employment

Panel advances two bills

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), advanced two bills and discussed a third, Tues., Mar. 19.

S.F. 805, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), would require long-term sheltered workshops to provide personnel benefits and grievance procedures before receiving program certification.

S.F. 798, sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), would remove educational assistants from civil service in independent school district No. 709.

Action on a bill to elect, rather than appoint, members of the Reinsurance Association Board of Directors, was delayed. S.F. 788, sponsored by Chmielewski, would have association members elect the 13-member board. The board is currently appointed by the state commerce commissioner. The board consists of three directors representing employees and six representing employers. Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester), said one director appointed to represent employers, has a history of representing employee interests. She said, "election of board members would provide balance."

VDT Regulatory bill heard

The committee delayed action Thurs., Mar. 21, on a bill that would regulate the use of video display terminals (VDT's). S.F. 315, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), would require employers to provide annual eye exams and prescription occupational eyeglasses, 15-minute breaks or alternative work assignments every two hours for VDT operators, and "ergonomically correct work stations." The stations would require furniture and lighting designed to reduce eye and muscle strain. Petty said the bill would improve working conditions for VDT operators in Minnesota.

Testimony was divided along labor and industry lines.

Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester) warned against an adverse effect on Minnesota's business climate. "We are going to be sending the wrong message to the U.S. We will kill off innovation and investment," she said.

Petty referred to a pending National Institution of Occupational Safety and Health study on possible radiation emissions from VDT's. The bill would require the commissioner of health to make recommendations to improve health and safety if the study shows any work related reproductive hazards for female VDT operators.

Energy and Housing

Panel okays bill to study long term care

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee okayed a bill to conduct a feasibility study on home equity conversion to finance long term health care. The committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), recommended S.F. 543 for passage, Tues., Mar. 19.

Sen. Linda Berglin, author of the bill, said a home equity conversion program would take financial pressure off of the medical assistance program and would enable many elderly Minnesotans to retain their assets.

The Human Services Department would conduct the study in cooperation with the State Housing Finance Agency during the interim, said Berglin.

Refuse Fuel measure considered

The Committee began consideration of a bill relating to refuse derived fuel (RDF) facilities, Wed., Mar. 20. Vega, sponsor of the bill, said S.F. 711 would exclude RDF facilities and property from the rate base when the Public Utilities Commission determines rates charged by public utilities. Vega said he intends to clarify language in the bill to exclude RDF facilities, but not mass burn facilities, from the rate base.

NSP Vice President of Commercial Operations Roy Berglund urged the committee to avoid unnecessary regulation.

Finance

State University budget heard

University tuition is growing faster than financial aid opportunities for students according to State University System Chancellor Dr. Jon Wefald. Wefald presented a biennial budget overview for the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), Mon., Mar. 18.

Wefald urged approval of a \$11.3 million appropriation to lower students' share of tuition costs to 29 percent. "Students debt burden is skyrocketing," he said. He referred to a study indicating that tuition has increased 135 percent since 1981, but only about 25 percent of students are receiving Minnesota scholarships or grants. Fifty percent of university students graduate with at least a \$5,300 debt.

Wefald requested a \$29.7 million increase for the biennium. The Governor's recommendation is a \$5.9 million increase. The budget differences are due, in part, to average cost funding and a proposed shift in funds from the current biennium to the 1986-87 budget period.

There are seven state universities and about 45,000 students in the system.

Historical Society budget heard

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), heard a biennial budget request from the Minnesota Historical Society, Mon., Mar. 18. and Tues., Mar. 19.

Society Director Russell Fridley stressed the need for an "up-to-date" facility in presenting a \$25 million budget request. "History is a non-renewable resource that should be preserved," he said.

Deputy Director John Wood explained the five part budget request for the panel. The Governor's budget recommendation is \$18.3 million for the biennium, and does not include an appropriation for a new facility. Funding for the new building is covered in the Capitol budget.

The subcommittee also continued a Department of Transportation budget hearing and toured DOT computer facilities

Energy and Economic Development budget heard

Energy and Economic Development Commissioner Mark Dayton opened a four day budget presentation for the Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), at the Mon., Mar. 18 hearing.

Dayton prefaced his remarks by responding to a legislative audit report. The report cited five of 115 business expansion projects that could have been more efficiently managed. Dayton stressed that 96 percent of the projects were not questioned by the report.

Senior Administrative Officer Connie Lewis and staff presented a detailed \$68 million biennial budget for the subcommittee, Mon., Mar. 18 - Thurs., Mar. 21.

Committee Capsule

AVTI budget heard

Stressing a need to respond to changing social and economic trends, State Board of Vocational Technical Education Director Joseph P. Graba presented a \$190 million biennial budget request to the Subcommittee on Education, Wed., Mar. 20.

Graba said the 17 percent increase in state spending is necessary to keep AVTI's up-to-date. He outlined four management goals to react to technological advances.

The AVTI system needs a program in place to weed out programs that grow obsolete, said Graba. Detecting emerging occupations and developing programs to fill the market demand is a second goal. Keeping existing programs and 2,400 AVTI instructors in the state current with technology are the third and fourth management goals, he said.

Governmental Operations

Joint vo-tech districts bill gains

A bill that would allow vocational technical school districts to form joint districts in order to share personnel and other resources received the approval of the Governmental Operations Committee, Fri., Mar. 22. The measure, S.F. 518, is sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent).

The panel, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), also approved a bill, S.F. 247, that would establish a memorial to Minnesota veterans in the Court of Honor on the Capitol Grounds. The memorial would be in the form of bronze plaques commemorating the veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The measure is sponsored by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park).

Committee members also discussed capitol building maintenance problems and food service with the Commissioner of Administration Sandra Hale, Assistant Commissioner James Pederson and Plant Management Director James Ware.

Affirmative action plan bill gains

Committee members took action two bills and began discussion on a third at the Mon., Mar. 18, hearing.

A bill requiring the preparation of state agency affirmative action plans and the adoption of rules governing the 700 hours program for handicapped persons was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee. Under the measure, S.F. 648, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), the commissioner of employee relations is required to adopt rules governing the civil service test procedures of allowing 700 hours work for individuals whose handicaps are so severe that they cannot participate in the usual examination process. The measure also requires that a state agency with over 1,000 employees must hire at least one full-time affirmative action officer and that the state director of equal employment opportunity must employ affirmative action officers for agencies with fewer than 1,000 employees. The measure also spells out the factors which must be considered in setting long-range and interim goals and policies for affirmative action. Finally, the bill requires an annual progress report on how well the state is meeting affirmative action goals and policies.

S.F. 432, sponsored by Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar) was also approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee. The measure transfers the mainframe computer used for the Minnesota Automated Fingerprint Identification Network from the St. Paul police headquarters to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. The measure also creates a three member board to administer the system.

A third bill, S.F. 708, sponsored by Moe, was discussed but final committee action was delayed. The measure would expand the authority of the legislative coordinating commission to provide a framework for the coordination of joint House and Senate activities.

Constitutional office bill debated

Members of the committee continued debate, Wed., Mar. 20, on a bill that would combine the responsibilities and duties of three constitutional officers. The bill, S.F. 363, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would allow Minnesotans to vote on a constitutional amendment creating the office of secretary-auditor and eliminating the offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and state auditor. The constitutional amendment question would be placed on the ballot in 1986 and, if approved, the new office would be created in 1990. Under the bill, the office of secretary-auditor would be responsible for the supervision of elections, the management of state funds and debt and the auditing of local governments.

Several amendments were offered to the measure, however, none were adopted. The committee will continue their work on the bill at a later date.

Health & Human Services

Non-Smoking bill gains

Promotion of non-smoking was the subject of a bill unanimously supported at the Fri., Mar. 15, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, acting as a special subcommittee. The bill, S.F. 691, would establish smoking prevention programs financed by taxes on cigarettes (15 cents per pack) and tobacco products. Authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), the bill's purpose is "to prevent young people from starting to smoke, to help smokers quit, and to promote clean indoor air."

S.F. 691, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), was also approved. Entitled the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act, the bill would make federally-funded tribal and urban Indian social services available to Indian children and families in order to prevent excessive numbers of Indian children from being placed outside their homes and culture. Minnesota currently ranks first in the nation for placement of Indian children outside the home.

Another bill approved, S.F. 62, would make the White Earth Indian Reservation eligible for state assistance programs. Chief author Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) pointed to the need for assistance in this area of high unemployment.

Two other bills, authored by Berglin, were also approved. S.F. 901 would bring the state into federal conformance with child support collection laws and set the application fee for collection service at \$5. S.F. 916 would establish an Advisory Planning Council for Mental Illness using a federal block grant.

Bills advanced

The Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), heard four subcommittee reports at the Tues., Mar. 19, meeting. Bills receiving approval included: S.F. 776 (Nelson) promoting non-smoking; S.F. 691 (Berglin) preventing premature out-of-home placement of Indian children; S.F. 901 (Berglin) establishing conformance with federal child support collection enforcement; and S.F. 62 (Moe, R.) providing state assistance programs to the White Earth Indian Reservation.

Jobs program stalled

The Omnibus Senate Employment Act was amended and laid over at the Wed., Mar. 20, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee. Designed to simultaneously reduce unemployment rates and welfare care loads, the bill would abolish the Dept. of Economic Security and establish a Dept. of Employment and Training which would provide a single point of entry for all persons seeking employment regardless of whether they were unemployed, underemployed, dislocated or welfare recipients. Certain responsibilities would also be transferred to the Dept. of Human Services. The bill, S.F. 818, was outlined by chief author Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.).

AFSCME representative Tom Beer objected to the lack of protection for current public jobs, and counties objected to the degree of authority granted to the coordinator of the new Office of Full Productivity and Opportunity created by the bill. This new office would have the authority to coordinate services between state agencies and local units of government. Bev Driscoll, Association of Minnesota Counties, said that the bill gives the coordinator the ability to "unilaterally increase or decrease county payments" and called the bill "intolerable."

Associate Commissioner Barbara Burke-Tatum of Massachusetts made a special presentation to the committee concerning the Massachusetts Jobs Program. "There are many facets to the Massachusetts program," said Burke-Tatum, describing the Employment and Training Program which has placed over 13,000 welfare recipients in full-time unsubsidized jobs since Oct. of 1983. "It would not work without day care and transportation costs," Burke-Tatum emphasized. She added that "changing the image of the welfare department" has been the greatest challenge.

S.F. 916, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.) was also approved by the committee. The bill would create an advisory planning council in the Dept. of Human Services for mental health; funds are provided by a federal block grant.

The Health and Human Services Subcommittees on Income Maintenance, Social Services and State Institutions met on Wed., Mar. 20, to consider various bills.

Judiciary

Abuse notification bill gains

The Subcommittee on Criminal Law met Mon., Mar 18, and continued discussion on a bill outlining the conditions under which parents must be notified of a child abuse investigation being conducted in their child's day care facility. As amended by the bill's chief sponsor, Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), H.F. 213 applies to investigations of any facilities licensed under the Welfare Licensing Act. The measure clarifies that the investigating agency may interview a child alleged to be the victim of abuse or neglect but specifies that the parents or guardian must be notified prior to the interview. The bill also specifies the information that must be given to the parent or guardian.

The amended version of the bill also addresses the problems of timing and of notifying the parents of other children in the facility. The bill requires the investigating agency to notify the parent or guardian of the alleged victim when the report of abuse or neglect is received. Notification of the parents of other children in the facility is discretionary unless the investigating agency "knows or has reason to believe" that the abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, the bill spells out standards for exercising the discretionary notification of parents or guardians of the other children in the facility. When the investigation is complete, the bill mandates that all those persons who have been notified of the investigation must receive a written memorandum which must include specific information. The measure also provides that when the investigation is complete, if the report of alleged abuse or neglect either is substantiated or cannot be substantiated or

unsubstantiated, the agency must provide the written memorandum to the parent or guardian of each child in the facility regardless of whether they had been notified during the investigation.

The bill also includes provisions for notification of the parents, guardian, conservator, spouse or legal representative of a vulnerable adult alleged to have been abused or neglected. The measure was approved and sent on to the full committee.

In other action, the subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), also approved S.F. 693. The measure, sponsored by Spear, provides for forfeitures of communications devices and proceeds derived from the commission of specific offenses.

Mortgage foreclosure relief bill gains

A bill extending the current law allowing the postponement of mortgage foreclosures and contract for deed terminations until July 1986 was approved by members of the Judiciary Committee at the Wed., Mar. 20 meeting of the committee. In addition, the bill S.F. 77, sponsored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would allow postponement of mortgage foreclosures and contracts for deed terminations for all first mortgages entered into after May, 1985. According to Dicklich, the bill establishes a policy that would be in place in the event of another recession.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), also took action on three additional bills. S.F. 281, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the statutes detailing procedures for making claims against the state arising out of an injury or death of a conditionally released inmate. S.F. 803, authored by Spear, provides for the extradition of an inmate to the appropriate authority in another state or in a foreign country and provides for the calculation of the sentence of the inmate to be served in Minnesota. S.F. 566, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), is the Uniform Foreign Country Money Judgements and Recognition Act and provides for the recognition, with some exceptions, of foreign judgements by Minnesota law.

Local & Urban Government

Park Boards debated

S.F. 99, a bill requiring Hennepin County park district commissioners to be elected rather than appointed, generated considerable debate at the Tues., Mar. 19, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

Authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), the approved bill would prevent dual membership on the Minneapolis Park Board and Hennepin County Park Boards and, therefore, allow legal joint powers agreements between the boards. An amendment defined the geographic election districts.

A second bill receiving approval was S.F. 676, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake). The bill would allow towns to conduct town meetings and elections outside the town's boundary, but within a reasonable distance as determined by the town board.

S.F. 542, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), would correct an omnibus newspaper bill passed last year. Approved, the bill allows municipalities the option of advertising for bids in a trade paper not published in a city of the first class; this accommodates the movement of the trade paper from Minneapolis to Golden Valley.

Also approved was S.F. 581, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley). The bill would authorize the state, political subdivisions, savings banks and trustees to use repurchase agreements with investment companies that have money market funds.

Committee Capsule

Local notice debated

A bill requiring the state to provide financial impact statements to local units of government when mandating programs which increase costs to those units was debated and laid over at the Thurs., Mar. 21, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee.

The bill, S.F. 423, would also require the state to provide a written document to local units listing the effects of emergency rulemaking for each program affecting them. Cost of implementation and a similar obligation for the federal government were topics of discussion. The bill is authored by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro).

Another bill laid over was S.F. 655, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael). The bill would allow county boards, by resolution, to consolidate the offices of county auditor and county treasurer if either became vacant due to death, resignation or retirement. A reverse referendum would allow the separate offices to be restored.

S.F. 303, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), was approved by the committee. The bill establishes a special service district in uptown Minneapolis. An amendment removed bonding authority granted to the district.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Racing drugs argued

A bill authorizing the Minnesota Racing Commission to adopt emergency rules relating to medication for horses raised considerable controversy at the Thurs., Mar. 21, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee.

The bill, S.F. 678, would allow the commission to adopt rules permitting certain medications to be administered to a horse within 48 hours before a race. Authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), the bill would allow topical external applications, food additives and two kinds of medication administered to prevent pulmonary hemorrhaging. An amendment stating that the rule-making authority of the commission would expire on Dec. 31, 1987, was adopted.

The medication necessity was argued. Rick Evans, Executive Secretary of the commission, argued in favor of the drugs saying that Minnesota would have "the strictest rules in the nation." Representatives from Canterbury Downs pointed out that 21 states allow these drugs while only 7 do not and that the other two tracks in the Midwest circuit, Chicago and Omaha, allow the drugs as well. Equine association representatives testified against the bill pointing to the increased number of track breakdowns at tracks allowing the drugs and noting the side effects of these drugs.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Panel okays six bills

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), met Wed., Mar. 20, and advance a total of six measures. S.F. 597, authored by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), grants port authority powers to the city of North Mankato. S.F. 70, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), provides for acquisition and relocation assistance in cases of hardship to owners of homestead property located in a proposed state highway corridor. S.F. 194, carried by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), increases the amount statutory cities and towns may levy for a public cemetery. S.F. 471, sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), authorizes the city of Lismore to issue bonds for municipal facilities. S.F. 665, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), makes

numerous changes in state tax law to conform with federal tax law changes. S.F. 822, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), is the state revenue department's corporate income tax bill and makes three relatively non-controversial changes in the corporate tax statutes.

Transportation

Mowing of roadside grass restricted

The committee approved a bill Mon., Mar. 22, that would restrict local governments from mowing highways rights-of-ways in order to protect pheasant and other wildlife habitat.

Authored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the bill would allow the first eight feet of grass away from the road to be mowed anytime. However, road authorities would not be able to mow the rest of the highway right-of-way between July 31 and August 31. The grass could be mowed to insure safety and to control noxious weeds, and the commissioner of transportation or the local road authorities could have the grass cut for other reasons. The proposal, S.F. 219, would not prohibit homeowners or farmers from cutting the grass along the road, however.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), approved another bill, S.F. 406, which would raise registration and taxation fees for converted vans. According to Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), author of the proposal, converted vans pay the registration and taxation fees that are charged to recreational vehicles. The recreational vehicle fees are considerably less than those charged to other vehicles because they are not driven as often, Schmitz explained. Owners of converted vans generally drive them everyday, he said, and should be charged the normal fees.

The committee also okayed a bill requiring immediate suspension or revocation of licenses of dealers convicted of fraudulent sales, odometer tampering, or receiving or selling stolen vehicles. Louie Claeson, Minnesota Automobile Dealers Association, said dealers convicted of those crimes may continue to sell cars until their license is revoked following a contested case procedure.

Road maintenance cutback gains

A bill allowing local road authorities to cut back on the maintenance of roads that are seldom used gained the committee's approval Wed., Mar. 20.

Sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), the bill allows the local governments to designate roads as minimum maintenance roads. The proposal requires that signs be erected along the roads notifying the public that they are traveling at their own risk. Furthermore, local road authorities would be exempt from claims for injuries that resulted from the road's conditions.

The bill, S.F. 675, would not allow roads to be designated minimum maintenance roads if they are part of the trunk highway system or if the designation would lose federal-state aid.

Schmitz said reducing upkeep on infrequently used roads will aid local governments. He said it would eliminate the "needless cost and expense to them."

The committee also approved the omnibus Dept. of Transportation housekeeping bill. Authored by Schmitz, S.F. 730, makes four changes to existing law.

The bill bars persons who are convicted of a contract crime and their affiliates from receiving a contract for highway or airport construction and repair for one year. The bill also authorizes Mn/DOT to acquire and relocate historically significant buildings; requires commissioners, who determine the price of condemned land, to swear that they have no conflict of interest and allows courts to screen commissioners in eminent domain proceedings

to determine conflict of interest. The bill also states that the final changeover to the Minnesota Coordinate System, which is a metric system, will begin Jan. 1, 1993. The system is used for surveying land.

Veterans and General Legislation

Members okay funding for grave markers

County veterans service officers or veterans organizations could require the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to furnish grave markers for veterans, according to a bill approved by the committee Mon., Mar. 18.

The proposal, S.F. 492, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would appropriate state funds in order to purchase the markers. Presently, the department depends on county funds and donations.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), also approved a bill authorizing the state to sell about 68 acres of farm land, which is located near the Minnesota Veterans Home, to the city of Hastings. According to Wegscheid, sponsor of S.F. 284, the land would be used for an industrial park, and the Home would provide the buildings in the area with steam heat.

According to a department official, the Veterans Home is only using one-third of its heating capacity. The district heating plan would provide the Home with an additional income and would save the new businesses in fuel costs.

Panel okays lottery bill

On a 6-4 vote, the committee approved a proposal that would allow voters to decide if the constitutional prohibition against a state lottery should be repealed. Minnesotans would vote on the question in the 1986 general election.

The majority of the voters would have to agree to repeal the constitutional prohibition before the state could allow lotteries. If the constitutional change is supported by the voters, the Legislature would still have to enact laws to permit a state-run lottery.

Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), author of the bill, said a state-run lottery could generate between \$100-\$150 million a year. He said, "it would be a voluntary contribution of revenue to reduce taxes." He asked members to support the bill so "that the electorate will at least have the opportunity to vote on the issue."

Wayne Olhoft spoke in opposition to the bill. He said a state-run lottery would raise little revenue, create few jobs, increase compulsive gambling, and create more white collar crimes. He said a lottery would only redistribute dollars within the state instead of generating additional income.

The committee used the proposal, S.F. 1, as the Senate vehicle bill. Two other measures were introduced that would dedicate the revenue raised from the lottery for specific purposes. Those proposals could be amended to S.F. 1 later this session. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, March 25, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 454-Reichgott: Allowing financial aid for 4 years, not just first 4 years, of undergraduate education; S.F. 466-Hughes: Surety bonds, student records, etc., private proprietary schools.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 565-Chmielewski: Prohibiting decompression chambers to destroy animals; S.F. 610-Brataas: Rabies control program; S.F. 637-Peterson, C.C.: County humane societies.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 363-Pogemiller: Eliminating office of state treasurer; Other proposals for constitutional officers.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Education, including public testimony at 11:00 AM.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 761-Pehler: Parking violation penalties, if reported from subc.; S.F. 545-Petty: State guardianship study; S.F. 569-Merriam: Conservation officers powers; S.F. 650-Pogemiller: Interfering with bus driver; S.F. 778-

Frederickson: Adoption consents; S.F. 801-Pogemiller:

Criminal tax investigations; S.F. 802-Pogemiller:

Deprivation of custodial rights; S.F. 827-Reichgott: Child

support obligor address change; S.F. 922-Spear: Petty

misdeemeanor marijuana records; S.F. 923-Spear:

Marijuana, cocaine definitions.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 635-Adkins: Allowing "star city" signs on interstate

highways; S.F. 833-Jude: Payment for landscape

contractors for Mn/DOT; S.F. 930-Purfeerst: Public safety

omnibus bill.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 400, State Office Building

Agenda: S.F. 45-DeCramer: Recodifying drainage law; S.F. 993-

Peterson, R.W.: Comprehensive local water

management.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for the Mn/DOT program management

and maintenance.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don

Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 583-Spear: Domestic abuse repeat offenses; S.F. 1003-Peterson, D.C.: Criminal sexual conduct by psychotherapists; S.F. 1049-Spear: Maltreatment protection of vulnerable adults.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Councils on Indian Affairs, Black Minnesotans, Handicapped, Spanish-Speaking People and Housing Finance Agency.

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember Reichgott

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 979-Luther: Dispute resolution program guidelines; S.F. 116-Mehrkens: Employee Social Responsibility Act; S.F. 1036-Reichgott: Domestic abuse orders for protection.

Conference Committee, Chair: Donald Moe

5:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 122/H.F. 110: PERA bill.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Tentative-call 296-4871: Libraries, Dept. of Education amendments; Consolidation feasibility study, leadership program; S.F. 760-Dicklich: GO bonds for Dist. 706; Article 7; S.F. 473-Hughes: Shared service agreements; S.F. XX-Peterson, C.C.: Pine Point; S.F. 771-Dieterich: Employment rights for supervisory and administrative positions.

Tuesday, March 26, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 769-Solon: Interior designers registration; S.F. 1114-Luther: Economic development strategy; S.F. 756-Solon: Financial institutions omnibus bill.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 888-Dieterich: Exemption from state regulation for certain lawful gambling; S.F. 413-Berglin: Exemption from licensing for certain organizations who conduct bingo; S.F. 499-Peterson, C.C.: Exempting certain organizations that conduct raffles from regulation by Charitable Gambling Control Board; S.F. 808-Pogemiller: Abolishing the Cable Communications Board.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 438-Merriam: Excluding firefighters and peace officers from political subdivisions job evaluation system; Comparable Worth Act implementation; S.F. 557-Frank: Removing limits on credits offered on workers comp insurance premiums; S.F. 188-Diessner: Changing the amount of certain workers comp benefits.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 401-DeCramer: Agricultural debt claim exemptions; S.F. 560-Spear: Comparative fault aggregation of defendants; S.F. 567-Luther: Contract for deed cancellations; S.F. 991-Petty: Personal injury award calculation.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 277-Moe, D.M.: Standards and procedures for metropolitan commissions.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States, Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for Mn/DOT maintenance (Cont'd) and finance and administration.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 186-Chmielewski: Notice of application for discharge permit; S.F. 285-Kronebusch: Federal limitation, farm loans; S.F. 511 & 512-Purfeerst: Mn Agricultural Interpretive Center; S.F. 539-Bertram: Statistical services account; S.F. 627-Peterson, C.C.: Dam reconstruction projects.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 625-Reichgott: Air conditioner energy rating regulation delay; S.F. 711-Vega: Refuse derived fuels (Cont'd).

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 592-Frank: Mental health MI/MR language; S.F. 683-Lantry: GA income disregard; S.F. 1089-Berglin: GA standard of need increase; S.F. 1115-Berglin: AFDC technical amendments; S.F. 739-Berglin: Special account for GA; S.F. 984-Berglin: GA shared residence; S.F. 911-Berglin: MA increase for pregnancy; S.F. 908-Berglin: Medical eligibility changes; S.F. 1117-Berglin: Federal resolution (2390); S.F. 983-Berglin: Uninsured poor; S.F. 997-Berglin: Report, health market; S.F. 226-Dicklich: Ratable reduction; S.F. 1116-Petty: MR family support; S.F. 17-Diessner: CD results; S.F. 912-Berglin: CD consolidated bill; S.F. 1025-Berglin: MI/CD demo project. (Continues at **5:00 PM**)

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 229-Dahl: Credit union bill; S.F. 525-Peterson, D.C.: No-fault insurance; uninsured & underinsured coverage; S.F. 137-Ramstad: Water craft liability insurance; S.F. 302-Petty: Public funds in thrift institutions; S.F. 928-Wegscheid: State board of hearing instrument dispensing; S.F. 981-Freeman: Mortgage loan requirements.

Finance, Chair: Gerald Willet

3:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: To be announced.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call 296-8881 for agenda.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

6:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Items not completed at 1:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

7:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Tentative-Call 296-4871: S.F. 702-Hughes: Comprehensive learning program; Article 5-Choice; Article 8.

Wednesday, March 27, 1985

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 692-Chmielewski: Benefits for Grenada and Lebanon veterans; S.F. 674-DeCramer: Permitting guardian's fees; S.F. 750-Chmielewski: Authorizing American veterans to use space in Vets Building.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 609-Reichgott: Human rights remedy waiver; S.F. 318-Dieterich: Dram shop; S.F. 31-Diessner: Watercraft DWI; Other bills from 3/25 and subcommittees.

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 269-Johnson, D.J.: Barricades, fence obstructions; S.F. 646-Chmielewski: Disposition of trees removed by road authorities; S.F. 657-Dieterich: Defense, operating vehicle without registration; S.F. 853-Dahl: Highway right-of-way; S.F. 1029-Spear: Access to drivers license photo negatives.

Elections & Ethics, Chair: Jerome Hughes

11:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 977-Peterson, D.C.: Filing provisions; S.F. 934-Luther: Electronic absentee voting; S.F. 434-Vega: West St. Paul elections; S.F. 987-Hughes: Town mail elections; S.F. 25-Jude: Changing state primary election date; S.F. 190-Dicklich: Presidential primary; S.F. 84-Berg: Lobbying.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Mn/DOT finance and administration (Cont'd) and equipment.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on Governor's appointments to PCA Board, Bill Walker and Waste Mgmt. Board, Ernest Lund; S.F. 679-Lessard: Timber harvest public information meetings; S.F. 685-Peterson, C.C.: Portion of sales tax to Game & Fish fund; S.F. 783-Moe, R.D.: Additions, deletions to state parks; S.F. 795-Lessard: Conveyance of lands for historical preservation.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 503-Peterson, D.C.: MN Housing Finance Agency loan authority.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Task Force on Sexual Exploitation by Counselors and Therapists, legislative report; S.F. 529-Berglin and S.F. XX-Waldorf: Health related licensing boards; S.F. 1004-Peterson, D.C.: Program to prevent sexual exploitation by therapists; S.F. 1005-Peterson, D.C.: Prohibits sexual exploitation of psychotherapy patients; S.F. 1006-Peterson, D.C.: Commission to study regulation of psychotherapists.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Dept. of Human Rights; Dept. of Administration studies on part-time seasonal employees and equipment.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

7:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Tentative-Call 296-4871: Article 1 - Foundation aid; Article 9 - TRA; Article 10 - Cash flow.

Local & Urban Government Subc. on Urban Government,

Chair: Darril Wegscheid

7:00 PM Dakota Co. Gov't. Center, Hastings.

Agenda: Impact of Legislative Oversight Committee of the Metropolitan Council; Commission chair appointments by the Metro Council versus Governor's appointments.

Thursday, March 28, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 193-Chmielewski: Repeal of law regulating entertainment agencies; S.F. 905-Jude: Accelerating receivership of insolvent insurer; S.F. 1113-Luther: Insurance omnibus bill.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment compensation, regulating benefits, employer contribution rates; S.F. 315-Petty: Regulating use of video display terminals; S.F. 788-Chmielewski: Board of directors, workers comp reinsurance association; S.F. 935-Spear: Sheltered workshop, work activity programs; S.F. 986-Chmielewski: Workers comp changes; Discussion of workers comp assigned risk pool rate increase, Commissioner Mike Hatch.

Judiciary Subc. on Civil Law, Chair: Randolph Peterson

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 391-Spear: Wrongful death award for mental anguish; S.F. 743-Jude: Nonprofit corporation common trust funds; S.F. 327-Diessner: Watercraft titling.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 423-Benson: Regulating mandates to local government; S.F. 418-Pogemiller: Public finance; S.F. 593-Frederickson: New Ulm special service district; S.F. 615-Stumpf: Lake of the Woods, jetties, public improvements; S.F. 616-Stumpf: Warroad port authority; S.F. 445-Wegscheid: Prompt payment of local gov't bills.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Public Lands & Water Resources, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 400 S, State Office Building

Agenda: S.F. 136-Ramstad: Repeal of cross country ski license; S.F. 361-Chmielewski: Leasing peat lands for wild rice farming; S.F. 993-Peterson, R.W.: Comprehensive local water mgmt.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Mn/DOT statewide transit assistance and Regional Transit Board.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don

Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget review for Dept. of Human Services.

Judiciary Subc. on Criminal Law, Chair: Eric Petty

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 835-Jude: DWI priors for gross misdemeanor prosecutions; S.F. 1026-Spear: Mandatory DWI testing procedures; S.F. 1027-Spear: Application of DWI, hit and run, reckless driving; S.F. 1014-Petty: Miscellaneous crimes, criminal procedures.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Education Subc. on Education Aids, Chair: Tom Nelson

3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Tentative-Call 296-4871: Complete omnibus education aids bill in subcommittee.

Judiciary Subc. on Judicial Administration, Chair: Ember

Reichgott

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 443/H.F. 83-Reichgott: Hennepin, Ramsey counties, juvenile judge assignment; S.F. 862-Pehler: Conciliation court jurisdiction for student loan recovery; S.F. 433-Vega: Crime victim reparations; S.F. 781-Peterson, D.C.: Juvenile record disclosure for purposes of victim rights procedures; S.F. XX-Peterson, D.C.: Crime victim reparations.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Fish & Wildlife,

Chair: Collin Peterson

7:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 658-Peterson, C.C.: Wild animals, altering certain provisions regarding taking & possession; S.F. 723-Peterson, R.W.: Enhancement of fish & wildlife, wildlife mgmt, conservation of marginal ag lands, etc.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

7:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: To be announced.

Legislative Commission on Waste Management, Chair: Rep.

Dee Long

7:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Appropriations from Environmental Response, Compensation and Compliance Fund, Landfill Contingency Action Fund, and Landfill Abatement Fund; European hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities.

Friday, March 29, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1045-Kroening: Usurious contracts; S.F. 821-Laidig: Unclaimed property, extending coverage to corporate stock; S.F. 1007-Peterson, D.C.: Insurance coverage for scalp hair postheses; S.F. 958-Dahl: Disclosures in used motor vehicle transactions; S.F. 661-Freeman: Regulating membership camping; S.F. 296-Wegscheid: Homeowners insurance, prohibiting family exclusions.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 691-Berglin: Indian child welfare act; S.F. 901-Berglin: Child support enforcement; Bills from 3/27 and subcommittees.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for Mn/DOT Aeronautics Division.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: To be announced.

Judiciary Subc. on Privacy, Chair: Gene Merriam

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 278-Merriam: Patient access to health records; S.F. 449-Wegscheid: Employee discipline data; S.F. 931-Peterson, R.W.: Release of chemical dependency program information; S.F. 1008-Peterson, D.C.: Human rights investigation data; S.F. 1013-Peterson, R.W.: Omnibus data practices bill; S.F. 1083-Merriam: Mental health data.

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Briefly

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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

March 29, 1985

Employment bill gains

The Omnibus Senate Employment Act, S.F. 818, was recommended for passage at the Fri., Mar. 22, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee after a heated debate. "It means less government and better government," said chief author Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), arguing that the bill decentralizes state government. However, Sen. Duane Benson (R-Lanesboro), insisted that the Office of Full Opportunity and Productivity, created by the bill, actually centralizes government and could lead to the formation of a "statewide industrial policy."

With the goal of simultaneously reducing the unemployment rate and the welfare caseload, the bill would abolish the Dept. of Economic Security and establish a Dept. of Employment and Training. Also, an Office of Full Opportunity and Productivity would be created to coordinate all state and federal job programs for the state. Economic security responsibilities would be transferred to the Dept. of Employment and Training and the Dept. of Human Services. Employment and Training would essentially provide a single point of entry for all persons seeking jobs regardless of whether they are unemployed, underemployed, dislocated or welfare recipients.

Open enrollment approved

The open enrollment article of the Omnibus Education aids bill, S.F. 172, authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), received its first panel approval at the Tues., Mar. 26, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee. Article 5 was recommended for passage on a bi-partisan voice vote with no amendments.

The article would allow 11th and 12th grade students to enroll in the school of their choice beginning in 1986-87 and would allow 9th and 10th grade students to do so beginning in 1988-89. This is different from the governor's original proposal which would have granted open enrollment to all grades beginning in 1988-89. Another difference is that this article would allow students to attend other schools for partial days as well as full days. The only requirement for enrollment is the consent of the receiving school.

Also approved by the subcommittee were Article 8 and S.F. 702. Article 8 would establish the Educational Effectiveness program, formerly the Instructional Effectiveness program, and would provide for management assistance, technology inservice, technology demonstration sites, courseware package development, and grants and appropriations. S.F. 702, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), would establish comprehensive learning programs.

Mortgage foreclosure relief bill gains

During the Thursday, March 28, floor session members of the Senate endorsed, for the second time this year, a one year moratorium on farm mortgage foreclosures. The action came during the debate on S.F. 77, a bill extending, until July, 1986, the current law allowing the courts to postpone mortgage foreclosures and contract for deed terminations. Sen. Charles Berg (IND-Chokio) successfully amended the language of S.F. 85, the farm mortgage moratorium bill onto S.F. 77. The amendment, which was adopted on a 30-29 roll call vote, declares a public economic

emergency and prohibits the repossession, foreclosure sales and foreclosure sales of agricultural personal property for one year. S.F. 77, authored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), was then given preliminary approval on a voice vote.

In other action, Senators also approved the permanent rules of the Senate for the 74th Legislative Session and the joint Senate-House rules. In addition, all the bills receiving preliminary approval Monday, Mar. 25, were given final passage.

Seat belt bill passed

Senators met Mon., Mar. 25, and granted final passage to S.F. 40, the bill requiring the use of seat belts. Under the measure, sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), all drivers and front seat passengers would have to wear seat belts or face a possible fine of \$20. The bill gained final passage on a vote of 37-27.

Senators also gave final approval to S.F. 542. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield) provides for the advertisement of bids in trade publications or in publications originating in cities of the first class.

Five additional bills were given preliminary approval on the General Orders Calendar. S.F. 342, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), requires that plumbing inspectors hold licenses as master or journeyman plumbers or that they pass an examination. S.F. 472, sponsored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), makes a number of noncontroversial changes in the state's property and special taxes statutes.

H.F. 329, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), requires part time peace officers to provide the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board with proof that the officer has completed the appointment requirements. S.F. 63, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), grants the cities of Fergus Falls and Detroit Lakes the powers of a port authority. H.F. 509, carried by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), provides for the free distribution of Minnesota Statutes to libraries of the largest municipality of each county.

Constitutional office consolidation gains

A bill proposing a constitutional amendment to eliminate the offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and state auditor and create a new office of state comptroller gained the approval of the Governmental Operations Committee at the Mon., Mar. 25 meeting. The bill S.F. 363, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would place the constitutional question on the ballot in 1986. If the amendment is approved by the voters the state comptroller would be elected in the 1990 general election and would take office in January, 1991. The three existing constitutional offices would remain in existence until 1991.

The bill contains a section which specifies that the financial audit duties currently done by the Legislative Auditor would be transferred to the new office of state comptroller. In addition, the measure specifies that the new office would also be responsible for overseeing elections and for other duties currently under the administration of the state treasurer, state auditor and the secretary of state. The bill was approved and forwarded on to the Judiciary Committee.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Minimum pricing bill advances

The committee approved a bill Thurs., Mar. 21, that could establish state minimum prices for farm commodities.

According to the bill, minimum prices would become effective when 60 percent of the commodity is under similar minimum pricing laws, which would be enacted by other states. The minimum prices would be set between 80 to 100 percent of parity. The author of the proposal, Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), said minimum prices at 90 percent parity would cover the farmer's cost of production and provide the family with income for a "reasonable living."

The bill, S.F. 221, would also allow the commissioner of agriculture to establish supply management and orderly marketing procedures. The commissioner would implement those procedures when world carryover stocks exceed 25 percent of the previous 20-year average; or when the commissioner determines that the volume of production is threatening Minnesota's agricultural land productivity or normal marketing patterns. The commissioner would insure that farmers' production capacity would be altered, based on their production history, to protect the agricultural land and marketing patterns.

Walleye fingerling production aided

A bill providing Operation Walleye with \$140,000 to administer a pilot project for walleye fingerling production earned the committee's approval Fri., Mar. 22.

The bill, S.F. 502, sponsored by Sen. Charles Berg (IND-Chokio), would allow Operation Walleye, a nonprofit organization, to spend only five percent of that money for administrative costs. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

The committee also approved a bill helping farmers who have troubled Family Farm Security loans. The proposal, S.F. 461, would allow the Dept. of Agriculture to use money from the special program account to pay a farmer's farm security loan payments for up to two years. The money from the special program account is generally used to pay expenses on defaulted loans.

The bill, S.F. 461, is carried by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley).

The committee also approved a bill applying the provisions of the "lemon car" law to farm trucks and equipment. The proposal, S.F. 598, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis, would require manufacturers to replace any farm vehicle under warranty that is defective and cannot be fixed. The consumer could opt for a refund instead of having the vehicle replaced.

The committee also approved S.F. 601 (Davis) transferring authority for the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Trust Fund Liquidation Act to the Dept. of Energy and Economic Development; and S.F. 656 (Merriam) designating part of the fine surcharge funds to be used for conservation officer training. Also, the committee approved the appointment of Carol Lee Baudler to the Pollution Control Agency Board.

Panel acts on several proposals

Two of the several bills okayed by the committee Tues., Mar. 26, provide funds to improve the Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center.

The first bill, S.F. 511, sponsored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), authorizes the state to issue general obligation bonds, totaling \$1.5 million, for capital improvements to the center. The second bill, S.F. 512 (Purfeerst), spends about \$495,500 for grants in aid to the center to cover operation costs.

The committee also approved a bill establishing a statistical services account in the state treasury. The payments for statistical services performed by the agricultural statistics division would be deposited in the account. The bill, S.F. 539, is sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville).

The Pollution Control Agency would be required to place an official notice in the county newspaper when a completed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit application for new municipal discharges is received, according to another proposal approved Tuesday. The bill, S.F. 186, is sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

A bill establishing a state limit on the amount of gross receipts that farms may earn in order to qualify for a small business loan also gained the committee's approval. The bill, S.F. 285, authored by Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rollingstone), sets that limit at \$1 million. The bill would not affect the present \$100,000 limit set by the federal government. It creates a state limit in case the federal regulation is repealed, however.

Also Tuesday, the committee approved a bill, S.F. 627 (Peterson, Collin), that transfers funds within the local dam grant and loan accounts to provide funds for various dam and dike improvements.

Funds for resources improvement debated

The committee began to review a proposal Wed., Mar. 27, that would ask the voters in the next general election if the state should spend two percent of the proceeds from the state sales tax to enhance the state's natural resources.

According to the bill's author, Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), the proposal would raise about \$30 million a year and would be placed in the game and fish fund. Peterson said the bill would help address the concern of the governor's commission on fish and wildlife, which recommended that \$600 million be spent over ten years to improve soil, water, fish and wildlife in Minnesota.

The committee approved two bills Wednesday: S.F. 783 (Moe, R.D.) removing 180 acres of land from the Blue Mounds State Park and adding 400 acres to Itasca State Park; and S.F. 795 (Lessard) allowing the Dept. of Transportation to transfer land to the Historical Society.

Economic Development & Commerce

Boat insurance bill gains

A bill requiring liability insurance to be carried on all licensed watercraft was approved at the Tues., Mar. 26 meeting of the Economic Development and Commerce Committee. The measure, S.F. 137, authored by Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Wayzata), exempts outboard motor boats of 25 horsepower or less; sailboats 26 feet or less in length; and non-powered watercraft such as canoes, rafts, or rowboats. The measure exempts those watercraft because they are covered under the provisions of most homeowners' insurance policies. The measure also requires that the liability policy must contain limits of not less than \$50,000 per occurrence and that failure to maintain the required insurance is grounds for revocation of a watercraft license.

In other action, the committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), approved several additional bills. S.F. 1199, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), clarifies the meaning of lender to include savings and loans and credit unions in the Minnesota Emergency Farm Loans Act. S.F. 229, authored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), clarifies that credit unions may refer to "draft accounts" as "checking accounts," and permits a credit union's board of directors to decide whether a state chartered credit union may exercise the powers granted to federally chartered

credit unions. S.F. 302, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), adds credit unions to the list of financial institutions in which local units of government may deposit public funds.

The panel also discussed two measures. S.F. 928, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would provide for the regulation of hearing instrument dispensing. The measure would establish a licensing and regulatory process for individuals engaged in selling hearing instruments designed to aid defective hearing. S.F. 981, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), would require information relating to loan and residential real estate closing costs be provided to buyers.

Economic strategy commission bill gains

A bill to create a comprehensive economic development strategy commission cleared the committee, Tues., Mar. 26.

S.F. 1114, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would place the 15 member commission under the direction of the Energy and Economic Development Department. The commission is designed to pull together strategies from government, labor, and industry, said Luther. The bill passed on a 8-5 roll call vote.

The committee also okayed S.F. 769, sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth). The bill would require all interior designers to be registered. Sen. Eric Petty said the bill would prevent consumer confusion. Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.) questioned the need for registration. "Where's the public outcry and complaints?" he asked. The bill passed on a 6-5 roll call vote.

Panel okays premium tax bill

A bill designed to off-set premium taxes for insolvent insurers passed the committee, Thurs., Mar. 28. S.F. 905, sponsored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), allows an insolvent insurer to off-set 20 percent of its premium tax liability for five years. The bill limits qualifying insurers to those become insolvent after the bill becomes law.

The committee also advanced S.F. 193, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake). The measure would repeal a law requiring entertainment agencies to be licensed by the Department of Labor and Industry.

Education Aids

Transportation discussed

Article 2 of the Omnibus Ed. Aids bill, S.F. 172, was recommended for passage at the Thurs., Mar. 21, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin). Authored by Nelson, the bill defines transportation provisions and funding.

Transportation for participants in early childhood family education programs on a space available basis is allowed, and transportation to developmental achievement centers qualifies for aid according to the article. The article also allows school districts to transfer transportation funds to other operating funds or to the bus purchase account.

S.F. 716, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), was also approved by the committee. The bill would provide funds to complete a two-way interactive telecommunications system for schools in southwest Minnesota. Due to the loss of farm families in the area, enrollment and subsequent loss of funds have created a need for this service, said DeCramer.

School Management Assistance and Education Aids Analysis and Management reports were also heard. A cash flow report was presented by Ron Hackett, Dept. of Finance.

Special ed bill advanced

An article outlining special education aid was approved at the Fri., Mar. 22, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee.

Identified as Article 3 of S.F. 172, the article is authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

The article would change the special education aid formula and the formula for secondary vocational programs for handicapped students from 70 percent of all salaries to 70 percent of the salary for each licensed person, not to exceed \$17,500. The new formula would begin with fiscal year 1986. A comprehensive evaluation of education programs and services for American Indians would also be conducted.

A bill establishing a scholarship program for secondary pupils attending summer academic programs sponsored by post-secondary institutions was also approved by the subcommittee. The bill, S.F. 995, is authored by Sen. Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine).

Articles approved

The Education Aids Subcommittee met on Mon., Mar. 25, to consider a variety of bills and articles within the vehicle bill, S.F. 172 (Nelson).

A bill allowing school administrator's to be selected based upon merit as well as seniority rather than seniority only was approved by the subcommittee. The bill, S.F. 771, is authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul).

Article 9, which requires that the minimum amount of county funding be provided for public library services, was also approved. An additional provision would provide 7.5 percent of available grant funds to qualifying systems.

Article 6, which provides program funding, was also approved. The article increases gifted, talented aid from \$19 per pupil to \$45 per pupil in 1986 and \$47 in 1987 with a minimum of \$500 per school district. An amendment would appropriate \$35,000 for the purpose of a study of gifted, talented programs.

Additional amendments to Article 6 were also approved. One amendment would limit CQE grants to three years with a reduction to 50 percent of the original funds for the third year and the expectation of program continuance. Other amendments would award appropriations to school districts in Trimont, Mountain Iron-Buhl, Chisholm and Nett Lake for various improvements.

Article 7, which repeals ECSU size limitations, age limitations and school site size limitations, was approved. Amendments would provide for provisional, nonrenewable licensure of teachers in emerging fields or where staff is insufficient, extend the compulsory attendance law to children under the age of seven, and require the Dept. of Education to study alternative methods of financing the consolidation of three or more school districts.

S.F. 473, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), was approved. The bill would allow the Dept. of Education to make shared service agreements with other public agencies.

Testimony was heard from the Dept. of Education concerning a provision to allow the department to provide information services to other public and private agencies and collect subsequent fees.

Two bills which would provide funding for the remodeling of schools in the taconite area were also approved. S.F. 1038 and S.F. 760 are authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing).

A provision which would extend the life of the Pine Point school district for four more years was also approved. The provision was offered by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes).

MSUSA calls for tuition reform

Representatives from the Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA) told the Subcommittee on Education Mon., Mar. 25, that rising tuition is not being off-set by increased financial aid. MSUSA Chair Cindy Burski said tuition has risen 136 percent since 1980. Burski said student loans have increased 99 percent since 1974. "If students cost increases are being off-set by financial aid, why are they being forced to rely much more heavily on loans to finance their educations," she asked.

The panel, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul) also

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heard a \$46 million biennial budget request from the Department of Education Fri., Mar. 22, Mon., Mar. 25., and Wed., Mar. 27.

Panel hears five budgets

The Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-St. Paul), heard five budget requests Mon., Mar. 25.

Council for the Handicapped Chair Mary O'Hara requested same level funding for the council. The biennial budget request is \$760,500. O'Hara also informed the subcommittee that the newly remodeled State Office Building is not accessible to the handicapped. "The plans were okay on paper, but people didn't pay attention to the specifics and details," she said.

Council on Black Minnesotans Executive Director Victor Propes, outlined a supported work program when requesting a \$239,100 biennial budget request. The program is designed to assist AFDC recipients in finding employment. Propes estimated that the state saves \$4,500 in direct payments when an AFDC recipient gains employment.

Council for the Spanish Speaking People Director Jose Trejo requested a \$236,000 biennial budget.

Indian Affairs Council Executive Director Roger Head requested a \$519,300 biennial budget. The budget contains an inflationary increase.

Housing Finance Agency Director Jim Solem presented a \$28.7 million biennial budget request. He told the committee that the agency could become the first state agency to receive a credit rating. He added that debt portfolios for low and moderate income families have been thoroughly researched in the past 18 months in preparation for the possible rating.

The subcommittee also heard a \$4.7 million biennial budget request from Human Rights Commissioner Linda Johnson, Wed., Mar. 27.

Arts budget heard

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation, and Semi-States heard a \$5.6 million budget request for the Minnesota State Arts Board, Fri., Mar. 22. The panel, chaired by Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), also continued hearing the MN/DOT budget at hearings Mon., Mar. 25 - Thurs., Mar. 28.

Governmental Operations

CAAP Board measure debated

Members continued their debate Fri., Mar. 22, on a bill creating the position of state capitol architect and restructuring the capitol area architectural and planning board (CAAPB). Chief author, Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), said that the measure, S.F. 752, would provide an opportunity for improving the state capitol building—"a tremendous state resource that needs significant maintenance and repair." However, debate on the measure centered on the question of whether the current organizational structure and staff could adequately carry out the needed maintenance and restoration duties. The measure failed to get the panel's approval and was laid over pending further discussion.

Toxic waste victims bill advances

The bill to establish a hazardous waste victims compensation fund cleared its third committee Wed., Mar. 27, when members of the Governmental Operation committee approved the measure and re-referred the bill to the Tax Committee. S.F. 571, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), establishes a \$2 million fund to compensate victims of hazardous waste releases and establishes a three person board to administer the fund.

In other action, the panel, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), advanced an additional four bills. S.F. 647, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), allows the Minnesota Education Computing Consortium to form wholly-owned subsidiaries under

the management of the MECC board of directors. S.F. 814, sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), changes the name of the Minnesota State Advisory Council for Vocational Education to the State Council on Vocation Education, prescribes the powers and duties of the council as a state agency, and brings state law into conformity with federal regulations. S.F. 916, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), authorizes the Commissioner of Human Services to establish a State Mental Health Services Advisory Planning Council.

S.F. 411, authored by Moe, prohibits state government agencies and metropolitan agencies from hiring outside lobbyists. Originally, the measure would have prohibited any governmental unit from hiring a lobbyist but Moe authored an amendment limiting the bill to state government and metropolitan agencies.

Health & Human Services

Nursing home bills gain

Nursing home reimbursement was the subject of several bills receiving approval at the Thurs., Mar. 21, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.).

S.F. 903, authored by Berglin, was amended and recommended for passage by the committee. The bill combined the following bills: S.F. 881 and S.F. 784 concerning swing beds; S.F. 793 and S.F. 797 concerning the moratorium; S.F. 484 concerning preadmission screening; S.F. 789 concerning recovery of federal overpayments; S.F. 590 concerning the Long Term Care Commission; S.F. 544 concerning revenue bonds; and S.F. 543 concerning home equity conversion.

The bill establishes a new case mix reimbursement system for nursing homes and boarding care homes based upon assessment and classification of residents. "Swing beds," defined as licensed hospital beds which can be Medicare certified, would be available in case of an emergency shortage of nursing home space, according to the bill. The moratorium on nursing home beds would be extended. The bill would expand the Preadmission Screening program and require participating Medical Assistance nursing home facilities to be Medicare certified. The Long Term Health Care Commission would be authorized to monitor health care in the state.

Also approved were S.F. 865 (Berglin), concerning the Governor's Aging Strategy, and S.F. 381, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), concerning nursing home non-compliance.

Various bills passed

In other action on Fri., Mar. 22, the Health and Human Services Committee approved S.F. 703, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids). The bill would allow the Dept. of Human Services to contract for services to the deaf-blind. There are currently no state services for people with both disabilities.

A bill which would continue to fund the Displaced Homemaker Program through marriage license fees was approved also. A \$5 increase in the license fee would provide additional funds. The bill, S.F. 953, is authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.).

A voluntary reduction of the number of beds in larger Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded was the subject of another approved bill, S.F. 337, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul).

S.F. 1094, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), combined three previous bills. Approved, the bill would award \$4 million each year for administrative aids to cover county salary costs not paid by the federal government. Sixty percent of the funds would be distributed on a performance basis. Community Social Service Association concerns and Human Service department concerns would also be addressed by the bill.

Two bills authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley) were approved by committee. S.F. 364 would establish a peer review organization for dentists needing insurance. S.F. 243 would expand the practice of physical therapists subject to the rules of the Board of Medical Examiners.

S.F. 1092, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), was advanced. The bill would allow the Dept. of Human Services to establish a revolving Management Information Systems fund to address county information requests.

S.F. 989 and S.F. 1085, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), were recommended for passage. S.F. 989 would establish the county cost of care for the mentally ill, and S.F. 1085 would provide funds for this cost under new Rule 14, a formerly experimental program.

Another bill authored by Petty, S.F. 682, would eliminate two educational institution exemptions from current day care licensing requirements of the Dept. of Human Services. Opposition was expressed by both public and private education systems currently providing day care. The bill was approved.

An Income Maintenance Subcommittee report on the Rule 185 Mentally Retarded Waiver was also presented by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing).

Assistance financing changed

Several bills affecting assistance financing were approved at the Tues., Mar. 26, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee.

S.F. 908, concerning Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility changes was amended to include the following bills: S.F. 683 (Lantry) concerning General Assistance (GA) income disregard for the mentally ill; S.F. 1089 (Berglin) concerning GA standard of need increase; S.F. 1115 (Berglin) concerning AFDC technical amendments; S.F. 739 (Berglin) concerning a special account for GA; S.F. 984 (Berglin) concerning GA shared residence; and S.F. 911 (Berglin) concerning MA limits increase for pregnant women. The bill, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), was approved. Another bill, S.F. 1117 (Berglin) asking the President and Congress to amend Medicaid provisions of the Social Security Act, was also approved.

A second bill establishing a state chemical dependency program with a consolidated funding budget of \$26 million was also approved. Designed to help public programs compete with private programs, the bill would strictly define eligibility for different forms of treatment depending on the level of involvement, prior treatment attempts, family status and medical, psychological and legal needs. The consolidated fund would be composed of state GA and MA as well as state and federal grant funds. Twelve percent of the funds would be provided to American Indian programs. The bill, S.F. 912, is authored by Berglin. A second bill, S.F. 1025 (Berglin), would begin a mental illness/chemical dependency demonstration project.

S.F. 621, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would remove archaic language references to the mentally ill and mentally retarded. The approved bill would conform to federal ICFMR guidelines.

A bill authorizing investigation of hazardous substance sites by the commissioner of health was approved. The bill, S.F. 871, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), would require disclosure of certain information concerning substance sites to employees and the public if such substances were a potential hazard to them.

Also approved was a bill which would attempt to further curtail lead contamination of the air and soil. S.F. 998, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), would require the Pollution Control Agency to clean up certain lead-contaminated soil sites and to test for blood lead levels in children. A public education program concerning lead contamination would also be initiated.

Other bills receiving approval were: S.F. 621, authored by Sen.

Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), concerning Dept. of Corrections Work Release programs; S.F. 983 (Berglin) concerning the uninsured poor; and S.F. 226, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), concerning medical rate reduction.

Education

Financial aid approved

A bill extending financial aid to part-time undergraduate students, S.F. 454, was recommended for passage at the Mon., Mar. 25, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), the bill would provide aid for four years rather than the first four years of undergraduate education, and applicants could begin receiving aid during any year rather than the first year only. All courses would have to apply toward a degree or diploma. An amendment made loan information available to credit agencies alone rather than the general public. Another amendment, creating an honors scholarship program, failed on an eight-seven vote.

S.F. 466, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), was also approved. The bill would establish a task force to study private proprietary schools and provide an appropriation of \$10,000 for this purpose.

Also approved was S.F. 660, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent). The bill would establish a science and technology center at Southwest State University and appropriate money for the development of a food technology program at the university. Funds for developing an interactive television network among schools in southwestern Minnesota would also be included.

Rural student aid examined

A bill excluding the value of a family farm and its equipment from consideration for post-secondary student financial aid was approved at the Mon., Mar. 25, meeting of the Post Secondary and Higher Education Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer). An amendment would require the legislative auditor to review assessment methods of financial aid used for students and parents with farm and small business assets. The bill, S.F. 1041, is authored by Stumpf.

Another bill authored by Stumpf, S.F. 1000, was also approved. The bill would require each state university to develop a mission statement "related to the needs of its service region."

S.F. 168, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), was approved by the committee as well. The bill would re-establish the federal criteria for a post-secondary student to be considered independent of parental support. Currently, new HECB regulations are scheduled to go into effect next year. The HECB argued that the federal definition is not verifiable while student proponents pointed to the lack of evidence identifying widespread abuse. An amendment would cause the definition to remain consistent with future federal definition changes.

Non-smoking bill gains

Promotion of non-smoking was the subject of a bill approved at the Wed., Mar. 27, meeting of the Education Committee. S.F. 776, authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), would require the commissioner of health to develop school and community programs to promote non-smoking. The programs would be funded by an increase in cigarette tax of 15 cents per pack. Free distribution of cigarettes would also be prohibited.

S.F. 994, also authored by Nelson, would authorize the transfer of state land unneeded for community college purposes to cities to be used for student housing. The approved bill would also authorize the sale of community college land in Worthington.

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S.F. 945, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), was also approved. The bill would authorize the state university board to set salaries of chief executives other than the chancellor.

Elections and Ethics

Presidential primary considered

The committee delayed action on a proposal that would establish a June presidential primary in Minnesota and another bill that would simply move the state primary date from September to June. Both bills were laid over by the committee Wed., Mar. 27.

The first bill, S.F. 190, authored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would change the method of sending state delegates to the national conventions. Under his proposal, Minnesotans would vote their preference for the presidential candidates, and national convention delegates would be selected according to the primary's result. Currently, delegates to the national conventions are not chosen through a primary election. The process for selecting delegates begins at the precinct caucus meetings; national convention delegates are elected at the state convention.

The second bill, S.F. 25 (Jude), would move the primary date for state offices back to June. Consequently, the precinct caucus dates and filing dates would also be earlier in the year.

The committee did approve several bills during the Wednesday meeting: S.F. 934 (Luther) allows punch cards to be used in absentee voting, which would tally votes through an electronic system; S.F. 987 (Hughes) allows towns to hold elections by mail; S.F. 977 (Peterson, Donna) changes election filing provisions and provides training for election judges; and S.F. 434 (Vega) changes the municipal election date for the city of West St. Paul.

Employment

Panel approves exclusion bill

A bill excluding fire fighters, peace officers and University of Minnesota law enforcement officials from comparable worth programs passed the Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), Tues., Mar. 26. S.F. 438, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), was supported by the Teamsters union members and the St. Paul Police Association. The league of Women Voters and AFSCME opposed the measure.

S.F. 557, sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), was approved without discussion. The bill was discussed at the Feb. 28 meeting of the committee. The measure would remove the limits on credits on workers' compensation insurance premiums.

Panel rejects VDT bill

A bill that would regulate the use of video display terminals (VDT's) was voted down by the committee, Thurs., Mar. 28. S.F. 315, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), would have required employers to provide an "ergonomically correct work station" for VDT operators. The proposal would require employers to control glare, noise levels, heating and ventilation, and give operators regular breaks or alternative work assignments every two hours. Petty amended the bill to require an initial eye exam for VDT operators, rather than mandated annual eye exams, as the bill originally required.

The panel delayed action on S.F. 788, after lengthy discussion. The bill, sponsored by Chmielewski, would require that members of the board of directors of the workers' compensation reinsurance association be elected. The 13-member board includes representatives of insurers, self insurers, employers and employees. The proposal would have members of the association electing board members for their respective groups.

The committee passed two other bills. S.F. 935, sponsored by

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), would fund sheltered workshops and work activity programs.

S.F. 986, sponsored by Chmielewski, would make several miscellaneous changes in workers' compensation. The measure would, among other items, end temporary compensation 90 days after an employee has reached maximum medical improvement or completed an approved retraining program.

Energy and Housing

Ethanol education bill gains

A bill designed to educate farmers on marketing grain alcohol gained the support of the Senate Energy and Housing Committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), Fri., Mar. 22.

Chief sponsor, Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), said the bill is designed to find alternative, profitable uses for grain. The program would be offered through the State Board of Vocational Technical Education.

A/C rating bill advances

The committee passed one bill and voted down another, Tues., Mar. 26. The panel, chaired by Vice Chair Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), advanced S.F. 625, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope). Current law mandates a 7.8 efficiency rating for air conditioners after Jan. 1, 1985. The bill would extend the effective date to Jan. 1, 1987 and allow smaller air conditioners a 7.0 efficiency rating. The lower rating would apply to air conditioners with a BTU per hour rating of less than 6,000.

S.F. 711, authored by Vega, did not gain committee approval. The bill would have excluded certain investments and expenses for refuse-derived fuel facilities from the rate base computed by the Public Utilities Commission.

MHFA bill okayed

The committee passed S.F. 503, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), Wed. Mar. 27. The proposal increases the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) bonding authority by \$500 million. The bill is based largely on a recent study on aging, said Peterson. The measure would authorize the agency to provide grants and loans for programs to assist low and moderate income elderly Minnesotans, she said.

The proposal would lift the \$7,500 cap on rehabilitation loans, but would require full repayment if the improved property is sold within three years after the loan and no repayment if the property is held at least seven years.

Finance

Committee passes four bills

The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), advanced four bills, Tues., Mar. 26. S.F. 430, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), would refund industrial development bond application deposits. Peterson said the refunds would only go to cities that put up the deposit out of city funds, and were not reimbursed by developers or private parties.

S.F. 518, sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), authorizes the establishment of joint vocational technical districts and provides for the governing board. The measure also would require the state board of vocational technical education to pay 100 percent of the remaining debt service on AVTI facilities that transfer to the board of joint vocational technical districts. In addition, the bill provides for the transference of real and personal property to the joint board and authorizes the joint district to levy taxes for certain purposes.

Vocational Technical Education System Director Joe Graba testified on behalf of the bill. "In rural areas, some districts are 100

miles apart," he said.

S.F. 384, sponsored by Sen. Doug Johnson (DFL-Cook), would appropriate \$190,000 for development of Voyageurs National Park.

S.F. 441, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), would raise minimum pay for national guard members called into active service by the governor. The daily allowance would be \$75.

The committee also heard a report on a master lease plan designed by the Finance Department. Finance Commissioner Gus Donhowe estimated the state would save \$15.9 million over the biennium by financing leases for equipment with certificate sales.

Donhowe also detailed a \$290 million capitol budget overview. The presentation included Governor Perpich's proposal to fund waste water treatment and sewer projects with a 15 cent per pack increase in the cigarette tax.

Health Licensing Boards examined

Two bills concerning health related licensing boards were combined and approved at the Wed., Mar. 27, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee. S.F. 529 (Berglin) and S.F. 1130, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), would tighten disciplinary action procedures conducted by the Board of Medical Examiners.

The bills would establish new grounds for disciplinary action including malpractice in the areas of licensing, practice, record-keeping, billing, drug abuse, sexual conduct and failure to report on malpractice of peers. The bills also require medical organization reports on malpractice. Also, convicted practitioners' names would be published.

Three bills concerning sexual exploitation by counselors and therapists were also heard. S.F. 1004, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would initiate an education program for targeted professionals and the general public concerning sexual exploitation by health professionals. The bill was approved. The other two bills, also authored by Peterson, S.F. 1005 and S.F. 1006, were laid over. Health Department responsibility in developing licensing and regulation programs for psychotherapists and related groups was argued extensively.

Judiciary

Hazardous waste victims fund okayed

The bill creating a hazardous waste victims compensation fund was approved by members of the Judiciary Committee at the Fri., Mar. 22 hearing. S.F. 571, creates a \$2 million fund to compensate victims for personal injury resulting from a release of hazardous waste. The bill also creates a board to administer the fund and specifies that half the money for the fund will come from the state and half from the tax on hazardous waste generators. In addition, the bill, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), also provides for recovery of the cost of replacing or decontaminating a primary source of drinking water up to a maximum of \$25,000.

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) debated and acted upon several amendments. One key amendment that was adopted removes the "causation" section of the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act (Superfund). Opponents of the Superfund Act claimed that the causation section made it difficult for businesses to obtain environmental liability insurance and made it easier for victims of hazardous waste releases to get their cases before a jury.

The amendment, offered by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), does not make the two other changes in the Superfund law that are contained in S.F. 300, a measure currently pending before the committee and backed by opponents of the original Superfund law. Luther argued that by adopting the amendment the major concerns of business interests and environmentalists were addressed and that a compromise could be reached. "We need a

strong victims compensation fund and we ought to repeal the causation section," he said, "but I sense that other sections of S.F. 300 are more controversial." The victims compensation fund bill, S.F. 571, was forwarded on to the Governmental Operations Committee.

In other action, panel members approved an addition three bills. S.F. 709, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), raises the maximum limit on claims heard in consiliation court from \$1,250 to \$2,000. S.F. 623, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), clarifies the factors the court considers in awarding maintenance in marriage dissolution proceedings. S.F. 693, authored by Spear, provides for the forfeiture of communications devices and of proceeds derived from the commission of designated offenses.

Panel approves ten measures

The Judiciary Committee continued its heavy schedule this week as the first committee deadline, Thurs. April 4, drew nearer. Panel members, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), heard, and approved, ten bills at the Mon., Mar. 25, hearing.

S.F. 761, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), provides that uniform traffic tickets must include a notice that the person's license may be suspended for failure to respond to the citation. S.F. 545, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), authorizes the Human Services Department to study the state guardianship system. The bill, which was re-referred to the Finance Committee, would establish a task force to recommend changes in the guardianship system.

S.F. 569, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) clarifies the authority and arrest powers of conservation officers. Under the bill, conservation officers would have the same arrest authority as other peace officers when an offense is committed in their presence. S.F. 650, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), increases the penalty for some offenses committed on transit vehicles. Specifically, the bill provides that eating, drinking, littering, or playing a radio too loudly, would be petty misdemeanors unless the bus driver or transit guard had previously warned the individual at which time the penalty would be a misdemeanor. The bill also increases the penalty for the offence of interfering with a transit operator or unlawfully obtaining services on regular route transit.

S.F. 778, authored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson, eliminates the requirement that a parent consent to an adoption when the parent is a co-petitioner in the adoption proceeding. S.F. 802, sponsored by Pogemiller, clarifies the crime of depriving another of custodial or parental rights.

S.F. 801, also authored by Pogemiller, provides that if the commissioner of revenue has reason to believe a violation of state tax laws has occurred, he may request the prosecuting authority of any county to assist in a criminal tax investigation. S.F. 827, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), requires obligors under maintenance or child support to notify the court and the ex-spouse of a change of address. S.F. 922, authored by Spear, repeals the requirement that the Department of Public Safety maintain a record of all first possession of a small amount of marijuana convictions. S.F. 923, also sponsored by Spear, defines small amount of marijuana, in the metric system, as 42.5 grams or less and clarifies the chemical description of some schedule II controlled substances.

Watercraft DWI bill approved

Panel members met Wed., Mar. 27 and approved a bill that would provide penalties for the operation of watercraft while under the influence of alcohol. The measure, S.F. 31, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), closely parallels the laws for DWI, and includes provisions concerning implied consent, watercraft license revocation and other penalties. The committee also

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approved a bill modifying the language on the waiver of remedies under the human rights act. The bill, S.F. 609, is sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope.).

A bill making changes in Minnesota dram shop liability insurance laws generated considerable discussion. The measure, S.F. 318, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), was laid over for further discussion. The measure would limit the compensation under dram shop actions and would require underinsured motorist coverage.

Local & Urban Government

Metro Council bill approved

A bill submitted by the Metropolitan Council to provide greater council accountability to the Legislature was approved at the Tues., Mar. 26, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

The bill, S.F. 227, would require the Waste Control Commission and the Regional Transit Board to submit annual performance reports, performance objectives and financial plans to the Metropolitan Council which would, in turn, report to the Legislature. A provision requiring the chair of the council, rather than the governor, to appoint commission chairs was deleted by amendment. The bill is authored by Sen. Donald Moe (DFL-St. Paul).

A bill granting port authority to Plymouth, S.F. 721, authored Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Plymouth), and a bill granting port authority to Red Wing, S.F. 904, authored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing), were also approved.

Mandate cost notice required

A bill requiring the state to send fiscal notes to local units of government identifying the local costs imposed by state mandates received approval at the Thurs., Mar. 28, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee. "I hope the message goes to the federal government," said chief author Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), emphasizing the "spirit of cooperation" needed in government. The bill, S.F. 423, was approved. S.F. 593, authored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), was also approved. The bill would establish a special service district within the city of New Ulm. An amendment was adopted which would allow the cities of Mora and Waseca to establish special service tax districts also.

Two additional bills were endorsed by the committee. S.F. 615, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would allow Lake of the Woods County to issue bonds for the purpose of constructing a jetty. S.F. 616, also sponsored by Stumpf, would grant the powers of a port authority to the city of Warroad.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Charitable gambling reviewed

An amendment to S.F. 888 designed to accommodate all concerned parties was approved at the Tues., Mar. 26, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul). Authored by Dieterich, the amended and approved bill would exempt certain lawful gambling from state regulation by the Charitable Gambling Control Board.

Provisions of a bill which would exempt senior citizen organizations who conduct bingo, S.F. 413 (Berglin), and provisions of a bill which would exempt wildlife organizations who conduct yearly raffles, S.F. 499 (Peterson, C.C.), were incorporated into the amendment as well. A \$500 per violation provision raised considerable controversy, and a provision

prohibiting nonprofit organization use of liquor establishment space for the purpose of gambling unless the organization held a liquor license was deleted by amendment.

Two sections of S.F. 808, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), were also heard. One section, deleted by amendment, would have abolished the Cable Communications Board in statute since no funding is provided for the board in the governor's budget. The Director of State Planning, rather than the governor, would appoint telecommunication council members according to the second section.

Committee members met Tuesday evening to continue their discussion on S.F. 808. A second amendment, offered by Sen. Don Storm (IR-Edina), which abolished the Telecommunications Council, was also adopted. The measure transfers the authority to make certain appointments to various commissioners, reduces the size of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Council and transfers the duties of the Public Employment Relations Board to the Bureau of Mediation Services. The panel approved the measure and forwarded it on to the Governmental Operations Committee.

Indian licenses defined

A bill delineating liquor license fee recipients within Indian country was approved at the Thurs., Mar. 28, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee. Initiated by the Leech Lake area of northern Minnesota, the bill would require Indian licensees located on Indian reservations to pay the license fee to the tribal governing body. Non-Indian licensees located on Indian reservations would, however, be licensed by the local city, county or town. The bill, S.F. 1183, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), would prevent dual licensing.

Two other bills were approved as well. S.F. 843, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would expand the definition of deregulated "independent telephone company" to include foreign corporations providing service to fewer than 15,000 subscribers within Minnesota. This would free General Telephone of Iowa from rate regulation by the public utilities commission. The bill was placed on the Consent Calendar. The second bill, S.F. 920, authored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), would further define the membership of the Circle Pines utilities commission in relation to Lino Lakes.

Taxes and Tax Laws

University debt collection advances

The University of Minnesota would be able to collect debts owed to it by using the Revenue Recapture Act, according to a bill approved by the committee Tues., Mar. 26.

Currently, state agencies, district courts, counties and public agencies responsible for enforcing child support laws are able to collect debts by withholding debtors' state tax refunds. The bill, S.F. 1088, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would allow the University to do the same.

A bill eliminating two liquor tax credits that favor Minnesota-produced liquor also gained the committee's approval. According to the proposal's author, Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), the tax credits must be repealed because of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The bill, S.F. 777, would repeal the reduced tax rates that apply to wine produced at Minnesota farm wineries. That provision would raise the total tax by only \$500 per year. The bill would also modify the credit that applies to the amount of barrels of beer produced. Currently, Minnesota breweries receive a credit of \$2 per barrel for the first 75,000 barrels produced. The bill would apply the credit to the first 25,000 barrels produced by any brewery that produces under 100,000 barrels of beer per year.

The committee also approved the following bills Tuesday: H.F. 1 (Lessard) allowing the consolidated cities of International Falls and South International Falls, which would occur by voter

approval, to impose a special levy on property located in the former South International Falls to fund the deficit in the cash reserve; S.F. 295 (Willet) authorizing Hubbard County to levy a property tax of up to \$45,000 annually to raise money for public parks and recreational improvements, and allowing a special levy for the Clearwater Hospital; S.F. 282 (Adkins) allowing special fire protection districts to levy more; and S.F. 854 (Dahl) imposing a tax rate of 100 percent on "excess interest" earned by the holder of an obligation who, by contract right, increased the rate of interest payable on an industrial revenue bond when that interest became taxable for state income taxes.

Mpls. special service districts okayed

A bill allowing the city of Minneapolis to designate the Uptown area near Hennepin and Lake Streets as a special service taxing district gained the approval of the Tax Committee, Wed., Mar. 27. Under the bill, S.F. 303, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), special services are defined as services which are more extensive than those provided throughout the city. A special service district is a defined area in the city where the special services are paid for with the proceeds of property taxes and service charges within the area. The bill also provides that only property that is zoned for commercial, business, or industrial use may be included in the district.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), also approved two additional bills and heard a presentation by Dan Salomone on Tax Expenditures. The two bills gaining committee approval were: S.F. 1073, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), providing time limits for installment payments of deferred special assessments, plus interest, upon sale of green acres property; and S.F. 1193, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), modifies the penalty provisions of the aggregate removal tax law by changing the time at which a penalty for failure to file is imposed.

Transportation

Landscape contract changes advance

The Minnesota Dept. of Transportation would have to pay landscape contractors the entire fee for their landscape work when it is completed, according to a bill, S.F. 833, approved by the committee Mon., Mar. 25. Currently, Mn/DOT withholds a percentage of the contract value for a period after the work along the highways is finished to insure that the tree and shrubs planted survive.

Mn/DOT could require landscape contractors to post a bond of up to 125 percent of the contract value. The bond would be good for one year to insure that the contractors comply with the contract terms.

Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), author of the proposal, said the bill would encourage more small landscape companies to bid for the landscape work.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), also approved the Dept. of Public Safety's Omnibus bill. The proposal, which clarifies existing law, reiterates that a person driving without car insurance is guilty of a misdemeanor; states that three-wheel off-road vehicles cannot be registered as motor vehicles; increases the fees for motor vehicle dealers from \$76 to \$90; allows law enforcement agencies to provide the press with a victim's date of birth; and requires that license plate stickers be placed in the appropriate corners of the plate.

The bill, S.F. 930, is sponsored by Purfeerst.

The committee also approved a bill allowing "star city" signs to be erected along highways entering the city. The bill, S.F. 635, is sponsored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael).

Wire barricades restricted

The committee okayed a bill Wed., Mar. 27, prohibiting wire, chain or rope barricades to be placed on private roads and driveways. The proposal would permit only fences and

"substantial barricades" to be erected, and they would have to be marked with reflector tape that is capable of being seen at a 100-foot distance.

According to Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), snowmobile drivers were killed when they accidentally drove through wire and chain barricades. Johnson said that the barricades were not visible. He added that a "substantial barricade" would be one that would stop the snowmobile driver before causing serious injury.

The bill, S.F. 269, was amended to exclude private roads and driveways on farm land.

A person could not display a political or commercial sign while standing along a highway, according to another bill approved by the committee. S.F. 853, sponsored by Sen. Greg Dahl (DFL-Lino Lakes), would also prohibit highways from being used for fund-raising events or races, without a permit from a local road authority. The purpose of the bill, Dahl said, is to improve highway safety.

The committee also approved a bill prohibiting a person from being charged with driving without vehicle registration if that person was not notified of the annual renewal date. The bill, 657 (Dieterich), would remove penalties if the person pays the tax and fees within 10 days of being cited for the violation.

Two other bills were approved Wednesday. S.F. 646 (Chmielewski) states that road authorities may cut trees growing within a highway easement without the landowners permission if the trees are less than six inches in diameter. S.F. 1029 (Spear) allows driver's license photo negatives to be released by the department of public safety for identification purposes in gross misdemeanor and misdemeanor traffic offenses.

Veterans and General Legislation

Decompression proposal laid over

The committee laid over a bill Mon., Mar. 25, prohibiting the use of a decompression chamber to kill animals.

A decompression chamber kills an animal by cutting off the oxygen in the air. According to proponents of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), injecting a lethal drug into the animal is less painful for the animal. Chmielewski said 27 other states prohibit the use of a decompression chamber.

Opponents to the bill said animals become unconscious and feel no pain when in the chamber. They said some animals are difficult to detain for the injection and using the chamber is safer for the employee.

A vote on the bill, S.F. 565, could happen later this session.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), also approved a bill memorializing the governments of the United States and Sweden that Minnesota adopts the County of Kronober as a sister state. The bill, S.F. 1057, is sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming).

Members extend benefits

Minnesota veterans who served in Grenada or Lebanon would be exempt from paying tuition for attending a post-secondary vocational technical school and could receive an interest free loan of up to \$4,000 when buying a home, according to a proposal approved by the committee Wed., Mar. 27.

The bill, S.F. 692, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would also allow the Grenada or Lebanon veteran to use the state veterans home. Currently, only Vietnam veterans are eligible for the free tuition and the interest free loan program.

The committee also approved two bills authorizing more veteran groups and their auxiliary organizations to use space in the veterans service building. S.F. 1185 (Adkins) would allow the commissioner of administration to extend space to all congressionally chartered veteran organizations and their auxiliaries. S.F. 750 (Chmielewski) would allow space to be provided for the American veteran and Vietnam veteran organizations. Those groups would obtain the space when it becomes available.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 1, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 944-Waldorf: State University Board, computers; S.F. 946-Waldorf: State U. debt collection, parking violation, etc.; S.F. 1192-Purfeerst: MN School for the Deaf, MN Braille & Sight-Saving School.

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 91-Nelson: Legislative Commission on Employee Relations; S.F. 1125-Peterson, D.C.: Crime victims; S.F. 918-Moe, D.M.: Administrative approval of right-of-way; S.F. 1233-Adkins: Set-asides; S.F. 1114-Luther: Economic development.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 624-Moe, D.M.: Roy Wilkins memorial; S.F. 1002-Hughes: Historical Society instructional materials on MN history for schools; S.F. 952-Wegscheid: Alarm and communication systems.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: TENTATIVE MEETING. Call 296-3809.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 401-DeCramer: Agricultural debt claim exemptions; S.F. 774-Luther: Drivers license penalty for fleeing a peace officer; S.F. 835-Jude: Prior DWI information; S.F. 1026-Spear: Mandatory DWI testing clarifications; S.F. 1027-Spear: Scope of hit & run, DWI reckless driving statutes; S.F. 1099-Jude: Goodman, Schwerner, Chaney resolution; S.F. 917-Reichgott: Child abuse; S.F. 1-Purfeerst: Lottery (Noon); S.F. 363-Pogemiller: Merger of constitutional offices (1 PM).

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearing on the appointment of Elliott Perovich, Regional Transit Board; S.F. 1141-Lantry: Exempting Ramsey County highways from seasonal load restrictions; S.F. 1169-Lantry: Regional Transit Board.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 5-Diessner: Raising the drinking age to 21; S.F. 304-DeCramer: Increasing trunk highway weight limits.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services and State Hospitals.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings for legislative commissions.

Judiciary Subc. on Privacy, Chair: Gene Merriam

3:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of S.F. 1013-Merriam: Data privacy, if necessary.

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

6:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1067-Peterson, R.W.: Requiring certain credit agreements to be in writing; S.F. 863-Reichgott: Financial transaction card fraud, penalties; S.F. 921-Samuelson: Regulating certain funeral services; S.F. 1148-Freeman: Defining "trade secret"; S.F. 584-Dahl: Fuel retailers option to purchase from wholesalers.

Tuesday, April 2, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. S.F. 1045-Kroening: Determination of certain usurious contracts; S.F. 756-Solon: Financial institutions bill.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda. 296-8867.

Elections & Ethics, Chair: Jerome Hughes

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 99-Jude: Election of Hennepin Co. park reserve district board; S.F. 1151-Frederickson: Changing Ottawa Township from 2nd to 1st congressional dist.; S.F. 362-Bertram, S.F. 113-Kronebusch and S.F. 208-Isackson: Voting hours; S.F. 1098-Wegscheid: Definition of lobbyist; S.F. 1145-Knaak: Campaign contributions.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 788-Chmielewski: Workers comp board of directors; S.F. 1156-Davis: Youth conservation corps; S.F. 1254-Dicklich: Occupational health & safety; S.F. 1256-Hughes: Elevator inspection; S.F. 850-Petty: Improved sheltered workshop wages; S.F. 188-Diessner: Workers comp benefits; S.F. 41-Unemployment insurance; S.F. 1017-Peterson, D.C.: Teachers strikes.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 950-Chmielewski: Town law handbook; S.F. 541-Freeman: Sports Facilities property; S.F. 1101-DeCramer: Municipal Board, meetings; S.F. 1102-Wegscheid: Municipal Board, annexations; S.F. 55-Samuelson: Counties to employ accountants; S.F. 689-Lantry: Ramsey County personnel system.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearing for complete Dept. of Transportation budget.**Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services,** Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of budget hearing for Dept. of Human Services.**Agriculture & Natural Resources,** Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 998-Petty: Health risks from exposure to lead; S.F. 335-Purfeerst: Board of Animal Health; S.F. 786-DeCramer: Clean-up of pseudorabies; S.F. 1140-Peterson, D.L.: Inspection of animals; S.F. 1022-Bertram: Label for MN raised pork; S.F. 1024-Bertram: Trade regulations on hogs; S.F. 1171-Brataas: Land to Olmsted Co. (Meeting resumes at 6:30 PM.)**Energy & Housing,** Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 983-Dicklich: Loans for district heating projects; S.F. 1189-Vega: Energy loans; S.F. XX-Vega: Energy Assistance Plan.**Health & Human Services Subc. on State Institutions,** Chair:

Eric Petty

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 626-Samuelson: MR community based services demo project.

The Senate will be in session at 1:30 PM.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

2:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills passing subcommittees; S.F. 997-Berglin: Biennial report, health markets; S.F. 914-Berglin: Permancy planning for children; S.F. 1116-Petty: Subsidy program; S.F. 1276-Petty: Licensing act amendments; S.F. 684-Dahl: PKU; S.F. 339-Dicklich: Independent living services; S.F. 1127-Chmielewski: Defining neglect; S.F. 1255-Diessner: MI and dangerous; S.F. 1047-Lantry: Catastrophic health; S.F. 714-Pogemiller: HMO disclosure; S.F. 942-Hughes: Child abuse trust; S.F. 17-Diessner: CD results; S.F. 16-Diessner: Environmental education; S.F. 1005-Peterson, D.C.: Prohibits sex abuse; S.F. 1006-Peterson, D.C.: Study, psychotherapists.**Economic Development & Commerce,** Chair: Sam Solon

3:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1262-Solon: Prohibiting misrepresentation of third party payments and billing practices; S.F. 1113-Luther: Insurance omnibus bill.**Finance Subc. on State Departments,** Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Budget hearings on the Executive Council, contingent accounts, tort claims, salary supplement, comparable worth, retirements, cebt service and finance non-operating.**Agriculture & Natural Resources,** Chair: Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1177-Merriam: Increasing certain game & fish licenses, fees; S.F. 95-Frank: Senior citizen license exemptions; S.F. XX-Merriam: Altering certain revenue & fees for state parks; S.F. 453-Reichgott: Reduced camping fees; S.F. 1118-DeCramer: Lender refusal by

letter; S.F. 1197-Frederickson: Corporate farming law; S.F. 1032-Davis: Ag land preservation, pilot program; S.F. 1033-Davis: Local gov't agreements; S.F. 1062-Willet: State trail lands.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

7:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 767-Peterson, C.C.: Otter Tail Co., control of dogs and cats; S.F. 634-Peterson, C.C.: Transfer of payments; S.F. 890-Dahl: Joint municipal services; S.F. 925-Pogemiller: Powers to municipalities; S.F. 996-Davis: Commercial service districts; S.F. 869-Olson: Town powers, joint planning districts; S.F. 639-Bertram: Town law bill; S.F. 536-McQuaid: Hennepin Co. Board salaries; S.F. 762-Peterson, R.W.: County Recorder titles; S.F. 1035-Reichgott: Commission to review metro gov't.; S.F. 1138-Schmitz: Belle Plaine "borough"; S.F. 1119-Bertram: Sheriff's contingency fund.**Wednesday, April 3, 1985****Education Subc. on Education Aids,** Chair: Tom Nelson

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1290-Stumpf: Formula parity factor; Article 1, foundation formula, of omnibus education aids bill.**Governmental Operations,** Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda. 296-4175**Veterans & General Legislation,** Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 115-Samuelson: Free license plates for former POW's; S.F. 1121-Reichgott: Civil service veterans preference eligibility; S.F. 954-Jude: Big Island Veterans Camp board of governors.**Finance Subc. on Education,** Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: TENTATIVE MEETING. Call 296-3809.**Judiciary,** Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 695-Waldorf: Venue for certain pregnant women; S.F. 1043-Frank: Rural electric coop associations; S.F. 1049-Spear: Vulnerable adults act amendments; S.F. 459-Spear: Guardianship in pauperis; S.F. 274-Spear: Commitment hearings for mentally retarded; S.F. 560-Spear: Comparative fault aggregation; bills from subcommittee Thursday, 3/28. (Note 7:00 PM meeting.)**Transportation,** Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 886-Waldorf: State jurisdiction plan; S.F. 1284-Purfeerst: 110 foot truck lengths; S.F. 1281-Pehler: Gas tax indexing; S.F. 2-Purfeerst: Acceleration of motor vehicle excise tax.**Elections & Ethics,** Chair: Jerome Hughes

11:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 701-Mehrkens: Advisory council to study unicameral legislature; S.F. 182-Ramstad: Reducing size of legislature; S.F. 939-Merriam: Unicameral legislature; S.F. 84-Berg: Regulating lobbying; S.F. 25-Jude: Changing primary election date; S.F. 551-Dieterich: Honorariums; S.F. 190-Dicklich: Presidential primary.**Agriculture & Natural Resources,** Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1171-Brataas; S.F. 1097-Merriam.

Energy & Housing, Chair: Conrad Vega

1:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. XX-Vega: Energy Assistance Plan; S.F. 1190-Peterson, D.C.: Interest deduction program extension.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills not completed Tuesday, 4/2.

The Senate will be in session at 1:30 PM.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by Legislative Auditor, study of Dept. of Energy & Economic Development; Continuation of the D.E.E.D. budget.

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

4:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Bills left over; S.F. 847-Petty: Closed circuit TV for child abuse victim testimony; S.F. 1014-Petty: Misc. criminal law amendments; S.F. 1003-Peterson, D.C.: Sexual exploitation by psychotherapists, criminal penalties; S.F. 1071-Petty: Stockholder access to corporate records; S.F. 710-Freeman: Tax court judges, public defender administration; S.F. 343-Wegscheid: Harassment of hunters; S.F. 116-Mehrkens: Employee Social Responsibility Act; plus Governor's corporate law amendments and bills from 3/28 subcommittees.

Thursday, April 4, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda. 296-4188

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda. 296-8867.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment insurance.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 825-Reichgott: Crystal, council members; S.F. 1086-Hughes: Water price disputes; S.F. 1167-Novak: New Brighton, police chief & deputy; S.F. 1187-Novak: Municipal employee residency; S.F. 1075-Knaak: Land transfer, Ramsey Co. & White Bear Lake; S.F. 1152-Peterson, D.C.: Youth coordinating Board, Mpls.; S.F. 670-Solon: St. Louis Co. emergency fund; S.F. 357-Chmielewski: Pine Co. community health service; S.F. 1060-Stumpf: Counties, sale of property; S.F. 889-Stumpf: LGA, formula for cities.

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,

Chair: Keith Langseth

12:00 Noon Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Capital budget for the Dept. of Transportation.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Public testimony, Dept. of Economic Security budget.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills from Privacy subcommittee. (Note: 7:00 PM meeting.)

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

6:30 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1009-Merriam; S.F. 993-Peterson, R.W.; S.F. 1062-Willet; S.F. 1110-Wegscheid.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

7:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Bills left over; S.F. 857-Freeman: Judicial modification of statutes; S.F. XX-Reichgott: Failure to file court ordered tax return; S.F. 1021-Petty: Marital privilege; S.F. 811-Knutson: Marriage data collection; S.F. 812-Knutson: Child support guidelines.

Friday, April 5, 1985

No meetings scheduled.

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Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

April 4, 1985

PERA bill repassed

The conference committee report on S.F. 122, the measure restructuring the Public Employees Retirement Association Board of Trustees, was adopted by the Senate at the Monday, April 1, Senate session. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), was then repassed on a vote of 64-0. Under the compromise version of the bill, the PERA Board will consist of nine members: the auditor; three members appointed by the governor representing city employees, county employees and school employees, respectively; one annuitant appointed by the governor; one public member with no connection to PERA also appointed by the governor; and three active PERA members who will be initially appointed by the governor, but who will be elected after 1987. The compromise language, Moe said, "Places PERA back under sound public control."

Other sections of the bill set out the requirements for the position of executive director, provide transition language to provide for the election process and require that the Commissioner of Finance review the PERA administrative budget.

In other action, the Senate gave final passage to S.F. 77, the bill extending the authority of the courts to delay mortgage foreclosures. The bill, authored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), also contains language imposing a one year mortgage foreclosure moratorium on farms. The bill was given final passage on a close 34-31 roll call vote.

Three bills on the Consent Calendar also gained final passage. S.F. 635, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), allows "star city" signs on interstate highways. S.F. 625, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), delays the effective date of energy efficiency ratings for air conditioners sold in Minnesota. S.F. 923, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the chemical description of cocaine and changes the definition of "small amount of marijuana" to the metric system in the statutes.

Two measures gained preliminary approval. S.F. 1199, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), clarifies the definition of lender in the Minnesota Emergency Farm Operating Loans Act to include credit unions and savings and loans. S.F. 374, authored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul), restates the law relating to the transfer of property to minors.

Senate holds short floor sessions

Senators met briefly in floor session Tuesday, April 2 and Wednesday, April 3. The short sessions were held in order to process committee reports and route bills to the appropriate committees before the first committee deadline, which is April 4.

In the course of Tuesday's floor action, members of the Senate concurred with the House amendments to S.F. 287 and repassed the bill. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), provides for the terms of mayor and city council members in the city of Hibbing. Wednesday, Senators granted final passage to one bill on the Consent Calendar and one measure on the Senate Calendar. S.F. 679, authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), provides for setting the date for annual timber harvest public information meetings. S.F. 374, authored by Sen. Ron Sieloff

(IR-St. Paul), regulates the transfers of property to minors under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.

Constitutional office merger gains

Two measures proposing constitutional amendments were heard at the Monday, April 1, meeting of the Judiciary Committee. S.F. 363, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), provides for placing a constitutional amendment on the 1986 ballot eliminating of the offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and state auditor and creating the office of state comptroller. If the amendment is approved by the voters the state comptroller would be elected in the 1990 general election and would take office in January, 1991. The offices of state treasurer, secretary of state and state auditor would remain in existence until 1991.

An amendment, adopted by the committee members, removed a section of the bill transferring the financial audit duties of the Legislative Auditor to the new office of state comptroller. The panel, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), approved the bill and re-referred the measure to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

A proposal to repeal Minnesota's constitutional ban on lotteries, however, was not voted upon by the committee. The bill's author, Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), requested that no action be taken on the measure.

High-level waste shipment checked

On a 8-2 vote, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee okayed a proposal Saturday, March 30, regulating the shipment of all high-level radioactive waste. The committee members also advanced a resolution telling the U.S. Dept. of Energy that Minnesota does not want a high-level radioactive waste disposal site.

The first proposal, S.F. 1093, creates a regulatory process and emergency response fund to insure that high-level radioactive waste shipments, such as the rail shipments of NSP's spent fuel rods, are safe. Specifically, the proposal requires companies shipping high level radioactive waste to file an application with the Pollution Control Agency. The Dept. of Health and the Dept. of Transportation would then inspect all equipment being used in the shipment to insure that the waste is being properly moved. The Dept. of Public Safety would also determine if the route and time of shipment is safe. When a shipment is approved, the PCA would notify the cities and towns along the route, and the public would have the opportunity to object to the shipments.

The bill, authored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), also requires the Dept. of Public Safety to create an emergency response plan to help communities respond to an accident. The proposal also establishes an emergency fund.

The resolution approved by the committee memorializes the U.S. Dept. of Energy of Minnesota's opposition to the siting of a high-level radioactive waste disposal site. Merriam, who sponsored the resolution, said Minnesota is one state being considered to house a permanent high-level radioactive waste repository.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Panel creates resources funding account

In an effort to improve the state's natural resources, the committee approved a bill Fri., Mar. 29, dedicating part of the proceeds from the sales tax to fund wildlife and resource improvement efforts.

Sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), the bill establishes a dedicated account in the state treasury for resources improvement. The amount to be dedicated is one-eighth of one percent of the sales tax proceeds, which would be about \$60 million over the next biennium. Peterson said the bill, S.F. 685, would help address the concern of the governor's commission on fish and wildlife, which recommended that \$600 million be spent over ten years to improve soil, water and wildlife in Minnesota.

The committee advanced several other proposals Friday: S.F. 726 (Kronebusch) requiring snowmobiles to be registered and requiring a person who sells a snowmobile to furnish the buyer a bill-of-sale form; S.F. 377 (Pehler) requiring the Dept. of Natural Resources to identify permanent school fund land located in state parks and waysides; S.F. 644 (Jude) revising boundaries of state forests; and S.F. 506 (Dicklich) requiring the increase of lease rates for state lands to be paid in three equal annual increments

Adulterated milk definition expanded

In addition to acting on the two proposals concerning high-level radioactive waste, the committee also advanced a bill Sat., Mar. 30, clarifying that milk or cream containing antibiotics and other "inhibitory substances" is adulterated and cannot be sold. The bill, S.F. 86, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid, clarifies the law that determines what conditions cause milk to be adulterated.

The committee okayed several additional bills Saturday: S.F. 45 (DeCramer) recodifying and clarifying the drainage laws; S.F. 919 (Wegscheid) freeing buyers of farm products from any security interest created by the lender, even if the buyer is aware that a security interest in the farmer's produce exists; S.F. 658 (Peterson, C.C.) raising the penalty for a person convicted of unlawfully buying or selling fish or game in Minnesota; S.F. 87 (Wegscheid) allowing the commissioner of agriculture to raise fees for state livestock weighing at individual sites or uniformly throughout the state; and S.F. 1097 (Merriam) allowing the state to issue up to \$53 million in bonds for improving parks and recreational areas.

Lead protection proposal wins approval

A bill establishing a state fund to aid the pollution control agency in protecting persons living in neighborhoods that have high levels of lead-contamination won the members approval Tues., Apr. 2. The bill, S.F. 998, also prohibits persons from driving or selling cars built after 1978 if their pollution control systems are not working properly or they have been converted to operate on leaded gasoline.

Authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), the bill requires the Pollution Control Agency to begin siting areas having high-levels of lead-contamination in the soil. The Dept. of Health would then conduct tests in highly contaminated areas to determine how badly the lead is affecting the area's residents. Based on the studies, the agency would establish a priority list to determine the areas where public protection measures should be taken.

The amount of state money to be placed in the proposed fund would be determined by the Finance Committee. However, the measure must first gain the Transportation Committee's approval.

The following bills gained the committee's approval Tuesday afternoon: S.F. 335 (Purfeerst) allowing the Board of Animal Health to make rules necessary to protect the health of domestic

animals; S.F. 786 (DeCramer) appropriating state money for the control of pseudorabies; S.F. 1140 (Peterson, Darrel) requiring that the origin of sows, boar, and stags be determined before being slaughtered; S.F. 1024 (Bertram) asking the President and Secretary of Agriculture to require that the government of Canada comply with fair trade regulations on hogs; and S.F. 1171 (Brataas) conveying state land to Olmstead County for a road easement.

Members move fee hike proposals

A proposal to raise the state park annual permit fee and a measure raising some game and fish licensing fees gained the committee's approval Wednesday evening.

Minnesotans would pay \$15.00 for an annual state park vehicle permit fee beginning Mar. 1, 1986, according to S.F. 1298. Currently, residents pay \$10. The proposal would also raise the annual rate for senior citizens from \$5.00 to \$7.50. Also, the proposal would charge non-residents the same fee that Minnesotan's pay for using the state parks. Under the present fee structure, non-residents pay more.

S.F. 1177 would raise some game and fish licences for both residents and non-residents. Under the changes for resident fees, senior citizens would pay \$3 for a fish license; the fee for hunting moose would be raised from \$140 to \$200; a bear hunting license would be raised from \$15 to \$25; and pheasant and trout stamps would be \$5 instead of \$3. Non-residents would have to pay \$50 instead of \$39 to hunt small game; \$100 instead of \$75 to hunt deer; and \$175 instead of \$100 to hunt bear. The bill would also extend the time a non-resident short-term fishing license is valid to three days.

Both proposals are sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam.

A bill that would aid agricultural input suppliers in providing credit to farmers for their purchases also gained the committee's approval. The bill, S.F. 1118, sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), originally required a lender to explain, in writing, why it was not financing a farmer's purchase of agricultural inputs. However, Sen. Charles Berg (IND-Chokio), successfully amended the bill to allow suppliers to perfect an agricultural input lien. Furthermore, the amendment insures that a supplier's agricultural input lien has equal priority with other security interests in a farmer's crops or livestock.

The following bills were also okayed by the committee: S.F. 1032 (Davis) expanding the agricultural land preservation pilot county program by establishing a conservation tax credit and creating funds to aid conservation; S.F. 1033 (Davis) amending the soil conservation law by allowing local units of government to request landowners who have poor soil conservation practices to mediate an agreement to resolve the soil loss problem; S.F. 453 (Reichgott) reducing the weekly camping fees by one-half for physically handicapped people; and S.F. 1062 (Willet) conveying land obtained for the Heartland Trail back to the owners.

Economic Development and Commerce

Abandoned stock bill gains

A bill allowing Minnesota to claim abandoned stocks cleared the Economic Development and Commerce Committee, Fri., Mar. 29. S.F. 821, sponsored by Sen. Gary Laidig (IR-Stillwater), would allow the state to take ownership of stocks and certificates abandoned for seven years. The measure would allow stock and certificate owners to reclaim their investments from the state. Current law allows the state to claim only the interest on abandoned stocks.

The committee also advanced S.F. 981, sponsored by Sen.

Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield). "This bill is designed to clarify real estate closings for consumers," he said. The measure requires a draft settlement be made available to a home buyer three business days before a final settlement. The buyer could waive the right in writing under the proposal.

A bill to fund improvements for the Duluth Zoo was also approved by the panel. Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), sponsor of S.F. 999, said the Zoo is a major Duluth tourist attraction. Duluth Mayor Don Fedo testified that more tourist dollars are needed in the economically depressed area.

A measure requiring health insurance policies to cover the cost of scalp hair prostheses was okayed by the panel. Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), said the bill is designed to provide coverage for patients who suffer hair loss due to illness or treatment of an illness. The bill would apply to contracts issued or renewed after Aug. 1, 1985.

Panel okays three bills

The committee advanced three bills at the Tues., Apr. 2, morning meeting.

S.F. 921, sponsored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), would require money for pre-paid funeral and burial expenses to be held in trust until the time of death. The bill is designed to protect consumers who pre-pay for funeral expenses and decide against the purchase before or at the time of death, said Samuelson. Opponents of the bill said it would prevent cemeteries from marketing some burial services prior to death.

S.F. 1045, sponsored by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), would modify usury laws. The Minnesota Supreme Court has ruled that repeals of usury laws are retroactive unless the law specifically states otherwise. The proposal would override the ruling. Under the bill, repeals of usury laws would not be retroactive unless the legislature indicates that the repeal is retroactive.

S.F. 756, sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon, was outlined for the committee by Assistant Commerce Commissioner Jim Miller. The proposal would require 60 days notice to the commerce commissioner before closing a branch or main office of a financial institution. The bill would also authorize the commerce commissioner to revoke a safe deposit company's license if there is reason to believe that the company is about to engage in unlawful or unsafe practices. A third provision of the measure would permit bank examiners to use unmarked state cars.

A proposal that would allow gasoline retailers to have the option of purchasing motor fuel from wholesalers as well as their refineries sparked considerable discussion at the afternoon meeting of the committee. Debate on the measure, S.F. 584, sponsored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), centered on the possible effects on brand integrity should the bill become law. Opponents argued that the measure would damage consumer confidence in a particular brand of gasoline if the gasoline were to be purchased from a jobber. Proponents countered by saying that the jobbers would be required to purchase the motor fuel from the same refinery and that the consumer would benefit because the price would be less per gallon than gasoline purchased from the authorized refinery. The measure was approved by the committee.

Four additional bills were endorsed by panel members. S.F. 1262, authored by Solon, prohibits individuals registered under the healing arts chapter of the law from advertising that they will accept third-party payments if the effect is to give the impression of eliminating the need for the patient to pay any deductible. S.F. 1067, sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), provides that a debtor may not maintain an action on a credit agreement unless the agreement is in writing. S.F. 1148, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), adds to the definition of "trade secret" by specifying that the existence of a trade secret is not negated because an employee acquired the secret without express notice that it was a trade secret if the employee had reason

to know the owner intended that type of information be kept secret. The final bill, S.F. 863, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), which prescribes penalties for financial transaction card fraud, was approved and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Education

Independence debated

Verifiable evidence of a student's independent status is not needed under the current financial aid guidelines, asserted HECB Executive Director David Longanecker at the Fri., Mar. 29, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). Longanecker was arguing in favor of the strict HECB financial aid guidelines, which would go into effect next year for independents.

Opposing the HECB position and testifying in favor of S.F. 168, which would retain the federal definition of independent student status, was student representative Cindy Bursky. Disputing the claim of widespread abuse among the 2,000 Minnesota independents, she argued that it is "out of necessity that a student becomes independent." The bill, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), was approved and referred to the Finance Committee.

A second education bill, S.F. 943, was also approved. Authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), the approved bill would require the HECB to collect data on teacher education and would establish a task force to study teacher ed programs in cooperation with the board of teaching.

S.F. 356, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), was approved by the committee and referred to the Finance Committee. The bill would create a vocational education program for farmers considering the operation of alcohol fuel plants and greenhouses.

Two bills authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) were also approved. S.F. 1000 would require each state university to develop a mission statement related to the needs of its service region. S.F. 1041 would exclude the value of a family farm and its equipment from consideration for student financial aid. The legislative auditor would also be required to examine rural aid problems.

Faribault school revived

A bill that would continue the operation of the state residential schools for the deaf, blind and multiple handicapped in Faribault was approved at the Mon., Apr. 4, meeting of the Education Committee. The bill, S.F. 1192, is authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault).

With the goal of developing a nationally recognized program, the school would be placed under the direct governance of the State Board of Education, according to the bill. Minimum levels of residential staff qualifications would be set. And short-term students could be admitted for the purpose of acquiring socialization skills.

Faribault school personnel testified in support of the bill. Use of the terms "academy" and "multiple handicapped" in statute and in the new names of the schools caused concern. Declassification of professional supervisory staff also was a topic of discussion. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

Two bills authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul) were also approved. S.F. 944 would allow state boards of the state university system, community colleges and vocational technical education to sell computers and related products to staff and students. S.F. 946 would allow the same state boards to provide a minimum number of academic scholarships. The bill would also allow overdue student loans up to \$2,500 to be recovered in conciliation court.

Committee Capsule

Work on education aids bill continues

Last minute amendments to the Omnibus Education Aids bill were added at the morning session of the Wed., Apr. 3, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee. Leading the list was a provision, requested by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), which would appropriate money to the Jordan school district for declining enrollment and counseling needs resulting from the Scott County child sexual abuse investigations. "We hope that you can help us in our healing process," said a Jordan counselor.

S.F. 1290, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), was approved. The measure would establish a complex formula to decrease the disparity between teaching salaries in metro and rural areas. S.F. 1146, authored by Sen. Gen Olson (IR-Mound), would establish a computerized mastery management system demonstration site to develop reading skills. The bill was approved.

Increasing capital expenditure levies by \$30 and reducing the number of mills levied in order to quality for aid were issues addressed by approved amendments to the vehicle bill. Additional amendments would increase the special education deficiency request, provide transportation funds to Nett Lake, provide transportation between schools in education districts, remodel two schools in the taconite tax area, initiate a study of alternative Kindergarten programs and school day care programs and allow school computer courseware to be purchased outside the state of Minnesota.

Elections and Ethics

Shorter voting hours defeated

The committee defeated a bill Tues., Apr. 2, allowing outstate townships to have shorter voting hours.

Under the amended bill, S.F. 362, towns that had 200 or fewer voters in their last general election could have shortened their voting hours if at least 20 percent of the town's registered voters signed a petition. The town board could have then delayed the opening of the polls anytime up to 10:00 a.m.

In an effort to insure that the shorter polling times would be uniform, Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar) offered an amendment that would have set polling times for outstate townships from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. However, committee members did not need to vote on Johnson's amendment when a motion to table the bill won the committee's support.

Proponents of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), said shorter voting hours for townships would save money, and that many election judges feel it is unnecessary to keep the polls open the entire day. Opponents to the proposal, however, argued that the polling hours should remain 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to encourage more people to participate in the democratic process.

Employment

Panel advances seven bills

The Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), recommended seven bills for passage at its Tues., Apr. 2 meeting.

S.F. 788, sponsored by Chmielewski, cleared the committee after Commerce Commissioner Michael Hatch and Labor and Industry Commissioner Steve Keefe reached a compromise on regulation of the board of directors of the workers' compensation reinsurance association. The two commissioners had disagreed on the proposed make-up of the board at previous committee meetings. The 13-member board would consist of four elected insurers, two elected self-insurers, two employers appointed by the labor and industry commissioner, two employees appointed by the labor and industry commissioner, one director representing the public

appointed by the labor and industry commissioner, the finance commissioner and the executive director of the State Board of Investment.

S.F. 188, sponsored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), was also approved by the panel. The measure would adjust workers' compensation impairment benefits. The benefits would be adjusted annually in line with increases in the state's average weekly wage, said Diessner.

The committee recommended S.F. 850 for passage and re-referred it to the Finance Committee. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), would provide grants to sheltered workshops for wages and equipment. The commissioner of economic security would administer the funds.

The panel approved two bills authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing). S.F. 1245 would amend the employee right-to-know-act. The measure would repeal the small business exemption and require that any information gathered for an OSHA inspection be made public after the file is completed. Another provision would prohibit OSHA investigators from testifying in third party actions. S.F. 1330 calls on the President, Congress, and the U.S. Labor Secretary to maintain 1984 spending levels for dislocated workers and summer youth training grants. Dicklich said that despite the state's improved economic condition, "parts of Minnesota are in serious trouble."

A bill authored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton) cleared the committee. S.F. 1156 would establish a Minnesota youth conservation corp program. The DNR would oversee the program.

S.F. 1256, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), was amended to study the possible creation of a state-wide elevator inspection program. Hughes originally intended the bill to create an elevator inspection department. Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester) offered the amendment.

The committee also heard testimony on S.F. 1017, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson. The bill would prohibit school districts from hiring professional strike-breakers during a teacher strike. The measure was laid over.

Energy and Housing

Product standards bill gains

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee advanced a bill setting standards for formaldehyde-emitting products, Fri., Mar. 29. S.F. 1279, sponsored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), would require all formaldehyde products not to exceed 0.4 parts per million of formaldehyde. Current law requires buildings and homes to comply with the standard. The proposal would extend the standard to building materials such as plywood and particleboard.

The committee laid over S.F. 962, sponsored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids). The measure would extend residential energy credits.

County loan bill advances

The committee recommended S.F. 938 for passage, Tues., Apr. 2. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would increase loans to counties for district heating and qualified energy improvements. Dicklich said the loans would be targeted to first-class counties containing first class cities with populations of at least 100,000. Loans would be granted by the finance commissioner after a recommendation from the Dept. of Energy and Economic Development.

The panel also approved S.F. 962, sponsored by Dahl. The measure would extend residential energy credits for costs of renewable energy sources. Dahl amended the bill to reduce the energy investment credit allowed from 30 to 20 percent of the net cost of qualifying energy equipment. Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), further amended the bill to require the Pollution

Control Agency to set air quality rules for combustion equipment designed to burn biomass-derived solid processed fuel and peat.

Finance

Panel amends drinking age bill

Action amending a bill to raise Minnesota's drinking age was taken by the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, Mon., Apr. 1. The panel, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) forwarded S.F. 5, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), to the full committee.

The amended bill would raise the state's drinking age to 21 beginning Sept. 30, 1986. The change would not "grandfather in" 19 and 20 year-olds after the effective date. The effective date coincides with the federal requirement thus insuring federal highway funds. An amendment would not tie Minnesota's drinking age law with drinking age laws of neighboring states. Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), who offered the amendment and Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Plymouth) said the amendment would clear-up confusion for bartenders trying to determine a patron's drinking rights.

If the federal law requiring states to raise the drinking age to 21 to insure federal highway funds is declared unconstitutional by the federal courts or repealed by Congress, Minnesota's drinking age would return to 19.

Another provision of the bill would increase the fee for reinstatement of drivers licenses revoked for alcohol-related violations. About 33 percent of the \$150 fee would be targeted to grants for school districts alcohol and drug abuse programs. Fifty percent of the fee would be credited to the trunk highway fund and about 16 percent would be credited to the general fund.

The panel also continued hearing a budget request for Mn/DOT, Fri., Mar. 29, and Mon, Apr. 1.

The Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), heard budgets for legislative commissions Tues., Apr. 2. The panel also held a budget hearing for the Executive Council, Tues., Apr. 2.

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), continued a budget hearing for the Human Services Department, Mon., Apr. 1, and Tues., Apr. 2.

The Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), continued a capital budget hearing, Wed., Apr. 3.

Governmental Operations

Jobs bill advances

The bill reorganizing the state's employment, training and public assistance programs was approved and referred to the Finance Committee at the Fri., Mar. 29 meeting of the Governmental Operations Committee. The measure, S.F. 818, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), transfers the responsibilities of the Department of Economic Security to a new Department of Employment and Training and consolidates many of the services designed to aid the unemployed in the new Department of Employment and Training. In addition, the bill creates a new Office of Full Productivity and Opportunity to coordinate the delivery of services and programs in order to reduce unemployment rates and welfare caseloads. According to Pogemiller, the bill maintains many of the existing programs while reorganizing the government agencies in order to more effectively deliver services to the unemployed. "The aim of the bill," said Pogemiller, "is to give everybody the chance to achieve their highest economic and social potential."

Members of the committee, chaired by Sen. Don Moe, (DFL-St. Paul), acted on several other bills during two separate meetings Friday morning and Friday afternoon. S.F. 1170, sponsored by Moe, establishes a management analysis revolving fund which will allow the Department of Administration to bill state agencies

for specific services. S.F. 1186, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), provides for fees for the cooperative purchasing and transfer of state surplus property. S.F. 752, also sponsored by Moe, restructures the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board and provides for the position of state capitol architect to plan and coordinate the renovation of the state capitol building. S.F. 708, authored by Moe, provides for the expanded authority of the Legislative Coordinating Commission in order to better coordinate joint Senate-House activities. In addition, S.F. 708, incorporates language from S.F. 1044, authored by Sen. Mel Frederick (IR-Owatonna), creating an office of protocol services. All four bills gained committee approval and were re-referred to the Finance Committee.

Economic development strategy commission gains

A bill creating a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Commission to review state economic development efforts and plan an overall state strategy was approved at the Mon., Apr. 1, meeting of the committee. The bill, S.F. 1114, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), creates a commission to analyze Minnesota's economic strengths and weaknesses, to assess current economic development efforts and to develop principles for the future involvement of the state in economic development. The measure was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee.

The panel also approved a measure, S.F. 1125, creating the position of crime victim ombudsman. Under the measure, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), the ombudsman may investigate complaints concerning possible violation of the rights of crime victims or witnesses, the delivery of victim services and act as a liaison between agencies and victims. The measure also requires the establishment of a toll free telephone number so that the office of crime victims ombudsman could answer questions from victims about the criminal justice system and victim services. The bill was approved and referred to the Finance Committee.

S.F. 91, authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), ratifies the salary levels of certain state department heads as determined by the Legislative Commission on Employee Relations. The measure was also sent on to the Finance Committee. S.F. 918, authored by Moe, requires approval by the commissioner of administration to grant the right-of-way over state owned land to railroad companies.

Metro commissions bills combined

Three bills dealing with metropolitan government were combined at the Wed., Apr. 3, morning Governmental Operations Committee meeting. S.F. 1169, sponsored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), provided the vehicle for the other two measures. Under the provisions of S.F. 1169, several changes were made in the statutes governing the Regional Transit Board and the MTC. In addition, the bill establishes a regional commission to regulate taxicabs in the seven county metropolitan area. S.F. 277, authored by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), provides for various standards and procedures of metropolitan commissions and strengthens the oversight authority of the Metropolitan Council. S.F. 409, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), establishes, in statute, a conflict of interest standard for members, officers, and employees of metropolitan agencies and commissions. The latter two bills were incorporated into S.F. 1169.

Health & Human Services

Subcommittee action

The Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Income Maintenance, chaired by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), met on Thurs., Mar. 28, to hear S.F. 990. Authored by Sen. Eric Petty

Committee Capsule

(DFL-Mpls.), the bill concerns health care cost containment and health maintenance organizations. The bill was laid over.

The Health and Human Services Subcommittee on State Institutions met on Tues., Apr. 2, to hear S.F. 626. Authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), the bill would establish community-based services demonstration projects for the mentally retarded in the service areas of the Cambridge, Faribault and Willmar state hospitals. State hospital staff would be utilized in the projects.

Members advance twelve bills

Twelve bills were approved during afternoon and evening meetings of the Health and Human Services Committee on Tues., Apr. 2. The committee is chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.).

House File 621, for which companion S.F. 592 (Frank) had already been passed, was approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. The bill strikes archaic language in statute that refers to mental health.

S.F. 339, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), was approved by committee. The measure would establish a program in the Dept. of Economic Security to distribute grants to independent living services centers. These centers, operated by the handicapped for the handicapped, provide special housing, personal attendants, counseling, skills training and advocacy.

Two bills authored by Berglin were approved. S.F. 997 would require the commissioner of health to present a biennial report to the Legislature concerning health market costs, accessibility, quality and market competition. S.F. 914 would create one unified fund to encourage family permanency planning for children who are wards of the state.

Two bills authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.) were also approved. S.F. 1116 would delineate new subsidy program requirements for families with mentally retarded children. S.F. 1276 would require Dept. of Human Services licensure of facilities for children and handicapped adults needing treatment and would allow licensing of day care units for five or more nonresidents.

S.F. 684, authored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), was approved by the committee. The measure would require insurance coverage for special dietary treatment of phenylketonuria (PKU). The special formula used to treat this rare disease prevents mental retardation in children.

A bill authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), S.F. 942, was approved and referred to Taxes. The bill would replace the state election campaign fund with a child abuse prevention trust fund. S.F. 966, authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), would require the commissioner of human services to establish services for the care of brain damaged children and adults. Proponents emphasized that only one facility in the metro area exists for these people while six or seven could be used.

A bill establishing a system of regional poison information centers was approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. The bill, S.F. 1320, is authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul). Also approved were S.F. 1028, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), expanding eligibility aid for the unborn, and S.F. 1006, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), requiring a study of psychotherapists and possible regulation.

The following bills were referred to the Finance Committee: S.F. 339, S.F. 997, S.F. 914, S.F. 1276, S.F. 684, S.F. 966 and S.F. 1006.

Judiciary

Indian family preservation bill gains

A bill designated the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act was approved at the Fri., Mar. 29, meeting of the Judiciary Committee. S.F. 691, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.),

requires social service agencies to coordinate activities with tribal social service agencies in the voluntary, and involuntary, placement of Indian children in foster homes. In addition, the bill provides for the jurisdiction of tribal courts in child custody proceedings and child placement proceedings. The measure was re-referred to the Finance Committee for further action.

Another bill sponsored by Berglin, S.F. 901, also gained the committee's endorsement. The measure makes a number of changes in state laws designed to increase incentives for enforcing and collecting child support payments.

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), approved an additional six bills. S.F. 444, authored by Sen. Darrel Peterson (IR-Fairmont), authorizes a respondent in a replevin action to delay the action under certain conditions and to retain or regain property without filing a bond. S.F. 830, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), eliminates the residency requirement for court reporters. S.F. 887, also sponsored by Merriam, details the procedures for condemnation of environmentally impaired property. S.F. 826, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), clarifies procedures for crime victims notification of the place and time of the criminal trial or of any change in the trial date.

S.F. 746, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), specifies the elements that may be contained in an order for restitution and the procedures for issuing that order. S.F. 583, authored by Spear, specifies that anyone violating the provisions of the domestic abuse laws against the same victim within five years of a previous conviction would be guilty of a gross misdemeanor and subject to imprisonment of not more than one year and a fine of not more than \$3,000 or both. In addition, the measure specifies that anyone convicted of trespassing upon the grounds of a facility providing emergency shelter services for battered women and who refuses to leave the grounds is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Child abuse bill advances

In addition to hearing the two constitutional amendment proposals, the committee took action on a number of additional bills at the Mon., Apr. 1, meeting.

A bill drafted in response to the attorney general's findings on the Scott County child abuse investigation was advanced by the panel. S.F. 917, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), provides for an informal procedure for questioning children in juvenile and family court proceedings; allows a support person to accompany the child in criminal court proceedings; specifies docket priority for child abuse cases; provides for presumptive visitation unless the court determines visitation would endanger the child; broadens the juvenile court's authority to allow the court to treat the family as a whole; and provides that the "Tennessee warning" need not be given to children under 10 years of age. In addition, other provisions of the measure create a Task Force, to be named by the attorney general, to make recommendations on uniform procedures for child sexual abuse investigations and provide for the combination of the criminal sexual abuse sections and intrafamilial sexual abuse sections in the statutes.

S.F. 401, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent) provides the same protection from garnishment to family farmers as is provided to wage earners. S.F. 743, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), allows nonprofit corporations to establish, maintain, and operate common trust funds. S.F. 835, sponsored by Jude, requires courts to furnish information relating to prior DWI convictions without charge.

S.F. 1099, also sponsored by Jude, is a resolution memorializing the president and the U.S. Congress to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and

James Chaney, who were murdered in 1964 while working for black citizens' voting rights. S.F. 774, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), adds language to the statutes providing for the revocation of a drivers license upon conviction for the offense of fleeing a peace officer. S.F. 1027, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), broadens the scope of the hit and run, DWI, and reckless driving statutes to insure that they are not limited to highways but also include driveways, parking lots and ice on waterways. S.F. 1026, also authored by Spear, clarifies language regarding mandatory DWI testing. S.F. 1043, sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), provides for electrical cooperative board elections.

Vulnerable adults act changes approved

Committee members met twice Wed., Apr. 3, to continue work on bills assigned to the committee. The morning meeting resulted in the panel taking action on six bills. S.F. 1049, sponsored by Spear, amends the Vulnerable Adults Act to include language specifying that financial exploitation is reportable under the abuse and neglect act. S.F. 781, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the authority to release juvenile court records by including a reference to the sections dealing with crime victims notification. S.F. 1126, also sponsored by Peterson, removes certain limitations on eligibility for reparations under the Crime Victims Reparations Act so that the family members and persons within the same household are no longer excluded and eliminating the time requirement for filing for victims of domestic child abuse. A third crime victims bill, S.F. 433, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-South St. Paul), allows victims to file for recovery of damages if the damages are caused by the action of a peace officer in the course of apprehending another individual.

S.F. 560, authored by Spear, provides for the aggregation of the fault of multiple defendants in comparative fault actions. Currently, if a plaintiff is less than 50 percent at fault and there is only one defendant, the plaintiff could recover damages. However, if there are multiple defendants, the claimant would be unable to recover. S.F. 560 provides that the plaintiff could recover from any person as long as the plaintiff's fault is less than the combined fault of the defendants.

A bill, S.F. 695, providing that the judicial district of residence be the venue for court proceedings for a pregnant woman who is a minor making a motion to have an abortion without notifying her parents did not gain the committee's approval. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul).

Local & Urban Government

Panel processes variety of bills

In an effort to complete work on the bills assigned to the panel before the first session deadline, members of the Local and Urban Government committee met twice Tues., Apr. 2, to hear a variety of bills.

Discussion at the morning meeting, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), focused on S.F. 950. The measure, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), provides for a state grant to fund the preparation and distribution of a town law handbook. Controversy arose over an amendment, offered by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), to provide funding to the Department of Agriculture to prepare a local government handbook on agricultural land preservation and conservation. The amendment was adopted; the bill was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee.

A second controversial measure, S.F. 55, authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), was not acted upon. The bill would allow counties to hire a certified public accountant, rather than the State Auditor, to perform compliance audits.

The committee approved three additional bills at the morning meeting. S.F. 1101, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent),

permits the Minnesota Municipal Board to require representatives of local governments which are involved in a dispute, to meet and discuss resolutions to the dispute. S.F. 1102, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), sets regulations for certain municipal dissolutions and annexations. S.F. 689, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), makes statutory changes in the laws relating to a new personnel system for Ramsey County.

The evening meeting began with the approval of two bills authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes). S.F. 634 would require counties to transfer certain federal payments on entitlement lands to the city or town that is the principal provider of government services affecting the use of that land. S.F. 767, placed on the Consent Calendar, would allow the Otter Tail County Board to adopt an ordinance for the control of dogs and cats.

Also receiving approval was S.F. 890, authored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids). The measure would authorize the state planning agency to make grants to local units of government for the purpose of planning and providing joint municipal services. Approved projects could receive up to 75 percent of the planning costs or \$15,000, whichever is less; first class cities would be ineligible. The bill was referred to the Finance Committee.

S.F. 925, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), was approved by the panel. Described as the "mined underground space development act," the bill would grant municipalities a variety of powers in developing and regulating underground space.

A bill authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), S.F. 762, was approved and referred to the Finance Committee. The measure would increase filing fees paid to the County Recorder and Registrar of Titles in order to meet office operating costs. S.F. 536, authored by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park), was also approved. The bill would require the Hennepin County board of commissioners to state board member salaries and salary adjustments in fixed dollar amounts.

S.F. 639, authored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), would change certain town laws in regard to roads, fire protection, certificates of indebtedness, and town offices. The bill was approved and referred to Taxes. Another approved bill authored by Bertram, S.F. 1119, would allow county boards to appropriate up to \$2,000 to the sheriff's contingent fund. The former cap was \$1,000.

S.F. 1138, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), would allow Belle Plaine to refer to itself as a "borough" rather than a "city." The measure was approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. Tabled was S.F. 1035, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope). The bill would have established a legislative commission on metropolitan government.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Controversy sparked

911-Emergency Service funding and Cable Communications Board abolishment were controversial topics at the Tues., Apr. 2, meetings of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul).

Provisions of S.F. 1181, which would have funded 911 service through an individual customer service fee of 10-25 cents per month, were decided against. The bill was amended to provide an unspecified appropriation from the general fund to meet the maintenance cost of 911 service, estimated at \$6 million. The governor's budget would provide \$2 million for the expansion of the service but no maintenance funds are currently available. Statewide uniform fees, differing fees for metro and rural areas and rate structuring were considered as alternatives. The bill, authored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton), was referred to the Finance Committee.

Committee Capsule

The Cable Communications Board would be abolished according to S.F. 1344, authored by Dieterich. All board duties and responsibilities would be transferred to the commissioner of administration. While board representatives asked for two additional years to create a regional channel, interconnect statewide systems and keep local access, opponents pointed to board abuse of power. After being amended to become effective on Jan. 1, 1986, the bill was approved and re-referred to the Government Operations Committee.

Responding to an off-sale liquor license moratorium that expires in August of 1985, Dieterich introduced S.F. 1103. The approved bill would allow county boards to issue off-sale liquor licenses within urban towns and issue off-sale and on-sale liquor licenses within non-urban towns. Competitive protection for municipal and/or private liquor stores was a major concern.

Two other bills were also approved. S.F. 452, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), would require city approval of a farm winery license issuance or renewal if the winery is located within the city. S.F. 1096, authored by Sen. Jim Gustafson (IR-Duluth), would permit Hermantown to appoint up to seven members to the public utilities commission. Current law restricts commissions to three members.

Transportation

Members change fare-setting authority

A bill granting the Regional Transit Board (RTB) authority for setting MTC bus fares cleared the Transportation Committee Mon., Apr. 1. The bill, S.F. 1169, also establishes a Metropolitan Taxicab Commission, which would regulate taxi service in the metropolitan area.

The RTB's fare-setting authority would supercede fare caps imposed by the Legislature. Sen. Marilyn Lantry, author of the bill, said the RTB should set the fares instead of the Legislature because the board better understands transit operations.

In regulating taxicab operations, the Metropolitan Taxicab Commission would have the power to establish equipment standards for taxicabs; set rates for fares in the metropolitan area; and issue, suspend and revoke taxicab licenses. The public and taxicab owners and drivers would be able to challenge the commission's rules through the Administrative Procedures Act.

The committee advanced another bill, S.F. 1169, which is also authored by Lantry. The bill allows Ramsey County Commissioners to exempt county and county state-aid highways from seasonal weight restrictions.

Panel defeats gas tax indexing

On a voice vote, the committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), defeated a proposal giving the Dept. of Transportation the authority to annually raise the gas tax if more highway dollars are needed. However, the committee did approve a bill Wed., Apr. 3, that would transfer more dollars to the highway user and transit assistance funds.

The gas tax indexing bill, S.F. 1281, would have established a formula for the Dept. of Transportation to use in determining if the gas tax should be increased in order to meet highway maintenance costs. The proposal, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), would have limited the gas tax increase to one cent per year.

Pehler said the proposal would stabilize the funding for the upkeep of the state's roads. Revenue from the state's gas tax, which is currently 17 cents per gallon, is dedicated to funding road improvements.

The second bill, S.F. 2, accelerates by six months the transfer of the motor vehicle excise tax revenues from the general fund to the highway user and tax distribution fund and the transit assistance fund. According to the author of the bill, Sen. Clarence Purfeerst,

about \$25 million would be transferred under the proposal. He said the bill would provide more revenue for the state's highways and transit assistance.

Two other bills gained the committee's approval Wednesday. S.F. 1284 (Purfeerst) allows the commissioner of transportation to permit vehicles up to 110 feet long and 150,000 pounds in gross weight to travel on designated highways in the state. The bill also permits three-vehicle combinations consisting of a truck-tractor and two semi-trailers to travel within 15 miles of Minnesota's western border. S.F. 886, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), establishes a series of local highway jurisdiction studies that will help complete the work started by the Highway Study Commission.

Veterans and General Legislation

Low voltage wiring changes advance

People who install fire and burglary alarms and other low voltage communication systems would not have to be registered electricians, according to a proposal okayed by the committee Mon., Apr. 1.

The bill, S.F. 952, exempts persons installing low voltage systems from being licensed if they are bonded and have insurance. The proposal, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would allow a municipality to enact ordinances regulating the inspection, servicing and monitoring of fire alarm systems.

The committee also approved a bill requiring the Minnesota Historical Society to develop instructional materials on Minnesota history. The bill, S.F. 1002, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), appropriates \$150,000 to the Historical Society to allow them to develop and publish the materials, which would be used by public and private schools. Hughes said the information would be designed for 6th-grade students.

Also Monday, members advanced a bill establishing a Roy Wilkins memorial. Wilkins, a former civil activist and chairman of the NAACP, was born and educated in St. Paul. The bill, S.F. 924, authored by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), establishes a procedure to be used for selecting the design for the memorial, which would be placed in the capitol complex.

Decompression chamber bill gains

The committee approved a bill Wed., Mar. 3, prohibiting the killing of animals by a decompression chamber. The bill, S.F. 565, was first debated in the committee last week.

A decompression chamber kills an animal by cutting off the oxygen in the air. According to proponents of the bill, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), injecting a lethal drug into the animal is a less painful way for the animal to die.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), also advanced a proposal transferring the responsibilities of the Big Island Veterans Camp to a governing board. The eight member board would operate the camp or sell it, if necessary.

Authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), the bill places members on the board from the following organizations: American Legion, Disabled American Veterans; the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The bill, S.F. 954, was amended to insure that at least one of those members represents Vietnam veterans.

The committee also okayed the following two bills: S.F. 115 (Samuelson) requiring the state to issue free EX-POW license plates to former prisoners of war; and S.F. 1121 (Reichgott) permitting veterans who are receiving a veteran's pension to be eligible for veterans preference credit when applying for civil service employment.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 8, 1985

No meetings scheduled.

Tuesday, April 2, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 85-Davis: Santiago detached banking; H.F. 825-Waldorf: Regulating electricians; H.F. 242-Dahl: New car warranty disclosures; H.F. 345-Petty: Underinsured motorist insurance coverage, stacking.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda - 296-4182.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 516-Adkins: Reimbursement to county commissioners; H.F. 362-Willet: Beltrami County, spending for tourist, ag and industrial developments; S.F. 445-Wegscheid: Requiring prompt payment of local bills; H.F. 58-Langseth: Moorhead; town and municipal industrial development powers; H.F. 1060-Stumpf: Counties, broker to sell county property; Possible additions.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Fish & Wildlife,

Chair: Charles Davis

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 723-Peterson, R.W.: "Reinvest in Minnesota".

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon

Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Public testimony - Dept. of Corrections budget.

The Senate will be in session at 1:00 PM and 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, April 10, 1985

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

8:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Capital budget. (See 3:00 PM meeting.)

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Allocation for capital budget: Community colleges, state universities and University of Minnesota.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Dram shop bills: H.F. 265-Luther and S.F. 318-Dieterich.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon

Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Public testimony - Dept. of Health budget.

Legislative Audit Commission, Chair: Randolph Peterson

12:00 Noon Room 300 South, State Office Building

Agenda: Continuation of Legislative Auditor's program evaluation report on Dept. of Energy & Economic Development; Bagley waste incinerator report.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda. 296-4157.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills that passed the House policy committees.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Capital budget.

Legislative Commission on Waste Management, Chair: Rep.

Dee Long

7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Action on LCWM recommendations for appropriations from the Environmental Response, Compensation and Compliance Fund, the Landfill Contingency Action Fund and the Landfill Abatement Fund; Discussion of Waste Management Board policy regarding household hazardous waste.

Thursday, April 11, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 874-Jude: Interest on downpayments for purchase of goods; H.F. 1074-Johnson, D.J.: Requiring vehicle replacement during repairs; H.F. 988-Reichgott: Prohibits deceptive advertising; H.F. 916-Luther: Regulating corporate takeovers.

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda - 296-4182.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: House files that have passed policy committees.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Subc. on Environmental

Protection, Chair: Charles Davis

12:00 Noon Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda - 296-2302.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

12:00 Noon

Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Public testimony - Dept. of Human Services budget.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Friday, April 12, 1985

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
 10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Call for agenda - 296-3809.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear
 10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 459-Spear: Guardianship in pauperis; S.F. 731-Peterson, R.W.: Additional judges in 10th Judicial Dist.; S.F. 895-Schmitz: Additional judges in 1st Judicial Dist.; S.F. 862-Pehler: Conciliation court venue for recovery of student loans; S.F. 1037-Reichgott: Worthless check notice requirements; S.F. 1077-Pogemiller: Out-of-state witness fees; H.F. 140-Peterson, R.W.: Multi-party bank

accounts; H.F. 274-Frank: Flammable liquids; H.F. 335-Knaak: Criminal record information; H.F. 374-Freeman: Arson, fire security; H.F. 461-Knaak: Ramsey County referee salaries; H.F. 511-Peterson, R.W.: Second degree assault; H.F. 657-Petty: Child abuse victim identity.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
 1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: Call for agenda - 296-4157.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin
 1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: Bills that have passed House policy committees.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR ADDITIONS.

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE
Senate Members—1985 Session

DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*	DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*
22	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	296-5981	235 Cap.	47	DFL	Luther, William P.	296-8869	205 Cap.
12	IR	Anderson, Don A.	6455	103 SOB	44	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	1279	132B SOB
41	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	5975	107 SOB	26	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	8075	127 SOB
32	IR	Benson, Duane D.	3903	109 SOB	49	DFL	Merriam, Gene	4154	G-24 Cap.
11	IND	Berg, Charles A.	5094	115 SOB	65	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	4264	309 Cap.
60	DFL	Berglin, Linda	4261	323 Cap.	2	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	2577	208 Cap.
21	IR	Bernhagen, John	4131	113 SOB	31	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	4871	301 Cap.
16	DFL	Bertram, Joe	2084	328 Cap.	52	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	4334	203 Cap.
33	IR	Brataas, Nancy	4848	139 SOB	43	IR	Olson, Gen	1282	132C SOB
14	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	4182	325 Cap.	17	DFL	Pehler, James C.	4241	306 Cap.
50	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	5003	G-24 Cap.	10	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	4135	205 Cap.
18	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	2302	G-24 Cap.	29	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	3988	141 SOB
27	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	6820	303 Cap.	61	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	4274	G-29 Cap.
5	DFL	Dicklich, Ronald R.	2859	306 Cap.	19	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	8018	326 Cap.
56	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	8298	325 Cap.	62	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	0760	323 Cap.
63	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	8867	235 Cap.	58	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	7809	G-24 Cap.
51	DFL	Frank, Don	2877	G-28 Cap.	25	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	4167	303 Cap.
30	IR	Frederick, Mel	4123	119 SOB	45	IR	Ramstad, Jim	9251	123 SOB
23	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	8138	143 SOB	46	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	2889	G-27 Cap.
40	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	9307	303 Cap.	35	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	4125	117 SOB
8	IR	Gustafson, Jim	4314	132 A SOB	13	DFL	Samuelson, Don	4875	121 Cap.
54	DFL	Hughes, Jerome M.	4183	328 Cap.	36	DFL	Schmitz, Robert J.	7157	235 Cap.
28	IR	Isackson, Doran L.	9305	151 SOB	64	IR	Sieloff, Ron	4310	135 SOB
15	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	3826	105 SOB	7	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	4188	303 Cap.
6	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	8881	205 Cap.	59	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	4191	G-27 Cap.
48	DFL	Jude, Tad	4248	235 Cap.	42	IR	Storm, Donald A.	6238	125 SOB
20	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	1240	133 SOB	1	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	8660	306 Cap.
53	IR	Knaak, Fritz	1253	149 SOB	24	IR	Taylor, Glen	9457	147 SOB
38	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	4120	121 SOB	39	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	4101	G-29 Cap.
57	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	4302	G-24 Cap.	66	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	3809	G-24 Cap.
34	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	1945	153 SOB	37	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	8091	309 Cap.
55	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	4351	145 SOB	4	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	4147	121 Cap.
9	DFL	Langseth, Keith	3205	G-24 Cap.					
67	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	8017	G-24 Cap.					
3	DFL	Lessard, Bob	4136	328 Cap.					

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (19)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam
OFFICE NO.: G-24
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Berg	DeCramer	Lessard	Storm
Bernhagen	Frederickson	Merriam	Stumpf
Bertram	Gustafson	Novak	Wegscheid
Dahl	Isackson	Peterson, C. C.	Willet
Davis	Laidig	Peterson, R.W.	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon
OFFICE NO.: 303
MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Dahl	Laidig	Samuelson
Anderson	Freeman	Luther	Solon
Belanger	Kroening	Peterson, D. C.	Wegscheid
Benson	Kronebusch	Petty	

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler
OFFICE NO.: 306
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Anderson	Kamrath	Olson	Reichgott
Dahl	Knutson	Pehler	Stumpf
Davis	Langseth	Peterson, D. C.	Taylor
Dicklich	Mehrkens	Peterson, D. L.	
Dieterich	Merriam	Peterson, R. W.	
Hughes	Nelson	Ramstad	

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (14)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
OFFICE NO.: 301
MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Dicklich	Langseth	Olson	Peterson, R. W.
Dieterich	Mehrkens	Pehler	Taylor
Hughes	Merriam	Peterson, D. C.	
Knutson	Nelson	Peterson, D. L.	

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes
OFFICE NO.: 328
MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Frederickson	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, D. C.	Storm
Hughes	Luther	Peterson, D. L.	Willet
Johnson, D. E.	Moe, R. D.	Samuelson	

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski
OFFICE NO.: 325
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Diessner	Kroening	Vega
Brataas	Frank	Nelson	
Chmielewski	Frederick	Pehler	
Dicklich	Gustafson	Ramstad	

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega
OFFICE NO.: G-29
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Kamrath	Peterson, D. C.	Vega
Anderson	Kroening	Peterson, D. L.	
Frank	McQuaid	Pogemiller	
Freeman	Olson	Reichgott	

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet
OFFICE NO.: 121
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Brataas	Kroening	Nelson	Spear
Dahl	Kronebusch	Purfeerst	Taylor
Dicklich	Langseth	Ramstad	Waldorf
Frederickson	Lantry	Renneke	Willet
Hughes	Lessard	Samuelson	
Johnson, D. E.	Luther	Schmitz	
Knutson	Mehrkens	Solon	

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M.
OFFICE NO.: 309
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Benson	Knaak	Peterson, C. C.	Wegscheid
Berglin	Lantry	Pogemiller	
Frederickson	McQuaid	Renneke	
Jude	Moe, D. M.	Spear	

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIR: Berglin
OFFICE NO.: 323
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Benson	Dicklich	Lantry	Waldorf
Berglin	Diessner	Moe, D. M.	
Brataas	Johnson, D. E.	Petty	
Chmielewski	Knutson	Solon	

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear
OFFICE NO.: G-27
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Freeman	Knaak	Petty	Sieloff
Johnson, D. E.	Luther	Pogemiller	Spear
Jude	Merriam	Ramstad	
Kamrath	Peterson, R. W.	Reichgott	

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Isackson	Reichgott	Wegscheid
Bertram	Kamrath	Renneke	
Davis	McQuaid	Schmitz	
Freeman	Olson	Stumpf	

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (15)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

DeCramer	Isackson	Novak	Spear
Dieterich	Johnson, D.J.	Peterson, D. L.	Storm
Frank	Jude	Purfeerst	Waldorf
Gustafson	Knaak	Seloff	

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (27)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D.
OFFICE NO.: 208
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Johnson, D. J.	Moe, R. D.	Sieloff
Berglin	Knutson	Nelson	Solon
Bernhagen	Laidig	Pehler	Spear
Chmielewski	Lessard	Peterson, C. C.	Taylor
Dieterich	Luther	Purfeerst	Vega
Frederick	Merriam	Renneke	Willet
Hughes	Moe, D. M.	Schmitz	

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J.
OFFICE NO.: 205
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Davis	Merriam	Pogemiller
Benson	Dieterich	Moe, D. M.	Seloff
Berg	Frank	Novak	Stumpf
Berglin	Frederick	Pehler	Vega
Bernhagen	Johnson, D. J.	Peterson, C. C.	
Bertram	Jude	Peterson, R. W.	
Chmielewski	Laidig	Petty	

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C.
ROOM: 205
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:

Belanger	Davis	Johnson, D. J.	Pehler
Berg	Dieterich	Laidig	Peterson, C. C.
Berglin	Frank	Merriam	Peterson, R. W.
Bernhagen	Frederick	Novak	Petty

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst
ROOM: 303
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:

Adkins	Diessner	Lantry	Stumpf
Anderson	Frederick	Mehrkens	Vega
Berg	Kronebusch	Novak	
Bernhagen	Laidig	Purfeerst	
DeCramer	Langseth	Schmitz	

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard
ROOM: 328
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:

Berg	Chmielewski	Isackson	Samuelson
Bertram	DeCramer	Kronebusch	Schmitz
Brataas	Diessner	Lessard	Storm

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The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

April 12, 1985

Rule 40 for unemployment bill fails

A motion to transfer S.F. 1294 from the Employment Committee to the General Orders Calendar failed on the Senate floor, Thursday, April 4. Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester), author of the unemployment compensation bill, said the move was necessary due to lack of action on the issue. "S.F. 41 has been on the committee agenda for at least three weeks without any action," she said.

Chmielewski called the motion "premature." He explained that the committee had discussed S.F. 41 and S.F. 1294 that morning. A similar bill, H.F. 847, had already met the committee deadline in the House.

The motion failed on a 41 to 24 roll call vote.

The Senate did give final passage to H.F. 1216. The bill, carried in the Senate by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) clarifies the definition of lender in the Minnesota Emergency Farm Operating Loans Act.

In other action, several bills were referred to the Tax and Finance Committees.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, April 9, to allow for a brief Easter Holiday.

Minimum pricing bill gains

Providing relief to Minnesota farmers caught in the agricultural financial crises was again the focus of activity during the afternoon floor session Tuesday, April 9. One measure, S.F. 221, that was being considered for preliminary approval generated the lion's share of floor debate. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), provides for the establishment of minimum prices for milk and grain commodities in the state and the region if other states, which together produce 60 percent of the national total of each commodity, enact similar legislation. Under the measure, each commodity price would be set at 80 percent of parity. In arguing for the bill, Davis said, "The only permanent solution to the agricultural crisis is equitable pricing."

A section of the bill establishing an advisory task force sparked the most debate. Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), successfully amended the bill to delete the task force provisions. He argued that the establishment of legislative task forces and commissions erodes the legislative process and that the existing committee structure provides the accountability and flexibility to study issues and act in an advisory capacity.

The measure gained preliminary approval on a narrow 25-24 roll call vote.

Senators also debated a motion to concur with the House Amendments on S.F. 546, the bill appropriating money to the state Board of Vocational Technical Education and the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Minnesota to aid farmers with financial planning. The House version of the bill provided the same total amount of money but removed a deadline for the program and established a task force to collect data on the financial status of Minnesota agriculture. The Senate voted to concur with those amendments and repassed the bill, 54-1.

Watercraft bill debated

A bill prohibiting persons from operating a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance was discussed at length when the Senate met in an evening session Tuesday, April 10.

S.F. 31, sponsored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), would parallel the current law on DWI. A person found guilty of violating the watercraft law would be prohibited from operating watercraft on Minnesota lakes for up to 90 days between May 1 and October 31, would be subject to the similar implied consent laws similar to those for DWI, and would face other similar penalties.

Several amendments were proposed to allow boaters to drink while anchored or tied to shore.

Tax panel moves compensation fund

The proposal establishing a \$2 million state fund to compensate persons injured from a release of hazardous waste gained the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee's approval Wednesday, April 12, and was sent to the Senate Finance Committee.

Injuries, diseases or deaths that would be compensated would be those that are medically verified to be a result of exposure to a hazardous substance. A person would not receive compensation if the injury is covered under the workers' compensation law, if the injury occurred during the "ordinary use" of the product, or if the victim was responsible for releasing the hazardous substance.

The bill also creates a three-member hazardous substance injury compensation board, which would review injury claims and determine compensation.

The fund would be paid by the public and by a surtax on hazardous waste generators.

Senate author Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes) substituted the Senate position for the House proposal-H.F. 876. Differences between the House and Senate proposals will be resolved by a conference committee.

Senate ed aids bill finalized

Final Senate amendments were added to the Omnibus Education Aids bill, S.F. 172 (Nelson), at the Thurs., Apr. 4, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud). The 190 page bill, which would include open enrollment, was approved with only one major amendment at the relatively brief meeting conducted on the committee deadline date.

The amendment, offered by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) and approved by an 11-9 vote, removed the \$4.5 million state arts high school from the bill. Emphasizing that money was the issue, Taylor asked the committee to "defer the arts school itself till another time." Opposing the amendment, Sen. Nelson pointed out that the performing arts high schools in N.Y.C. and North Carolina "have been beneficial to the community at large and to the students who have attended them."

A second Taylor amendment, which would have transferred the freed funds to deleted interdistrict cooperation aid, was defeated. A variety of additional amendments affecting formula funding also failed.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Crop damage compensation bill gains

Farmers who have had their crops damaged by elk would be compensated by the state for their loss, under a bill approved by the committee Wed., Apr. 3.

A crop owner would be entitled to the fair market value of the crop that was damaged. Sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), the bill, S.F. 1205, would compensate damages since 1983. The fee for the damages would be paid from the Dept. of Natural Resources's budget until July 1, 1983. Beginning July 1, 1985, the money for the damages would come from the game and fish fund.

Stumpf said about \$29,000 worth of damage to crops have occurred since 1983 from elk. The intent of the bill is to encourage the DNR to move the elk herd, which presently grazes in Northern Beltrami and Eastern Marshall counties.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), advanced another bill requiring persons under 19 years of age to complete a firearm safety course before being eligible for a small or big game hunting license. The requirement would apply to persons intending to hunt with a firearm or a bow. The bill, S.F. 60, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would affect persons born after Dec. 31, 1972.

A resolution asking the President and Congress to take immediate steps to reduce acid rain also won the committee's approval. According to Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), sponsor of the resolution, Minnesota industries and businesses have reduced emissions more than 50 percent over the last ten years. He added that more could be done to reduce acid rain.

The State Planning Agency would step up its efforts to encourage recycling efforts to enhance the state's environment, according to S.F. 1261. The bill, approved by the committee, is authored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing).

Also Wednesday, the committee okayed S.F. 1901 (Willet), which allows the Dept. of Natural Resource to require a performance bond and a bid deposit for a state forestry development project.

Loan to aid sewer overflow

A bill providing the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and South St. Paul with interest-free loans to help them resolve their sewer overflow problems won the committee's approval Thurs., Apr. 4.

Currently, the three cities have some combined storm and sanitary sewers, which sometimes increases polluted discharge into the Mississippi River. Normally, the combined wastewater is sent to a treatment plant in St. Paul. However, when rainfall is heavy, the wastewater overflows into the Mississippi River because pipes leading to the plant are not large enough to hold all of the discharge. To eliminate this overflow, the cities need to separate their storm and sanitary sewers.

The bill, S.F. 1009, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), would help the three cities accelerate the separation project by providing them with interest-free loans. Together, the cities would receive \$6.6 million per year over the next ten years. After they receive their final loan, they would have ten years to pay the state back, under Merriam's proposal.

The committee also approved a bill establishing a comprehensive local water management plan. Sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), the proposal would require each county to prepare and implement a water management plan that assesses both surface and groundwater conditions and identifies potential problems in the county. The proposal, S.F. 993,

requires counties to use existing water management plans and rules adopted by a watershed district or intercounty board.

The committee also advanced a proposal extending a county's authority to warrant crop inputs purchased by a farmer. Currently, counties can warrant agricultural inputs to help farmers who are unable to receive loans from lending institutions because their crop has failed due to a natural disaster. The bill S.F. 236, would allow the counties to provide the warrants, which guarantees the payments of the inputs, because the agricultural economy is in a state of "economic emergency." The farmer could use the loans to purchase fertilizer, herbicides and fuel, according to the bill. Before the program is established, the county board would have to agree to provide the program. The bill is authored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton).

In order to meet the first committee deadline, members worked until the early hours of Fri., Apr. 5. The following proposals were approved: S.F. 361 (Chmielewski) allowing the Dept. of Natural Resources to lease state land for peat farming; S.F. 1375 (Chmielewski) allowing tax-forfeited land located within Fond du Lac reservation to be sold first to the Indians at appraised value; S.F. 1173 (Jude) naming the Luce Line Trail the "O.J. Heinitz Memorial Trail"; S.F. 873 (Dicklich) permitting peat operators farming under 320 acres to be exempted from regulations; S.F. 1232 (Willet) allowing three-wheel vehicles to use snowmobile trails; S.F. 846 (Willet) increasing the penalty for persons who knowingly trespass; S.F. 1288 (Stumpf) changing the funding for the agricultural resource loan guaranty fund from \$12 million in general obligation bonding to \$6 million in general fund appropriations; S.F. 1347 (Lessard) allowing the sale of state land to Koochiching County; S.F. 1353 (Lessard) allowing land to be sold to St. Louis County; S.F. 1175 (Anderson) compensating specific landowners for proceedings involving the determination of public waters and wetlands; and S.F. 1110 (Wegscheid) prohibiting leases of ag production for a fixed amount.

The committee also advanced a bill providing emergency relief for loggers of state timber—S.F. 1408 (Lessard). Logging companies who have been adversely affected by the closing of wood processing plants would not have to pay the state the entire value of the wood on the tax forfeited land. Currently, logging companies who are cutting timber on tax forfeited land must pay the state the value of the timber. A downpayment of 25 percent is required when the permit is issued, and the remainder is paid later. The bill allows loggers to forego paying the remaining 75 percent of the timber value.

Panel okays two-deer season

The committee approved a bill Wed., Apr. 10, allowing the Dept. of Natural Resources to permit hunters to take two deer in one season by either firearm or bow. The proposal, S.F. 719, also directs the department to move the herd of elk grazing in Northern Minnesota from agricultural areas.

Sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), the bill requires compensation to farmers who have had crops damaged by the elk. However, Stumpf's proposal, unlike the bill approved last week, requires the Dept. of Agriculture to compensate the farmer.

The two-deer hunting season could be limited to areas where the herd needs to be thinned, and hunters could be required to purchase an additional license. The experimental two-deer season could not be established after 1987.

The committee approved two other bills Wednesday. S.F. 534, authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), authorizes \$111,200 from the general fund for apiary inspection. The money would be used to locate and eliminate specific parasitic mites that

attack adult honey bees. S.F. 614, authored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam, allows Minnesota to enter into agreements with other states to cooperatively fight forest fires.

Economic Development and Commerce

Omnibus Insurance bill gains

The Senate Economic Development and Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), devoted most of a five hour meeting to discussing and amending the Omnibus Insurance bill. S.F. 1113, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) would further amend laws regulating the industry. Under the bill, 30 hours of classroom training would be required before licensing a life and health or property and casualty agent. A move to require the education to be obtained from an institution outside of the insurance industry failed.

The committee also recommended six other bills for passage. S.F. 1051, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), would raise the maximum auto insurance benefit payments for funeral expenses. The cap would be raised from \$1,250 to \$2,000. S.F. 1278, sponsored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would extend assumption of home mortgages made between June 1, 1929 and May 9, 1981. The loans would continue to be assumable under the bill through Sept., 1990. S.F. 876, also sponsored by Dicklich would create an Institute for Invention and Innovation in the Minnesota Historical Society.

S.F. 134, sponsored by Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby), calls on the President and Congress to repeal the Federal Reserve Act.

S.F. 1200, sponsored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton) would create an enterprise zone in Cottage Grove. S.F. 885, sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul) would require contractors to be licensed before installing alarms or communications systems.

Convention Center bill okayed

The committee recommended six bills for passage, Thurs., Apr. 4, including a bill authorizing the Metropolitan Sports and Convention Facilities Commission to construct and operate the Minneapolis Convention and Trade Show Center. S.F. 1424 was sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.). The center would be located on Grant Street, the location of the Minneapolis Auditorium. This site would be more cost effective than the previously considered Butler Square site, said Petty.

Petty said the center could boost Minnesota's economy. "It would attract top business leaders to Minnesota and encourage further investment in the state," he said. He estimated that the center would increase tax revenues \$8 million in the center's eighth year and provide 4,000 permanent jobs. The facility would be funded by bonds sold by the Metropolitan Council.

The panel also approved S.F. 1360 and S.F. 1361, both sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon. The two measures would establish a convention center in Duluth.

S.F. 598, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), would extend the "lemon car law" to farm vehicles. The bill would require repair, refund, or replacement of cars and farm vehicles under certain circumstances. S.F. 1355, sponsored by Sen. Jim Gustafson (IR-Duluth), would provide a state advocacy fund for business license applicants.

S.F. 928, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley) would establish a state board of hearing instrument dispensing. Testimony on the measure was heard at a previous committee meeting.

Lemon car bill advances

The committee recommended three bills for passage, Tues., Apr. 9.

H.F. 242, carried by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), would alter the state's "lemon car law." Manufacturers would be required to provide a new vehicle buyer with a notice stating the state's lemon car law. Currently, the law requires the agent, dealer, or manufacturer to provide the information.

H.F. 825, carried by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), would make several regulatory changes in the Minnesota Electrical Act.

H.F. 85, carried by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton) would permit a detached banking facility in Santiago, Minnesota.

Panel okayes regulatory bill

A bill to regulate corporate take-overs won committee approval Thurs., Apr. 11.

Sen. William Luther, sponsor of the bill, said S.F. 1159 would protect shareholders in corporate take-overs as well as control share acquisitions. However, Sen. William Belanger (IR-Bloomington) said the bill would protect poorly managed companies from take-overs that could benefit shareholders. Belanger attempted to amend the bill by requiring that hearings on acquisitions and take-overs be handled by an administrative law judge rather than the commerce commissioner.

Luther said the amendment would slow the process. "Our hearing examiners don't need anymore work," he said.

The Belanger amendment failed on a tie vote. The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Education

Omnibus bill recommended

The Omnibus Education Aids bill, with a biennial cost of \$2,564,814,000, was recommended for passage at the Wednesday, April 3, meeting of the Education Aids Subcommittee. The vote came after a heated debate over the transfer of teacher retirement and social security payments to local school districts. Chief author Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) chaired the subcommittee.

An attempt by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul) to amend the bill in order to retain state payment of teacher retirement and social security failed. A second attempt by Dieterich to provide additional funding for local districts to meet the new obligations also was defeated. The new policy would transfer an approximate \$36 million from state to local payrolls.

Article 1 of the omnibus bill, S.F. 172 (Nelson), would provide basic foundation aid at \$1845 per pupil for 1986-87 and \$1935 per pupil for 1987-88. The basic maintenance mill rate would continue at 23.5 mills for levies payable in 1986 and 1987. Article 10 would establish cash flow procedures.

Two approved amendments would increase the special education salary reimbursement cap from \$17,500 to \$18,500 and would reinstate a taconite tax formula.

Vo tech plan reviewed

The Minnesota State Plan for Vocational Technical Education was reviewed at the Wed., Apr. 10, meeting of the Education Committee. All state plans are being submitted to the federal government upon request of the National Conference of State Legislatures in order to supply fair and uniform input into the federal-state funding programs being established. The plan and a letter including Senate comments and questions will be forwarded to the Secretary of Education in Washington D.C.

Mel Johnson of the State Board of Vocational Technical Education presented a brief overview of the plan which includes approximately \$12.5 million in federal funding. The remaining planned budget is composed of \$158.7 million in requested state funds and \$85 million in local funds (tuition, levy and aid). Differences in secondary and post-secondary programs as well as child care facilities for parent-students were topics of discussion.

Committee Capsule

Elections and Ethics

Appointing park commissioners favored

The Hennepin County Park Reserve District Commissioners would all be appointed by the Hennepin County Board, according to a bill advanced by the committee Wed., Apr. 3.

Currently, the park commissioners are both elected by the public and appointed by the Hennepin County Board. The bill, S.F. 99, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), would have required that they all be elected. However, the committee amended the proposal to mandate that they be appointed, which is similar to how other county boards are formed.

The committee also okayed a bill prohibiting Minnesotans from being penalized for missing work in the morning in order to vote. The bill, S.F. 1224, authored by Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rollingstone), would penalize an employer who refuses or interferes with an employee who wants to vote in a state general election.

The following bills were also approved Wednesday: S.F. 1145 (Knaak) prohibiting nonprofit organizations from contributing to a state campaign; S.F. 1151 (Frederick) changing Ottawa township in LeSeuer county from the second to the first congressional district in accordance with the apportionment plan; and S.F. 1325 (Luther) amending laws regulating campaign contributions, changing the dates when disclosure reports are due.

Employment

Unemployment comp debated

The Senate Employment Committee heard testimony on two bills relating to unemployment compensation, Thurs., Apr. 4. Committee Chairman Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), said action on the bills was not necessary to meet the first committee deadline because a similar bill, H.F. 847, has met the House committee deadline.

Chmielewski, sponsor of S.F. 41, said the bill is designed to make the unemployment compensation fund solvent. Economic Security Commissioner Barbara Beerhalter testified that the fund is \$75 million in the red now. The bill would phase-out the current split wage base, change the definition of credit week and establish an alternative method for qualifying for benefits. Under the bill, an individual could qualify for benefits with either at least 15 credit weeks or at least 30 alternative credit weeks during the base period.

S.F. 1294, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester), would require individuals to work 20 credit weeks and slow the increase in benefit payments. "The object of my bill is to remove automatic escalators. Right now we are rewarding workers who are in and out of the job market as a way of life," she said.

The committee also delayed action on S.F. 1342. The panel heard testimony from bill sponsor, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), but took no vote. The bill would extend deadlines for reporting on compliance with laws requiring equitable compensation relationships.

S.F. 1392, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), was recommended for passage. The bill would create a state grant program for area labor management committees.

Energy and Housing

Energy assistance bill gains

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), approved an energy assistance bill, Thurs., Apr. 4. S.F. 1270, sponsored by Vega, establishes an eligibility standard of 125 percent of the U.S. poverty level. The

measure also limits payment of past due bills to avoid heating shut-offs. A household could not receive the payments two years in a row.

The committee also okayed S.F. 1324, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.). She said the bill is designed to prevent Minnesotans from resorting to living on the streets. The measure would extend a temporary housing program currently being administered by the Department of Economic Security. She said that a June 30, 1985 sunset date for the program would be removed. Temporary housing would be provided for rent of at least 25 percent of family income for up to six months under the bill.

S.F. 1190, also sponsored by Peterson, cleared the committee. The bill amends laws governing municipal housing programs. She said the measure would secure compliance with recent federal tax law changes and insure consistency with municipal and regional housing plans.

S.F. 1295, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), was laid over. Merriam explained that the bill would affect only one mobile park in Anoka county. He indicated that the situation might be improved without legislative action.

Finance

Panel okayes highway limit increase

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) approved S.F. 304, Thurs., Apr. 11.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent) would increase the trunk highway limit to 80,000 pounds.

Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Grand Rapids) said he was concerned about funding to keep roads maintained properly. He said an increased limit would put more pressure on trunk highways. "A one time license increase won't make up for the loss of life on roads," he said.

Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) amended the bill to increase the total gross weight tax by 4.6 percent in the first year and five percent in the second year.

The bill was referred to the full committee.

In other action the panel continued budget hearings for MN/DOT, Tues., Apr. 9 and Thurs., Apr. 11. The subcommittee heard the capital budget, Tues., Apr. 9.

The Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.) continued hearing the capital budget, Wed., Apr. 10.

The Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), heard allocations for the capital budget, community colleges, state universities and the University of Minnesota, Wed., Apr. 10.

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), heard public testimony on the Department of Health budget, Wed., Apr. 10.

Governmental Operations

Metro government bill advances

The bill adding numerous provisions to the laws dealing with metropolitan government, including the creation of a regional taxicab commission, gained the approval of the Governmental Operations Committee Wed., Apr. 3. S.F. 1169, sponsored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), also changes the composition of the Regional Transit Board, increases the oversight functions of the Metropolitan Council and establishes a code of ethics to prohibit conflict of interest on the part of employees, officers and members of metropolitan agencies and commissions. The measure also provides for the salary levels of agency and commission heads,

requires addition reports by the Metropolitan Council to the Legislature detailing the priorities and goals of the council, provides for the regulation of taxicabs in the metro area and makes several changes in the laws governing the Regional Transit Board. The bill will be heard next in the Finance Committee.

In other action Wednesday evening, the panel, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), approved a bill altering the procedures concerning state procurement set asides for small businesses. Under the measure, S.F. 1233, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), at least nine percent of the value of all state procurements are to be awarded, if possible, to businesses owned and operated by socially or economically disadvantaged persons with their principal place of business in Minnesota. Further, the bill allows a five percent preference in the amount bid on selected state procurements to small businesses owned and operated by socially or economically disadvantaged persons.

Four additional bills gained the committee members' approval. S.F. 1093, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), outlines procedures for the shipment of high level radioactive waste through Minnesota, provides for cooperation with the federal government in nuclear waste site planning and provides for emergency preparedness for nuclear waste transportation incidents. S.F. 1359, sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), creates the Northeastern Minnesota Economic Development Corporation to provide incentives for industrial and manufacturing enterprises to locate in northeastern Minnesota. S.F. 1322, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), creates a council on biotechnology to develop a strategic plan to facilitate economic expansion in the state by encouraging biotechnology related developments. S.F. 1203, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), requires state departments and agencies to provide services and materials in languages other than English when serving a substantial number of non-English-speaking people.

Comparable worth exclusion bill heard

Committee members devoted most of the Wed., Apr. 10 meeting to discussion of a bill that originally would exempt police and firefighters from comparable worth evaluation systems. The measure, H.F. 418, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), was amended to delete the exemption from the studies. However, under the proposal, police and firefighter arbitration would not be bound by the findings of the comparable worth studies. The bill was laid over until next week to allow for consideration of further amendments.

The panel, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), approved a second bill and recommended the measure be placed on the Consent Calendar. The bill, H.F. 112, sponsored by Sen. Robert Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), authorizes certain American Legion officers and employees to elect state employee benefit coverage at their own expense.

Health & Human Services

Community services project halted

The establishment of community based services demonstration projects for the mentally retarded was halted by the defeat of S.F. 626 at the Wed., Apr. 3, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.).

Authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), the bill would have established demonstration projects in the Cambridge, Faribault and Willmar state hospital service areas. For every two licensed beds removed from the hospitals, only one could be created for the projects. Long-term impact of the measure would include the layoff of approximately 644 state hospital employees.

Four bills were approved by the committee. S.F. 612, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), would add chiropractic services to General Assistance Medical Care (GMAC)

reimbursement rolls. S.F. 1050, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), would require insurance companies requesting autopsies to pay for the service rather than charging counties. S.F. 1047, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would expand the catastrophic health expense protection program. S.F. 975, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), would require persons who treat child abuse victims to register with the Dept. of Health and to maintain malpractice insurance coverage.

Two bills authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton) did not receive committee approval. S.F. 16 would have established an environmental (hazardous substance) education and information program, and S.F. 17 would have required chemical dependency facilities to report results.

Testimony was also taken on S.F. 1262, authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth). The bill would officially prohibit misrepresentation of third party payments and billing practices in advertising.

One additional bill was approved at the Thurs., Apr. 4, meeting of the committee. S.F. 1127, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would expand the definition of "neglected child" to include "medical neglect."

Subcommittee action

The Health and Human Services Subcommittee on State Institutions, chaired by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), met Wed., Apr. 10, to hear testimony on Rule 4620.1800 regarding the maximum permissible formaldehyde level in housing units. A resolution was forwarded to the LCRAR recommending that the rule not be suspended in anticipation of S.F. 1279 which will go into effect on June 30, 1985. The rule regulates ambient air standards while the bill regulates product standards according to HUD guidelines.

The Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Income Maintenance, chaired by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), also met Wed., Apr. 10, to hear S.F. 990. Authored by Sen. Petty, the bill concerns health care cost containment for the state through use of HMO plans. The bill was amended and approved.

Judiciary

Psychotherapist bill gains

Members of the Judiciary Committee worked until the early morning hours the night of Wed., Apr. 3, in the countdown to the first session deadline. In all, the panel, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), completed work on the entire agenda of nine bills.

A bill prescribing penalties for sexual exploitation by psychotherapists generated considerable debate. The measure, S.F. 1003, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), prescribes the same penalties for sexual exploitation by a psychotherapist as for criminal sexual conduct in the third and fourth degree. The penalties apply if the actor is a psychotherapist and the complainant is a patient of the psychotherapist and the incident occurred during the psychotherapy session, if the patient is emotionally dependent upon the psychotherapist and unable to withhold consent or if the incident occurred because of therapeutic deception. The measure also places some limits on the admissibility of a patient's personal or medical history in prosecutions arising under the criminal sexual conduct statutes involving a psychotherapist and a patient.

Committee members also approved a bill allowing an award of damages for mental anguish in wrongful death actions. Under current law damages may only be awarded for pecuniary loss. According to chief author Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), the bill, S.F. 391, addresses the inequity of wrongful death actions on behalf of a child or elderly person where pecuniary loss is not applicable.

Changes in the laws relating to domestic abuse orders for protection were also approved. S.F. 1036, sponsored by Sen.

Committee Capsule

Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), provides that in making custody and visitation awards the court would consider the safety of the victim and the children, that counseling and other services would be provided only upon request of the petitioner, that the court would have the authority to control the use of property by both parties and clarifies that the court will assist any petitioner, not just persons without counsel, in filling out the forms and petition.

S.F. 847, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), authorizing the use of closed-circuit television for child abuse victims' testimony in court was also advanced. Discussion on the measure centered on questions concerning the sixth amendment right of defendants to confront their accusers. According to Petty, a similar law was upheld in a New Jersey case based on the constitutional issue.

Several other bills also gained the panel's endorsement. S.F. 1191, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson, eliminates court examination of evidence when there is a failure to comply with an order of the Human Rights Department. S.F. 274, sponsored by Spear, requires a hearing for the continued commitment of mentally retarded persons. S.F. 327, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), establishes a system for titling and regulating security interests in watercraft. S.F. 1357, sponsored by Reichgott, provides penalties for tax contempt orders for people who do not file complete income tax returns. S.F. 1277, authored by Sen. Fritz Knaak (IR-White Bear Lake), provides that financial institutions must notify the sheriff when an exemption is claimed by a judgment debtor in a summary execution of a judgment debt.

Data privacy bills advance

The Thur., Apr. 4, meeting of the Judiciary Committee resulted in the approval of three bills dealing with data privacy. S.F. 931, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), provides that certain confidential information concerning individuals who are the subjects of research or the recipients of alcohol or drug abuse information, assessment or treatment may be released for civil or criminal investigations if the court determines the information is relevant. S.F. 1008, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), provides for the confidentiality of Department of Human Rights investigative data, details the procedure for access to human rights investigative data to persons other than Human Rights Department employees and provides that it is not a violation of data privacy rights for any agency to provide data or information under a subpoena by the Commissioner of Human Rights Department. S.F. 1013, sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson, is the Omnibus Data Practices Act and makes numerous changes in the statutes dealing with public and private data classifications.

In other action, the panel approved an additional two measures during the afternoon hearing. S.F. 567, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), clarifies the provisions relating to the required number of days of advance notice before a contract for deed cancellation. S.F. 1014, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the penalty provisions for failure to appear in court, prohibits diversion of corporate property, allows for a six person jury in gross misdemeanor cases and allows for the admission into evidence of certain prior driving offense convictions for purposes of impeachment.

Theft by credit card penalties approved

A bill describing a new crime of theft by financial credit card and prescribing penalties for the crime generated considerable debate at the Thurs., Apr. 4 evening meeting of the committee. The bill, S.F. 863, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), defines financial transaction cards as a credit card, banking card, charge plate, courtesy card, bank services card, banking card,

check guarantee card, or debit card issued to allow the holder to obtain credit, money, goods, services or anything else of value on credit. The bill then defines the new crime as the use of the financial transaction card, or card number, without the holder's consent, to obtain the property of another. The bill then establishes a number of different penalties that parallel the statutes for other kinds of theft. In addition, the measure describes the various levels of theft involved in the giving of false information to obtain a card, the selling of cards or card numbers, knowingly furnishing goods and services to an unauthorized card holder, or knowingly using a forged, false, or fictitious card.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), also referred a measure adopting the Delaware General Corporation Law for domestic corporations to the Committee on Taxes and Tax Laws without recommendation. The bill, S.F. 1366, carried by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would parallel Minnesota's current corporation law and would allow publicly held corporations to incorporate either under the existing Minnesota law or under the new proposal.

In addition, the panel approved seven other measures during the marathon evening session. S.F. 979, also sponsored by Luther, sets forth the guidelines for community dispute resolution programs as required by last year's legislation establishing the programs. S.F. 1388, authored by Reichgott, clarifies that the Court of Appeals shall have jurisdiction to issue writs of certiorari to all agencies, public corporations and public officials except the Tax Court and the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals. S.F. 919, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), provides for the protection of farmers who purchase goods that are subject to a security interest or agricultural lien. S.F. 1356, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), is the revisor's bill clarifying statutes so that they conform with recent court decisions.

S.F. 1118, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), requires a lender to explain, in writing, why it will not finance a farmer's purchase of agricultural inputs. S.F. 710, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), allows retired tax court judges and district court judges to serve on the tax court and provides for their method of payment. S.F. 857, also sponsored by Freeman, provides that certain statutes, those that have not been amended in 20 years, will be subject to judicial modification under certain limited circumstances.

Dram shop bill gains

Two bills dealing with the controversial issue of dram shop liability insurance were debated at the Wed., Apr. 10, committee hearing. H.F. 265, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), authorizes an aggregate policy limit of \$300,000 for dram shop liability insurance, makes underinsured motorist coverage mandatory, requires insurers to make annual reports on liquor liability insurance to the Department of Commerce, denies subrogation by an insurer against a bar, requires insurers to inform bars of the status of claims and details the kinds of injuries or loss that may be recovered under dram shop actions. After extensive discussion the measure was approved and re-referred to the Economic Development and Commerce Committee.

A second measure, S.F. 318, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), also makes a number of changes in the current dram shop law. The proposal limits the subrogation of claims by an insurer against a bar, provides for a minimum damage award of \$20,000 in case of a death, requires mandatory underinsured motorist insurance coverage, details the kinds of injuries or loss that may be recovered under dram shop actions and eliminates pecuniary loss as an element of damages in dram shop actions. The measure failed to gain the committee's approval.

Local & Urban Government

Members approve 21 bills

In two marathon meetings the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), approved 21 bills in time to meet the first committee deadline on Thurs., Apr. 4.

The morning session began with the approval of S.F. 357, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake). The bill would permit Pine County to participate separately in the community health service system, entitling the county to \$65,000. S.F. 670, authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), was also approved. The bill would increase the amount the St. Louis County Board could appropriate to the county emergency fund from \$20,000 to \$100,000.

Two bills authored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton) were approved by the committee. S.F. 1167 would exempt the chief and deputy chief of police from the New Brighton police civil service system. S.F. 1187 would allow municipalities to establish reasonable area or response time residency requirements for volunteer or nonprofit corporation firefighters.

S.F. 1086, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), would provide arbitration for water supply disputes between St. Paul, Maplewood and Mendota Heights. The bill was approved.

Also approved were S.F. 1152, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), and S.F. 1075, authored by Sen. Fritz Knaak (IR-White Bear Lake). S.F. 1152 would allow the city of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, the Minneapolis Library Board and Special School District No. 1 to establish a Youth Coordinating Board. S.F. 1075 would allow Ramsey County to sell or lease certain land to White Bear for a township maintenance facility.

The evening session focused first on S.F. 418, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.). The bill, which delineates allocation procedures for industrial development bonds, was extensively amended. Bonding for the purchase of hospital equipment, adding one point to the industrial weighting factor (as opposed to commercial) and requiring counties to report upon completed projects were provisions added by amendment. An additional amendment would ask DEED to increase allocations to agri processing.

Two other public finance bills were approved. S.F. 1604, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would allow Carlton to issue general obligation bonds up to \$555,000 for the purpose of building a new fire hall. An amendment would allow McGregor to issue bonds up to \$100,000 for the purpose of building a library. The bill was referred to Taxes. S.F. 1411, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), would allow Bemidji to appropriate city funds to a community seed capital fund designated for economic development.

S.F. 1242, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), was approved. The bill would not allow residential facilities licensed by the Corrections Dept. to locate in single family residential zoning areas.

Two bills authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul) were approved. S.F. 1189 would allow local units of government to accept state or federal government funds for energy improvements to heating facilities. S.F. 1307 would allow counties to maintain private cemeteries containing persons deceased in 1875 as well as those deceased prior to 1875.

Two bills authored by Sen. Don Anderson (IR-Wadena) were approved. S.F. 1165 would authorize towns as well as counties or municipalities to petition for the termination of a Regional Development Commission. S.F. 1220 would grant port authority to the city of Wadena.

S.F. 1358, authored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), would require property owners using town cartways to access their

property to share the cost of maintenance for the cartway. The bill was approved.

Two bills authored by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro) were approved. S.F. 1291 would allocate county state-aid funds to Harmony for the purpose of replacing a bridge on the Minnesota-Iowa border. S.F. 1308 would allow Olmsted County to enter into real estate agreements in order to attract a National Institute of Corrections training facility. The bill was referred to Taxes.

Three additional bills were approved. S.F. 1208, authored by Sen. Earl Renneke (IR-LeSueur), would authorize Gaylord to issue general obligation bonds up to \$650,000 for the purpose of financing municipal buildings. The bill was referred to Taxes. S.F. 1404, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would allow Dakota County to make electronic fund transfers. And S.F. 1447, authored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), would grant port authority to Breckenridge.

Prompt payment approved

A bill requiring local units of government to pay bills within 30 days following receipt of the invoice was approved at the Tues., Apr. 9, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee.

Based upon a similar law requiring the state to pay within 30 days, the bill was initiated in the interest of small business. Automatic one and one half percent interest charges would be applied to undisputed billings that are late. The interest would provide a "proper leveraging device," said Mike Hickey, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). Thirty percent of the NFIB members have late payment problems with local government units, said Hickey.

Requiring the government unit to calculate accrued interest rather than the private vendor caused considerable controversy. An attempt was also made to increase the 30 day time limit to 45 days. School districts and local government representatives testified against the measure. The approved bill, S.F. 445, is authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley).

Two House bills were approved as well. H.F. 362, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), would increase the amount that Beltrami County could spend for tourist, agricultural and industrial development promotion from 50 cents to \$1 per capita of the county's population. H.F. 516, authored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), would update statutes concerning counties.

H.F. 58, authored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), was defeated. The bill would have given urban town powers to the town of Moorhead for the purpose of installing a sewer system.

Property sale guidelines set

Requiring the commissioner of transportation to give notice to adjacent landowners when selling excess county property and allowing the commissioner to utilize real estate brokers if an offer of sale to the highest bidder fails, was the intent of H.F. 446, heard at the Thurs., Apr. 11, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee.

Sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), the approved bill would require, if a broker is utilized, that the property be sold for at least 90 percent of the appraised market value and that the broker's fee not exceed 10 percent of the sale price. The bill also would authorize the county to sell personal property valued at \$15,000 or under rather than \$500 or under without advertising for bids, and sale proceeds would be forwarded to the trunk highway fund.

H.F. 1152, carried by Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rollingstone), would allow the Winona County Board to sell the abandoned Winona County Humane Society Shelter and land dedicated to "public purpose" to a private business. The bill was approved.

Also approved was S.F. 541, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield). Forwarded by subcommittee, the bill would allow

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the metropolitan sports facility commission to sell the Bloomington sports facility land, approximately 102 acres, to the Bloomington port authority for residential, commercial and industrial use. A rider amendment that was added would require the Metro Mosquito Control District to establish a mosquito and blackfly control research program.

H.F. 585, sponsored by Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby), would increase the allowable contract amount between a local government officer and that government unit from \$5,000 to \$15,000. As approved, the bill would require that the specific situation not require competitive bids and that the government unit's population be less than 5,000.

A bill authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope) was approved. S.F. 825 would allow members of the Crystal City Council to hold other compatible public offices and would allow the council to adopt emergency ordinances by a majority vote (four of seven).

S.F. 868, approved by the committee last year, was again approved. Authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), the bill would establish statewide uniform firearm regulations. Currently, local government units may establish their own firearm regulations.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Liquor licenses debated

A bill allowing municipalities to grant holders of on-sale wine and 3.2 beer licenses permission to sell strong beer, S.F. 283, was approved at the Thurs., Apr. 4, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul). Small ethnic restaurants in particular would benefit from this local option provision, said author Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.)

Two other liquor license bills were approved by the committee. S.F. 1244, authored by Sen. Howard Knutson (IR-Burnsville), would allow Burnsville to issue five additional on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses to hotel/motel establishments. S.F. 1234, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), would permit St. Paul to issue temporary on-sale wine licenses to nonprofit charitable, religious or veterans organizations.

S.F. 1334, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), was approved and placed on the Consent Calendar. Providing state regulation by the Public Utilities Commission of intrastate natural gas pipeline systems, the bill would prevent federal regulation of a pending Canadian pipeline connection which would provide an additional natural gas source to the metro area.

S.F. 1365, authored by Dieterich, was approved and referred to Taxes. The bill would exempt certain organizations from regulation by the Charitable Gambling Control Board and would exempt certain organizations who conduct bingo and raffles from sales tax. The bill also clarifies what expenses could be deducted from gross receipts.

Two bills were laid over. S.F. 1211, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would require certain fees to be paid by utilities to the Public Utilities Commission. S.F. 1269, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), would permit Shingobee to renew existing off-sale liquor licenses.

An evening meeting scheduled to hear S.F. 758 was adjourned by Dieterich after the committee voted to hear a conflicting bill, S.F. 27, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul). S.F. 758, authored by Sen. Frank, would include wine in the wholesalers' anti-discrimination law.

PUC bill discussed

A bill implementing public utility regulations recommended by

a task force was amended and laid over at the Thurs., Apr. 11, meeting of the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee. The bill, H.F. 539, was introduced by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope).

The bill would exempt natural gas pipelines constructed by a regulated public utility from county and environmental quality board regulation and would permit the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to grant an increase in natural gas or electric rates established by settlement. Provisions raising controversy would give the PUC an additional two months (or a total of twelve) to approve new rate schedules, change rate reflection of used property purchased by utilities, allow energy conservation advertising by the utilities and change the provision allowing the PUC to reimburse intervenors. An approved amendment would effectively require the next two members appointed to the PUC to initially reside in outstate areas; the five current members are from the metro area.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Penalties set for dishonest taxpayers

A bill penalizing taxpayers who "substantially understate" the amount of state income taxes due gained the committee's approval Wed., Apr. 10.

Persons who understate their tax liability by at least \$2,500 would be penalized, according to the proposal sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids). Corporations would also be penalized if their tax liability is at least \$3,500 short. The bill, S.F. 1300, would apply to returns filed after June 30, 1985.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), also advanced a bill requiring the Dept. of Revenue to reduce the aggregate value of real property within a county if it has declined over five percent since January 2. The bill, S.F. 1350, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), would essentially allow the 1985 property assessments on agricultural lands and homestead property in economically distressed areas to be based on their lower values. Dennis Erno from the department said the bill would change who pays what share of the county's total tax levy.

Non-profit organizations would be exempt from paying taxes on the sale of personal property, food, drinks, meals and admission tickets conducted at fund-raising events, according to another proposal advanced by the committee. The exemption would apply only to proceeds that are used solely for charitable, religious or educational purposes. The exemption would not apply to bingo or gambling activities, to events where a promoter or operator receives a profit, or for funds raised to pay for an organization's expenses. The bill, S.F. 83, is sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville).

The committee okayed two other bills Wednesday: S.F. 1161 (Kroening) includes the property tax exemption for property leased by the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission to other persons; and S.F. 749 (Chmielewski) allows unlicensed county assessors and assistant assessors to be appointed by a county board, but requires the license to be obtained within one year.

Floor Action

Senate acts on numerous bills

Members of the Senate met in a lengthy floor session Tues., Apr. 9, to begin work on the many bills that were approved by committees and placed on the General Orders Calendar. Measures on the General Orders Calendar may be debated, amended and given preliminary approval. Those bills must then lie over for at least 24 hours before being considered for final passage on the Senate Calendar. The Tuesday floor session was continued into the evening hours in an attempt to process as many bills as possible and transmit them to the other body.

In addition, several non-controversial bills on the Consent Calendar were given final approval. H.F. 327, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), clarifies that brush in a roadway belongs to the roadway authority, rather than to the landowner, for purposes of removal. H.F. 894, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), clarifies the definition of independent telephone company. H.F. 928, sponsored by Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rolling Stone), reinstates in the statutes the provision requiring the registration of snowmobiles that was inadvertently omitted last year. S.F. 767, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), provides for an increase in the appropriation, from \$4,500 to 50 cents per capita, a county may make for a county humane society and allows Otter Tail County to adopt an ordinance for the control of dogs and cats. H.F. 621, carried by Frank, revises the language in the statutes concerning persons with mental illness and mental retardation. S.F. 1320, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), establishes a system for regional poison information centers.

The remainder of the floor session was devoted to working on the general orders calendar. S.F. 485, sponsored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), defines the prevention of the assignment, transfer, or a sale of a franchise agreement under certain circumstances as an unethical action. S.F. 82, sponsored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), requires that condominium floor plans be approved by the county surveyor before being recorded. S.F. 152, authored by Frank, provides that insurance companies headquartered outside Minnesota provide the same mandated maternity benefits for unmarried minor women as insurance companies headquartered in Minnesota. S.F. 568, sponsored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), re-establishes the Advisory Committee on nonpublic education. S.F. 448, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), provides that the penalty for assault on a firefighter or emergency medical service personnel is the same as for assault on a peace officer.

S.F. 330, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), permits churches to display low voltage Christmas tree lights. S.F. 728, carried by Wegscheid, is a resolution memorializing the 100th anniversary of the birth of Harry S Truman, the 33rd President of the United States. S.F. 127, authored by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), authorizes big game hunting licenses for non-resident students at resident fees. S.F. 359, carried by Dieterich, authorizes an increase in the maximum license fee for off-sale liquor licenses. S.F. 805, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), codifies language currently in rules that establishes grievance procedures and employee benefits for long-term sheltered workshops. S.F. 675, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), allow the Department of Transportation to place minimum maintenance signs along designated to county and township roads and highways to exempt the road authorities from liability for damages resulting from traveling those roads.

S.F. 468, carried by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), requires and educational cooperative service unit to conduct an annual meeting to discuss issues and facilitate coordination and cooperation. S.F. 126, authored by Lantry, requires post-secondary education governing boards to develop procedures to ease the transfer of credits between institution and to develop uniform course numbering systems. S.F. 798, authored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), removes ISD #709 educational assistants from the civil service. S.F. 563, sponsored by Stumpf, requires the state Board of Vocation Technical Education to repeal student-staff ratios and adopt policies about minimum class size and placement. S.F. 566, sponsored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), enacts the Uniform Foreign Country Money-Judgements Act. S.F. 882, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), makes a number of noncontroversial changes in statutes governing the Department of Commerce. S.F. 519, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), authorizes the use of life insurance

funding agreements and prescribes the powers of the commissioner.

S.F. 219, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), restricts the moving of highway right of way ditches to the first 8 feet during certain times of the year in order to preserve pheasant habitat. S.F. 437, carried by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), rewrites the statutes governing fraternal benefit societies offering insurance policies. S.F. 281, also sponsored by Petty, clarifies the procedures for making claim against the state by an inmate on conditional release who is injured and limits those claims to recovery of medical expenses. S.F. 597, authored by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), grants the powers of a port authority to the city of North Mankato. S.F. 70, authored by Schmitz, provides for acquisition and relocation assistance in cases of hardship to owners of homestead property located in a proposed state highway corridor. S.F. 381, clarifies the authority of the Commissioner of Health regarding repeated or continued nursing home correction orders or noncompliance violations. S.F. 693, authored by Spear, provides for the forfeiture of communications devices and the proceeds derived from the commission of a crime. S.F. 623, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), clarifies the factors that must be considered for the award of maintenance in marriage dissolutions.

S.F. 709, authored by Jude, raises the jurisdictional limit on claims in conciliation court to \$2,000. S.F. 761, carried by Pehler, clarifies the definition of uniform traffic tickets, provides a penalty for failure to respond to summons and complaint under uniform traffic tickets and establishes a system for collecting unpaid fines. S.F. 557, authored by Frank, removes the limits on credits offered on workers' compensation insurance premiums. S.F. 1088, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson, includes the University of Minnesota in the revenue recapture act. S.F. 827, sponsored by Reichgott, requires child support or maintenance obligers to file address changes with the court and the obligee. S.F. 441, authored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), raises the pay for persons in the Minnesota National Guard from \$50 to \$75 per day. S.F. 647, authored by Pehler, removes some limits on the powers of the Minnesota Education Computing Corporation. S.F. 285, carried by Kronebusch, eliminates the limitation on the gross receipts of farms eligible for economic development loans. S.F. 521, sponsored by Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), makes numerous noncontroversial changes in the statutes dealing with corrections. S.F. 930, sponsored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), clarifies the penalties for failure to provide security for basic reparation benefits and requires certification to obtain tax exempt passenger license plates for unmarked law enforcement agency vehicles.

S.F. 1073, sponsored by Schmitz, provides for installment payments of deferred special assessments plus interest upon the sale of green acres property. S.F. 1183, authored by Dieterich, provides for the issuance of liquor licenses within Indian Country and authorizes an on-sale license in a Minneapolis theater with a seating capacity greater than 2,500. S.F. 609, authored by Reichgott, provides procedures for the waiver of rights in certain human rights cases. S.F. 295, carried by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), authorizes a special levy for parks in Hubbard County, a hospital in Clearwater County, and agricultural and tourism promotion in Cass County. S.F. 987, authored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), provides for voting by mail in township elections. S.F. 783, authored by Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine), authorizes additions to and deletions from specific state parks.

In the evening session, the Senate gave preliminary approval and additional to 10 bills.

S.F. 676, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), allows town business to be conducted outside of town limits. S.F. 186, also sponsored by Chmielewski, requires the PCA

director to give notice of application for a water pollution discharge permit. S.F. 750, sponsored by Chmielewski, authorizes the American Veterans organization to use space in the Veterans Services building.

S.F. 569, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) grants conservation officers the authority of peace officers. S.F. 682, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), eliminates exclusions to licensing of child care programs. S.F. 302, also sponsored by Petty, allows public funds to be deposited in thrift institutions. S.F. 384,

sponsored by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), transfers state lands to the federal government for Voyageurs National Park.

S.F. 1117, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), calls on the President and the U.S. Congress to amend the Social Security Act. S.F. 916, also sponsored by Berglin, establishes a state advisory planning council for mental illness using federal block grant funds. H.F. 470, carried by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), allows the establishment of joint vocational technical districts.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 15, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 468-Wegscheid: State demographer duties; H.F. 648-Davis: Rural development council; H.F. 786-Pogemiller: Transfer of commission appointments; H.F. 513-Moe, D.M.: Regulating the career executive service.

Veterans & General Legislation, Chair: Bob Lessard

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 656-Peterson, C.C.: County appropriations for county humane societies; H.F. 951-Taylor: Local heritage preservation commissions; H.F. 835-Kamrath: Expiration of driver's license for spouse of active duty member of armed forces.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Tentative meeting - call for agenda.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin

10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 1438: House Health & Human Services Omnibus bill; public testimony.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 116-Mehrkens: Employee Social Responsibility Act; S.F. 343-Wegscheid: Harassment of hunters; S.F. 348-Ramstad: Animal control, owner liability; H.F. 78-Berglin: Disorderly houses; H.F. 674-Berglin: Adoption by relatives; S.F. 591-Luther: Attachment procedures; S.F. 1071-Petty: Stockholder access to corporate records; S.F. 1180-Merriam: Service of real estate registration of title notices; S.F. 1214-Pehler: Good samaritan immunity for volunteer firefighters; S.F. 1223-Kronebusch: Anatomical gifts by minors; S.F. 1362-Jude: Revisor's text revision bill; S.F. 1363-Jude: Revisor's corrections, etc. bill; S.F. 1371-Sieloff: Court transcript fees; S.F. 1429-Peterson, R.W.: Judicial, legislative indemnification. (Continues after session.)

Transportation, Chair: Clarence Purfeerst

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 221-Purfeerst: Designating George Mann Highway; S.F. 792-Taylor: State Patrol radios; S.F. 947-Novak: Six year license plates; S.F. 1236-DeCramer: Sale of state transportation bonds for bridges; S.F. 1340-Purfeerst: Driver license fee increase to be used for drunk driving prevention programs; S.F. 1348-Purfeerst: Railroad proceeding fees; S.F. 1379-Schmitz: County state-aid highway fund; S.F. 1093-Merriam: Transportation, shipments of high level radioactive waste.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

1:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of public testimony on the Dept. of Human Services budget.

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

After session Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Bills remaining from morning meeting.

Tuesday, April 16, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 314-Petty: Underinsured motorist insurance coverage, stacking; S.F. 800-Reichgott: Prohibits deceptive advertising; H.F. 385-Kroening: Advertising restrictions for plumbers; S.F. 661-Freeman: Regulating membership camping; S.F. 334-Luther: Dram shop insurance; S.F. 879-Freeman: Dept. of Energy & Economic Development (DEED) bill. (See 6 PM meeting.)

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich

8:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 27-Waldorf: Liquor, discrimination. (See 7:00 PM meeting.)

Employment, Chair: Florian Chmielewski

10:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1218-Pehler: Fair Labor Standard Practices; S.F. 1259-Johnson, D.J.: Peace officers; S.F. 1294-Brataas: Unemployment insurance; S.F. 41-Chmielewski: Unemployment insurance; S.F. 1342-Chmielewski: Pay equity extension on compliance.

Health & Human Services Subc. on Income Maintenance, Chair: Ron Dicklich
10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 990-Petty: Health care cost containment (HMO), Governor's bill.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: Discussion of federal budget, impact on local units of government, Janelle Bush, City of Minneapolis.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 723-Peterson, R.W.: Enhancement of fish & wildlife; S.F. 742-Isackson: Conservation reserve contracts covering marginal ag. land; S.F. 927-Merriam: Exempting certain boats from licensing requirements.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin
1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 494-Samuelson: Regulating community health services; S.F. 1176-Merriam: Job classification in child protection; S.F. 357-Chmielewski: Pine County health services; S.F. 928-Wegscheid: Hearing aids; H.F. 702-Diessner: Mentally ill; H.F. 1193-Bertram: Corrections records; H.F. 533-Wegscheid: Foreign veterinarians; H.F. 701-Dicklich: Mental health boards.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Capital budget allocations.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson
3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 172-Nelson: Omnibus Education Aids bill; S.F. 1329-Merriam: Dept. sales tax bill; S.F. 615-Stumpf: Lake of the Woods county improvements; S.F. 420-Davis: Extending Class 3 property to fraternal beneficiary associations; S.F. 639-Bertram: Omnibus township bill; S.F. 992-Vega: Exempt property owned by fraternal organizations; S.F. 801-Pogemiller: County criminal tax investigations; S.F. 1061-Schmitz: Clarifying the definition of real property; S.F. 1104-Reichgott: Dept. technical changes bill; S.F. 1208-Renneke: Gaylord municipal buildings; S.F. 1308-Benson: Olmsted County sales.

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon
6:00 PM Room 118, Capitol
Agenda: Bills not completed at morning meeting.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries, Chair: Neil Dieterich
7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: H.F. 97-Benson: Farm winery; H.F. 308-Purfeerst: Sunday liquor; H.F. 428-Storm: Eden Prairie liquor; S.F. 579-Wegscheid: Wine in grocery stores; H.F. 698-Taylor: North Mankato liquor license; H.F. 602-Bertram: Alcohol, extension of credit; H.F. 1145-Dieterich: Liquor recodification; S.F. 1238-Storm: Temporary on-sale license.

Wednesday, April 17, 1985

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
8:00 AM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Capital budget allocations. (See 3:00 PM meeting.)

Education, Chair: James Pehler
8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: Confirmation hearings for appointments to Higher Education Coordinating Board, State University Board, and State Board of Vocational Technical Education.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Tentative meeting - call for agenda.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: H.F. 213/S.F. 500-Spear: Child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse investigation notification; S.F. 1434-Jude: Unlawful detainer service.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: H.F. 231-Solon: Private sale of certain tax forfeited land; H.F. 521-Benson: Allowing counties to dispose of land without reserving mineral rights; S.F. 1258-Johnson, D.J.: Grants to counties to aid in timber development; S.F. 1087-Frederick: Drainage, construction of roads rather than crossings; S.F. 1275-Chmielewski: Timber, transferring certain powers and duties of IRRRB to DNR. (See 7:00 PM meeting.)

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol
Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson
3:00 PM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: Call for agenda.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
7:00 PM Room 112, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 222-Davis: Income tax incentives to sell or lease ag. land to beginning farmers; S.F. 806-Novak: Regulating underground storage tanks; S.F. 1225-Davis: Regulating organic foods; H.F. 1150-Peterson, R.W.: Sale of tax forfeited land in Chisago County.

Thursday, April 18, 1985

Economic Development & Commerce, Chair: Sam Solon
8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol
Agenda: H.F. 671-Petty: Regional banking reciprocity bill.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin
10:00 AM Room 118, Capitol
Agenda: Bills not completed Tues.; Subcommittee reports on Rule 4620.1800 Maximum permissible formaldehyde level in housing units and S.F. 990-Petty: Health care cost containment; Possible additional bills.

Local & Urban Government, Chair: Robert Schmitz
10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol
Agenda: S.F. 1272-Stumpf: Partition fences, changing procedures; Possible additional bills.

The Senate will be in session at 12:00 Noon.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

3:00 PM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

After Session Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1159-Luther: Corporate take-over regulation amendments; Bills from previous meetings.

Friday, April 19, 1985

Education, Chair: James Pehler

8:30 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Confirmation hearings on the appointments to the State Board for Community Colleges, Council on Quality Education, State Board of Education, and Higher Education Facilities Authority.

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Tentative meeting - call for agenda.

Judiciary, Chair: Allan Spear

10:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: H.F. 268/S.F. 300-Merriam: MERLA amendments (Superfund); H.F. 83-Reichgott: Juvenile judge rotation; Bills remaining from previous meetings.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam

1:00 PM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 948-Pehler: Changes in state program for solid waste processing facilities; S.F. 1315-Bernhagen: Discharge of firearms and access to ag. lands; H.F. 852-Gustafson: Easement of state lands to Duluth; S.F. 910-DeCramer: Flood hazard mitigation program; S.F. 1219-Stumpf: Groundwater protection, watershed district purpose; S.F. 1065-Peterson, R.W.: Regulating three-wheel vehicles; S.F. 1202-Dahl: Monitoring water quality of private wells.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR ADDITIONS.

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85, April 19

P 248

Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

April 19, 1985

Liquor bills defeated

Two major liquor bills aimed at increasing competition between wholesalers as well as retailers failed after lengthy hearings in the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, Tues., April 16.

S.F. 27, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul) would have allowed licensed importers of intoxicating liquor to sell products exclusively to a single wholesaler, establishing franchising. Currently, a 1973 law requires that imported liquor be made available to all licensed Minnesota wholesalers on an equal basis.

"This law has had absolutely no effect whatever on the price of wholesale liquor," said Stephen Hoenack, a U of M professor and consultant who conducted a study for the five major Minnesota wholesalers who supported the bill. Opposition was voiced by discount wholesalers, including the Bellboy Corporation, who claimed they would go out of business if the law changed. The bill went down on an 8-6 vote.

S.F. 579, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), was defeated by voice vote at a crowded evening meeting. The bill would have allowed grocery stores to sell wine and exclusive liquor stores to sell a percentage of food. Grocery store owners in favor of the bill argued that 38 states currently have this policy, that state wine and food industries would benefit and that state tourism would benefit. Grapegrowers and cheese processors also voiced support.

Opponents, including independent and municipal liquor stores, argued for the survival of "exclusive" liquor stores and pointed to health hazards and inadequate law enforcement needed for the additional underage traffic, DWI arrests and accidents.

Panel advances unemployment comp bill

After devoting numerous committee meetings to discussion of unemployment compensation, the Senate Employment Committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), okayed S.F. 41, Thursday, April 18. Chmielewski said the proposal would make the unemployment compensation fund solvent. "This will keep us out of debt for the next decade," he said.

The bill was amended by the author to retain the split wage base that had been deleted in an earlier draft of the bill.

The measure would also drop maximum weekly benefits after a current cap on maximum benefits is removed. Currently, benefits are capped at \$198 per week. When the cap is removed, benefits could increase to \$234 per week. The bill would compute the maximum benefit at 60 percent of the state's average weekly wage, or about \$208. Persons would qualify for unemployment compensation by working 15 weeks at \$100 per week or 30 weeks at 20 hours per week. The committee voted down another bill dealing with unemployment compensation. S.F. 1294, sponsored by Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester), would slow the increase in unemployment compensation benefits and require 20 credit weeks to qualify for benefits.

Brataas said the benefits needed to be trimmed to keep in line

with other states. "Minnesota is more generous than other states. The pendulum has swung too far to the left," she said.

The bill failed on a 4 to 7 roll call vote.

The committee tabled action on S.F. 1342. The bill addresses pay equity extension.

Bill delaying school openings fails

On a narrow 27-28 vote, the Senate defeated a bill Thurs., Apr. 18, prohibiting schools from opening before Labor Day.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), author of H.F. 151, said the proposal would boost tourism and encourage cooperation among school districts. He added that parents are asking for the proposal.

Opponents to the bill said the local school boards should determine when schools are to open.

The Senate did grant final passage to several proposals: H.F. 517 (Freeman) authorizing the use of funding agreements; H.F. 1 (Lessard) establishing a procedure for the consolidation of International Falls and South International Falls; S.F. 1231 (Willet) memorializing the President and Congress to take immediate steps to reduce acid rain; H.F. 112 (Lessard) allowing certain American Legion officers and employees to choose a state employee benefit coverage at their own expense; H.F. 335 (Knaak) removing specific information from the certified record for commitment of persons convicted of a felony or a gross misdemeanor; H.F. 511 (Peterson, R.W.) clarifying the elements of the crime of assault in the second degree; and H.F. 461 (Knaak) requiring that Ramsey municipal court judges set the salaries of conciliation court referees in Ramsey county.

Panel okays wildlife improvements

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee okayed a proposal Wednesday, Apr. 17, appropriating funds to enhance the state's wildlife and fish habitat. The "Reinvest in Minnesota" proposal, sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), creates a state-funded agriculture set-aside program and establishes a habitat matching account.

Under the bill, S.F. 723, the state would pay farmers who put marginal agricultural farm land out of production. The idle land, which would help protect soil and water, would be used to develop wildlife habitat. The habitat matching account created in the bill would match private donations with state funds for habitat improvements. The proposal also creates a water recreation account to improve recreational waters and increase funding for public accesses.

Peterson said the bill would improve the state's wildlife and fish habitat, aid tourism, and reduce agriculture surplus. Funding for his proposal will be determined by the Finance Committee.

Members of the committee sent a similar proposal, the "Minnesota Conservation Reserve Act of 1985," to the Finance Committee. Sponsored by Sen. Doran Isackson (IR-Storden), the bill, S.F. 742, also creates a set-aside program to help financially distressed farmers, improve wildlife habitat and protect soil and water quality.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Stiffer PCB regulations advance

Capacitors, transformers, storage containers and other products containing PCBs would be removed from public buildings by 1995, according to a bill advanced by the committee Fri., Apr. 12.

The date for the PCB products to be out of public buildings depend upon the amount of PCB contained. PCB products with more than 500,000 parts per million of PCB must be removed by 1988, while products with 500 parts per million of PCB would not have to be removed until 1995.

Sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), the bill also requires owners of PCB products containing more than 500 parts per million of PCB to notify their local fire department of the product's location. The bill, S.F. 1198, was referred to the Finance Committee.

Pine martens—a squirrel-sized, tree climbing member of the weasel family—and raccoons could be trapped, according to another bill approved by the committee. The bill, S.F. 791, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), also eliminates the special licensing for the taking of beaver.

The committee advanced two other bills Friday. S.F. 1374 (Freeman) requires Fort Snelling State Park concession agreements signed by the commissioner of natural resources and approved by the executive council to be renewed with no increase in fees until 1990. H.F. 565 (DeCramer) allowing the Soil and Water Conservation Board to insure that districts comply with the state wide programs and policies.

Members review wildlife enhancement bill

The committee began considering a bill Tues., Apr. 16, that would appropriate funds to enhance the state's wildlife and fish habitat.

Sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), the proposal creates an agriculture set-aside program and establishes a habitat matching account, whereby state funds for habitat improvements would be released when matched by private sector donations.

Under the set-aside program, the state would compensate farmers who put idle marginal agricultural land out of production. The intent is to develop wildlife habitat, protect soil and water quality and aid the farm economy by reducing crop production, said Peterson. The proposed matching fund established in the bill would release state dollars to acquire land for wildlife habitat. The proposal also creates a water recreation account, which would be funded from the portion of the gas tax that is considered to be paid by boat owners. The money would be used to improve recreational waters and increase public accesses.

The committee did not take action on the bill, S.F. 723, during the Tuesday meeting.

The committee did approve a bill exempting small, lightweight row boats, called "rowing shells," from licensing requirements. The bill, S.F. 927, is sponsored by Merriam.

Timber grant allocation mandated

The committee advanced a bill during the Wed., Apr. 17, afternoon meeting that requires the Dept. of Natural Resources to provide timber development grants to qualifying counties. The bill, S.F. 1258, was referred to the Finance Committee, where the appropriation for those grants will be determined.

Before the grants would be provided, counties would have to set-aside funds for timber development and have completed an annual work plan describing their timber management and development programs. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Douglas

Johnson (DFL-Cook), would prohibit counties from receiving grants if previous grants have not been properly spent.

Persons who are in the military and are stationed at Camp Ripley for training could purchase a resident fishing license, according to a bill approved by the committee. The bill, H.F. 18, authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), would permit the license to be valid for one year.

In other action Wednesday afternoon, the committee approved the following bills: S.F. 308 (Solon) permitting the sale of specific tax forfeited land in St. Louis County; H.F. 521 (Benson) allowing the Winona County Board to convey land that was erroneously acquired as a highway right of way; and S.F. 1087 (Frederick) allowing the construction of a road to improve or maintain a drainage system when it is more cost-effective or practical than constructing a bridge.

Aid for beginning farmers advances

The committee approved a bill Wednesday evening providing property tax credits for landowners that lease land to beginning farmers. According to S.F. 222, authored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the Dept. of Revenue would reimburse counties lost revenue. The bill also allows landowners to reduce their federal adjusted gross income on 50 percent of the capital gains acquired from the sale of farmland to a beginning farmer. Also, the bill permits the deduction of interest against gross income by state and federally chartered banks in Minnesota on loans to beginning farmers. The interest rate on the loan must not be more than 12 percent.

A bill requiring the Pollution Control Agency to adopt safety measures for the operation of underground storage tanks by 1987 also gained the committee's approval. The rules would have to insure that the tanks are installed properly; designed to prevent release of substances and adequately store the substance. The proposal, S.F. 806, also requires owners of abandoned and existing underground storage tanks to notify the agency of their existence. The bill, which is sponsored by Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton), prohibits local governments from enacting regulations that "conflict" with the PCA regulations; however, local governments could enact more stringent regulations.

Also Wednesday evening, the committee okayed a bill exempting mobile home parks and recreational camping areas from being licensed to sell food by the Dept. of Agriculture if they are licensed by the Dept. of Health. The bill, S.F. 1225, sponsored by Davis, also requires regulation of organic food by the commissioner of agriculture.

Economic Development and Commerce

Dram shop bill okayed

The Economic Development and Commerce Committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), approved a bill authorizing a \$300,000 aggregate dram shop policy limit, Tues., Apr. 16 in an evening session.

H.F. 265, carried by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), would require drivers to carry \$25,000 of underinsured and uninsured motorist insurance. Luther said the underinsurance coverage would limit the number of claims brought against bars for damages from DWI accidents. "The more underinsurance coverage a driver has," said Luther, "the less likely that he or she will bring suit against a bar." The measure would also require insurers to make annual reports on liquor liability insurance to the Department of Commerce. It would also deny subrogation by an insurer against a bar, require insurers to inform bars of the status of claims and detail the kinds of injuries or loss that may be recovered under dram shop actions.

An amendment to exclude bars with less than \$250,000 in annual liquor sales from mandatory dram shop insurance failed. The motion was offered by Sen. Don Anderson (IR-Wadena).

The panel also advanced S.F. 879, sponsored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield). The Department of Energy and Economic Development (DEED) bill would increase the department's bonding authority from \$10 million to \$30 million.

Anderson offered an amendment to reinstate the \$10 million limit. The motion failed.

Underinsurance bill advances

The committee okayed a bill that would require underinsurance coverage and prevent "stacking" of insurance coverage, in a morning session, Tues., Apr. 16.

H.F. 345, carried by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), prohibit two car owners from "stacking" both policies to cover damages from one accident.

The measure would also require \$25,000 worth of uninsured and underinsurance coverage.

Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope) amended the bill to strengthen penalties for Minnesota drivers not carrying auto insurance. The measure would require drivers to present an insurance identification card before receiving license tabs. Reichgott said that currently some people give false insurance policy numbers when receiving new license tabs. The amendment would also require insurance companies to notify the Commissioner of Public Safety of any auto insurance cancellations. She said this would prevent people from obtaining insurance in order to receive new license tabs, and then cancelling the insurance policy.

H.F. 345 was approved by the committee on a 9 to 6 roll call vote.

A bill making deceptive "going out of business" sales illegal also won committee approval. Reichgott, sponsor of S.F. 800, said the bill is designed to protect consumers from sales presumed to be offering high quality merchandise at a loss.

The bill would require that the sales last no longer than 120 days. Dealers would also be prohibited from increasing their inventories during the sales or purchasing unusual amounts of merchandise 90 days prior to the sale.

S.F. 385, was also approved by the panel. The bill, carried by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), restricts advertising for plumbers. The measure would require plumbing advertisements and vehicles to include the license number for the master plumber. The proposal also requires plumbers advertising themselves as "plumbing contractors" or "master plumbers" to be licensed.

S.F. 661, sponsored by Freeman, was also approved. It would make several regulatory changes for membership camping.

Panel considers regional banking

The committee began hearing testimony on a regional banking reciprocity bill and approved two other bills, Thurs., Apr. 18.

S.F. 607 sponsored by Petty, would authorize interstate acquisition and formation of banks between Minnesota and other states on a reciprocal basis.

Petty said bringing additional competition into Minnesota's financial community would provide improved services for consumers.

Opponents of the bill say the legislation would put small independent bankers out of business.

Tom Triplett, Director of State Planning, expressed support from the Governor's office. Triplett said that more than 20 states have similar legislation. He also indicated that S.F. 607 would compliment current efforts to boost Minnesota's economy. "It would be a real shot in the arm for Minnesota's Economic Development," he said. Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.) disagreed. He said that large banks with competitive advantages would harm

small independent banks responsible for providing many jobs in the state. "Most money and jobs come from small businesses," he added.

Several supporters argued that large companies based in Minnesota need large banks. Metro Banks President Michael Pint said, "Large Minnesota companies like 3M and Honeywell have to go to New York banks to be able to handle their credit lines."

The committee recommended H.F. 580 for passage. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would require 40 percent of directors of community development corporations to have incomes under 80 percent of the county or state median family income. Current law requires 40 percent of the directors to have low incomes.

H.F. 1236, carried by Sen. Donald Storm (IR-Edina), was also recommended to pass. The bill would require final versions of documents to be signed rather than requiring all versions of documents to be signed, as current law mandates.

Education

Appointments confirmed

Confirmation of appointments to the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB), State University Board and State Board of Vocational Technical Education was completed at the Wed., Apr. 17, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Four HECB appointments were confirmed. New members Maureen A. Johnson, Minneota, and Orrin V. Rinke, Sauk Rapids, were appointed for six year terms. Archie D. Chelseth, Cloquet, was reappointed for a four year term, and Mona J. Hintzman, Brooklyn Center, was appointed as a student representative for a one year term.

Two State University Board reappointments and one student appointment were confirmed. Rodney N. Searle, Waseca, and Russell P. Stanton, Marshall, were appointed for four year terms, and James B. Lund, a Mankato student, was appointed for a two year term.

Three State Board of Vocational Technical Education members were confirmed. Receiving reappointment for four year terms were: Jane Preston, White Bear Lake; Alan Olson, Farmington; and Patricia Allinder, Willmar.

Employment

Members review Unemployment Insurance bill

Senator Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester) presented her proposal to reform the state's unemployment insurance program during the Tues., Apr. 16, meeting. The bill, S.F. 1294, is one of two proposed measures being considered by the committee.

Brataas said her bill would bring benefit payments into line with other major states and would slow benefit increases to the rate of inflation. She said her proposal would allow for benefit increases of \$194 million through 1990; whereas the current law would increase benefits by \$944 million. If adopted, her proposal would establish a reserve in the unemployment insurance fund of \$200 million.

Among the several proposed changes, S.F. 1294 would cap the maximum weekly benefits for three weeks; increase the number of weeks necessary to qualify for benefits from 15 to 20 and establish the required earning per week at \$100; determine weekly benefit amounts by multiplying one percent of the annual gross earnings; stiffen provisions determining when a claimant must accept work; discourage seasonal workers from continuing to receive benefits each year; and establish the existing employer's taxable wage base into law.

The committee did not act on the bill Tuesday.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-

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Sturgeon Lake), advanced a bill making minor changes to the Fair Labor Standard Law. The proposal, S.F. 1218, is sponsored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Energy and Housing

Panel completes session business

The Senate Energy and Housing Committee, chaired by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), advanced three bills before adjourning for the session, Tues., Apr. 16.

S.F. 352, sponsored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), would require permits for compressed natural gas-powered vehicles. The fees would be in lieu of gas taxes. The annual fee would be based on weight and range from \$92 to \$240, said Freeman.

S.F. 896, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), would allow school districts to calculate their energy pay back based on fuel used before conversion to wood when applying for a state conservation investment loan. Applications would have to be made by Jan., 1986 for the federal matching loan program for wood conversion.

H.F. 730, carried by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), would adopt national standards for diesel fuel, kerosene, and fuel oil.

The panel also confirmed the Governor's appoints to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. The Appointments of J. Mark Wedel, Shirley Van Dyck, Robert A. Worthington and Demetrius G. Jelatis were approved.

Finance

Panel reviews jobs bill

The Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), advanced a jobs bill to the full committee, Thurs., Apr. 18.

S.F. 818, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would consolidate several state unemployment and training programs. The bill would bring the programs under a new Department of Employment and Training.

"The bill is designed to decrease unemployment and welfare caseloads in Minnesota by emphasizing jobs and training programs rather than welfare," said Pogemiller. The measure would include wage subsidized jobs in the public and private sector.

Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing) amended the bill to prohibit public employee positions from being eliminated and replaced by program participants.

The panel also approved S.F. 251, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.). The bill would establish an educational program for resident and family advisory councils for nursing homes.

S.F. 684 was also advanced to the full committee. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), would direct the Department of Health to cover the cost of a special dietary formula for infants with P.K.U. syndrome. The syndrome prevents infants from digesting certain kinds of protein. Dahl estimated that there are only 100 P.K.U. cases nationwide. He explained that insurance companies don't cover the cost of the expensive formula.

The subcommittee also continued budget hearings for the Department of Human Services, Mon., Apr. 15.

The Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf, continued capital budget hearings, Fri., Apr. 12 and Mon., Apr. 15.

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), heard testimony on budget proposals Fri., Apr. 12, and continued capital and Mn/DOT budget hearings, Tues., Apr. 16 and Wed., Apr. 17.

The Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), continued a capital budget hearing, Tues., Apr. 16 and heard operating budgets, Thurs., Apr., 18.

Governmental Operations

Commission appointments bill debated

A bill transferring the authority to make appointments to various boards and commissions from the governor to department heads received extensive debate at the Mon., Apr. 15, committee meeting. The panel, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), heard an explanation of the measure, H.F. 786, and then discussed a number of the provisions dealing with specific commissions or agencies. Discussion focused on whether the governor should retain the appointment authority for the specific commissions and agencies in order to maintain accountability or whether specific criteria, such as whether the commission or agency had rule making authority, adjudication responsibility or grant award authority, should be used to determine the appointment authority. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), was laid over pending further discussion.

Committee members also acted on three additional bills. H.F. 468, carried by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), clarifies the duties of the state demographer and provides for additional staff for the land management information center. Under the bill, the additional staff would be funded through fees for service, rather than from the general fund, and would aid in meeting the increased demands for service. The measure was approved and referred to the Finance Committee. H.F. 648, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), creates a Governor's Rural Development Council and transfers the responsibility for the administration of the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Trust Liquidation Act from the state executive council to the Dept. of Energy and Economic Development.

H.F. 513, sponsored by Moe, is a Dept. of Employee Relations bill, which makes a number of miscellaneous changes in the statutes. One section of the measure extends the current employee leave provisions for public employees who participate in the Olympic Games to include the Pan American Games and World Games. Another provision adds a new category to the current exemptions from a state agency's staff complement to include an employee returning to work with an active worker's compensation claim. Discussion on the measure concentrated on changes in the laws that deal with the career executive service. Several amendments were adopted that retain current language pertaining to restricting CES to classified civil service and retaining the percentage of women participants in the program that must be attained by 1987. In addition, the panel adopted an amendment that would place the salaries of the Chair of the Metropolitan Council and the Chair of the Regional Transit Board in the second tier of salaries for agency heads.

Comparable worth study bill gains

The bill that originally would have excluded police and firefighters from comparable worth studies and therefore from consideration in arbitration was amended, defeated, reconsidered, and then amended and approved at the Wed., Apr. 17, meeting. One version of the bill, S.F. 438, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), provided that in all interest arbitration, the arbitrator shall consider the equitable compensation relationship standards along with other standards appropriate to interest arbitration. The bill failed to gain the committee's approval on a vote of 3-7. Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), moved that the bill be reconsidered and offered an amendment requiring that an arbitrator must consider both the results of the study and the objections of the employees to the study. Berglin said that the amendment insures that the arbitrator considers all relevant information and addresses the concerns of the police and firefighters regarding arbitration. The amendment was adopted and the bill was approved by the committee on a vote of 7-6.

In other action, the panel continued the debate on H.F. 786, the

measure changing the appointment authority for a number of commissions and agencies. Chief author Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.) offered an amendment addressing several of the concerns expressed by committee members at the previous meeting. Under the amendment, many of the changes originally contained in the bill were deleted, and the current status of the appointment authority of a number of the boards, such as the Board of animal health, the Council on Quality Education and the Board of Medical Examiners were maintained. In addition, an amendment offered by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), deleted sections dealing with four additional boards because they had rule making authority. An amendment offered by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), transferred the authority for cable communications to the Department of Administration. Part of Pogemiller's amendment would have continued the existence of the Telecommunications Council; however, the panel voted to uphold the decision of another policy committee and abolish the council. The bill was approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee.

Two additional bills were advanced by the committee. S.F. 94, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), provides for placing the seasonal employees of the Department of Revenue in the classified service. S.F. 576, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), regulates initial fees and fee adjustments for agency services.

Health & Human Services

Abortion bill approved

The controversial abortion bill, H.F. 771 (companion to S.F. 1150), was narrowly approved by a 7-5 vote at the Fri., Apr. 12, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.). A motion requiring the bill to be re-referred to the Judiciary Committee met opposition from pro-life representatives as an attempt to kill the bill.

Sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), the bill would revert Minnesota law to pre-1973 statutes which would make abortion illegal in the state if the Supreme Court would reverse or modify the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision. The law would also go into effect if a human life amendment to the Constitution was approved by the states.

"The unborn children of Minnesota will be protected [in case the law changes]," said Jackie Schwietz, Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. She noted that the Minnesota abortion rate per 1000 live births is ranked 32nd in the nation.

Opponents pointed to the outdated criminal statutes which would require a 1-4 year imprisonment for women having abortions as well as those performing abortions. Thomas Borman, Legal Counsel for Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, said that the law has "serious and irreparable constitutional defect. It would be challenged immediately," Borman said.

An approved amendment added rape and incest as exceptions to the law.

Omnibus welfare bill heard

In anticipation of receiving the Omnibus Welfare bill, H.F. 1438, the Health and Human Services Committee began taking testimony on the bill at the Mon., Apr. 15, meeting. Local government representatives, state department administrators, the elderly, nursing home representatives, and nursing home employees came to express concerns and offer suggestions for possible amendments.

"We can afford to provide the rent and groceries for people who are out of luck," said Mayor Don Fraser of Minneapolis. He was objecting to the removal of "employables" from eligibility for General Assistance (GA), a major cause of concern among those testifying. Fraser pointed to the large number of residual discouraged workers left after the recession of the early 1980's.

Councilman James Scheibel of St. Paul echoed the concern, stating that approximately 3,500 people would lose GA in St. Paul.

In present form, the bill would cut the state budget approximately \$35.7 million in 1986 and \$50.7 million in 1987, according to Nancy Feldman, Dept. of Finance.

Removal of the pre-admission screening/alternative care grant program, a freeze on noncare related expenses in nursing homes such as utilities and a freeze of nonprofessional hospital and nursing home employee salaries were areas of concern.

HMO bill amended

The Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Income Maintenance met Tues., Apr. 16, to continue hearings on S.F. 990. The heavily amended bill, which was approved, would allow the state to use HMO plans for cost containment in assistance programs. The bill is authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.).

Hearing aid bill heard

Initiated in response to complaints to the Attorney General's Office about door-to-door sales of hearing aid devices, the Health and Human Services Committee heard S.F. 928 (H.F. 1028). Authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), the bill would require retailers of these devices to be licensed by the Dept. of Commerce. Exemption of licensed physicians and certified audiologists, the FDA Hearing Aid Devices Act, and licensing procedures and testing were topics of debate. The bill was laid over.

A bill requiring additional and continuing education in child protection for professionals likely to be involved in child abuse cases was approved by the committee. The bill, S.F. 1176 (H.F. 1107), is authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids).

Two other bills were also approved. S.F. 494 (H.F. 658), authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), is a formula funding bill which would regulate Community Health Services. S.F. 1157 (H.F. 1193), authored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), would allow corrections officers to replace handwritten ledgers with computers for recordkeeping purposes.

Judiciary

Panel considers numerous bills

Members of the Judiciary Committee began the countdown to the second committee deadline by taking action on 13 House Files at the Fri., Apr. 12, meeting. The panel will continue its heavy schedule until Apr. 19, the deadline for hearing bills originating in the other body.

The April 12 hearing, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), resulted in three bills being referred to the Consent Calendar, two measures being referred to the Finance Committee, and eight bills going directly to the General Orders Calendar.

H.F. 335, sponsored by Sen. Fritz Knaak (IR-White Bear Lake), provides that information such as the witnesses' address, judges' addresses and jury members' addresses not be included in a criminal's record. H.F. 461, also sponsored by Knaak, lifts a statutory restriction on Ramsey County conciliation court referee salaries. H.F. 511, carried by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), strikes the words "without inflicting great bodily harm" from the description of second degree assault. All three bills were approved and recommended for the Consent Calendar.

S.F. 731, authored by Peterson, and S.F. 895, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), were both approved and re-referred to the Finance Committee. S.F. 731 authorizes additional judges in the 10th judicial district and S.F. 895 authorizes additional judges in the 1st judicial district.

H.F. 140, a third bill sponsored by Peterson, makes a number of changes in the statutes dealing with multi-party bank accounts and deposits by minors by clarifying that minors may be a party to a

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joint account. H.F. 274, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), adds flammable liquids to the definition of "dangerous weapon" in the statutes. H.F. 374, carried by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), allows a fire marshal to secure the scene of a fire in order to investigate the cause of the fire. S.F. 459, authored by Spear, clarifies and expands the language regarding awarding to guardians and conservators appointed for persons with limited, or no, financial resources. H.F. 657, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies language regarding the accessibility of information about the identity of child abuse victims. S.F. 862, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), provides the conciliation court with jurisdiction to determine actions brought by educational institutions to recover student loans. S.F. 1037, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), requires that the notice of dishonor of worthless checks cite the laws creating civil and criminal liability. S.F. 1077, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), increases the mileage allowance, from 10 to 24 cents per mile, and the per diem, from \$5 to \$10, for persons required to testify out of state.

"Whistle blower" bill discussed

A bill that would provide protection for employees who report criminal activities on the part of their employer received extensive debate at the Mon., Apr. 15, committee meeting. The measure, S.F. 116, authored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing), establishes a procedure for employees to report violations of laws and prohibits an employer from taking a retaliatory action against the employee. Discussion on the measure centered the question of whether employees would be under the same protections for reporting violations of civil law. The measure was amended to cover employees reporting criminal violations only. In addition, the bill contains sections providing penalties for knowingly making false disclosures, provides a listing of specific employee rights and outlines other legal remedies. No final action was taken on the bill because of time limitations.

Committee members, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), took action on a variety of bills during morning and afternoon hearings.

A bill that would hold a dog owner liable if the dog caused a death or great bodily harm was advanced by the panel. The measure, S.F. 348, authored by Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Plymouth), provides that whoever negligently or intentionally permits their dog to go at large, knowing the dog to have caused substantial bodily harm in the past, would be guilty of second degree manslaughter if the dog caused the death of another. If the owner knows the dog to have caused substantial bodily harm in the past and the dog again causes substantial bodily harm the owner would be guilty of a gross misdemeanor. The penalty for second degree manslaughter is imprisonment for not more than seven years or payment of a fine of not more than \$14,000, or both. The measure also provides for a rabies control program. After extensive discussion the bill was approved and sent to the full Senate.

In other action, the panel approved an additional seven bills. H.F. 78, carried by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the definition of a "disorderly house" and stiffens the penalties for persons convicted of running disorderly houses. H.F. 674, also sponsored by Berglin, clarifies the definition of "relative" for purposes of and amends adoption procedures to conform with current practices. S.F. 1071, authored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), provides that shareholders of a publicly held corporation could only obtain share registers if they could demonstrate a "proper purpose." The bill defines "proper purpose" as one reasonably related to the person's interest as a shareholder. S.F. 1214, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), provides good samaritan immunity from liability for members of volunteer organizations such as volunteer firefighters. S.F. 1223, authored by Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rolling Stone), allows minors to be

donors for purposes of anatomical gifts. S.F. 1371, sponsored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul), provides for transcript fees for court reporters in the second judicial district. S.F. 1429, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), includes employees of the legislative and judicial branches in the provisions for indemnification by the state and immunity from liability.

"Stun gun" regulation bill okayed

A bill designed to define and regulate electronic incapacitation devices, known as "stun guns," was approved at the Wed., Apr. 17, committee hearing. Under the measure, S.F. 1477, the sale, possession and use of the devices would be regulated in the same manner as tear gas and tear gas compounds. In addition, the bill sets penalties for violations of certain sections of the proposal. Under the measure it would be a felony for a person to use the device in the commission of a violent crime, for a person convicted of a violent crime to possess or use the device, for a person to sell a device to a person convicted of a violent crime, or to use the device against a peace officer. The panel approved the measure which was sponsored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove.)

A bill outlining the conditions under which parents must be notified of a child abuse investigation being conducted in their child's day care facility also gained the committee's approval. As amended by the bill's chief sponsor, Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), H.F. 213 applies to investigations of facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services, a juvenile correction facility or a hospital. The measure clarifies that the investigating agency may interview a child alleged to be the victim of abuse or neglect but specifies that the parents or guardian must be notified prior to the interview. The bill also specifies the information that must be given to the parent or guardian.

The bill also addresses the problems of timing and of notifying the parents of other children in the facility. The bill requires the investigating agency to notify the parent or guardian of the alleged victim when the report of abuse or neglect is received. Notification of the parents of other children in the facility is discretionary unless the investigating agency "knows or has reason to believe" that the abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, the bill spells out standards for exercising the discretionary notification of parents or guardians of the other children in the facility. When the investigation is complete, the bill mandates that all those persons who have been notified of the investigation must receive a written memorandum which must include specific information. The measure also provides that when the investigation is complete, if the report of alleged abuse or neglect either is substantiated or inconclusive the agency must provide the written memorandum to the parent or guardian of each child in the facility regardless of whether they had been notified during the investigation.

The measure also provides, in a similar manner, for mandatory and discretionary notification of the families of vulnerable adults when there is an investigation of a report of abuse or neglect in a facility. Under the proposal, the vulnerable adult has the right to decide that the family or guardian not be notified. Finally, the bill provides for the classification of information under the data practices act.

Local & Urban Government

Federal cutbacks looked at

Federal cutbacks to local government units were the topic of discussion at the Tues., Apr. 16, meeting of the Local and Urban Government Committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan).

Describing the projected cutbacks as a "catastrophe for local government," Mayor George Latimer of St. Paul predicted local

rebellion unless the state government stepped in to pick up some of the unfunded programs. "This fever of who is going to look best about how much we're going to cut [taxes]" is irresponsible in light of federal cutbacks, Latimer said.

Echoing his concerns was Mary Anderson of the League of Minneosta Cities. The elimination of general revenue sharing would present some of the largest problems, Anderson said. Other programs eliminated under the projected FY 1986 federal budget would be Urban Development Action Grants, Economic Development Administration, Job Corps, Housing Rehabilitation and Low-Income Housing. In addition, Community Development Block Grants would be cut by 10 percent, Public Transportation by 66 percent, Employment and Training by 22 percent and Energy Conservation by 88 percent. City officials then presented their individual cases in light of these circumstances.

S.F. 1272 (H.F. 618), sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), was also heard and approved by the committee. The bill would require fence viewers to determine landowner benefit from a fence and to assign proportional shares for each landowner to build and maintain.

Met Council appointments approved

Members of the committee met Thurs., Apr. 18, and approved the gubernatorial appointments to the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission. In addition, the panel recommended that the Senate confirm the appointments of Sandra Gardebring as chair of the Metropolitan Council and Peter E. Meintsma as chair of the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission.

In other action the committee approved three bills. S.F. 1398, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), permits the governing body of a municipality to authorize the treasurer or chief financial officer of the municipality to designate a depository of funds and modifies the collateral requirements for public deposits. H.F. 58, carried by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), authorizes the town of Moorhead to issue bonds for the construction of waterworks, sewer and storm sewer systems. S.F. 799, sponsored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), requires the Metropolitan Council to conduct a feasibility study to determine the need for a motor sports facility.

Public Utilities & State Regulated Industries

Various bills approved

In other action on Tues., Apr. 16, the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, chaired by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), approved seven bills.

H.F. 602, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), would permit beer brewers and wholesalers to extend customary commercial credit to a retailer for sales of nonalcoholic beverages such as soft drinks. Beer sales would still require cash payments.

H.F. 308, carried by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), would allow hotels, restaurants and clubs in outstate Minnesota, to serve intoxicating liquor after 10 a.m. on Sundays. Current law limits this privilege to the metro area.

H.F. 698, sponsored by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), would permit North Mankato to issue a seven-day on-sale liquor license to the Minnesota State Fire Dept. Association which will be hosted in that city.

Sen. Donald Storm (IR-Edina) carried two approved bills. H.F. 428 would permit Eden Prairie to issue a one-day on-sale liquor license to the Eden Prairie Foundation, and H.F. 1238 would allow cities to issue temporary three-day on-sale liquor licenses to nonprofit organizations for social events conducted in the city. Organizations would be exempt from liquor liability insurance.

H.F. 97, carried by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), would allow farm wineries to sell cheese and cheese spreads. H.F. 1145, sponsored by Dieterich, would provide for liquor law recodification.

Racetrack bill approved

One last "clean-up" bill concerning regulations at Canterbury Downs was approved by the Public Utilities and State Regulated Industries Committee, Thurs., Apr. 18. The bill, S.F. 1249, is authored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault).

In addition to technical changes, S.F. 1249 was amended to allow suspension of a racing license beyond 30 days in the case of a contested hearing. A second amendment changed the deadline for assigning race days from July 1 to Dec. 31, established a maximum fee of \$30 for medical testing of horses at the track and established policy concerning unredeemed tickets.

A second approved bill generating discussion was H.F. 143, authored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park). The bill would prohibit gas or electric utilities from collecting outstanding bills incurred by property tenants from the landlord or from subsequent tenants. An amendment also abolished the utility lien on property which has been certified to the tax rolls in the past.

Also approved were H.F. 1037 and H.F. 1254. H.F. 1037, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), would exempt small qualifying energy facilities which use gas and oil in co-generation from the certificate of need process. H.F. 1254, authored by Sen. Doran Isackson (IR-Storden), concerns insurance and indemnification of certain municipal electric power personnel. The bill was placed on the Consent Calendar.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Ed aids package advanced

The Omnibus Education Aids bill, S.F. 172, cleared its second hurdle when members of the Tax Committee approved the measure and re-referred it to the Finance Committee. No significant amendments were attached to the measure which sets the basic foundation aid at \$1,845 per pupil unit for the 1986-87 school year and retains the current 23.5 mill property tax levy. The measure, carried by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), appropriates \$2.56 billion in various education aid for the next biennium.

Members of the committee, chaired by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), approved an additional six bills at the Tues., Apr. 16, hearing. S.F. 1329, carried by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), makes numerous noncontroversial changes in the laws dealing with sales tax. S.F. 615, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance the construction of jetties and related public improvements for Zippel Bay in Lake of the Woods County. S.F. 1208, sponsored by Earl Renneke (IR-LeSueur), authorizes the city of Gaylord to issue general obligation bonds to finance the acquisition and betterment of municipal buildings.

S.F. 1308, sponsored by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), authorizes Olmsted County to convey and reacquire real property on the old state hospital campus with improvements financed under an installment purchase contract or lease purchase agreement and then lease the property for county purposes or lease it to another unit or agency of government. S.F. 801, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), authorizes the Commissioner of Revenue to request the Attorney General or a prosecuting county authority to assist in criminal tax investigations and provides penalties for tax preparers who prepare fraudulent returns without the taxpayers knowledge. S.F. 1061, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), clarifies the definition of real property, for property tax purposes, to include structures used as malhouses and malt elevators.

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Committee members discussed two additional bills but took no formal action on them. S.F. 420, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), extends class 3 property classification to certain property owned by fraternal beneficiary societies or associations for community service. S.F. 992, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), exempts certain real property owned by specific fraternal organizations from property taxation.

State cigarette tax extended

An additional eight-cent state tax on a pack of cigarettes would go into effect in October, and it could be extended to 15 cents, according to a bill approved by the committee Wed., Apr. 17.

The bill, S.F. 776, sponsored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), would extend the state tax to 15 cents if the federal government rescinds its tax per pack by 8 cents. The current state tax is 18 cents a pack, and the federal government imposes a 16-cent tax.

According to Nelson, the additional 8 cents would increase state revenues by \$63 million. A 15-cent tax would raise state funds by \$125 million.

The Regional Transit Board would be able to set fees for transit, and it would regulate metro taxi service, under a bill approved by the committee. S.F. 1169, authored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), came before the tax committee because the RTB is given \$10 million in bonding authority for a capital development program.

The committee also approved a bill allowing metro area towns to sell general obligation or special obligation bonds to finance waterworks, sewer and storm systems. The bill, S.F. 639, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), also extends the purpose for which certificates of indebtedness may be issued by a town. Currently, they can only be issued to purchase police or fire equipment, ambulance equipment and road construction or maintenance equipment. The bill would allow them to be issued for any purpose authorized by law.

Several bills authorizing cities to establish port authorities were approved: S.F. 904 (Mehrkens) enabling the city of Red Wing to establish a port authority commission and establishes limitations that the city may impose on the exercise of the port authority's powers; S.F. 615 (Stumpf) permitting Warroad to create a port authority commission; S.F. 721 (Ramstad) giving the city's council port authority power to a newly established port authority; S.F. 1220 (Anderson) enabling Wadena to establish a port authority; and S.F. 1447 (Langseth) authorizing Breckenridge to do the same.

The committee also approved the following bills: S.F. 1190 (Peterson, Donna) amending laws governing municipal housing programs; S.F. 1104 (Reichgott) altering several administrative procedures for the Dept. of Revenue concerning the handling of the income tax laws.

Transportation

Bridge bonding expanded

During its last meeting of the session, the committee, chaired by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), advanced a bill increasing the authorization for state transportation bonds by \$10 million for bridge repair and construction.

Sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), the bill directs the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to provide grants totaling \$2 million each fiscal year to political subdivisions to match federal grants for bridge work. The bill eliminates the statutory allocation for counties, towns, and cities. However, money already appropriated to the local units would remain.

License plates for cars and motorcycles would again be issued on a regular basis, according to another bill okayed by the committee. The bill, S.F. 947, authored by Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-

New Brighton), would issue license plates every six years. Car and motorcycle owners would pay an additional fee of \$2 for the plate.

A bill appropriating \$1.4 million for the purchase of portable radios for state patrol officers gained the committee's approval. Minority Leader Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), sponsor of the bill, S.F. 792, said the mobile "repeater units" would better protect the officers when they are away from their car.

Two bills sponsored by Purfeerst were also approved. S.F. 1348 creates a fee for applying to the transportation regulation board for various orders relating to railroad clearances and abandonments. H.F. 221 designates the George Mann highway.

The bill regulating the transportation of high-level radio active waste, which was passed earlier by the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Governmental Operations Committee, was laid over. The bill, S.F. 1093, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), would have also created a state council to monitor the U.S. Dept. of Energy's citing of a high-level radioactive waste disposal site.

The committee also defeated a bill altering the county state-aid highway apportionment. The proposal, S.F. 1379 (Schmitz), will be discussed during the interim.

Veterans and General Legislation

Local heritage commissions proposed

The committee, chaired by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), okayed a bill Mon., Apr. 15, allowing cities, towns or counties to establish a heritage preservation commission.

Currently, only cities are permitted to establish the commissions, which are responsible for preserving and promoting local historic sites. The proposal, H.F. 951, sponsored by Minority Leader Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), allows cities and the other local units of governments to create the commission and to delegate its power. Those powers could include surveying and designating areas of historic significance, enacting regulations to preserve historic areas, and acquiring property.

The committee also approved a bill delaying the drivers licence expiration date of a person who is serving in the armed forces and whose spouse has left the state. Authored by Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby), the proposal, H.F. 835, would keep the license in effect until the person is discharged or the spouse returns to Minnesota.

Animals for research bill amended

Dog pounds and other establishments that assume lawful custody of lost dogs and cats could not sell those animals for additional profit to research institutions, under a bill advanced by the committee Wed., Apr. 17. The bill, S.F. 1080, would require the research institutions to pay the same price for the dogs and cats as the pet owner would pay for reclaiming the pet.

Sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), the bill would have originally prohibited research institutions, such as the University of Minnesota, from accepting dogs or cats unless the animal was raised specifically for research. Proponents argued that it is more profitable for a dog pound to sell the animal for research than it is for them to collect the reclaim fee. They said this additional profit encourages the institution to sell the animal for research. Furthermore, proponents argued that the animal should be held for eight days instead of the current five to provide more time for the owner to locate the missing pet.

Opponents said the original bill would hurt research and education efforts. Not enough dogs and cats could be raised for the research institutions, and it would be expensive, they claimed. The committee amended the bill to insure that research could continue, but eliminated the possibility of institutions receiving

more money for giving the animal to research than it would gain from the owners reclaim fee.

During its last meeting of the session, the committee also approved a bill allowing Otter Tail County to adopt ordinances to control dogs and cats. The bill, S.F. 656, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), also permits county boards to appropriate up to 50 cents per capita to the county humane society.

In other action, the committee approved the appointments of Isabelle Robinson, James Nardone and Leonard Nadasdy to the State Board of the Arts.

Floor action

Minimum pricing passed

The heavily debated minimum pricing bill was approved 36-28 without amendment or discussion on the Senate floor, Mon., Apr. 15. The measure, S.F. 221, would establish minimum prices for milk and grain commodities in the state and region if other states

producing 60 percent of the national total of each commodity approve similar legislation. Authored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the bill would set each commodity price at 80 percent of parity.

In other action, Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake) objected to referring the controversial abortion bill, S.F. 1150 (H.F. 771), to the Judiciary Committee.

Generating the most discussion was General Orders item S.F. 622. Carried by Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar), the amended bill would require the commissioner of education to oversee the installation of padded book racks in schools buses. Debate arose over whether this should be a function of the Dept. of Public Safety or Transportation, and the bill was laid over.

A bill calling for reduction of acid rain, S.F. 1231 (Willet), and a bill giving International Falls and South International Falls the local option to unite, S.F. 64 (Lessard), were given preliminary approval.

The Senate met in brief sessions Tues., Apr. 16, and Wed., Apr. 17, in order to re-refer bills to the appropriate committees.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 22, 1985

Finance, Chair: Gerald Willet
8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

Rules & Administration, Chair: Roger Moe
12:00 Noon Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Release of the "Audit of the Senate" by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co.; Report from the Data Communications Committee, Senator R.W. Peterson.

The Senate will tentatively be in session at 1:00 PM.

Tuesday, April 23, 1985

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,
Chair: Keith Langseth

8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

The Senate will tentatively be in session at 1:00 PM

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,
Chair: Keith Langseth

7:00 PM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

Wednesday, April 24, 1985

Finance, Chair: Gerald Willet
8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Call for agenda.

**Taxes & Tax Laws Subc. on Property Taxes & Local
Government Aids**, Chair: Collin Peterson

8:30 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 1410-Novak: Changing assessment ratio for certain utility property; Discussion of farm property taxes; S.F. 1463-Petty: Property tax classification ratios.

The Senate will tentatively be in session at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM.

Thursday, April 25, 1985

Finance Subc. on Agriculture, Transportation, Semi-States,
Chair: Keith Langseth

8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

Finance Subcommittee on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
8:00 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations for Higher Education Coordinating Board, Dept. of Education, AVTT's, and community colleges.

The Senate will tentatively be in session at 12:00 Noon.

Agriculture & Natural Resources, Chair: Gene Merriam
5:00 PM or after Session Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: 1985 MN Emergency Farm Operating Loan Act - 30 Day Report, Commerce Commissioner Mike Hatch.

Friday, April 26, 1985

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf
10:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Continuation of allocations for community colleges, if necessary; and allocations for the state universities and University of Minnesota.

The Senate will tentatively be in session at 12:00 Noon.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR ADDITIONS.

SENATE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (19)

CHAIRMAN: Merriam
OFFICE NO.: G-24
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Berg DeCramer Lessard Stump
Bernhagen Frederickson Merriam Stumpf
Bertram Gustafson Novak Wegscheid
Dahl Isackson Peterson, C. C. Willet
Davis Laidig Peterson, R.W.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCE (15)

CHAIRMAN: Solon
OFFICE NO.: 303
MEETS: T, Th; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Adkins Dahl Laidig Samuelson
Anderson Freeman Luther Solon
Belanger Kroening Peterson, D. C. Wegscheid
Benson Kronebusch Petty

EDUCATION (21)

CHAIRMAN: Pehler
OFFICE NO.: 306
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Anderson Kamrath Olson Reichgott
Dahl Knutson Pehler Stumpf
Davis Langseth Peterson, D. C. Taylor
Dicklich Mehrkens Peterson, D. L.
Dieterich Merriam Peterson, R. W.
Hughes Nelson Ramstad

EDUCATION AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (14)

CHAIRMAN: Nelson
OFFICE NO.: 301
MEETS: M, Th; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Dicklich Langseth Olson Peterson, R. W.
Dieterich Mehrkens Pehler Taylor
Hughes Merriam Peterson, D. C.
Knutson Nelson Peterson, D. L.

ELECTIONS AND ETHICS (11)

CHAIRMAN: Hughes
OFFICE NO.: 328
MEETS: W; Room 118; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Frederickson Johnson, D. J. Peterson, D. C. Storm
Hughes Luther Peterson, D. L. Willet
Johnson, D. E. Moe, R. D. Samuelson

EMPLOYMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Chmielewski
OFFICE NO.: 325
MEETS: T, Th; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Belanger Diessner Kroening Vega
Brataas Frank Nelson
Chmielewski Frederick Pehler
Dicklich Gustafson Ramstad

ENERGY AND HOUSING (13)

CHAIRMAN: Vega
OFFICE NO.: G-29
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 118; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Adkins Kamrath Peterson, D. C. Vega
Anderson Kroening Peterson, D. L.
Frank McQuaid Pogemiller
Freeman Olson Reichgott

FINANCE (25)

CHAIRMAN: Willet
OFFICE NO.: 121
MEETS: T, W, F; Room 112; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Brataas Kroening Nelson Spear
Dahl Kronebusch Purfeerst Taylor
Dicklich Langseth Ramstad Waldorf
Frederickson Lantry Renneke Willet
Hughes Lessard Samuelson
Johnson, D. E. Luther Schmitz
Knutson Mehrkens Solon

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS (13)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, D. M.
OFFICE NO.: 309
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Benson Knaak Peterson, C. C. Wegscheid
Berglin Lantry Pogemiller
Frederickson McQuaid Renneke
Jude Moe, D. M. Spear

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (13)

CHAIR: Berglin
OFFICE NO.: 323
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 1-3 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Benson Dicklich Lantry Waldorf
Berglin Diessner Moe, D. M.
Brataas Johnson, D. E. Petty
Chmielewski Knutson Solon

JUDICIARY (14)

CHAIRMAN: Spear
OFFICE NO.: G-27
MEETS: M, W, F; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Freeman Knaak Petty Sieloff
Johnson, D. E. Luther Pogemiller Spear
Jude Merriam Ramstad
Kamrath Peterson, R. W. Reichgott

LOCAL AND URBAN GOVERNMENT (13)

CHAIRMAN: Schmitz
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Adkins Isackson Reichgott Wegscheid
Bertram Kamrath Renneke
Davis McQuaid Schmitz
Freeman Olson Stumpf

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND STATE REGULATED INDUSTRIES (15)

CHAIRMAN: Dieterich
OFFICE NO.: 235
MEETS: T, Th; Room G-15; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
DeCramer Isackson Novak Spear
Dieterich Johnson, D.J. Peterson, D. L. Storm
Frank Jude Purfeerst Waldorf
Gustafson Knaak Sieloff

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION (27)

CHAIRMAN: Moe, R. D.
OFFICE NO.: 208
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:
Belanger Johnson, D. J. Moe, R. D. Sieloff
Berglin Knutson Nelson Solon
Bernhagen Laidig Pehler Spear
Chmielewski Lessard Peterson, C. C. Taylor
Dieterich Luther Purfeerst Vega
Frederick Merriam Renneke Willet
Hughes Moe, D. M. Schmitz

TAXES AND TAX LAWS (25)

CHAIRMAN: Johnson, D. J.
OFFICE NO.: 205
MEETS: T, W, F; Room G-15; 3-5 p.m.
MEMBERS:
Belanger Davis Merriam Pogemiller
Benson Dieterich Moe, D. M. Sieloff
Berg Frank Novak Stumpf
Berglin Frederick Pehler Vega
Bernhagen Johnson, D. J. Peterson, C. C. Taylor
Bertram Jude Peterson, R. W.
Chmielewski Laidig Petty

PROPERTY TAXES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AIDS SUBCOMMITTEE (16)

CHAIRMAN: Peterson, C. C.
ROOM: 205
MEETS: On Call
MEMBERS:
Belanger Davis Johnson, D. J. Pehler
Berg Laidig Dieterich Peterson, C. C.
Berglin Frank Merriam Peterson, R. W.
Bernhagen Frederick Novak Petty

TRANSPORTATION (17)

CHAIRMAN: Purfeerst
ROOM: 303
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 112; 10-12 noon
MEMBERS:
Adkins Diessner Lantry Stumpf
Anderson Frederick Mehrkens Vega
Berg Kronebusch Novak
Bernhagen Laidig Purfeerst
DeCramer Langseth Schmitz

VETERANS AND GENERAL LEGISLATION (12)

CHAIRMAN: Lessard
ROOM: 328
MEETS: M, W, F; Room 118; 8-10 a.m.
MEMBERS:
Berg Chmielewski Isackson Samuelson
Bertram DeCramer Kronebusch Schmitz
Brataas Diessner Lessard Storm

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members—1985 Session

DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM *	DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM *
22	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	296-5981	235 Cap.	47	DFL	Luther, William P.	296-8869	205 Cap.
12	IR	Anderson, Don A.	6455	103 SOB	44	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	1279	132B SOB
41	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	5975	107 SOB	26	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	8075	127 SOB
32	IR	Benson, Duane D.	3903	109 SOB	49	DFL	Merriam, Gene	4154	G-24 Cap.
11	IND	Berg, Charles A.	5094	115 SOB	65	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	4264	309 Cap.
60	DFL	Berglin, Linda	4261	323 Cap.	2	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	2577	208 Cap.
21	IR	Bernhagen, John	4131	113 SOB	31	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	4871	301 Cap.
16	DFL	Bertram, Joe	2084	328 Cap.	52	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	4334	203 Cap.
33	IR	Brataas, Nancy	4848	139 SOB	43	IR	Olson, Gen	1282	132C SOB
14	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	4182	325 Cap.	17	DFL	Pehler, James C.	4241	306 Cap.
50	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	5003	G-24 Cap.	10	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	4135	205 Cap.
18	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	2302	G-24 Cap.	29	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	3988	141 SOB
27	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	6820	303 Cap.	61	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	4274	G-29 Cap.
5	DFL	Dicklich, Ronald R.	2859	306 Cap.	19	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	8018	326 Cap.
56	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	8298	325 Cap.	62	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	0760	323 Cap.
63	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	8867	235 Cap.	58	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	7809	G-24 Cap.
51	DFL	Frank, Don	2877	G-28 Cap.	25	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	4167	303 Cap.
30	IR	Frederick, Mel	4123	119 SOB	45	IR	Ramstad, Jim	9251	123 SOB
23	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	8138	143 SOB	46	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	2889	G-27 Cap.
40	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	9307	303 Cap.	35	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	4125	117 SOB
8	IR	Gustafson, Jim	4314	132 A SOB	13	DFL	Samuelson, Don	4875	121 Cap.
54	DFL	Hughes, Jerome M.	4183	328 Cap.	36	DFL	Schmitz, Robert J.	7157	235 Cap.
28	IR	Isackson, Doran L.	9305	151 SOB	64	IR	Sieloff, Ron	4310	135 SOB
15	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	3826	105 SOB	7	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	4188	303 Cap.
6	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	8881	205 Cap.	59	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	4191	G-27 Cap.
48	DFL	Jude, Tad	4248	235 Cap.	42	IR	Storm, Donald A.	6238	125 SOB
20	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	1240	133 SOB	1	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	8660	306 Cap.
53	IR	Knaak, Fritz	1253	149 SOB	24	IR	Taylor, Glen	9457	147 SOB
38	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	4120	121 SOB	39	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	4101	G-29 Cap.
57	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	4302	G-24 Cap.	66	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	3809	G-24 Cap.
34	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	1945	153 SOB	37	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	8091	309 Cap.
55	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	4351	145 SOB	4	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	4147	121 Cap.
9	DFL	Langseth, Keith	3205	G-24 Cap.					
67	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	8017	G-24 Cap.					
3	DFL	Lessard, Bob	4136	328 Cap.					

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

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85, April 26

P 248

Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

April 26, 1985

Interest on credit may increase

After a lengthy debate at the Tuesday, April 11, Senate session, H.F. 183, which raises the maximum allowable interest rate charged on credit sales in the state to 18 percent, was approved 37-29.

This would override the 1981 law which set separate maximum allowable rates for large and small retailers. Businesses with gross receipts over \$25 million were held at 16 percent while those with less than \$25 million were held at 18 percent. Although Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), bill sponsor, said he would prefer "to have the marketplace decide" as over 20 other states do, this bill would keep Minnesota interest rates low in comparison to other states.

Approved amendments to the bill exclude major oil companies with gross sales exceeding \$10 billion from the law and require retailers to give "adequate notice" to consumers if their interest rate is going up. An attempt by opponent Sen. Charles Berg (Independent-Chokio) to instate an across-the-board 16 percent interest rate failed.

The interests of big business vs. small business, the wealthy vs. the poor, the need to use credit and the immunity of national credit operations under this law were controversial topics of discussion.

Budget proposal debated

"The people have a right to know what the state will spend," said Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Wayzata) during the Tuesday, April 23, debate on Senate Resolution 31. Introduced by Minority Leader Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), the resolution calls for the DFL Majority to develop a budget proposal for the session. "If we don't do it now, it's going to be too late," said Taylor. After substantial debate from both sides of the aisle, the motion was defeated on a party-line vote, 24-41.

A second item receiving discussion was the unemployment compensation issue. Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester) handed out information describing the impact of taking no action, putting the DFL bill into effect and putting the IR bill into effect. If no action is taken, said Brataas, the cost of benefit increases through 1990 will be \$94.4 million, with an increase of 42 percent next year alone.

With General Orders bills still designated as Special Orders bills, three were given final passage. H.F. 320, sponsored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), would give Roseville the local option to increase its number of on-sale liquor licenses. H.F. 604, carried by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), would repeal the licensing requirement for fur farmers and establish a registration system for them. H.F. 230, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would authorize the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to sell certain surplus state land to the city of Hastings.

Ed aids bill approved

The Finance Committee deleted an open enrollment provision from the Omnibus Education Aids Bill before recommending it to pass, Wednesday, April 24.

The amendment, offered by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would delete a section of the bill allowing secondary students to select a school outside of their school district. Lantry told the panel that the open enrollment proposal was too risky. "Rather than putting money into a new radical system, we should use the money to lower class size," she said.

The committee considered several other amendments to S.F. 172, sponsored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin).

Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) successfully amended the bill to create a new Minnesota School of Arts.

An amendment, offered by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), to allocate \$75,000 for a feasibility study of a science and math high school failed.

Changes to Superfund gain

A bill making several substantial changes to the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act ("Superfund") was approved by the Judiciary Committee during their Friday, April 19, hearing. The bill, H.F. 268, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), changes the causation, liability and retroactivity sections of the current law. According to Merriam, the bill is needed to bring about changes in perceptions about Minnesota's business climate.

Several amendments incorporating language used in the House version of the bill were adopted, but the so-called "Munger amendment," was defeated. That proposal provided that the liability provisions would apply if the plaintiff could prove that a defendant knew or had reason to believe, when the defendant became the responsible party, that release of the substance would be harmful. The amendment was offered by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming). An amendment creating an assigned risk pool for environment insurance was offered by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.) to initiate debate. In addition, several amendments were offered to change the retroactivity date, but none were adopted. The bill was then approved and forwarded on to the Senate floor.

The panel also debated a bill that would reinstate the laws concerning abortion that were in effect before the 1973 Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade decision if the Supreme Court reversed its decision or if a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion were passed. The bill, H.F. 771, sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), failed to gain the committee's approval on a vote of 6-8.

Committee Capsule

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Grants to aid solid waste projects

During its final meeting of the 1985 session, Fri., Apr. 19, the committee advanced a bill creating a grant program to help counties finance their solid waste management projects. The bill, S.F. 948, also contains the proposal mandating the recycling of solid waste within the metro area by 1990.

Sponsored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), the bill requires the projects to include resource recovery plans. Also, grants could be made to a group of counties.

Committee chairman Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids) amended the bill to include mandatory recycling within the metro area. Beginning Jan. 1, 1990, waste disposal facilities within the metropolitan area could not accept mixed municipal solid waste unless it is from a resource recovery facility, according to the amendment. The proposal also states that counties may require households and other generators to separate their waste for processing.

The bill also contains an amendment requiring that the planned expansion of Flying Cloud Landfill in Eden Prairie undergo a certificate of need review by the Metropolitan Council.

A bill establishing a flood hazard mitigation program also won the committee's approval. Sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), the bill, S.F. 910, would provide grants to local units of government to assist them in establishing flood control and warning programs.

The committee also okayed a proposal allowing the commissioner of health to monitor the quality of water in private wells located in the metropolitan area. Currently, the commissioner can monitor water quality in public wells. The bill, S.F. 1202, is sponsored by Sen. Greg Dahl (DFL-Lino Lakes).

The committee approved the following bills: S.F. 1070 (Schmitz) allowing state independent sewer grants to be used for collector sewers in totally unsewered statutory and home rule charter cities; S.F. 926 (Schmitz) removing the exemption from the certificate of need for sewage sludge facilities on sites that are over 500 acres and owned by the metropolitan waste control commission; H.F. 1388 (Wegscheid) asking Congress to require higher levels of nonfat milk solids; H.F. 852 (Gustafson) conveying an easement to the city of Duluth for a skywalk; S.F. 1210 (Stumpf) requiring watershed districts to be responsible for groundwater protection; S.F. 1450 (Peterson, R.W.) changing provisions regulating water permit fees; H.F. 1150 (Peterson, R.W.) selling tax-forfeited land in Chisago; and S.F. 1065 (Peterson, R.W.) prohibiting three-wheel vehicles from being driven on roads and raising their registration fees.

Economic Development and Commerce

Interstate banking bill approved

A regional banking reciprocity bill narrowly cleared the committee, chaired by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), Fri., Apr. 19.

SF. 607, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.) was recommended to pass on a 8 to 7 roll call vote.

The bill would allow interstate banking between 15 upper Midwestern and Northwestern states. Banks in the defined region could acquire and form new banks between states, on a reciprocal basis. The bill originally called for interstate banking between Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley) amended the bill to add 10 additional states to the legislation to conform with a similar bill in the House.

The bill was further amended by Sen. Don Anderson (IR-

Wadena). The amendment would prohibit banks outside of the 15-state region from purchasing a Minnesota bank.

Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield) successfully amended the bill to remove a national "trigger." The trigger would have opened Minnesota up to nation-wide interstate banking in 1990. "This would make it a purely regional bill," said Freeman.

Opponents of the bill said interstate banking would force small independent banks out of business.

Supporters stated that larger banks could better serve large Minnesota corporations and provide better customer service through increased competition.

Committee members also heard testimony on the bill at the Apr. 18 meeting.

Panel discusses commerce office

A special subcommittee began a review of the Commerce Commissioner's Office, Thurs., Apr. 25.

The Special Department of Commerce Oversight Subcommittee, chaired by Freeman, began the proceedings by reviewing an order issued by Commerce Commissioner Michael Hatch Feb. 11, 1985.

Sen. William Belanger (IR-Bloomington) and Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro) questioned the accuracy of several items in the order regarding the Liquor Liability Assigned Risk Plan.

Freeman told subcommittee members that more meetings will be scheduled to discuss the matter.

Education

Appointments approved

Confirmations of various board member appointments were completed at the Fri., Apr. 19, meeting of the Education Committee, chaired by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud).

Three reappointments were made to the State Board for Community Colleges. Members included Franklin W. Iossi, Rochester; Toyse A. Kyle, Eagan; and Rebecca L. Sawyer, Inver Grove Heights.

In addition to the reappointment of Moira Boyne Rummel, Mpls., the Council on Quality Education had three new members confirmed. New confirmees were Mary E. Berg, Stewartville; Daren Gislason, Minneota; and Sherry Roed Munyon, St. Paul.

Five new appointments to the State Board of Education were confirmed with the committee's encouragement to become greater leaders in Minnesota education. Those receiving confirmation were Eunice Johnon, Butterfield; Marjorie Johnson, Lake Park; Thomas R. Lindquist, Savage; Lloyd Swenson, Austin; and Douglas Wallace, Mpls.

Confirmation of appointments to the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority included Carol A. Blomberg, Nashwauk; Earl Herring, Moorhead; and Kathryn Jarvinen, Winona.

H.F. 282 was also amended and approved by the committee. The bill concerns declaring the mission of public elementary and secondary education in Minnesota and would affect the Faribault schools for the handicapped.

Finance

Jobs and drinking age bills gain

The Finance Committee advanced the 21 year old drinking age bill and the jobs bill, Fri., Apr. 19.

S.F. 818, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would streamline and consolidate existing state programs for the unemployed. The bill would create a new Department of Employment and Training and a temporary Office of Full Productivity and Opportunity to oversee consolidation of existing programs.

The committee recommended the bill for passage, but did not

attach an allocation to the measure. Committee Chairman Sen. Gerald Willett (DFL-Park Rapids) said the policy and funding aspects for the bill should be handled separately.

Sen. Dean Johnson (IR-Willmar) moved to send the bill to the Subcommittee on Health and Human Services to determine an appropriation figure. But the motion failed on a 13 to 7 vote.

S.F. 5, a bill requiring a 21 drinking age in Minnesota cleared the committee, after discussion of several changes. The federal government will withhold highway funding for states that do not adopt the 21 drinking age law by Oct. 1, 1986.

The bill was successfully amended by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) to revert Minnesota to its current 19 drinking age if a bordering state does not pass a 21 drinking age for intoxicating liquor.

Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) attempted to amend the bill to include a phase in of the increased drinking age beginning Oct. 1, 1986. Purfeerst said the bill would be unfair to 19 and 20 year-olds who would have their right to drink taken away from them.

Opponents of the amendment said it would result in the loss of \$33 million in federal highway funding and create confusion for Minnesota bartenders trying to determine a person's drinking rights by birth dates on driver's licenses.

An amendment to delete a portion of the bill that would revert Minnesota's drinking age to 19 if the federal law regarding highway funds is declared unconstitutional failed.

The committee approved six other bills.

S.F. 251, sponsored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), would authorize license fees to fund educational programs for nursing home residents and families. The bill was amended to decrease the fee from \$2 per bed to \$1 per bed.

S.F. 684, sponsored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), would direct the Department of Health to cover the cost of formula for infants with P.K.U. syndrome. The formula aids infants who cannot digest certain types of protein.

S.F. 429, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), would allocate \$30,000 to the Energy and Economic Development authority to refund an industrial revenue bond (IRB) application deposit to the city of Fergus Falls.

S.F. 580, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan) would allocate \$16,044 to the city of Lakeville for a forfeiture incurred in an IRB transaction.

S.F. 627, sponsored by Peterson, would appropriate \$90,000 from the state building fund to the Commissioner of Natural Resources for the rehabilitation of the Spruce Center Dam, Douglas County.

H.F. 648, carried by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), would transfer authority for administration of the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation Trust Liquidation Act from the State Executive Council to the Commissioner of Energy and Economic Development. The bill would also create a Governor's rural development council.

Victims comp bill advances

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services advanced a bill to create a hazardous waste victims compensation fund., Tues., Apr. 23.

H.F. 876, carried by Sen. Collin Peterson, would appropriate \$2 million from the general fund for a hazardous substance injury compensation fund.

The panel, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), also continued discussion of allocations.

Master lease plan debated

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), debated the merits of a Finance Department proposal of a master lease plan. Finance Department representatives said that the plan would allow the state to pay lower lease payments rather than total purchase

payments for equipment used by the state. The state could then invest the short term savings at favorable interest rates, according to the Finance Department.

Opponents said the plan doesn't cut expenditures, but only delays expenditures. "This may look fine on paper," said Willett, "but I'm not sure this is the way to save money."

The panel took no action on the measure, but indicated that further input is needed from the Subcommittee on State Departments.

The subcommittee also continued discussion of allocations, Thurs., Apr. 25.

The Subcommittee on State Departments also discussed allocations this week. The panel, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), devoted meetings Tues., Apr. 23 - Thurs., Apr. 25 to operating budget discussions.

Panel approves student loan collection bill

The Subcommittee on Education, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), okayed a bill to crack down on overdue student loans, Thurs., Apr. 25.

S.F. 946, sponsored by Waldorf, contains a provision to allow the State University System to recover overdue student loans through conciliation court.

The panel also heard testimony on S.F. 660 sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent). The bill would create a science and technology resource center at Southwest State University. Waldorf said funding for the center would be included in allocation discussions.

The panel advanced several other bills Fri., Apr. 19.

S.F. 832, sponsored by Waldorf, would allow the University of Minnesota permanent university fund to aid in endowing professorial chairs.

The subcommittee also recommended S.F. 1041 for passage. The bill, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), is designed to allow more farm family students to qualify for financial aid. The bill requires that farm land value be determined by the average value per acre in the county when figuring student financial aid eligibility.

The panel discussed S.F. 356, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake). The bill would create an AVTI program to educate farmers on production and marketing of alcohol fuel. The subcommittee indicated that the program would be discussed during AVTI allocation sessions.

The panel also continued allocation discussions.

Governmental Operations

Pension bills approved

Members of the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), met Fri., Apr. 22, to take action on three large pension bills. All three bills contain numerous other smaller pension bills which were combined for committee discussion. H.F. 729, carried by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), contained provisions relating to specific local pensions. H.F. 98, carried by Moe, contained provisions relating to pre-1973 retirees and was approved and referred to the Finance Committee. H.F. 440, also carried by Moe, contained a number of administrative bills.

The panel also rejected a bill, S.F. 788, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), that would alter the membership of the board of directors of the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association.

Health & Human Services

Amended House Files advanced

Final hearings were conducted during the Thurs., Apr. 18, meetings of the Health and Human Services Committee, chaired

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by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.).

H.F. 533, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), was given approval. The bill would allow foreign veterinarians to practice if their education is approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Additions to the bill included amended S.F. 990, concerning state cost containment through the use of HMO plans for assistance programs, and S.F. 51, concerning home health care licensure. The amended bill was referred to Finance.

H.F. 702, carried by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), would allow those who are mentally ill and dangerous to be transported between treatment facilities. The approved bill was amended to include S.F. 825, concerning aging strategy; S.F. 912, concerning consolidated chemical dependency treatment; S.F. 1025, concerning a pilot project for preadmission screening/care management of the mentally ill; and S.F. 1116, concerning a subsidy program for families with mentally retarded children. The bill was referred to Finance.

H.F. 701, sponsored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would allow county boards to also serve as the community mental health center board. An amendment added S.F. 818, the Omnibus Jobs bill, to the approved measure.

The controversial hearing aid bill, S.F. 928, was approved. Amendments discussed would require temporary licensing, remove the requirement for physician licensure, require compliance with FDA regulations and resume the license establishing process for audiologists. The measure, authored by Wegscheid, was referred to the Rules and Administration Committee.

S.F. 357, authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would allow Pine County to receive Community Health Service funds if it joins with two contiguous counties. The bill was referred back to the Rules and Administration Committee.

A subcommittee report sending a resolution to the LCRAR was also approved. The resolution requests that Rule 4620.1800, establishing the maximum permissible formaldehyde level in housing units by ambient air standard, not be suspended in anticipation of S.F. 1279 being passed. S.F. 1279 requires a product standard.

Judiciary

“Whistle blower” bill amended, okayed

Members of the Judiciary Committee, chaired by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), approved a bill Thurs., Apr. 18, that would provide protection to employees who report criminal activities on the part of their employers. Action on the measure, S.F. 116, authored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing), came after lengthy debate and several substantial amendments. Specifically, the bill prohibits an employer from discharging, disciplining, threatening, discriminating against or penalizing an employee by altering the employee's compensation, terms, condition, locations, or privileges of employment because the employee reported a criminal violation, participated in an investigation, hearing, or inquiry involving the employer or refused to participate in any activity that violates any criminal law. The bill also prohibits an employee from making a false disclosure or a bad faith disclosure by imposing a penalty of a fine of not more than \$300 and costs of litigation incurred by the employer.

In other action, the panel approved two additional measures. S.F. 591, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), establishes attachment procedures and rewrites the existing law dealing with orders for attachment in order to clarify the law and provide more specific hearing and notice requirements. S.F. 1159, also sponsored by Luther, makes several amendments to the laws dealing with the regulation of corporate take-overs.

Committee wraps-up work on bills

During its final hearing on bills assigned to the committee, members approved two revisor's bills that would correct erroneous, outdated wording in the statutes and provided for statute text revisions. S.F. 1362 and S.F. 1363 are both authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove). A bill providing for the appointment of juvenile court judges in Hennepin and Ramsey counties by eliminating the requirement that the judge not serve more than six years in any twelve year period was also approved. The measure, H.F. 83, is sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope). The panel also approved S.F. 1434, sponsored by Jude, clarifying the notice requirements in eviction actions.

Governor's appointments confirmed

Members of the panel met Tues., Apr. 23, to discuss the governor's appointments to the Board on Judicial Standards. The committee voted to recommend confirmation of the appointments of Hy Applebaum, Janna Roderick Merrick, Raul O. Salazar, James J. Schumacher and Miriam Lee.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Underground development encouraged

A proposal encouraging public and private development of underground space gained the committee's approval Tues., Apr. 23. The bill, S.F. 925, would provide tax increment financing for underground space development districts.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), allows a municipality to exercise its eminent domain authority to insure development of the space, which would mainly be used for commercial purposes. A municipality may also borrow money and issue general obligation or revenue bonds to pay for the project.

The committee also advanced a bill requiring lenders who make agricultural loans to meet annually with farmers who borrowed \$20,000 or more. The lender and the farmer would review the farmer's operation and the lender's loan policies. The proposal would prohibit a lender from foreclosing on the loans, beginning in 1987, if the lender does not offer to meet with the farmer.

The bill, S.F. 1110, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), also exempts from taxation any capital gain on forced sales that occur before the foreclosure. The sale would be on any real or personal property used in a farm business. The bill also prohibits financial institutions, insurance companies, and corporations that hold mortgages on agricultural land from owning farm land. Corporations could own farm land if they intend to convert the use of the land to other purposes, however. Furthermore, the bill significantly reduces the time that the corporation must divest itself of farm lands if ordered by a court.

A bill allowing towns to impose a sales tax of up to three percent on lodging also won committee approval. Sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), the bill, S.F. 107, allows cities, towns and counties acting on behalf of an unorganized territory to enter into a joint powers agreement to impose the tax.

The commissioner of agriculture could pay a farmer's loan obligation under the family farm security program for up to two years, according to another bill approved by the committee. Sponsored by Wegscheid, the bill, H.F. 35, would allow the loan to be covered when a farmer is unable to pay because of “unique or temporary” circumstances.

The committee also advanced several other proposals: S.F. 1064 (Chmielewski) authorizing the city of Carlton to issue general obligation bonds in order to build a fire hall and allowing the city to contract with other cities for fire protection, authorizing the city of McGregor to incur bonded debt to finance the construction of a library, and allowing tax forfeited land within Fond Du Lac Indian

Reservation to be sold first to the Indians; S.F. 1414 (Jude) allowing Plymouth to make reassessments of special assessments previously imposed by the city; S.F. 1458 (Novak) authorizing the Dept. of Transportation and local highway authorities to issue permits for moving vehicles that exceed legal size, weight or load restrictions; S.F. 1499 (Mehrkens) enabling Goodhue County to levy an additional 3.5 mills per year outside of levy limits for support of the county historical society; S.F. 1485 (Vega) allowing South St. Paul to spend tax increment financing from the Concord Street redevelopment project to pay costs of the city's sewer separation project; and S.F. 1131 (Vega) allowing South St. Paul to refund special assessments previously collected for financing the sewer separation project if the city issues bonds to pay for the project.

Mpls. convention center discussed

Members of the panel began discussion Thurs., Apr. 25, on a bill providing for the construction of a new world-class convention center in Minneapolis. Chief author Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.) said that the measure, S.F. 1424, would enable Minneapolis to compete with other states but would not involve competition with other Minnesota cities. The new convention center, located on the site of the current Minneapolis auditorium, would provide 5,300 jobs during its construction and would create 4,000 permanent jobs, said Petty. In addition, Petty indicated that the new convention center would add \$4 million in state revenue by the third year of operation and that that figure would grow to \$8 million by the tenth year of operation. No formal action was taken on the measure because of time constraints.

In other action, the panel approved an two additional bills. S.F. 418, authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), modifies provisions that regulates industrial revenue bonding authority in response to federal limitations. S.F. 993, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), requires counties to institute comprehensive local water management plans.

A third bill failed to gain the committee's endorsement. S.F. 1313, sponsored by Sen. Steve Novak (DFL-New Brighton), would have exempted electricity used to manufacture snow at ski resorts from the sales tax.

Floor action

Gubernatorial appointments confirmed

Floor session began Mon., Apr. 22, with the passage of a Consent Calendar bill designating Highway 60 from Mankato to Worthington as the George Mann Memorial Highway. Mann was a member of the House of Representatives.

Confirmation of the Governor's appointments to various boards were also voted upon. Those confirmed include: Jana King and Eugene F. Trumble, Cable Communications Board; Marlin A. Rieppel and Erika Sitz, Minnesota Water Resources Board; Ernest Lund and Mary Robinson, Waste Management Board; Carol Lee Baudler and Bill Walker, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Martin J. McGowan and Ellen G. Sampson, State Ethical Practices Board; Robert J. O'Keefe, Public Utilities Commission; and Elliott Perovich, Regional Transit Board Chair.

World Trade Center confirmations were as follows: Biorn Biorstad, Ronald M. Bosrock, Willis R. Eken, Martha R. Firling, Thomas A. Foster, Richard M. Nolan, Pete R. Petrafeso, Irving M. Stern, and Paul Rexford Thatcher.

Education board members were also confirmed. Archie D. Chelseth, Mona J. Hintzman, Maureen A. Johnson and Orrin V. Rinke were confirmed as members of the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board. Patricia Allinder, Alan Olson and Jane Preston were confirmed as members of the State Board of Vocational Technical Education. And James B. Lund, Rodney N. Searle and Russell P. Stanton were confirmed as members of the State University Board.

The entire General Orders Calendar was designated the Special Orders Calendar, to enable Senators to grant bills final passage while allowing for debate and amendment. The first bill considered on Special Orders, S.F. 761, failed 14-48 after extended debate over the severity of the penalty imposed on persons with overdue parking tickets. Under the bill failure to pay would result in drivers' licenses being suspended after at least six months had elapsed and the appropriate channels of court order, municipal notice and law enforcement had failed to collect. Opponents pointed to the work-related need to drive, problems with reciprocal agreements with other states and drivers other than owners receiving tickets.

September school opening approved

In other action, Mon., Apr. 22, the Senate granted final passage to a bill prohibiting Minnesota elementary and secondary schools from starting classes before Labor Day. The bill, H.F. 151, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), was approved on a vote of 36-26. A bill clarifying the powers of arrest for peace officers off-duty but within their jurisdiction, on-duty but outside their jurisdiction, and off-duty outside their jurisdiction, was also approved. The bill, H.F. 266, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), also provides for clarification of the law relating to indemnification of peace officers. An amendment, offered by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), added provisions specifying the authority of conservation officers.

A number of other measures gained final passage at the Monday session. H.F. 241, sponsored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), modifies provisions relating to motor vehicle franchise regulations. H.F. 94, carried by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), clarifies language concerning cost share grants for soil and water conservation purposes. H.F. 267, sponsored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), authorizes certain quasi-governmental bodies to purchase a health insurance plan. H.F. 247, carried by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park), specifies the priority of comprehensive municipal plans and zoning laws in the planning processes in statutory cities. H.F. 186, sponsored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), authorizes county boards to enter into contracts with other states to provide mental health services.

H.F. 316, carried by DeCramer, provides for the appointment of an assistant adjutant general in the Minnesota National Guard. H.F. 379, sponsored by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), allows people who have been disqualified from being an election judge to be qualified as election judges. H.F. 415, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), permits reports of campaign contributions to be made by certified mail. H.F. 91, carried by Dahl, provides for the updating of precinct lists by Feb. 15, of each year. H.F. 157, authored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing), clarifies the requirements for candidates for school board positions. H.F. 535, carried by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-Rockford), prohibits the use of lead pipes or lead solder in pipes carrying drinking water.

Variety of measures granted passage

In addition to the debate on the budget resolution and the unemployment compensation fund, Senators passed a variety of bills during the Tues., Apr. 23 floor session.

S.F. 581, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), clarifies language authorizing certain investments in obligations of or guaranteed by the U.S. government. H.F. 831, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), clarifies the authority of the governor and the commissioner of corrections in the extradition of a prisoner to a country with which there is an extradition treaty. H.F. 158, carried by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), increases the amount statutory cities and towns may levy to maintain a public cemetery. H.F. 485, sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), authorizes the city of Lismore to issue bonds for the improvement

Committee Capsule

of municipal buildings. S.F. 364, authored by Wegscheid, expands the purposes of health care review organizations to include dental peer review. S.F. 994, authored by Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), authorizes the transfer of state lands that are no longer needed for community college purposes to certain cities for student housing.

S.F. 1029, authored by Spear, provides for access to drivers license photographic negatives. H.F. 982, sponsored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-Rockford), allows certain veterans organization to have space in the Veterans Service Building. S.F. 880, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), is a resolution memorializing the U.S. Dept. of Energy of Minnesota's opposition to the siting of a high-level radioactive waste disposal facility in Minnesota. S.F. 664, authored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), revises the boundaries of certain state forests. H.F. 645, carried by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), specifying the effect of and the procedure for issuing an order of restitution.

S.F. 743, authored by Jude, allows nonprofit corporations to establish, maintain and operate common trust funds. S.F. 1099, also sponsored by Jude, is a resolution memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to award posthumous Medals of Freedom to Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, and James Chaney. H.F. 953, sponsored by Sen. Jim Gustafson (IR-Duluth), allows the city of Hermantown to fix the size of its public utilities commission. H.F. 1065, carried by DeCramer, allows municipal boards to require meetings to discuss disputed issues. S.F. 1119, authored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), increasing the amount that a county board may credit to the sheriff's contingency fund. H.F. 1093, carried by Bertram, is a resolution memorializing the President and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to require the government of Canada to comply with the fair trade regulations on hogs, or impose quotas and strict tariffs on Canadian hog imports.

Swedish community honored

A resolution memorializing the governments of the United States and Sweden that the State of Minnesota officially adopts the County of Kronoberg in Sweden as a sister state was unanimously approved after a motion to give it final passage, Wed., Apr. 24. Author Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming) explained that the bill, H.F. 886, was needed for a bill signing ceremony with the ambassador of Sweden and that negotiations on several trade agreements between the states were in progress.

Consent Calendar bills receiving approval related to schools and local government. S.F. 896, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), "corrects" a paycheck formula to school districts making energy conservation investments. H.F. 656, carried by Sen. Don Anderson (IR-Wadena), would allow Otter Tail County to adopt an ordinance relating to the control of dogs and cats and increase the amount levied for the county humane society. H.F. 1254, sponsored by Sen. Doran Isackson (IR-Storden), would correct a statutory cross-reference and allow municipal utilities to purchase liability insurance for directors and employees.

A variety of other bills were given final passage. H.F. 759, carried by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), would extend the filing deadline and the return time for absentee ballots in municipal elections for those living overseas. S.F. 1193, authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would alter gravel tax laws. H.F. 1197, carried by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), would allow Circle Pines and Lino Lakes to establish a joint public utilities commission. S.F. 335, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), would allow the Board of Animal Health to establish rules to move more quickly to control a disease outbreak among domestic animals. H.F. 1199, sponsored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton), would exempt the New Brighton chief and deputy chief of police from the New Brighton civil service system.

H.F. 1198, carried by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would create a Youth Coordinating Board in the city of Minneapolis.

Bilingual assistance bill approved

A bill allowing state agencies and local government agencies to provide services and materials in languages other than English if a substantial number of people using the service or material cannot speak English, gained final passage after lengthy debate. S.F. 1203, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), directs the Commissioner of Administration to determine the agencies and departments that would provide the bilingual assistance under guidelines established in the bill. Opponents of the measure argued that the bill would perpetuate a policy of multiple languages and delay the assimilation of recent immigrants into mainstream society. Proponents of the bill countered that the measure would provide a "transitional bridge" to assist new arrivals in learning English. The bill was approved on a vote of 44-18.

In other action, Wednesday afternoon, Senators approved an additional eleven bills. S.F. 1244, authored by Sen. Howard Knutson (IR-Burnsville), increases the number of on-sale liquor licenses in the city of Burnsville. S.F. 901, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), increases the incentives for enforcing and collecting child support. An amendment, offered by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), requires that individuals required to pay child support must provide notice of a change of address. S.F. 1278, authored by Sen. Ron Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), extends the time, until 1990, that certain conventional loans may be assumed. H.F. 1235, carried by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), authorizes the conveyance of certain state trail lands no longer needed for trails.

S.F. 1347, authored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), allows the DNR to sell five acres of land in Koochiching County. S.F. 1353, also sponsored by Lessard, allows the DNR to sell 25 feet of land in St. Louis County. H.F. 204, carried by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood), creates a student advisory council to the Higher Education Coordinating Board. H.F. 256, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), clarifies regulations concerning van-type motor homes and related dealer franchise regulations. S.F. 814, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), establishes the State Council on Vocational Education. S.F. 453, authored by Reichgott, reduces the fees for camping spaces with state parks and reduces the fees for state park motor vehicle permits for the physically handicapped. S.F. 1357, also sponsored by Reichgott, establishes penalties for failure to file a complete income tax return.

Senate debates fate of Big Island

A bill transferring the responsibilities of the Big Island Veterans Camp to a governing board comprised of veterans won final approval Wednesday evening, Apr. 24. Sponsored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), the bill allows the eight-member board to operate the camp or sell it.

If the board chooses to sell the camp, they would be required to notify the Hennepin County Park that the land is up for sale, according to an amendment approved by the Senate. Within two years of the sale notification, the amendment, sponsored by Sen. Gen Olson (IR-Mound), would allow the park reserve district to obtain the property by negotiation or to begin eminent domain proceedings for the property. Olson said the amendment would provide the Hennepin County Park Reserve District time to raise money to purchase the land.

Opponents to the amendment said it would prevent the board from receiving the best price for the land. However, proponents argued that the eminent domain proceedings would insure that

the land is sold at the fair market value, and they said it would help keep the land for public use.

The Senate also passed a bill exempting non-profit organizations from paying taxes on the sale of personal property, food, drinks, meals and admission tickets conducted at fund-raising events. The bill, S.F. 83, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), would apply the exemption only to proceeds that are used solely for charitable, religious or educational purposes. The exemption would not apply to bingo or gambling activities, to events where a promoter or operator receives a profit, or funds raised to pay for an organization's expenses.

The Senate passed several other bills Wednesday evening: H.F. 454 (Dieterich) voiding the penalty charged against a person who has not purchased license tabs if the person can verify that the department failed to send notification; S.F. 986 (Chmielewski) making several miscellaneous changes to the workers' compensation law; H.F. 907 (Lantry) changing the personnel system in Ramsey county; S.F. 1148 (Freeman) strengthening the definition of trade secret; S.F. 1254 (Dicklich) requiring that any information gathered for an OSHA inspection be made public after the file is completed, and prohibiting OSHA investigators from testifying in third party actions; S.F. 115 (Samuelson) permitting POW license plates to be issued free instead of charging a fee; S.F. 1276 (Petty) requiring licensing of facilities for children and handicapped persons in need of treatment; and S.F. 1140 requiring that the origin of swine herds be identified before slaughter for disease control and meat inspection purposes. The following

bills were also passed: S.F. 781 (Peterson, D.C.) clarifying who is authorized to release juvenile court records; S.F. 1356 (Jude) conforming various laws to judicial decisions of unconstitutionality and suggestions for clarity; S.F. 1388 (Reichgott) clarifying the jurisdiction of the court of appeals to issue writs; S.F. 274 (Spear) conforming the review process for the mentally retarded persons to that used for the mentally ill and chemically dependent; H.F. 825 (Waldorf) making minor changes to regulations governing electricians; and H.F. 565 (DeCramer) allowing the Soil and Water Conservation Board to insure that districts comply with the state-wide programs and policies.

Other bills passed include: S.F. 1374 (Freeman) allowing the Dept. of Natural Resources to maintain lease rates for Fort Snelling State Park; S.F. 459 (Spear) clarifying provisions relating to the award of costs in guardianship and conservatorship proceedings; S.F. 1077 (Pogemiller) providing a reimbursement of residents required to testify in another state in criminal cases; H.F. 951 (Taylor) authorizing local heritage preservation commissions; S.F. 1214 (Pehler) clarifying immunity from liability for volunteer firefighters who render assistance at scenes of emergency; H.F. 1382 (Sieloff) providing for transcript fees in the second judicial district; S.F. 927 (Merriam) exempting rowing shells from licensing requirements; S.F. 1238 (Storm) authorizing the issuance of temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses; S.F. 661 (Freeman) creating regulations to protect persons who purchase camping memberships; and S.F. 1329 (Merriam) clarifying laws relating to the sales and use tax.

Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, April 29, 1985

Finance Subc. on Education, Chair: Gene Waldorf

8:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Finalize allocations.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

8:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

9:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson

9:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: S.F. 593-Frederickson: Special service districts; S.F. 1424-Petty: Convention center; S.F. 1423-Johnson, D.J.: Fiscal disparities; S.F. 996-Davis: Commercial service districts.

Conference Committee, Chair: Rep. Elton Redalen

10:00 AM Room 500 S., State Office Building

Agenda: H.F. 1216/S.F. 1199-Stumpf: Changes to emergency farm operating loan program.

Rules & Administration, Chair: Roger Moe

1:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Report from the Bill Referral Subcommittee; S.F. 363-Pogemiller: MN constitutional amendment, eliminating office of state treasurer; S. Res. #73-Spear: President of the U.S. should not pay tribute to perpetrators of the Holocaust; S.F. 1431-Spear: Resolution, Soviet action to stop anti-Jewish discrimination.

The Senate will be in session at 7:00 PM.

Tuesday, April 30, 1985

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening

8:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

8:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

The Senate will be in session at 3:00 PM.

Wednesday, May 1, 1985

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
8:00 AM Room 120, Capitol

Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

Health & Human Services, Chair: Linda Berglin
9:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Joint meeting with the House Human Services Committee; Presentation on case mix rule, Pam Parker, Interagency Board; Testimony.

Taxes & Tax Laws, Chair: Douglas Johnson
9:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Omnibus tax bill (tentative).

Thursday, May 2, 1985

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

Finance Subc. on Health & Human Services, Chair: Don Samuelson

8:30 AM Room 118, Capitol

Agenda: Allocations.

The Senate will be in session at 3:00 PM.

Friday, May 3, 1985

Finance Subc. on State Departments, Chair: Carl Kroening
8:00 AM Room 112, Capitol

Agenda: Operating budget allocations.

The Senate will be in session at 12:00 Noon.

Judiciary Subc. on the Juvenile Code, Chair: Randolph Peterson

4:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Presentation by Juvenile Code Revision Task Force.

Saturday, May 4, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 9:00 AM.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR ADDITIONS.

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Briefly

Minnesota Senate Week in Review

May 3, 1985

Saturn package endorsed

Members of the Senate Tax Committee voted overwhelmingly Tuesday, April 30, to endorse a proposal granting significant tax breaks and incentives for General Motors new Saturn plant should GM officials choose Minnesota as the site for the plant. The measure, S.F. 1510, carried by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), supports the offer made by the governor to GM officials in the competition to attract the automotive plant to Minnesota.

Specifically, the bill establishes a new category of enterprise zone for a single manufacturing facility with a projected employment of 5,000 people and a projected investment of \$3 billion. Property within the zone would be tax exempt for 30 years. Corporate income taxes for the zone would be abated as would sales taxes on the purchase of construction material and equipment. The local governments would be reimbursed for lost property tax revenue if development in the zone imposes an additional net financial burden on the governmental unit. The bill appropriates \$5 million for such reimbursements for fiscal years 1986-87.

In addition, the bill appropriates \$30 million to provide a grant to the city which is selected as a site for the Saturn plant; \$1.86 million to the U of M for a center for advanced manufacturing technology; \$2.2 million to the State Board of Vocational Technical Education for administrative support for a job training center; \$2 million to the HECB to develop an education and training transition team and center and \$4 million to a relocation expense fund that would reimburse up to \$1,000 per employee for relocating. The measure also authorizes a bond issue to build the job training center and for the center for advanced technologies.

All of the appropriations and bonding authority would be canceled if Minnesota is not chosen as the new site by September 1 of this year. The bill was approved on a voice vote and referred to the Finance Committee.

Panel moves Senate tax bill

The Senate DFL's \$815 million tax-cutting plan gained the support of the Taxes and Tax Laws Committee Wednesday, May 1, and was sent to the Senate floor. Earlier during the meeting, members of the committee rejected the Senate IR tax proposal, which called for a tax reduction of \$1.4 billion.

Sponsored by committee chairman Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), the Senate DFL plan reduces income taxes by \$744 million, or 14.5 percent, and simplifies the tax system to a one-page form. The measure also adopts the full deduction for Individual Retirement Accounts beginning January 1, 1985, but eliminates the deduction for federal income taxes. The Senate bill also retains the state child and dependent care and low income credits, and the exemption for unemployment compensation, pensions and military pay.

Johnson said the tax relief is aimed at the middle-income wage earner, and he added the plan would reduce Minnesota's top income tax rate from 16 percent to 9.9 percent, which would lower its national ranking from 1st to 15th.

The Senate tax bill also increases property tax relief to

homeowners and farmers. Under the plan, the \$650 homestead credit limitation is eliminated and an additional \$23 million is used to lower homeowners property taxes. Agricultural credits are also increased by \$14.6 million. The bill also takes a step towards property tax reform by instituting a 10 class system and consolidating agricultural credit classes.

Farmers would also be aided by a \$10.3 million sales tax reduction on farm machinery parts, under the Senate bill. Furthermore, the proposal maintains a \$500 million budget reserve.

In addition to the tax-cutting proposals, the tax bill allows the voters of Ely to permit the city to own and operate a casino facility. The proposal gives the charitable gambling control board responsibility for overseeing the operation of the facility, and a tax is imposed on the gross revenue of the operation. Two-thirds of the profit from the casino operation would be transferred to the IRRRB for economic development loans and grants. The remaining profit would provide development grants to Minnesota Indian tribes. The proposal also makes several changes to the charitable gambling laws.

The jobs bill, passed earlier this week by the Senate, is also in the tax proposal. That measure reorganizes existing state job and income maintenance programs into a new Dept. of Employment and Training and creates a wage subsidy program.

The Senate IR plan called for a 19 percent, or \$975 million, across-the-board income tax rate reduction. The proposal would have also conformed IRA deductions to federal limitations, thus reducing income taxes by an additional \$138 million. Senate minority members also proposed property tax relief of \$135 million for commercial and industrial property, \$65 million for agricultural property, and an additional \$60 million for state property tax credits and refunds. Also, the plan called for sales tax reduction of \$75 million, which included a \$25 million reduction on farm used machinery and parts.

Higher education spending bill okayed

The Finance Subcommittee on Education wrapped up four months of budget work in approving the Omnibus Education Bill, Wednesday, May 1.

The panel, chaired by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), okayed the measure which allocates \$2.65 billion over the biennium.

Under the bill, \$961 million would be allocated to the University of Minnesota, \$379 million to the AVTI System, \$351 million to the State University System, \$185 million to the Community College System, \$136 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Board and \$46 million to the Department of Education.

The panel voted to include a \$150,000 appropriation to study teacher preparation. The study was suggested by Sen. Jerome Hughes (DFL-Maplewood). He said the study was necessary to keep up with changes in the teaching field. "We need the study to maintain professionalism and anticipate and prepare for the lack of science and math teachers," said Hughes.

The bill would also establish scholarships and grants for part-time students.

Committee Capsule

Finance

Child abuse bill gains

The Finance Committee advanced a hazardous waste victims compensation bill and a child abuse protection bill, Mon., Apr. 29.

H.F. 876, carried by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), would allocate \$2 million for a hazardous substance injury compensation fund. Up to \$250,000 of the expenditure would finance a board to administer the fund. The three member board would be appointed by the Governor.

H.F. 848, carried by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), is designed to protect children involved in sexual abuse cases and provide uniform procedures for the cases. The bill includes provisions allowing informal questioning of children and requiring courts to give docket priority to child abuse cases. Reichgott said no new appropriation would be necessary because existing funds could cover the costs of the bill.

S.F. 966, sponsored by Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth), would require the commissioner of human services to establish services for brain damaged adults.

S.F. 1041, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would require that farm land values be limited so that farm families with low income and relatively high farm land value could qualify for student financial aid.

S.F. 946, sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), authorizes post-secondary boards to award scholarships based on academic achievement. S.F. 832, also sponsored by Waldorf, would allow the permanent university fund to be used to endow up to 70 professorial chairs.

Panel approves spending bill

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services approved its spending bill, Mon., Apr. 29.

The bill would appropriate \$893.8 million in 1986 and \$957.6 million in 1987.

The panel, chaired by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), heard several last minute amendments before approving the bill.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) successfully amended the bill to extend a program to aid compulsive gamblers into the next biennium. Spear said there is an increasing need for the program. "We're moving more toward gambling in this state and there is a minority of people who cannot handle gambling," he said.

Panels prepare spending bills

The Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, chaired by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) and the Subcommittee on State Departments, chaired by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), devoted most of the week discussing final appropriations. Final spending bills are being prepared and are expected to be completed next week.

Health & Human Services

Case mix rule heard

The Case Mix Rule, which will provide a new reimbursement system for nursing homes based on resident needs, was heard at a Wed., May 1, joint meeting of the Senate and House Health and Human Services Committees, chaired by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.).

The rule will classify residents as A-K, according to the relative costliness of their care, said Pam Parker of the Interagency Board. There are then 11 different rates within each classification, and each resident is reassessed every six months. Care and noncare related costs are separated. "Under this system, the cost will be more predictable," Parker said, explaining that inflation and a

change in case mix would be the only variables causing fiscal shifts.

Nursing home representatives who testified asked for a three to five year phase-in of the rule for high cost nursing homes and objected to the rural and metro geographic regions established. Legislators expressed concern over a lack of incentives to rehabilitate residents.

Pound seizure bill examined

A pound seizure bill relating to dogs sold to institutions for research purposes was heard at the Wed., May 1, meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee. The bill, S.F. 1080, is authored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

An amendment reinserted the language of the House companion with two exceptions. A dog pound would be required to hold a seized animal for at least eight days rather than five for redemption by the owner, and pounds would be prohibited from receiving more compensation from the sale of dogs for research than the cost of redemption by the owner. The bill also requires dealers to have their business open to the public for viewing animals in custody.

A presentation on Rule 54 was also given by Tom JoliCoeur, Dept. of Human Services. Rule 54 establishes a new system of Medical Assistance in-patient hospital reimbursement. The rule establishes a modified DRG system similar to Medicare with 36 categories of hospitalization.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Mpls. convention center bill loses

On a 11-14 vote, the committee defeated a bill that would have helped finance the construction of the Minneapolis convention center.

Sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), the bill would have appropriated \$6 million annually in state funds to help pay for the construction of the center, which would cost about \$126 million. If the state did not appropriate the funds, the Metropolitan Council could have increased property taxes to cover construction costs. The bill also allowed Minneapolis to impose a four percent sales tax on lodging and on-sale liquor sales.

Petty said the center would bring jobs and money to the state. However, opponents to the bill questioned if the center would be a good investment, while other lawmakers disagreed with the policy allowing the council to raise property taxes to help pay for the project.

Special service districts approved

In other action at the Tues., Apr. 30, hearing, committee members approved several bills allowing specific cities to establish special service taxing district. S.F. 593, authored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), permits the establishment of a special service district in New Ulm. S.F. 1513, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), permits the establishment of special service districts in Sartell, Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud and Waite Park. S.F. 996, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), permits the establishment of commercial service districts in the city of Mora. S.F. 1506, authored by Sen. Mel Frederick (IR-Owatonna), permits the city of Waseca to establish a special service district and grants port authority powers to the cities of Austin and Albert Lea.

The panel, chaired by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), also approved three additional bills. S.F. 1423, authored by Johnson, patterns the distribution of funds in the taconite relief areas of the Iron Range on the fiscal disparities distribution of funds in the metropolitan area. H.F. 58, carried by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), grants urban town powers to the town of Moorhead.

S.F. 1032, sponsored by Davis, changes the agricultural land preservation pilot county program. H.F. 58 was referred to the Finance Committee for further consideration. S.F. 1368, sponsored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul), exempting property used to store aircraft from property taxes did not gain the committee's approval.

Thursday April 25

Credit card fraud attacked

Nearly fifty bills were processed during a lengthy afternoon floor session, Thurs., Apr. 25. Credit card fraud, the farm issue, quarterhorse racing and port authorities received the most attention.

"Technology [has] advanced far beyond our statutes," said Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), author of S.F. 863. Expanding the definition of "credit card" to "financial transaction card" (which includes cash or "debit" cards), the bill would add the illegal use of card numbers via phone and forgery of cards to the definition of theft. A new crime defined as "financial transaction card fraud" would also be created by the bill to combat organized rings, conspiring merchants, selling or transferring of numbers, false statements made to receive cards and those who falsely report lost cards. An amendment added a provision for the signing or using of a card "under duress."

The farm issue surfaced again when Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul) unsuccessfully tried to amend H.F. 779 on the floor. If a farmer loses a farm through voluntary liquidation or foreclosure, the amendment would have exempted the farmer from capital gains tax retroactive to 1981. "It's the minimum, I think, this Legislature can do to help this situation," said Sieloff. H.F. 779 concerns insurance company exemption from income tax, amended returns and extended time for corporate returns. The bill was progressed at the request of the author, Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope).

A noncontroversial "housekeeping" bill dealing with the soon-to-begin horse racing industry in Minnesota, S.F. 1249, became an issue of debate when Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro) attempted to amend the bill. The amendment, which failed 28-34, would have required 30 days of quarterhorse racing at Canterbury Downs. Although author Sen. Clarence Purfeerst said that quarterhorses would be added next year, Benson wanted participation guaranteed in law. The bill was approved.

The issue of whether or not to grant port authority, for what reasons and in what numbers, was again argued when five bills granting port authority came to the floor for approval. Cautioning that port authority was going to become meaningless in Minnesota, Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), said, "I don't think we have any criteria." However, Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan) defended port authorities as having been "very successful in Minnesota." Approved port authority bills included: S.F. 1220 (Anderson) for Wadena; S.F. 904 (Mehrkens) for Red Wing and Hastings; S.F. 1447 (Langseth) for Breckenridge; S.F. 721 (Ramstad) for Plymouth; and S.F. 616 (Stumpf) for Warroad.

Two education bills were approved. S.F. 944, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), would allow the state university board, state board for community colleges and state board of vocational technical education to purchase computers and related products and services from private vendors for resale to individual students and staff members. H.F. 399, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), would require the Dept. of Natural Resources to exchange permanent school fund lands in state parks and waysides for profit-producing lands which would contribute to the fund.

Several crime bills also received Senate approval. H.F. 245, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would define parental rights and the crime of depriving another of custodial or parental rights. S.F. 650, also authored by Pogemiller, would increase the penalty for nonviolent crimes committed against

transit providers such as bus drivers. H.F. 274, carried by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), would add "flammable liquids" to the definition of "dangerous weapon."

A consumer protection bill regulating prepayments for funeral and burial goods and services was approved. The measure, S.F. 921, is authored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd).

A number of land bills were approved. H.F. 863, sponsored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), would change the Dept. of Transportation method of payment to landscape contractors. H.F. 1113, carried by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l Falls), would set aside Grand Mound for historical preservation purposes. H.F. 1570, sponsored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), would allow Gillmore Manor in Morgan to keep a 120 acre farm until the donor's death. S.F. 1087, authored by Mel Frederick (IR-Owatonna), would allow the construction of private field roads rather than bridges or culverts for judicial ditches.

S.F. 86, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), was approved. The bill changes the legal penalty of fines and probation for selling adulterated milk or cream. The level of antibiotics in dairy products was the major concern.

A variety of other bills were given final passage. H.F. 315, sponsored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), would allow towns to raise the levy rate in special fire protection districts where the town provides fire protection. H.F. 507, carried by Sen. Phyllis McQuaid (IR-St. Louis Park), would require Hennepin County board members' salaries to be stated in fixed dollar amounts. S.F. 1234, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), would permit St. Paul to issue single event on-sale wine licenses to nonprofit charitable, religious or veterans organizations. S.F. 1404, authored by Wegscheid, would allow all Minnesota counties to make electronic funds transfers. H.F. 1226, carried by Sen. Fritz Knaak (IR-White Bear Lake), would permit a transfer of White Bear park land for Ramsey County land for development. S.F. 1291, authored by Benson, would allocate state money to replace an Iowa-Minnesota border bridge in Harmony.

S.F. 1358, authored by Frederickson, would establish an equitable means of sharing the maintenance cost of town cartways for those who use the cartways. H.F. 1152, sponsored by Sen. Patricia Kronebusch (IR-Rollingstone), would allow Winona County to sell a humane society shelter and land to a private entrepreneur. S.F. 825, authored by Reichgott, would allow Crystal city council members to accept other compatible government jobs and would allow the council to adopt emergency ordinances with a majority. H.F. 446, carried by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), would allow the Dept. of Transportation and counties to sell certain pieces of land through real estate brokers after open bidding and advertising have failed. H.F. 468, carried by Wegscheid, would allow the state demographer to determine minimum populations. H.F. 1193, sponsored by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), would allow corrections officers to use computers rather than ledgers for recordkeeping systems in jails and lockups. H.F. 602, also carried by Bertram, would allow vendors of alcoholic beverages to sell soft drinks on credit.

H.F. 698, carried by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), would grant North Mankato a short-term, on-sale liquor license in order to host the Minnesota State Fire Department Association. H.F. 580, sponsored by Sen. Marilyn Lantry (DFL-St. Paul), would raise the median income allowable for community development corporation directors. S.F. 1308, authored by Benson, would allow Olmsted County to lease, sell and convey certain land in order to attract the National Institute of Corrections to Rochester. S.F. 1208, authored by Earl Renneke (IR-LeSueur), would allow Gaylord to issue general obligation bonds for the acquisition and betterment of municipal buildings. S.F. 615, authored by Stumpf, would allow Lake of the Woods County to issue bonds for the construction of a jetty in Zippie Bay. S.F. 1190, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would enable the redevelopment of certain public housing projects. S.F. 1398, authored by Wegscheid, would tighten requirements for government finance officers regarding state

Committee Capsule

financial portfolios.

S.F. 1411, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), was the only bill which failed to pass during the afternoon. The measure would have permitted a home rule or statutory city to contribute to a community seed capital fund for the purpose of assisting new or existing businesses with low interest rate loans.

Friday April 26

Judicial merit selection argued

The selection process for judges, which is currently determined by the governor, would have been pre-established by H.F. 67 if the bill had passed during the Fri., Apr. 26, floor session. Authored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), the bill would have established a 12 member panel (seven of whom would be chosen by the governor) to screen and recommend candidates. "It depoliticizes the judicial selection process," said Sen. Fritz Knaak (IR-White Bear Lake).

Opponent of the bill and chair of the Judiciary Committee, Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), said the bill was unnecessary. "The governors in both parties have maintained pretty high standards in appointing judges," Spear said. After an amendment making the panel optional for the governor was approved, Pogemiller progressed the bill.

A second bill receiving major attention was S.F. 919, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley). The measure would protect buyers of farm commodities from farm liens, i.e. elevators from lenders. An approved amendment (29-26) would allow farmers to keep half of the proceeds from a commodity sale and restrict liens to 80 percent of projected income. The bill was unanimously approved.

S.F. 658, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), was also approved. The bill would establish fines for the illegal buying and selling of game and fish and require blaze orange to be worn when deerhunting. A somewhat controversial amendment increased the penalty for trespassing.

Several other Special Orders bills were approved. H.F. 78, carried by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), defines the crime of owning or operating a "disorderly house" (illegal sale of alcohol, gambling, prostitution and controlled substances). H.F. 674, also carried by Berglin, would define "relative" in order of preference for purposes of adoption, including step-parents. H.F. 428, sponsored by Sen. Donald Storm (IR-Edina), would authorize a one-day liquor license for the Eden Prairie Foundation. S.F. 580, authored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), would appropriate a \$16,000 entitlement forfeiture to Lakeville. H.F. 835, carried by Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby), was progressed; the bill would allow the same time for expiration of driver's licenses for spouses of active duty members of the armed forces.

A Consent Calendar bill also received final passage. H.F. 1388, authored by Wegscheid, is a resolution memorializing the President, Congress, and the Secretary of Agriculture to require certain minimum levels of solids-not-fat in fluid milk marketed for direct human consumption.

Monday April 29

Senate passes jobs bill

A bill reorganizing existing state job and income maintenance programs into a new Dept. of Employment and Training won the Senate's approval Monday evening, Apr. 29. The bill, S.F. 818, also creates a wage subsidy program, which would replace the current MEED program.

Sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), the measure establishes a temporary Office of Full Productivity and

Opportunity to oversee the consolidation of existing job-related departments and agencies into the new department. Furthermore, the proposal encourages counties to place the unemployed in jobs rather than issuing welfare checks by decreasing the state's share of the welfare payment.

A controversial portion of the bill concerned the position of coordinator of the temporary office. Pogemiller's proposal would allow the coordinator to "issue, revoke and amend rules under the administrative procedures act." Sen. Howard Knutson (IR-Burnsville), who labeled the coordinator a "czar," said the bill gives the position too much power. "Whoever says a czar is better in this democracy? History has proven that a czar has not worked . . . not in our tradition of things," Knutson said. Knutson's amendment to remove the coordinator failed; however, the Senate did approve an amendment prohibiting the coordinator from issuing emergency rules. The effect of the amendment, offered by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), would allow the public to respond to proposed rules.

The appropriation for the wage-subsidy program is not contained in the bill, but will be determined by the Finance Committee. The Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services has recommended a \$33 million appropriation for the program, which would encourage private employers to hire people who collect welfare checks.

The bill was approved on a 42-25 vote. Pogemiller said, "This bill is premised on the belief that Minnesotan's prefer and deserve the dignity of a paycheck, and that it is the government's role to provide them that opportunity." However, Minority Leader Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), who opposed the bill, said, "It is not clear where this will exactly take us. The alternative is to set up a better job climate in this state."

The Senate granted final passage to several additional measures: S.F. 35 (Diessner) requiring health professionals to report suspicious wounds to law enforcement officials; S.F. 979 (Luther) establishing guidelines for community dispute resolution programs; H.F. 362 (Willet) providing for disposition of the proceeds from the sale or rental of tax-forfeited lands or from the sale of their products; H.F. 516 (Adkins) authorizing reimbursement to county commissioners and county officers for certain expenses; H.F. 882 (Merriam) allowing the commissioner of natural resources to enter into agreements with other states for forest fire prevention; H.F. 657 (Petty) prohibiting public access to data identifying certain youthful victims of criminal sexual behavior; H.F. 683 (Kronebusch) allowing a minor to be a donor under the Anatomical Gift Act; S.F. 800 (Reichgott) prohibiting deceptive advertising practices. H.F. 852 (Gustafson) conveying state land to the city of Duluth for a skywalk easement; and S.F. 1202 (Dahl) requiring the commissioner of health to monitor the quality of water in private water wells in the metropolitan area.

Tuesday April 30

Resolutions capture attention

On the 10th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, Apr. 29, the Senate gave approval to a resolution designating the "Red Ribbon" to commemorate Minnesota citizens who are still missing in action or are being held against their will in Asian countries. The measure, House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, was sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake).

A second resolution asking the President not to visit the graves of SS officers in Bitburg also was given approval on a strong voice vote. Author Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) said that the President "should not pay honor to those who actually committed the atrocities." He expressed the concern of both the Jewish community and veterans organizations.

Another measure authored by Spear, S.F. 391, was defeated 27-37 after a heated debate. The measure would have allowed an award for damages due to mental anguish actions for death by wrongful act. Such actions are common when children or elderly people have been victims. Spear said that the law has been successful in other states, but opponents argued that insurance rates would skyrocket.

Two additional measures generated their share of controversy before receiving final passage. S.F. 643, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), would change the designation system of muskellunge lakes and provide for a penalty (a misdemeanor and up to a \$1,000 fine) for illegal spearing and angling on muskellunge lakes. S.F. 243, also authored by Wegscheid, would allow physical therapists to evaluate and treat patients with ongoing needs without the re-referral of a physician every 30 days. An amendment granting chiropractors as well as physicians the right to refer patients to physical therapists failed 33-34.

Companions S.F. 1131 and S.F. 1485, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), were approved. The bills establish financing for a combined storm-sanitary sewer separation project in South St. Paul.

Township bill debated

A bill providing for various changes in township government was the subject of considerable debate before being amended and then progressed. The measure, H.F. 889, authored by Sen. Joseph Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), was successfully amended by Sen. Duane Benson (IR-Lanesboro), to include a Controversial provision allowing townships to set shorter voting hours. H.F. 786, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), transferring the authority to make appointments for certain commissions and boards from the governor to various department heads also received extensive debate before gaining final passage by a vote of 34-27. A third measure that was subject to prolonged debate was S.F. 1061. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Robert Schmitz (DFL-Jordan), clarifies the definition of real property to include structures with temperature control such as maltbarns for purposes of property taxation. The measure gained final passage on another close 34-27 vote.

A number of other measures were given final passage during the late evening hours Tuesday. S.F. 862, authored by Sen. James Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), grants conciliation courts with the jurisdiction to determine actions brought by educational

institutions to recover student loans. H.F. 835, carried by Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby), allows the same time for the expiration of a driver's license for a spouse of a member of the armed forces on active duty as for the military person. S.F. 952, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), dealing with the regulation of alarm and communication installers was amended to include language of a bill sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul). The new version of the bill provides for the licensing of alarm and communication contractors and installers by the Board of Electricity.

H.F. 273, also sponsored by Wegscheid, makes permanent the time price differential rate on certain motor vehicles and provides for a time price differential rate for certain classes of manufactured homes. S.F. 1279, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), provides for product standards for the amount of formaldehyde used in building materials for the construction of housing units. S.F. 547, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), prohibits the issuance of a motor vehicle dealer license to a person convicted of certain crimes such as odometer tampering and authorizes the immediate revocation or suspension of a dealer's license upon conviction. H.F. 1150, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), authorizes the sale of tax-forfeited land in Chisago County to a specific individual. H.F. 537, sponsored by Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), changes the permissible expenditure, to 40 cents per capita, on tourist, agricultural and industrial promotion in Itasca County. S.F. 1499, authored by Sen. Lyle Mehrkins (IR-Red Wing), permits Goodhue County to levy a tax for the county historical society and provides for a reverse referendum. S.F. 887, authored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), provides for the procedures for the determination of environmental impairment.

Two measures, sponsored by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), making corrections in Minnesota's statutes were also given final passage. S.F. 1362 removes redundant, obsolete language, simplifies grammar and syntax and improves the style of language. S.F. 1363 corrects erroneous, ambiguous, omitted, and obsolete references and text.

Finally, members of the Senate debated a measure, S.F. 879, sponsored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), that would add definitions to the Minnesota energy and economic development authority law, increase the agency's bonding authority and extend the life of the Minnesota Manufacturing Growth Council. After considerable debate the measure was progressed.



Preview

The Minnesota Senate Week at a Glance

Monday, May 6, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 2:00 PM.

Tuesday, May 7, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 1:00 PM.

Wednesday, May 8, 1985

Governmental Operations, Chair: Donald Moe

9:00 AM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Matters relating to the Metropolitan Airports Commission.

The Senate will be in session at 1:00 PM.

Thursday, May 9, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 1:00 PM.

Friday, May 10, 1985

The Senate will be in session at 9:00 AM.

Judiciary Subc. on the Juvenile Code, Chair: Randolph Peterson

4:00 PM Room 15, Capitol

Agenda: Discussion of task force recommendations.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR ADDITIONS.
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Briefly

The Minnesota Senate Week in Review

ST. PAUL, MN. 55155
May 10, 1985

Tax bill to conference committee

On a 42-25 vote, the Senate passed the DFL's \$815 million tax-cutting proposal Friday, May 3. The bill, H.F. 756, was then sent to a conference committee, where differences between the House and Senate versions will be resolved.

The Senate bill, sponsored by tax committee chairman Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), reduces income taxes by \$744 million, or 14.5 percent, and simplifies the tax system to a one-page form. The measure adopts the full deduction for Individual Retirement Accounts, but eliminates the deduction for federal income taxes. The bill retains the state child and dependent care and low income credits and keeps the exemption for unemployment compensation, pensions and military pay.

The DFL plan also increases property tax relief for homeowners and farmers. The bill eliminates the \$650 homestead credit limitation and provides an additional \$23 million in property tax credits. Also, agricultural credits are increased by \$14.6 million. The bill also takes a step towards property tax reform by instituting a 10 class system and consolidating agricultural credit classes.

A \$10.3 million sales tax reduction on farm machinery parts is also contained in the Senate bill, and the proposal increases the budget reserve to \$500 million.

The Senate bill originally contained a provision allowing the voters of Ely to permit the city to own and operate a casino facility. However, an amendment removing that provision from the bill prevailed on a close 33-32 vote.

Also in the Senate bill is the jobs proposal, which reorganizes existing state job and income maintenance programs into a new Dept. of Employment and Training. The proposal also creates a wage subsidy program to replace the current MEED program.

Senate minority members, who did not support the Senate tax bill, failed to win approval for their tax-cutting proposal. Their proposal, offered by minority leader Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), called for a tax reduction of \$1.4 billion. They proposed an across-the-board income tax rate reduction of 19 percent, which totals \$975 million. Their proposal would have also conformed IRA deductions to federal limitations, which reduces income taxes by an additional \$138 million. Senate minority members also proposed property tax relief of \$135 million for commercial and industrial property, \$65 million for agricultural property, and an additional \$60 million for state property tax credits and refunds. Also, the plan called for sales tax reduction of \$75 million, which included a \$25 million reduction on farm used machinery and parts.

Major spending bills advance

Three of the four major appropriations bills were debated during the Saturday, May 4, floor session. Senators granted final passage to bills that would provide funding for higher education and for health and human services. Preliminary approval was granted to the bill making allocations for the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation and a number of semi-state agencies.

The higher education bill, carried by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul) on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee on Education, carries a total appropriation of \$1.541 billion and provides funding for the University of Minnesota, the Community College System,

the State University System and for the Vocational Education System. The measure, S.F. 1523, contained a number of new initiatives for higher education, including additional scholarships for part time students and appropriation for an experimental Science and Technology Resource project at Southwest State University.

Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), on behalf of the Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, sponsored S.F. 1525. The measure provides \$2.1 billion appropriation for health and human services. Under the measure \$332 million would be provided in aid for the poor through General Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Minnesota Supplemental Assistance. The measure also contains an appropriation of \$33 million for a jobs program to subsidize new jobs for the unemployed. Finally, \$843 million is appropriated for Medicaid and General Assistance medical care.

S.F. 1524, carried by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon) for the Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, appropriates a total of \$1.9 billion to the Departments of Agriculture and Transportation and to various semi-state agencies such as the Historical Society and the State Arts Board.

Education aids approved

The Omnibus Education Aids bill, S.F. 172, was granted preliminary approval under General Orders at the Thurs., May 2, Senate floor session with an unusually narrow vote of 35-29. The vote on the \$2.57 billion bill came after a four-hour debate on proposed amendments.

Leading the list was an approved amendment, offered by author Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), which reinstated \$3.5 million in funding for the special arts high school. An unsuccessful amendment, offered by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), would have simply initiated a study "on whether the state should move ahead with special schools."

A second provision receiving attention was the shift of teacher retirement and social security payments from the state to the school districts. "This is a significant shift to property tax payers," said Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan). He introduced an unsuccessful amendment to return payment by the state, saying that the new system will cost an additional \$37 million in property taxes next year. The shift of the long-term unfunded liability was also pointed out. Proponents argued that the school districts should be fiscally responsible for the pensions they negotiate and that the contribution would remain the same. Under the new system, the state will provide school districts with an additional \$180 per pupil unit to pay pension costs, and a 12 percent increase, or six percent per year, has been allotted for the biennium.

A series of amendments were defeated. These concerned removing teacher exam requirements, funding a \$1 million pilot project to test all-day kindergarten, providing more funds for gifted and talented and removing the \$18,500 cap on special education salaries. An attempt to reinsert a modified version of open enrollment also failed.

Basic foundation aid is provided at \$1,840 per pupil unit for 1986-87 and the mill rate remains at 23.5 mills. The bill was granted final passage with a vote of 35-31 during the Wed., May 8, floor session.

Committee Capsule

Finance

Major spending bills approved

The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet, approved three spending bills, Fri., May 3.

The Omnibus Education Bill allocates \$1.54 billion from the general fund over the coming biennium. Chairman of the Subcommittee on Education Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), presented the six major components of the bill. The proposal allocates \$961 million to the University of Minnesota, \$379 million to the AVTI System, \$351 million to the State University System, \$185 million to the Community College System, \$136 million to the Higher Education Coordinating Board and \$46 million to the Department of Education.

Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Chairman Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd) outlined the panel's spending bill. The measure allocates 2.1 billion for human services.

Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon), chair of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-States, presented a \$1.9 billion spending package to the committee.

Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Wayzata) amended the bill to require the Historical Society to fund a tour guide position. The society had indicated that a 15 percent spending increase was not sufficient and could require termination of the tour guide position. Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault) further amended the bill to require Mn/DOT to remove sludge from I-94. Neither motion would appropriate any new money.

Panel okays cigarette tax increase

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services approved a bill increasing the tax on cigarettes from 18 cents to 25 cents per pack. Bill sponsor, Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin) said the measure is designed to promote non-smoking.

The panel combined several proposals and amendments into S.F. 776.

A move to prohibit free distribution of cigarettes failed. The panel voted to require all promotional free cigarettes to affix the state tax stamp.

Six cents of the 7 cents tax increase would finance a sewer separation project in the Twin Cities. The project is designed to alleviate sewage problems south of the Twin Cities along the Mississippi River. Currently, the undivided sewers flood and dump untreated sewage into the river during the spring and after heavy rains. One cent of the tax would be divided among several projects including maternal and child health care, lead contamination prevention, mosquito research and non-smoking promotion and education.

Panel votes to prohibit candy cigarette sales

The Full committee approved a bill increasing the tax on cigarettes by 7 cents pack, Tues., May 7.

Bill sponsor, Sen. Tom Nelson (DFL-Austin), said S.F. 776 is designed to promote non-smoking among young Minnesotans and to help smokers quit.

Nelson said 6 cents of the tax would fund sewer separation projects for St. Paul, South St. Paul and Mpls. The remaining 1 cent would be allocated to a new public health fund. The fund would finance projects for lead contamination prevention, non-smoking education, mosquito research and maternal and child health care.

Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) amended the bill to prohibit candy cigarettes. He said the move would prevent children from viewing cigarettes as acceptable.

The panel also approved five other bills.

S.F. 304, sponsored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), increases the state's gross weight to 80,000 pounds for trucks. The

current limit is 73,280 pounds. DeCramer amended the bill to allow a \$50 fee per truck for vehicle inspections. Revenue from the fees would fund six new positions in the department of public safety.

S.F. 119, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), creates a Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. The bill appropriates \$200,000 for administration of the nine-member appointed board. The appropriation is contingent on a ten percent matching effort from the private sector.

S.F. 928, sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), provides for the licensing of hearing instrument sales representatives. S.F. 492, also sponsored by Wegscheid, requires the commissioner of veterans affairs to provide grave markers for veterans.

S.F. 588, sponsored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), allows for road improvements in Falcon Heights for the University of Minnesota.

Panel moves to study licensing of psychotherapists

The Subcommittee on Health and Human Services advanced four bills and began discussing a fifth measure, Wed., May 8.

S.F. 1004, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would create a task force to study the need for licensing psychotherapists. The bill would also direct the commissioner of corrections to establish a program to prevent sexual exploitation by psychotherapists. Peterson said the bill is in response to a growing problem in the field. She quoted a recent study indicating that 17 percent of psychotherapists have sexual contact with their clients. She said the state doesn't license psychotherapists and there are a number of practitioners operating businesses with little or no training.

S.F. 1130, sponsored by Waldorf, appropriates \$1.24 million for the Board of Medical Examiners. The board is responsible for the licensing and discipline of physicians. Waldorf said the appropriation would come from fees charged by the board, making it self-supporting.

S.F. 533, sponsored by Wegscheid, makes it easier for foreign veterinary graduates to practice in Minnesota. Rather than having to accredit a foreign veterinary school, the state Board of Veterinary Medicine would only have to evaluate the individual graduate. An attempt to amend the bill to change the way camp grounds are licensed failed. Spear said he objected to the amendment because it was unrelated to the bill.

S.F. 339, sponsored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), establishes a program in the Department of Economic Security to distribute grants to centers providing independent living services.

The panel began discussion of S.F. 1094, also sponsored by Dicklich. The measure revises the Community Social Services Act.

State Departments spending bill gains

The full committee approved a \$1.2 billion Omnibus State Departments Bill during a six hour session, Thurs., May 9. One provision of the bill transfers many responsibilities from the State Treasurer to the Department of Finance.

The bill includes numerous riders in addition to budget allocations.

The panel voted down an amendment offered by Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato) to delete 273 pages of the 333-page document. He said the motion would delete portions of the bill not related to state departments spending. "This is a poor way to handle legislation," he said, "we should vote on them separately." Sen. Lyle Mehrkens (IR-Red Wing) agreed. "All of the extras in this bill will make a conference committee too difficult and will probably lead to a special session," he said.

Willet opposed the amendment. He explained that many riders in the bill would save taxpayers money. "It is our responsibility to try to make government run better," he added.

The panel also voted to delete a provision in the bill to fund AMTRAK's Northstar service between the Twin Cities and Duluth. Mehrkens, in offering the amendment, said that ridership on the service is down and the funds could be better spent.

Sen. Sam Solon (DFL-Duluth) opposed the amendment. He said the service may show a low return on paper, but it boosts tourism and economic development in northeastern Minnesota.

The amendment was approved on a 13 to 10 vote.

The panel voted down an amendment offered by Purfeerst to allocate \$7 million from the general fund for 911 emergency telephone service. Purfeerst said the funding would make the service accessible to all Minnesotans.

Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.) opposed the amendment. He said user fee funding of the service would save taxpayers money and be very affordable. He estimated the fee for metro users would be 9 cents per month and 28 cents per month for out-state users.

The amendment failed 13 to 9.

The committee also forwarded 11 other bills.

S.F.1004, sponsored by Sen. Donna Peterson, creates a task force to study the need for licensing psychotherapists and establishes a program to prevent sexual exploitation of clients by psychotherapists. S.F. 977, also sponsored by Peterson, appropriates \$67,000 to the Secretary of State to create a position to oversee and improve training for election judges.

H.F. 98, carried by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), allocates \$11.2 million for post-retirement increases for "pre-73 retirees."

S.F. 1176, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), allocates \$156,000 to the commissioner of human services to establish a job classification specializing in child protection. S.F. 866, also sponsored by Merriam, restricts land disposal of solid waste in the metropolitan area. Merriam stressed that the bill would not spend general fund dollars. Funding for resource recovery projects would come from the metropolitan solid waste tax.

S.F. 723, sponsored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming) allocates \$1.5 million for conservation of marginal agricultural land. The proposal also allocates \$300,000 to the Minnesota critical habitat private sector matching account to acquire land. The bill allocates \$200,000 to prepare a comprehensive fish and wildlife management plan.

S.F. 719, sponsored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) appropriates \$20,000 from the nongame wildlife account to the commissioner of natural resources to remove elk herds from agricultural areas of the state. The proposal also allows the department to establish an experimental season allowing hunters to take two deer.

S.F. 533, sponsored by Wegscheid, authorizes the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to allow a graduate of a non-accredited foreign veterinary school to practice in Minnesota if the student has an American Veterinary Association ECFVG certificate.

S.F. 1130, sponsored by Waldorf, allocates \$1.24 million to the Board of Medical Examiners.

S.F. 339, sponsored by Dicklich, establishes a program to provide grants to centers for independent living for the handicapped.

S.F. 1246, sponsored by Solon, clarifies the community action program financial assistance requirements.

Governmental Operations

Metro Airports Commission discussed

Members of the Governmental Operations Committee, chaired by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), met Wed., May 8, to discuss matters pertaining to the Metropolitan Airports Commission. The panel questioned MAC officials on personnel policies and

recommended that the MAC open the competition for top management positions. Moe sponsored a resolution requiring the MAC establish a procedure for soliciting outside candidates for the position of executive director. The current executive director is a former employee of the commission and replaced outgoing executive director Larry McCabe. Claude Schmidt has agreed to hold the position for no more than two years while an assistant executive director trains for the job. Under the Moe resolution, the assistant would be required to compete with other candidates.

Judiciary

Change in local gun law approved

A bill prohibiting cities of the first class from enacting gun control laws that are stricter than the current state law was the focus of the Fri., May 3, meeting of the Judiciary Committee. The bill, H.F. 576, is designed, said chief author Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), to provide one uniform gun law for the entire state. Currently, both Minneapolis and St. Paul have stricter ordinances concerning the sale and possession of guns.

Proponents of the measure argued that the bill would treat all Minnesotans equally and would make it easier for sportsmen to travel through the Twin Cities. Opponents of the measure countered by saying that the bill preempted local control and that the large cities should have the capability of enacting stricter laws because of their size and density of their population.

An amendment, offered by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would allow Minneapolis and St. Paul to have stricter laws regarding the carrying of pistols and Saturday Night Specials in public. The amendment was adopted on a 10-4 roll call vote and the bill was approved on a roll call vote of 10-4.

Taxes and Tax Laws

Convention center bill reconsidered

The bill aiding the financing and construction of the Minneapolis convention center was approved by the committee after being reconsidered Mon., May 6. Last week, the committee defeated the bill on a 11-14 vote.

The bill appropriates \$6 million annually in state funds to help pay for the construction of the center, which will cost about \$126 million to build. The state's appropriation would be used to cover the debt service of the bonds issued for the project. Also, the city of Minneapolis can impose a four percent sales tax on lodging and on-sale liquor sales. The bill, S.F. 1424, also allows the Metropolitan Council to increase property taxes to cover debt service if the state discontinues the annual appropriation.

Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), sponsor of the proposal, said the state will easily recoup its appropriation through the increased revenues generated from a convention center. "I think the beauty of this project is that there is no net cost to the state of Minnesota," Petty said.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Douglas Johnson (DFL-Cook), approved three additional bills during its final meeting of the session: S.F. 1455 (Samuelson) extending for five years the property tax exemption for property held by the city of Little Falls that will be sold for economic development; S.F. 905 (Jude) establishing a position in an order of distribution of claims against an insolvent insurance company for the claims of an insurance guaranty association; and S.F. 1512 (Novak) requiring the state auditor to develop a uniform system of accounting and financial reporting for tax increment financing districts, allowing municipalities to issue bonds for financing unfunded pension liabilities and allowing the general obligation bonds to bear variable interest rates.

Floor Action

Thursday, May 2

Victims comp bill debated

Victims of hazardous waste releases would receive compensation from a state fund under a proposal that was debated by Senators at the evening floor session Thurs., May 2. The bill, H.F. 876, sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), establishes a \$2 million state fund for victim compensation and provides for a nonadversarial procedure for making claims from the fund.

Debate centered on several key amendments. An amendment that would provide partial compensation for the diminution in value of a homestead was defeated. However, a more restrictive amendment that would provide compensation, of 75 percent of the diminution of value up to \$25,000, for defined hardship cases forced to sell their principal residence was adopted. Both amendments were offered by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids). An amendment offered by Sen. Jim Ramstad (R-Wayzata) prohibiting individuals from claiming compensation under the fund and filing separate lawsuits to recover damages was also adopted. The measure was then progressed and final action delayed.

Monday, May 6

Drinking age bill approved

The bill raising the drinking age to 21 in the state of Minnesota was given final passage with a 55-12 vote at the Mon., May 6, Senate floor session. The bill, S.F. 5, is authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton).

The measure would go into effect on Sept. 30, 1986, if all bordering states also raised their age to 21. The probability of Wisconsin's action raised considerable debate. Lives saved, public support and \$33 million in highway funds were cited by proponents while opponents argued about border problems since 70 percent of Minnesota's population lives within one hour of the Wisconsin border. An amendment to delete the border states contingency requirement, offered by Sen. Jim Ramstad (R-Wayzata), was defeated 36-30.

A second measure receiving major attention was an amendment to H.F. 1037 which would deny the Public Utilities Commission the power to grant a certificate of need to future nuclear power plants. "We're not going to contribute to the problem," said Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul). Approved 43-23, the amendment was offered, said Moe, as a signal to the federal government that Minnesota did not want to be the national dump site for nuclear waste. Approved H.F. 1037, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-St. Paul), would exempt small power plants from the certificate of need process for co-generation of oil and gas. Another amendment added a pipelines bill that had already been approved.

H.F. 1109, sponsored by Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-St. Michael), was progressed after a lengthy debate. The bill concerns the set aside programs and preference programs for socially or economically disadvantaged business persons.

A variety of bills were granted final approval. H.F. 889, carried by Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), concerns township law recodification. S.F. 583, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), would provide greater enforcement power in spouse abuse or domestic abuse cases. S.F. 401, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), would provide wage earners and farmers protection from garnishment in certain cases. S.F. 1067, authored by Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), would require ongoing extensions of credit to be contracted for in writing. H.F. 782 (the Indian Family Preservation Act), authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), would provide for the participation of Indian tribes in the placement of their children. H.F. 227, sponsored by Sen.

Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would allow St. Louis County to conduct ten horse racing days outside the days of the county fair. S.F. 1049, authored by Spear, would extend the vulnerable adults reporting act to include sexual contact, mental or emotional distress and financial exploitation.

S.F. 1187, authored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton), would affect residency requirements for voluntary fire department members. H.F. 603 (Novak) would allow holders of on-and off-sale liquor licenses to sell non-intoxicating malt liquor. S.F. 806 (Novak) would require regulation of underground storage tanks. S.F. 1458 (Novak) would remove restrictions on special permits to move manufactured homes when the property tax has not been paid.

Tuesday, May 7

Set-aside procurement program altered

The Senate passed a bill Tuesday, May 7, giving the Dept. of Administration more flexibility in insuring that state procurements are awarded to businesses owned and operated by socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

Currently, six percent of the value of all state procurements are set-aside for businesses owned by the disadvantaged. Also, three percent of the value of the procurements are set-aside so those type of businesses are given preference even though their bids are not lowest. According to Sen. Betty Adkins (DFL-Rockford), sponsor of the proposal, the established percentages deter disadvantaged business owners from receiving the available set-aside funds. The bill, H.F. 1109, changes the percentage requirements so that the department determines how the total 9 percent set-aside money is made available to the businesses.

The Senate defeated a bill authorizing the Minnesota Racing Commission to adopt rules permitting certain medications to be administered to a horse up to 24 hours before a race. Current law prohibits drugs to be administered within 48 hours of the race. Controversy over the bill, sponsored by Sen. Clarence Purfeerst (DFL-Faribault), centered on the use of two types of medication: one drug (Lasix) prevents pulmonary hemorrhaging and another drug (Phenylbutazone) reduces swelling and pain.

Opponents to the proposal said later administration of the drugs could cause horses to breakdown at the track. Also, they argued that the commissioner's rules should be adopted after the public has the opportunity for input.

Also Tuesday, Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope) progressed her proposal, H.F. 848, changing the judicial procedures to protect the welfare of alleged child abuse victims, when the Senate adopted a controversial amendment. The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), requires prosecutors, or their designees, to tape conversations with the abused child.

Several other measures gained final passage Tuesday: H.F. 216 (Dahl) clarifying that credit unions may refer to "draft accounts" as "checking accounts" and permitting the board of directors to decide whether a state chartered credit union may exercise the powers granted to federally chartered credit unions; H.F. 649 (Solon) fixing the maximum amount of the county emergency fund for St. Louis County; H.F. 191 (Adkins) requiring prompt payment of local government bills; H.F. 374 (Freeman) charging a person guilty of failing to comply with fire security measures with obstruction of the legal process; H.F. 231 (Solon) authorizing the sale of certain tax-forfeited land; S.F. 352 (Freeman) establishing a method for taxing owners of cars that use compressed natural gas; S.F. 1431 (Spear) memorializing the negotiators for the United States at the Geneva arms talks to demand Soviet action to stop anti-Jewish discrimination and to allow Jews to emigrate; and S.F. 966 (Solon) requiring a study on the needs of persons with brain impairments.

Wednesday, May 8

BWI bill amended

A second floor session attempt on Wed., May 8, at passing the boating while intoxicated bill was successful after a heavily debated series of amendments substantially altered the measure. Authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton), the bill was finally approved 41-25.

The measure, S.F. 31, was amended to affect only motorboats of 16 horsepower or more, and only if they are "underway or in use," rather than all watercraft. Amendments also deleted the "two-hour look-back" provision as a basis for arrest, exchanged the criminal penalty of a misdemeanor to a civil liability of up to \$700 and inserted a requirement that an officer witness an offense rather than act on a complaint. An additional amendment would require \$50,000 of liability insurance on larger watercraft with certain exemptions. An attempt by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul) to amend the bill by eliminating the implied consent provision was defeated.

S.F. 879, authored by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), was narrowly approved, 35-28. The measure concerns economic development and would raise the bonding limit from \$30 million plus \$10 million for special assistance to \$100 million plus \$30 million for special assistance. Bond backing, projects involved and emergency rules were topics of discussion. An amendment allowing hospitals to bond for medical equipment this year was defeated.

A local bill permitting levies for special purposes in Hubbard, Clearwater and Cass counties was heard. The measure, authored by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), was approved. Another bill, H.F. 558, carried by Freeman, was progressed. The bill would allow residential zoning in the area of the Bloomington metro sports stadium and would allow the Mosquito Control Commission to conduct studies on mosquito and black fly control in the area.

In other action, the Senate gave final approval to the Agriculture, Transportation and Semi-states bill discussed on Sat., May 4. S.F. 1524 (H.F. 1639) is sponsored by Sen. Keith Langseth (DFL-Glyndon).

Victims comp proposal wins

The Senate passed a bill Wednesday evening establishing a \$2 million state fund to compensate persons injured from a release of hazardous waste. Last week, the Senate delayed action on the bill after an amendment was adopted prohibiting a victim from collecting an award from the fund and then bringing a lawsuit to court to collect damages. The proposal, H.F. 876, gained Senate support when an alternative solution was adopted that allows a victim to bring a lawsuit to court if the fund award is rejected.

Sponsored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), the bill creates a victims compensation board, which would review injury claims and determine compensation. A person's injuries disease or death would be compensated if they are medically verified to be a result of exposure to a hazardous substance. The revenue from the fund would come from the public and a surtax on hazardous waste generators.

The compromise amendment, sponsored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), was criticized by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul). Sieloff claimed that allowing the victim to go to court after rejecting the board's award would cause the fund proceedings to be "used as a staging area for going to court." Sieloff's amendment to prohibit data collected and maintained by the board from being admissible in court failed.

The current foreclosure moratorium law, which allows district courts to delay the foreclosure of homes for six months and farms for 12 months, would be put into law permanently, according to a proposal approved by the Senate. That provision was amended to a bill, S.F. 567, carried by Luther, which establishes a 60-day notice period for cancellation of contract-for-deeds. The current moratorium law will expire this year.

The Senate also reconsidered a bill allowing the Minnesota Racing Commission to adopt rules permitting certain medications to be administered to a horse up to 24 hours before a race. The proposal, H.F. 755, allows two types of medication to be used within a day before the race: one drug (Lasix) prevents pulmonary hemorrhaging and the other drug (Phenylbutazone) reduces swelling and pain. The bill failed Tuesday when opponents argued later administration of the drug would cause horses to breakdown at the track. They also said the public should be able to respond to the commission's proposed rules. Two amendments were adopted to address the opponent's concerns. One amendment requires the rules to be made public and the second amendment limits the amount of Phenylbutazone that can be administered.

Also Wednesday evening, the Senate gave final passage to the following bills: H.F. 242 (Dahl) requiring car manufacturers to notify consumers of the "lemon car" provisions, and applying the "lemon car" law to farm machinery; S.F. 1159 (Luther) clarifying the corporate take-over law; S.F. 1219 (Stumpf) making groundwater protection a watershed district purpose; S.F. 1429 (Peterson, R.W.) providing for indemnification of judges and employees of the legislative and judicial branches from tort, civil, or equitable claims; and the conference committee report to H.F. 1382 (Sieloff), which allows counties to assess fees for court report transcripts.

Editor's note: At press time no Senate committee meetings had been scheduled for the week of May 13-17. Please call the Senate Hotline at 296-8088 for information on committee meetings.

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Briefly

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Briefly

Minnesota Senate Week in Review

May 23, 1985

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MAY 28 '85

Regular session adjourned

The first half of the 74th Legislative Session came to a close at midnight, May 20, when majority leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) moved that "the Senate do now adjourn until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 3, 1986." However, Lawmakers knew that a special session to complete work on the major tax and spending bills was inevitable. The five major bills were deadlocked in conference committees during the waning days of the regular session. At issue was the largest tax cut in Minnesota history and the method in which tax relief would be distributed back to citizens of the state. It is not unusual for House and Senate conferees to fight strongly for the positions taken by the respective bodies. However this year, fundamental philosophical differences divided the conferees and made agreement by the midnight deadline impossible to attain. As a result, work on the four major spending bills also could not be completed.

Governor Rudy Perpich announced that he would meet with legislative leaders Tuesday, May 28 to set the agenda for a special session. Work must be completed on the tax and spending bills before June 30, 1985; the end of Minnesota's fiscal year.

Even with the clock running out, Senators maintained a hectic pace in the closing hours of the regular session trying to complete work on numerous other bills. A steady stream of conference committee reports, concurrence and repassage of House and Senate files, as well as work on the Special Orders Calendar continued until the last possible moment. Senate floor action from Thursday, May 9 to Monday, May 20, is detailed in this last issue of Briefly. Coverage of bills passed during the special session will be included in the publication Session Review.

State departments bill to conference

The Senate sent the state departments appropriations bill to conference Saturday, May 11, after nearly two days of debate. Senate IR members, who labeled the proposal a "garbage bill," forced lengthy discussion by proposing several amendments to delete the non-spending provisions. However, many DFL members defended the bill, claiming the provisions deserve House consideration.

Sponsored by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), the bill, H.F. 1641, funds the various state agencies, the Legislature and state courts with a biennial appropriation of \$1.2 billion. That figure falls short of the governor's request, but is above the House proposal. Differences in the two bills must be resolved in a conference committee. Also attached to the bill are several proposals unrelated to state department spending.

As passed by the Senate, the bill provides \$6.4 million for the completion of the statewide 911 emergency telephone system. However, the bill contains no appropriation for its operation, thus requiring phone users to pay for its use. Amendments to fund the program were unsuccessful.

Among the bill's several provisions, it provides \$250,000 to purchase surplus food for famine victims in Ethiopia; grants

\$50,000 for the production of game and fish fingerlings; provides \$500,000 for flood damage mitigation programs; requires the Dept. of Natural Resources to establish an aspen recycling project; provides a \$200,000 matching grant to help rehabilitate the World Theater in St. Paul; appropriates \$5 million to improve the Duluth Zoo; provides \$7 million for metropolitan area regional parks maintenance and operation; grants a 4.5 percent pay increase in 1986 and 1987 for state Senators, constitutional officers and judges; creates an office of protocol; creates a council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans; reduces state park fees for physically handicapped persons to half the price Monday through Thursday; creates a Governor's Nuclear Waste Council; establishes a home buyers information and protection program; creates an annual construction elevator inspection program; and withdraws \$15 million from the farm operating loan interest-buy down program.

The bill originally transferred the responsibilities of the State Treasurer to the Commissioner of Finance; however, Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul) successfully amended the provision out of the bill. Also deleted was the provision increasing the number of taxis in Minneapolis by 100 and the proposal to allow legislative candidates to retain some public financing rather than return it to the state treasury.

The bill advanced on a 39-24 vote. Minority Leader Sen. Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), who voted against the bill, said, "It's still a garbage bill. This is not the correct policy. It will be cleaner when it comes back from conference committee."

Dram shop bill clears Senate

Senate lawmakers passed a bill designed to lower dram shop insurance rates, Mon., May 20, the last day of the regular session.

H.F. 265 (Luther) sets a \$300,000 annual aggregate limit on dram shop claims, requires underinsurance coverage and defines eligibility standards for an assigned risk insurance plan.

Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) amended the bill to place a \$30,000 limit on pecuniary damages recovered from dram shop insurance.

The bill passed 43 to 9.

Saturn plant package approved

One of the last major bills to gain Senate approval, late Monday night, was a proposal designed to encourage General Motors to locate the new Saturn car manufacturing plant in Minnesota. H.F. 1645, authored by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), provides a number of financial and tax incentives tailored to lure the plant to Minnesota.

If GM decides not to locate in Minnesota the tax and financial provisions will not take effect. Included in the proposal are appropriations for the University of Minnesota for a Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technologies, an appropriation for a customized job training center and property and corporate tax abatements spread over a 30 year period.

Floor Action

Thursday, May 9

Unemployment comp bill approved

The major item of controversy at the Thursday, May 9, evening session was a bill designed to resolve the deficit in the state's unemployment compensation insurance fund. The measure, H.F. 847, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), would eliminate the deficit by Jan. 1, 1986. Currently, Minnesota owes the federal government \$128 million, however under the proposal the fund would have a surplus by July 1, 1986. According to Chmielewski, the bill would provide a long-term, balanced solution, would aid in the retraining of workers, reduce the premium paid by employers, and would slow the rate of benefit increases.

An alternative proposal was advanced by Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester) in the form of a strike everything amendment. Brataas argued that her amendment provided for more meaningful structural reform in the unemployment compensation insurance system and more closely paralleled the version passed in the other body. The IR proposal failed to gain approval by a vote of 30-36. A second amendment, offered by Sen. Mel Frederick (IR-Owatonna) also failed to gain approval. The bill was passed on a vote of 37-28.

Another controversial measure that gained Senate passage during the evening was a proposal to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot to consolidate three of the state's constitutional offices. Under the bill, S.F. 363, sponsored by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.), would combine the offices of Secretary of State, State Auditor and State Treasurer into the office of State Comptroller. The bill was approved 37-25.

A third bill sparking controversy was H.F. 345, carried by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.). The measure eliminates the "stacking" of automobile insurance benefits, requires insurance against underinsured motorists and raises the mandatory minimum amounts of personal injury and liability coverage. Proponents of the bill argued that the elimination of benefit stacking would lower premium rates for Minnesota drivers.

A variety of other bills gained final passage during the evening floor session. H.F. 848, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), provides judicial procedures to protect alleged child abuse victims. The bill had been amended previously to require the taping of alleged child abuse victims' interviews but the amendment was withdrawn and the bill gained Senate passage on a 60-0 vote. H.F. 213, sponsored by Sen. Don Frank (DFL-Spring Lake Park), prohibits utility companies from collecting past due bills from landlords if the service agreements were strictly with the tenants. H.F. 729, carried by Pogemiller, provides for a number of changes in individual pensions of specific local government employees. S.F. 1171, authored by Brataas, conveys specific farm land, located on the old state hospital grounds that is being tended by the DNR, to Olmsted County for purposes of road construction. H.F. 538, carried by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), makes a number of changes in state tax laws in order to conform with changes made in federal tax laws. H.F. 418, also sponsored by Merriam, clarifies provisions of the equitable compensation law and provides that arbitrators must take into account employees objections to the equitable compensation studies mandated by the legislature.

H.F. 385, sponsored by Sen. Carl Kroening (DFL-Mpls.), requires individuals who advertise as master plumbers must print their license numbers in their advertisements. S.F. 1506, authored by Sen. Mel Frederick (IR-Owatonna), authorizes a special service district for the city of Waseca for the purpose of constructing a parking ramp and grants the cities of Austin and Albert Lea the powers of port authorities. H.F. 368, carried by Reichgott, requires that a notice of dishonor for issuing a worthless check cite the laws creating civil and criminal liability. S.F. 429, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), requires the refund of the city of Fergus Falls' industrial revenue bond application deposit.

S.F. 832, authored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), allows the permanent University fund to be used to help endow professorial chairs at the University. H.F. 449, carried by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park), updates the procedures relating to attachments. S.F. 925, authored by Pogemiller, grants certain economic development powers to municipalities for purposes of underground development. H.F. 282, sponsored by Sen. Jim Pehler (DFL-St. Cloud), declares the mission of public elementary and secondary education in Minnesota. H.F. 213, authored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), provides for the notification of families when there is an investigation of abuse in a child care facility or a facility for vulnerable adults. H.F. 18, sponsored by Sen. Don Samuelson (DFL-Brainerd), allows the sale of resident fishing licenses to trainees at Camp Ripley. H.F. 558, carried by Sen. Michael Freeman (DFL-Richfield), provides conditions for the disposal of specific metropolitan sports facility property and provides for the Metropolitan Council to set standards for a uniform code of ethics for all metropolitan agencies.

Friday, May 10

Decompression chambers voted against

The use of decompression chambers as a means of euthanasia for animals would be prohibited in Minnesota according to S.F. 565, a bill given final approval on the Senate floor, Fri., May 10.

S.F. 565 would force Hennepin County to join Ramsey County in the use of intravenous injection or other alternatives. Humane Society funds are drying up in Hennepin County because of the decompression chambers, said author Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake). He also pointed out that 30 states now ban the use of such chambers, chambers are no longer manufactured in the U.S. and there are fewer than 50 operating chambers left in the U.S.

Opponents of the bill argued for a delay until a national report on the use of decompression chambers is released in October. "This bill is premature and borders on irresponsibility," said Sen. Nancy Brataas (IR-Rochester).

A second measure given final passage by the Senate was S.F. 45, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent). The bill is a recodification of laws governing drainage ditches. A controversial amendment, which would have required ditches to be repaired according to the original design and at the original depth, failed 20-26.

Two other bills receiving approval were S.F. 1118 and S.F. 1036. S.F. 1118, authored by DeCramer, would require a lender's response for an agricultural production input lien to be sent to borrowers. S.F. 1036, authored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), would permit victims of domestic abuse to request protection in writing without the assistance of a lawyer.

A bill permitting counties to issue off-sale and combination liquor licenses to towns was defeated on a tie vote, 32-32.

Senate delays vote on spending bill

The Senate delayed voting on the state departments appropriations bill Friday evening after several Senate members objected to provisions unrelated to state department spending. The bill, H.F. 1641, appropriates \$1.2 billion for various state divisions and contains several other proposals.

Senate Minority Leader Glen Taylor (IR-Mankato), who called the proposal a "garbage bill," said adding unrelated provisions to the spending bill is an abuse of the process. "We wouldn't run it in this manner," he added. Taylor offered several amendments to delete the provisions. After nearly six hours of debate, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (DFL-Erskine) delayed further action on the bill.

The Senate did act on several non-controversial proposals Friday afternoon: H.F. 633 (Johnson, Dean) allowing book racks to be placed in school buses and establishing a "MN" designation for school buses manufactured according to state standards; S.F. 821 (Laidig) allowing the state to take ownership of stocks and certificates abandoned for seven years, and allowing stock and certificate owners to reclaim their investments from the state; S.F. 830 (Merriam) eliminating the requirement that a court reporter live in the district; H.F. 936 (Peterson, Collin) establishing a trapping season for pine martens and possum, and eliminating an extra license requirement for beaver trapping; H.F. 308 (Purfeerst) allowing outstate counties to permit serving of intoxicating liquor on Sundays; H.F. 97 (Benson) allowing farm wineries to sell cheese and cheese spreads; H.F. 521 (Benson) allowing the disposition of specific land without reserving mineral rights; S.F. 1225 (Davis) exempting manufactured home parks and recreational camping areas from food handling licenses; H.F. 58 (Langseth) allowing Moorhead to sell bonds for a sewer project; and S.F. 492 (Wegscheid) requiring the commissioner of veterans affairs to provide grave markers for veterans.

Monday, May 13

Final week of session begins

The final week of the legislative session began with Senators conducting daily floor session. Constitutionally, the Legislature must conclude the first half of the 74th legislative session by the first Monday after the third Saturday in May. This year the last day of session will be Monday, May 20.

The floor session Mon., May 13, began with the concurrence and repassage of S.F. 693. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.), originally concerned the forfeiture of the proceeds from criminal activities and communications equipment used in a crime. As amended by the other body, however, the bill contained a proposal providing for the sale and regulation of stun guns. Spear recommended concurring with the amendment because, although the stun gun bill was approved in committee, the issue arose too late in the session to meet the deadlines. Under the legislation, the sale and possession of stun guns, or electronic incapacitation devices, would be regulated in the same manner as tear gas and tear gas compounds. The bill was repassed on a vote of 57-0.

A proposal to allow the chief judge to appoint juvenile judges for longer than the current six year term was extensively debated. The bill, H.F. 83, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), was amended to suspend the rotation of juvenile judges for two years in order to allow time for the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Juvenile Code to complete work on a study of the current juvenile code. The amendment was sponsored by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul).

In other action several measures gained final passage on the Special Orders Calendar. S.F. 928, authored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), provides for the licensure and regulation of hearing instrument sales. S.F. 588, authored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), appropriates money to the city of Falcon Heights for purposes of repairing street adjacent to the University of Minnesota. S.F. 1014, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.), sets penalties for persons failing to appear in court. A number of amendments were adopted that clarify other penalty sections in the law, such as clarifying the application of hit and run violations and providing for the revocation of drivers licenses for fleeing a peace officer. The bill was then progressed.

Pension bills cause controversy

In other action, the Senate heard two pension bills, giving one final passage and delaying action on the second. Approved H.F. 98, authored by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), would grant two lump sum pension payments to pre-1973 employees in December of

1985 and 1986. An amendment removed the \$7.2 million from the post-retirement investment fund for this purpose and restored the \$11.4 million from the general fund providing \$18 per year of service for 1985 and \$19 for 1986. The bill also added St. Paul and Duluth teachers, some Minneapolis teachers and Faribault fire and police departments to state pension plans.

A second pension bill authored by Moe, H.F. 440, was progressed. The bill would give teachers, P.E.R.A. members and state employees the one-time option of using the unclassified pension plan. Amendments removed local government officials from eligibility for the unclassified plan and made provisions for a few legislative pension plans.

H.F. 592, authored by Sen. Dennis Frederickson (IR-Morgan), was also given final passage. The bill creates a special service district in New Ulm.

Tuesday, May 14

Gun law bill, mandatory recycling win

A bill unifying the state's gun laws and a measure mandating the recycling of solid waste by 1990 gained Senate approval Tuesday, May 14.

The first proposal, H.F. 576, prohibits cities of the first class (Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul) from establishing stricter gun control laws. Currently, Minneapolis and St. Paul have stricter ordinances regulating the sale and possession of guns. The author of the proposal, Sen. Bob Lessard (DFL-Int'l. Falls), said the bill "simply says everybody in this state, no matter where you reside, will be treated the same."

The Senate removed a provision of the bill that allowed the larger cities to have stricter laws regarding the carrying of pistols and Saturday Night Specials in public. Speaking in defense of the provision, Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.) said, "There is only one thing you can shoot in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and that is a person." However, Lessard said, "I disagree that the problems of the cities are any different than those in the rural areas."

The mandatory recycling proposal, S.F. 866, requires that by 1990 solid waste generated within the metropolitan area be first sent to resource recovery facilities. Sponsored by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), the bill prohibits disposal facilities within the metropolitan area from accepting mixed municipal solid waste unless it comes from a resource recovery facility. The bill also reiterates that counties may require households and other generators to separate their waste for processing.

On a close vote, the Senate adopted an amendment that would not require Flying Cloud and Freeway landfills to undergo a certificate of need review by the Metropolitan Council. The bill was also amended to prohibit high-level radioactive waste from being disposed on sites over drinking water supplies or in a manner that would contaminate drinking water.

The Senate also passed the following bills Tuesday: H.F. 850 (Hughes) making several minor changes in the state's election laws; H.F. 1045 (Reichgott) making administrative and technical changes to the state income tax and property tax laws; and H.F. 968 (Waldorf) allowing post-secondary boards to use a portion of state funding for scholarship awards, providing procedure to recover student loans, and permitting payroll deductions for employees of state universities and the state university board for an eligible nonprofit university foundation.

Dram shop vote delayed

The Senate delayed action on a bill designed to reduce dram shop insurance costs after hearing several amendments, Tues., May 14. H.F. 265, carried by Sen. William Luther (DFL-Brooklyn Park) places a \$300,000 aggregate limit on dram shop claims for a single tavern in one year, requires underinsurance coverage and defines eligibility standards for an assigned risk insurance plan operated by the state for bars and liquor stores unable to obtain dram shop

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coverage from other carriers.

The bill was amended to prohibit "shotgunning" in dram shop cases. Sen. Joe Bertram (DFL-Paynesville), who offered the amendment, said it would prohibit attorneys from filing claims against numerous bars in "bad faith" in dram shop litigation. The amendment was approved 53 to 1.

An amendment to eliminate pecuniary loss from dram shop insurance coverage failed on a three vote margin. Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), who offered the amendment, said pecuniary loss is the largest factor contributing to higher dram shop insurance rates. Luther disagreed calling the amendment "a major radical change." He said it would not allow families to receive compensation for the emotional loss of a loved one. An amendment limiting damages paid by dram shop insurance to \$20,000 in the case of death passed 43 to 21. Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer) stressed that the amendment would not limit claims made against a driver or auto insurance policy in a DWI accident. Luther opposed the move. He said, "what you are doing is saying that life doesn't have value." Luther progressed the bill.

The Senate also gave concurrence and repassage to the following bills Tuesday: S.F. 986 (Chmielewski) changing the membership of the Workers Compensation Reinsurance Association Board; S.F. 583 (Spear) making certain trespasses and assaults a gross misdemeanor; and S.F. 954 (Jude) reestablishing the board of governors of the Big Island Veterans Camp.

The following bills were given final passage after Senate approval of Conference Committee reports: H.F. 1235 allowing the commissioner of natural resources to convey state trails to adjoining property owners; H.F. 889 allowing townships to set shorter voting hours; and H.F. 274 classifying flammable liquids as a dangerous weapon in some cases.

Wednesday, May 15

Home health licensure approved

Home health licensure and a number of related health and human services programs were given final Senate approval on Wed., May 15, under H.F. 702, authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Afton). Home health licensure, a provision authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), would require distribution of a home health bill of rights and would require various types of licenses for persons providing medical, therapeutic and homemaker services to the elderly and/or homebound. An approved amendment offered by Sen. Ron Sieloff (IR-St. Paul) would exempt persons providing "incidental" medical, nutritional or personal services or treatment. The governor's consolidated chemical dependency treatment fund, the governor's aging strategy provisions, reduction of ICFMR beds, family subsidy programs for the mentally retarded, and transportation between facilities for the mentally ill and dangerous are included in the bill as well.

A second measure receiving Senate approval, S.F. 719, would allow the Dept. of Natural Resources to permit one hunter to take two deer by issuing two licenses or creating two seasons in specified areas of the state which do not receive adequate hunting pressure. Authored by Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer), the bill also provides for the removal of a herd of elk from an agricultural area in northern Beltrami and eastern Marshall counties to a nonagricultural area of the state.

H.F. 513, authored by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), was also approved. The bill makes certain changes in the setting of salaries, sick leave and leave of absence in the departments of Employee Relations and Administration. Approved amendments would limit severance pay to 1/12 of one year's salary, transfer certain railroad administration from the State Executive Council to the commission of administration and require limited bi-lingual services to be offered by the state.

Also approved were four other bills on the Special Orders Calendar. S.F. 708, authored by Moe, would provide staffing for joint legislative commissions and establish a position of director of

protocol services. S.F. 977, authored by Sen. Donna Peterson (DFL-Mpls.), would appropriate money to the Secretary of State's Office for the purpose of educating election officials. S.F. 339, authored by Sen. Ronald Dicklich (DFL-Hibbing), would provide funds to independent living centers for the handicapped. H.F. 779, carried by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), would alter corporate tax laws relating to insurance companies, amended returns and extended time for corporate returns.

The Senate concurred with the House and granted repassage to the following bills: S.F. 800 (Reichgott), concerning fraudulent advertising in going of business sales; S.F. 542 (Freeman), concerning local advertising; S.F. 448 (Wegscheid), concerning penalties for assaulting firefighters or EMT's; H.F. 227 (Dicklich), concerning horse racing at county fairs; S.F. 331 (Atkins), concerning the removal of pituitary glands; S.F. 609 (Reichgott), concerning arbitration; and S.F. 814 (Peterson, R.W.) concerning the state council on vocation technical education. Repassage action was delayed on H.F. 440 (Moe) concerning pensions, S.F. 364 (Wegscheid) concerning dental peer review organizations in insurance and S.F. 1249 (Purfeerst) concerning horse racing.

Bill dealing with vicious dogs okayed

A bill setting penalties for the owners of dogs that kill or inflict great bodily harm while running loose was approved Wed., May 15. The measure, H.F. 264, sponsored by Sen. Jim Ramstad (IR-Wayzata), sets penalties, requires dogs to be identified and provides for a rabies control program. Under the bill, the owner of a dog that kills another person could be charged with second degree manslaughter if it could be proved that the owner had prior knowledge of the dogs vicious tendencies and that the dog was running loose off the owner's property. Second degree manslaughter carries a penalty of up to seven years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$14,000. Debate on the measure centered on an amendment, offered by Sen. Randy Kamrath (IR-Canby), that would limit the bill's jurisdiction to urban areas. The amendment failed on a close 22-24 vote. The bill gained final passage on a vote of 36-23.

Senators also approved a measure opening Minnesota's trunk highway system to 80,000 pound trucks. The measure, S.F. 304, authored by Sen. Gary DeCramer (DFL-Ghent), also provides for annual increases in gross weight tax rates, revises the gross weight seasonal zone and provides for a ten percent overweight allowance for the movement of potatoes and sugar beets. An amendment exempting 73,000-80,000 pound trucks that do not carry the extra weight was adopted. The amendment was sponsored by Sen. Steven Novak (DFL-New Brighton).

Two additional bills were given final passage before the Senate adjourned for the day. S.F. 1130, sponsored by Sen. Gene Waldorf (DFL-St. Paul), changes the composition of the Board of Medical Examiners and the method of appointing the board members. The measure also requires the board to publish disciplinary actions and revises the standards for the licensing and disciplining of physicians, establishes reporting requirements for health professionals and grants immunity to those complying with the reporting requirements. H.F. 533, carried by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley), allows foreign veterinary graduates to be admitted to practice under certain conditions.

Thursday, May 16

Nursing home revisions gain

The Senate passed a bill Thurs., May 16, making several changes to the "case-mix" nursing home reimbursement system, which is scheduled to go into effect July 1, 1985.

The case-mix reimbursement system, enacted into law in 1983, is intended to help the state better allocate its limited Medicaid dollars. Under the system, nursing homes would be reimbursed according to a reasonable value of rental for the nursing home

property cost and according to the level of care a patient requires.

The bill, S.F. 903, authored by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Mpls.), phases-in this new structure over three years for those facilities that will face substantial revenue reductions under the new system. Berglin said this would allow the facility to continue operation while it converts to case-mix reimbursement. The bill also delays for two months the effective date for the new payment rates. Thus, nursing homes would have time to prepare for the implementation of the new system after they receive official rate notices, Berglin said.

Because some specialized facilities will be adversely affected by the case-mix system, the measure establishes special reimbursement limits to enable those facilities to continue operation. Furthermore, the bill allows residents and the facility to appeal the resident's assigned case-mix classification, which determines the rate the resident will be charged and the amount the state will reimburse the home for the resident's care.

The proposal also allows "Swing Beds," which are licensed hospital beds that can be Medicare certified, to be available in case there is a shortage of nursing home space. The bill also expands the preadmission screening program.

The Senate also passed another bill sponsored by Berglin. S.F. 908 revises several procedures and requirements under the aid to families with dependent children to conform to federal law.

The Senate gave concurrence and repassage to the following bills Thursday: S.F. 1171 (Brataas) conveying land to Olmstead County; S.F. 925 (Pogemiller) relating to economic development, granting certain powers to municipalities; S.F. 1234 (Waldorf) permitting St. Paul to issue temporary on-sale wine licenses to nonprofit charitable, religious or veterans organizations; S.F. 1036 (Reichgott) relating to domestic abuse, providing for service by publication under certain circumstances under the Domestic Abuse Act; S.F. 1404 (Wegscheid) expanding the authority of counties to make electronic funds transfers; S.F. 364 (Wegscheid) expanding the purposes of health care review organizations, providing an exception to liability; and S.F. 1244 (Knutson) increasing the total number of on-sale licenses for the city of Burnsville.

Senate passes bonding bill

The Senate passed a \$219.3 million bonding bill in a late evening session, Thurs., May 16, after approving one of several amendments offered.

Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley) successfully amended H.F. 694 to include language to assist the Hastings hydro-electric Dam. He stressed that no appropriation was necessary.

An amendment to delete a provision of the bill authorizing contingent bonding for a job training center at the proposed Saturn plant failed 22 to 28. A motion to remove bonding authority to construct and furnish a Minnesota School for the Arts also failed.

The measure includes \$42.8 million in bonding authority to construct an electrical engineering facility at the University of Minnesota.

H.F. 694 received final passage on a 43 to 21 vote.

S.F. 1014 (Petty) received final passage on a 47 to 0 vote after lawmakers debated several amendments. The bill makes several miscellaneous criminal law changes. The measure allows grandparents to testify in delinquency proceedings and allows limited drivers licenses for parents convicted of DWI to exercise child visitation rights. An amendment to allow attorney consultation prior to taking a breathalyzer test failed 11 to 26.

S.F. 1512 (Novak) gained final passage on a 47 to 6 vote. The bill imposes financial reporting and accounting requirements, requires municipal development plans to be filed with the commissioner of energy and economic development and allows municipalities to issue bonds for pension liabilities.

The bill was amended to allow interest write-down in enterprise zones. Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.) offered the

amendment saying it is intended to assist the city of Moorehead in single family housing units. Pogemiller said the city is at an economic disadvantage with Fargo, North Dakota.

S.F. 1513 (Pehler) also received final passage. The bill establishes special service districts in some cities.

Friday, May 17

Super fund changes approved

The focus of activity at the Fri., May 17, Senate floor session was debate and final passage of changes to the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act. The amendments, H.F. 268, carried by Sen. Gene Merriam (DFL-Coon Rapids), makes changes in the sections dealing with causation, joint and several liability and retroactivity. Supporters of the bill argued that alterations in Minnesota's "Superfund" law were needed improve businesses perception of Minnesota's business climate.

A major amendment, offered by Sen. Collin Peterson (DFL-Detroit Lakes), and adopted by the Senate, included language establishing a victims compensation fund for compensating victims of hazardous waste releases.

A second amendment establishing an assigned risk plan for environmental insurance generated a great deal of debate but failed to gain approval. The amendment was offered by Sen. Lawrence Pogemiller (DFL-Mpls.).

In other action, the Senate approved a bill expanding the definition of medically neglected child. The bill, S.F. 1127, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake), conforms state law with the federal "Baby Doe" law and prescribes the duties of local social service agencies when a report of the medical neglect of a child is received. An amendment requiring an independent medical review of the infant's medical charts and records and, if necessary, requiring a court order for an independent medical examination of the infant to determine medical neglect was approved. The bill was approved on a vote of 55-10.

Four additional bills gained final passage on the Special Orders Calendar. H.F. 648, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), transfers authority for administration of the rural rehabilitation corporation trust liquidation act from the state executive council to the Department of Energy and Economic Development. H.F. 857, carried by Sen. Tad Jude (DFL-Maple Grove), authorizes the receiver of an insolvent insurer to accelerate the distribution of available assets in payment of claims against the insurer. H.F. 1145, sponsored by Sen. Neil Dieterich (DFL-St. Paul), recodifies numerous laws relating to the taxation and regulation of liquor. H.F. 440, carried by Sen. Don Moe (DFL-St. Paul), makes numerous administrative changes in state pension laws. A controversial amendment previously attached to the measure dealing with legislative pensions was removed on a vote of 56-0 and the bill was passed on a vote of 44-4.

In addition, a number of bills gained the concurrence and repassage of the Senate. S.F. 1279, authored by Sen. Conrad Vega (DFL-So. St. Paul), provides for a product standard for formaldehyde in building materials used in the construction of housing units. S.F. 658, authored by Sen. Collin Peterson, alters provisions regarding the taking and possession of wild animals and the penalties for violations of laws relating to hunting. S.F. 1357, sponsored by Sen. Ember Reichgott (DFL-New Hope), sets a penalty for failing to file a complete income tax return. S.F. 1238, authored by Sen. Don Storm (R-Edina), provides for the issuance of temporary on-sale intoxicating liquor licenses to certain nonprofit organizations. Finally, Senator adopted the conference committee report and repassed S.F. 1398. The measure which modifies the collateral requirements for public deposits, was sponsored by Sen. Darril Wegscheid (DFL-Apple Valley).

Floor Action

Saturday, May 18

Senate passes soil loss provision

The Senate passed a bill Saturday, May 18, allowing local units of governments to request landowners who have excessive soil loss to mediate an agreement to install better soil conservation practices.

Under the bill, H.F. 957, sponsored by Sen. Charles Davis (DFL-Princeton), the landowner and the local government must attempt to agree on conservation practices that will reduce soil loss. If they fail to reach an agreement or if the landowners refuses to mediate, the local government can forward a complaint to the county attorney. The county attorney then may dismiss the complaint or petition for a hearing.

If the court orders soil loss conservation practices or if the parties mediate a settlement, the landowner is eligible to apply for cost-sharing funds to cover part of the conservation costs.

Also Saturday, the Senate repassed the following bills after concurring to House amendments: S.F. 1219 (Stumpf) making groundwater protection a watershed district function; S.F. 1225 (Davis) exempting manufactured home parks and recreational camping areas from food handling licenses, and regulating organically grown foods; and S.F. 919 (Wegscheid) protecting buyers when subject to a security interest by limiting security interests in farm product proceeds.

The Senate also passed the following conference committee reports: H.F. 245 (Pogemiller) clarifying elements of the crime of depriving another of custodial or parental rights; H.F. 282 (Pehler) declaring the mission of public elementary and secondary education in Minnesota; H.F. 1109 (Adkins) altering provisions of the state's set-aside procurement program; H.F. 58 (Langseth) allowing the city of Moorhead to issue bonds for sewer development; and H.F. 1032 (Schmitz) permitting Belle Plaine to use the term "borough."

State claims passed

In other action on Saturday afternoon, the Senate granted final passage to H.F. 1458, the state claims bill. Authored by Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids), the bill authorizes payment of claims to United Powers as well as other persons and companies for legal, medical, property loss, wage loss and transportation costs incurred.

H.F. 856, also authored by Dahl, was approved 36-28 after a lengthy debate. With the insertion of S.F. 766, the bill would raise the cigarette tax seven cents on July 1, 1985, and possibly another eight cents on Oct. 1, 1985, if the federal government drops its eight cents. Six of the first seven cents would be dedicated to the water pollution control fund, waste water treatment and storm sewer separation. The remaining one cent would contribute to a public health fund which would fund identification of lead-contaminated soil, smoking prevention programs, monitoring of the health care climate and possibly a mosquito control program. Federal maternal and child health block grant monies are also allocated by the bill. Amendments clarified the assessment powers of Minneapolis, St. Paul and South St. Paul in regard to combined sewer overflow and deleted the candy cigarette prohibition. The original bill would impose an additional tax on interest earned on state or municipal obligations and would provide a subsequent income tax credit.

Monday, May 20

Psychotherapist bill wins Senate approval

The Senate gave final passage to a bill Mon., May 20, that makes it a crime for psychotherapists to have sexual contact with their clients. The bill, H.F. 1227 (Peterson, D.C.) defines psychotherapist as anyone who gives counseling. An amendment to delete clergy and "other persons" from the definition failed.

The Senate passed four additional bills: H.F. 1070, (Peterson D.C.) creates one task force and continues another for one year to study regulation of psychotherapists. H.F. 35 (Wegscheid) makes several changes in the family farm security program and provides for loan restructuring. H.F. 1233 (Dieterich) permits issuance of off-sale liquor licenses in townships. H.F. 828 (Solon) changes weatherization and fuel assistance eligibility formulas for CAP agencies and Indian reservations.

The Senate also gave concurrence and repassage to S.F. 276 (Spear) enacting a uniform notary act.

Drinking age approved

The drinking age bill, S.F. 5, was granted repassage 44-12 by the Senate with the conference committee compromises. Compromises included provisions for \$25 toward alcohol education, \$25 toward probation, prohibition of post-secondary event sponsorship by alcoholic beverage companies and inclusion of alcohol information in the state driver's manual. The age 21 provision would go into effect on Sept. 1, 1986, unless contiguous states refused to raise their drinking age or unless the federal government repealed Title 23. The bill is authored by Sen. Bill Diessner (DFL-Aton).

Additional bills receiving Senate concurrence and repassage included: S.F. 251 (Berglin) establishing a nursing home license fee; S.F. 459 (Spear) providing for guardianship appointments for low income families and intestate succession; S.F. 295 (Willet) setting special levies for county projects; S.F. 1176 (Merriam) providing training for child abuse protection workers; S.F. 862 (Pehler) providing for conciliation court appointments; S.F. 647 (Pehler) defining markets for microcomputer software products of the Minnesota Education Computer Council; S.F. 863 (Reichgott) defining financial transaction card fraud; S.F. 882 (Peterson, D.C.) concerning securities and real estate; H.F. 83 (Reichgott) changing the process of juvenile court judge appointments; H.F. 633 (Johnson, D.E.) initiating school bus designation and encouraging bus book racks; and S.F. 866 (Merriam) providing for solid waste and sewage sludge management.

S.F. 916 (Berglin) establishing the advisory council for the federal mental health block grant; S.F. 1130 (Waldorf) establishing internal procedures for the Medical Practices Board; S.F. 279 (Merriam) requiring the shooting of dogs pursuing deer by conservation officers; S.F. 281 (Petty) authorizing claims against the state when a prisoner on conditional release is injured or injures another while performing community service; S.F. 1045 (Kroening) concerning commerce and usurious contracts; S.F. 930 (Purfeerst) establishing license plate fees and providing trunk highway funds; S.F. 650 (Pogemiller) increasing penalties for crimes against transit providers; S.F. 196 (Reichgott) encouraging child abuse reporting; S.F. 35 (Diessner) requiring reporting of suspicious wounds by physicians; S.F. 558 (Freeman) disposing of metropolitan sports facility property in Bloomington and allowing residential zoning; S.F. 1037 (Vega) authorizing co-generation of energy and intrastate pipelines as well as legislative review of future nuclear power plants; and H.F. 535 (Adkins) prohibiting lead pipe solder.

Water management proposal made optional

The Senate passed a bill Monday evening allowing counties to prepare and implement a water management plan that would assess both surface and groundwater conditions and identify potential erosion, flooding and water quality problems. The bill, H.F. 961, originally required counties to prepare a plan. However, Sen. Randolph Peterson (DFL-Wyoming), author of the proposal, made the program optional.

Counties preparing a water management plan are required to use existing water management plans and rules adopted by a watershed district or intercounty board. The bill also provides

\$150,000 in grants to help counties prepare the plans.

The following bills on Special Orders also gained final passage: H.F. 1589 (Peterson, R.) clarifying issues relating to classifications of data; H.F. 384 (Spear) creating a special service district for snow, ice and litter removal at Lake St. and Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis; H.F. 646 (Peterson, R.) increasing fees that can be charged by a county recorder; H.F. 1256 (Peterson, R.) establishing a penalty for water permit violations and altering permit fees; H.F. 1231 (Peterson, Donna) changing reparations provisions for crime victims; and H.F. 140 (Peterson, R.) eliminating trust accounts.

The following conference committee reports won Senate approval early Monday evening: H.F. 848 (Reichgott) strengthening provisions relating to child abuse; H.F. 213 (Spear) strengthening child and vulnerable adult abuse reporting and investigation; H.F. 78 (Berglin) better defining the crime of owning or operating a disorderly house; H.F. 186 (Samuelson) allowing mental health services through interstate contracts; S.F. 87 (Wegscheid) allowing the commissioner of agriculture to raise fees for state livestock weighing.

Session ends

During the final hours of the session, senators continued to work on conference committee reports and to grant concurrence and repassage to bills that had previously passed the Senate throughout the evening hours. Conference Committee reports that were approved included: S.F. 401 (DeCramer) providing for an increase in the exemption of farm machinery and farm implements excluded from creditors' remedies and extending the current procedure for court ordered mortgage moratoriums; S.F. 43 (Langseth) establishing gross vehicle weight limits for courier service vehicles and exempting certain farm vehicles from the vehicle identification rule; S.F. 676 (Chmielewski) authorizing towns to conduct town business outside the town and authorizing on-sale liquor licenses to three specific supper clubs; S.F. 1249 (Purfeerst) providing for technical changes in Minnesota laws concerning horse racing; H.F. 315 (Atkins) removing the mill limit that towns may levy to provide for fire fighting services; H.F. 729 (Pogemiller) providing for changes in specific local government pensions; H.F. 242 (Dahl) clarifying and amending provisions of Minnesota's "lemon car" law; H.F. 264 (Ramstad) setting penalties for the owners of dogs that kill or severely injure another person;

H.F. 472 (Johnson, Douglas) providing for technical changes in laws concerning property taxes and special taxes; S.F. 719 (Stumpf) authorizing the DNR to issue, on an experimental basis, licenses that would allow one hunter to take two deer; H.F. 786 (Pogemiller) changing the appointment authority for various boards and commissions from the governor to specific departmental commissioners; S.F. 1183 (Dietherich) authorizing the issuance of liquor licenses in Indian Country; S.F. 230 (Wegscheid) authorizing industrial loan and thrifts to sell certain evidences of indebtedness; S.F. 1159 (Luther) clarifying and changing laws regulating corporate take-overs and control share acquisition; H.F. 1070 (Peterson, Donna) authorizing the commissioner of corrections to establish a program to prevent sexual exploitation by psychotherapists; and H.F. 1227 (Peterson, Donna) providing that a psychotherapist who engages in sexual contact with a patient is guilty of criminal sexual conduct.

Bills gaining the concurrence and repassage of the Senate included: S.F. 19 (Wegscheid) regulating traffic at unmarked T intersections; H.F. 658 (Samuelson) simplifying the formula for the Community Health Subsidy Act; and S.F. 928 (Wegscheid) regulating the sale of hearing instruments.

Bills gaining passage on Special Orders included: H.F. 628 (Peterson, R.W.) providing for the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and converting marginal agricultural land into wildlife habitat and H.F. 1175 (Chmielewski) defining medical neglect of a child.

Finance

Panel approves Saturn bill

A bill creating a special enterprise zone for the proposed Saturn plant cleared the Finance Committee, Fri., May 10. The panel, chaired by Sen. Gerald Willet (DFL-Park Rapids), voted 11 to 6 to approve the package.

The package includes a 30 year period without property tax, \$4 million for relocation expenses of Saturn employees, \$2.2 million for a job training center and \$1.8 million for an advanced manufacturing technology center at the University of Minnesota.

The committee also approved S.F. 1127, sponsored by Sen. Florian Chmielewski (DFL-Sturgeon Lake). The measure authorizes the commissioner of human services to intervene and remove a child from a home in the case of medical neglect or physical and sexual abuse. The bill also allows local welfare and law enforcement agencies to interview alleged victims without parental consent.

The panel began discussion of S.F. 1424, sponsored by Sen. Eric Petty (DFL-Mpls.). The bill outlines funding for the proposed Minneapolis Convention Center.

Mpls. Convention Center okayed

The Committee approved a \$219.3 million bonding bill and a bill to fund the Minneapolis Convention Center, Tues., May 14.

The bonding bill, S.F. 1543, includes \$16 million for the Minnesota School for the Arts and \$16 million for a Duluth Convention Center.

S.F. 1424, sponsored by Petty, establishes "legislative intent" to fund the convention center \$6 million per year. In an earlier meeting, committee members expressed reluctance to committing future legislatures to the state funding. Petty said the legislative intent for the funding was not binding, but would provide support for bonds issued by the city of Minneapolis and the Metropolitan Council.

Sen. Gregory Dahl (DFL-Coon Rapids) opposed state funding for the center and indicated that more creative financing might be available from the private sector. "The idea has merit, but of the six world class convention centers in the U.S., four were built without state funding," he said.

The bill was amended to levy a four percent tax on hotels and motels with more than 50 rooms. Petty said the tax was fair because the lodging industry would benefit from increased overnight guests attracted to the city by the center.

Sen. Allan Spear (DFL-Mpls.) amended the bill to allocate \$2 million to fund replacement housing for residents losing homes to make room for the center. One million dollars would come from bond proceeds or state funds and the remaining million would be contributed by the city of Minneapolis.

The bill was amended to authorize the Governor, rather than the city of Minneapolis, to appoint members to the Minnesota Sports and Convention Facilities Commission.

The bill was approved on a voice vote.

H.F. 1458 (Dahl) providing compensation for claims against the state also received committee approval.

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Senate Members—1985 Session



DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*	DIST.	PARTY	SENATOR	PHONE	ROOM*
22	DFL	Adkins, Betty A.	296-5981	235 Cap.	47	DFL	Luther, William P.	296-8869	205 Cap.
12	IR	Anderson, Don A.	6455	103 SOB	44	IR	McQuaid, Phyllis W.	1279	132B SOB
41	IR	Belanger, William V., Jr.	5975	107 SOB	26	IR	Mehrkens, Lyle G.	8075	127 SOB
32	IR	Benson, Duane D.	3903	109 SOB	49	DFL	Merriam, Gene	4154	G-24 Cap.
11	IND	Berg, Charles A.	5094	115 SOB	65	DFL	Moe, Donald M.	4264	309 Cap.
60	DFL	Berglin, Linda	4261	323 Cap.	2	DFL	Moe, Roger D.	2577	208 Cap.
21	IR	Bernhagen, John	4131	113 SOB	31	DFL	Nelson, Tom A.	4871	301 Cap.
16	DFL	Bertram, Joe	2084	328 Cap.	52	DFL	Novak, Steven G.	4334	203 Cap.
33	IR	Brataas, Nancy	4848	139 SOB	43	IR	Olson, Gen	1282	132C SOB
14	DFL	Chmielewski, Florian	4182	325 Cap.	17	DFL	Pehler, James C.	4241	306 Cap.
50	DFL	Dahl, Gregory L.	5003	G-24 Cap.	10	DFL	Peterson, Collin C.	4135	205 Cap.
18	DFL	Davis, Charles R.	2302	G-24 Cap.	29	IR	Peterson, Darrel L.	3988	141 SOB
27	DFL	DeCramer, Gary M.	6820	303 Cap.	61	DFL	Peterson, Donna C.	4274	G-29 Cap.
5	DFL	Dicklich, Ronald R.	2859	306 Cap.	19	DFL	Peterson, Randolph W.	8018	326 Cap.
56	DFL	Diessner, A. W. "Bill"	8298	325 Cap.	62	DFL	Petty, Eric D.	0760	323 Cap.
63	DFL	Dieterich, Neil	8867	235 Cap.	58	DFL	Pogemiller, Lawrence J.	7809	G-24 Cap.
51	DFL	Frank, Don	2877	G-28 Cap.	25	DFL	Purfeerst, Clarence M.	4167	303 Cap.
30	IR	Frederick, Mel	4123	119 SOB	45	IR	Ramstad, Jim	9251	123 SOB
23	IR	Frederickson, Dennis R.	8138	143 SOB	46	DFL	Reichgott, Ember D.	2889	G-27 Cap.
40	DFL	Freeman, Michael O.	9307	303 Cap.	35	IR	Renneke, Earl W.	4125	117 SOB
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15	IR	Johnson, Dean E.	3826	105 SOB	7	DFL	Solon, Sam G.	4188	303 Cap.
6	DFL	Johnson, Douglas J.	8881	205 Cap.	59	DFL	Spear, Allan H.	4191	G-27 Cap.
48	DFL	Jude, Tad	4248	235 Cap.	42	IR	Storm, Donald A.	6238	125 SOB
20	IR	Kamrath, Randy P.	1240	133 SOB	1	DFL	Stumpf, LeRoy A.	8660	306 Cap.
53	IR	Knaak, Fritz	1253	149 SOB	24	IR	Taylor, Glen	9457	147 SOB
38	IR	Knutson, Howard A.	4120	121 SOB	39	DFL	Vega, Conrad M.	4101	G-29 Cap.
57	DFL	Kroening, Carl W.	4302	G-24 Cap.	66	DFL	Waldorf, Gene	3809	G-24 Cap.
34	IR	Kronebusch, Patricia Louise	1945	153 SOB	37	DFL	Wegscheid, Darril	8091	309 Cap.
55	IR	Laidig, Gary W.	4351	145 SOB	4	DFL	Willet, Gerald L.	4147	121 Cap.
9	DFL	Langseth, Keith	3205	G-24 Cap.					
67	DFL	Lantry, Marilyn M.	8017	G-24 Cap.					
3	DFL	Lessard, Bob	4136	328 Cap.					

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